

2024 | March



THE BORDER BULLETIN

EL PASO CHAPTER OF MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Nationally Ranked Five-Star Chapter • MOAA Affiliate from January 23, 1956 • Our 67th Year

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WSMR Sunset

23 Nov 2018

— William Oseles

El Paso Sunrise

31 Jan 2011

EL PASO CHAPTER NATIONAL AWARDS

Levels of Excellence

Runner-up 2000 and 2001

Five-Star Chapter 2001 thru 2018
Communications Award Print Newsletter

Five Star 2015, 2016, 2018, thru 2020
Four Star 2017

Winner 2004, 2012, 2013 and 2014
Runner-up 2008 thru 2011

Communications Award Print Legislative Coverage

Winner 2008, 2009, 2011 and 2012
Communications Award Website

Five-Star 2015 thru 2020

Winner 2010 thru 2013

Runner-up 2009 and 2014

INPUT Deadline for June 2024 Border Bulletin 29 April

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The advertisements that appear in this publication/website do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or the El Paso Chapter.

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Report a Retiree Death

Monday – Friday

0730 – 1700

915-568-5207

After Hours (Installation)

915-569-6950/6951

Or visit:

<https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary>



President's Message

COL Lennie Enzel, MS, RN

I hope you all had wonderful holidays. Spring will be here before we know it. Thank you to all who attended the December Luncheon. It was wonderful to meet COL Freeman, the WBAMC Commander, and his wife (also an active duty Colonel) and to receive an update on our Medical Treatment Facility. Your Board of Directors works hard to schedule speakers that we believe will bring value to our members. Please send me your suggestions for future speakers. Our move to the Fort Bliss Centennial Club seems to have been well received by our meeting attendees. If you have any suggestions for other venues, please send them along.

Our March Luncheon will mainly be devoted to celebrating the 100th birthday of MG (Ret) Ed Greer. MG Greer has been a stalwart leader in our community for many decades. A long time El Paso MOAA Chapter member, he was President of the Fort Bliss Retiree Council and presided over the Fort Bliss Retiree Activities Day for many years. We are so blessed that after his lengthy and distinguished military career, MG Greer and his late wife, Jewel, chose to make El Paso their home. We hope you will join us in celebrating this milestone birthday of a great American.

In April, MOAA members from all over the country will gather in Washington, D.C. to visit all members of the 118th Congress and urge their support for numerous bills affecting past and present military members and their families. This year's priorities surround compensation and earned benefits, military housing, and healthcare. For more information on each of these topics, please see the Legislative article in this edition of the Border Bulletin. I urge each of you to stay connected with MOAA. You can sign up to receive the weekly MOAA Newsletter and you can also register as an advocate at the MOAA Legislative Action Center so you can quickly and easily weigh in with your Senators and Congressional representatives about important issues. The MOAA National website, <https://www.moaa.org>, contains a plethora of information and I urge you to visit it often. You must remain active in preserving the benefits earned through military service or you may wake up one day to find them gone.

Thank you for your membership in our Chapter. Please let us know how we can better serve you.



Pharmacy Hours

Short notice changes to Pharmacy Operation Hours due to Command approved hospital activities will be posted to the WBAMC Facebook Page.

<https://www.facebook.com/WBAMC1>

Closed on federal holidays

Hospital

Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Main Pharmacy - West Clinic Building 1st Floor

18511 Highlander Medics St, El Paso, TX 79918,

(for hospital discharge only)

915-742-9490

Mendoza

Monday - Friday 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Every Third Thursday 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

11335 SSG Sims St, Fort Bliss, TX 79918,

915-742-1400

Freedom Crossing

Monday - Friday 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

1611 Haan Rd, Fort Bliss, TX 79906

915-742-9017

Note: If a high volume of patients needing to be serviced for the day and not enough staff is available, the kiosk may be shut down early in order to ensure all patients that have a ticket can be serviced for the day.

East Bliss Closed

SFMC Closed

Rio Bravo Closed

Desert Sage Closed

EL PASO VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM PHARMACY

There are four convenient options for refilling prescriptions which can then be mailed directly to your home. Choose any process that is easy for you to use:

- Call the automated phone system at (915) 564-6100 ext. 6110 or 1-800-672-3782 ext.6110. Follow the directions to process your refill.
- Mail in your refill slips.
- Drop the refill slip in the mail-out box located in the pharmacy.
- Use the MyHealtheVet Website: www.myhealth.va.gov

Please note, window service at the Pharmacy will be limited to new prescriptions only. So, for all refills, please use one of the 4 options listed above. Location: 2nd Floor, West Hallway.

**Hours: Mon - Fri,
8:00am-4:30pm; Except Tues.,
9:00am-4:30pm**

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/moaa-publications/moaa-publications/>



CHAPLAINS CORNER

MRS CONNIE SULLIVAN

Oh My Dear Members, what perilous and dangerous times it seems that we are living in.

Watching the daily news only brings us concern, disappointments and disillusionments to see where our country is going and heading to, particularly when it has to do with our soldiers.

Because of the terrorist attacks that we see, through the media, on our military abroad, we can only think and imagine the dangers they are experiencing in those foreign countries, especially in the Middle East.

Dear Members, now more than ever we have to put and keep these wonderful courageous and brave men and women in our prayers, for them to receive courage and strength from our divine Supreme Being.

God will protect them when we plea for their safety.

This is the time when we need to come together in unity, forgetting our differences of opinions and beliefs.

If we will in sincerity and humility unite, God will answer our prayers according to our faith.

Let us be as we were in the past, united, proud and loving our country.

May our Faithful Father in heaven, ruler of the universe, continue to be with us and may He bless our country now and always. God Bless America !

KIWANIS FLAG FOUNDATION

"Let's Flag El Paso"...we hope you will join our mission

The Kiwanis Clubs of El Paso dream that one day everyone in the Sun City will fly the U.S. flag on important national holidays.

On the 5 designated holidays a flag will be delivered early each morning, picking it up at sunset.

Memorial Day ~ Flag Day ~ 4th of July ~ Labor Day ~ Veterans Day

It's a convenient program and a wonderful display of neighborhood patriotism.

minimum annual contribution: \$30 per flag

Download a form: elpasokiwanisflags.org

email: info@starsandstripesdaily.org or call us: 915-833-2269

Pay by credit card to subscribe: [pdnfoundation.org/Kiwanis Flag Fund](http://pdnfoundation.org/Kiwanis%20Flag%20Fund)

Thank you to these groups for their commitment and hard work placing these flags.

EL Paso Chapter Outreach Foundation

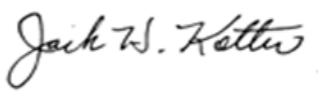
The Foundation had another very successful year in 2023 by providing over \$3,000 dollars to eight different agencies or organizations supporting the Foundations goals. This was possible by your generous continued donation support to the Foundation. A gracious Thank You for your continued support to provide resources for support to local veterans and military personnel.

The Foundation Board has established a new support program for 2024 that is equal to the actions in 2023. The previously supported activities will continue to receive the Foundation funding support. New agencies or organizations that support either veterans or active duty personal are welcome as the Board seeks new additional donation possibilities. If you have any suggestions for the Foundation to consider, please advise a Board Member of your idea.

A superior activity for local veterans is Veterans Court conducted by the 346th District Court. The program provides a means to divert eligible Veteran and active service participants from the traditional criminal justice system and provide them support and rehabilitation through comprehensive substance abuse treatment, education, vocational programs, and community resource referrals for housing, childcare, and transportation all while being judicially monitored. This activity has been supported by the Foundation for several years. After the pause for the covid outbreak, the court has resumed their graduation program. The Foundation will participate in the programs and provide a gift to the graduates to recognize their achievement.

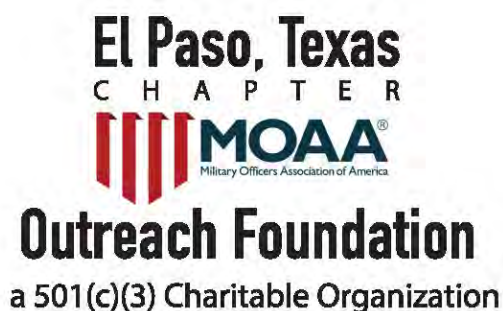
WORKING FOR YOU----Your Foundation Board of Directors

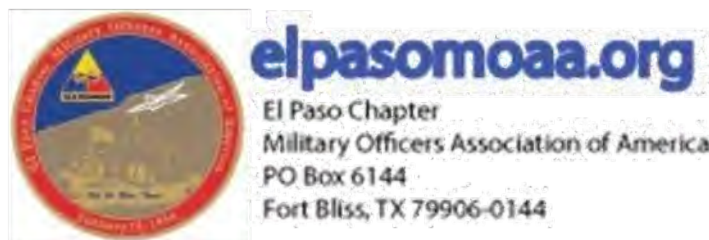
Never Stop Serving



Jack H. Kotter

USA, BG, Retired





Chapter MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT

YES! Sign me up as an El Paso Chapter Member

Name _____

Branch of Service _____ Rank _____

☐ Retired ☐ Active ☐ Former

☐ Reserve ☐ National Guard ☐ Auxiliary*

☐ Friend of the Chapter

*Surviving spouse of eligible officer

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____ Phone Number _____

Unit _____

To ensure deliverability of MOAA communications, please provide a personal email without a '.mil' domain if available.

MOAA Number _____

Date of Birth _____

Spouse Name _____

Your spouse has access to your El Paso Chapter MOAA member benefits

☐ One-Year Hard Copy Membership \$20

☐ One-Year Electronic Membership \$15

☐ Multi-Year Memberships— Contact Membership Chair

Method of Payment

☐ Check (please make payable to El Paso MOAA) ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX

Charge my card \$ _____

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____ CVS _____

Dues to MOAA are not deductible as a charitable contribution for federal tax purposes.

Send Check to: El Paso Chapter MOAA , PO Box 6144, Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0144

Never Stop Serving!



Legislative Affairs

There is a lot going on as the 118th Congress starts its tenure. MOAA, the #1 Capitol Hill lobbying organization has established their priorities and in April members from chapters all over the country will visit Capitol Hill to urge support for bills that will benefit military members past and present. I strongly recommend that you sign up for the weekly MOAA Newsletter so you can stay abreast of the issues and most importantly that you register as an advocate at the MOAA Legislative Action Center so you can quickly and easily weigh in with your Senators and Congressional representatives about important issues. The MOAA National website, <https://www.moaa.org>, contains a plethora of information and I urge you to visit it often. Below is a synopsis of the actions MOAA is pursuing this year. Please read more about them on the MOAA website.

National Legislative Concerns:

1. Compensation and Service-Earned Benefits

- Ensure pay at or above the Employment Cost Index and ensure all allowances and programs necessary to recruit and retain a quality force.
- Ensure pay continues for all eight uniformed services during a government shutdown.
- Provide for concurrent receipt of military retirement pay from DoD and disability pay from the VA.

2. Military Housing

- Restore BAH at 100% of researched housing costs per Military Housing Area.
- Ensure barracks are safe and healthy places to live, verified by the chain of command and government-owned work centers.

•

3. Health Care

- Reverse cuts to the pharmacy benefit and establish policy guardrails to ensure access to prescription medications and limits on copay increases.
- Fix the TRICARE Young Adult parity issue by extending eligibility to dependents up to age 26 with no separate premium to bring TRICARE on par with requirements for commercial health plans.
- Monitor recent major legislation enacted such as the PACT Act in the areas of health care, compensation, and follow-on support for surviving spouses and families, and seek statutory or policy changes as required.

Compel Congress and the VA to accelerate caregiving and whole health care services, and modernization of Veterans Health Administration workforce and facility infrastructure to improve veterans access to high quality care.

Texas Legislative Issues

The Texas legislature usually doesn't meet in even-numbered years, so hopefully, we've seen the last of the "special" sessions that lasted throughout 2023. Instead, the focus will be on elections. The slate is set for the March 5th Primary and it's not too early to get acquainted with all the hopefuls and incumbents who have thrown their names in the hat. You can find dates and ballot information on the Texas Secretary of State's website

<https://www.votetexas.gov>.

Additionally, El Paso has additional voting information at this link -

https://epcountylvotes.com/quick_links/current_election

MOAA Praised for Work Ending Senate Promotion Holds *By: MOAA Staff*

The Senate confirmed more than 400 officer promotions Dec. 6 and confirmed [11 additional senior nominees Dec. 19](#), ending nearly 10 months of delay and addressing what was a mounting threat to our national security.

MOAA congratulates these officers on their new roles, and thanks the many lawmakers, advocacy groups, and concerned citizens who worked along with the association to end this harmful hold and put our most talented military leaders in key jobs directly impacting combat readiness.

“I’ve been working to lift the holds on our military officers for months and, several weeks ago, I promised our military members and their families that we have their backs. I made a commitment then to the men and women of our military and I keep my commitments,” said Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska). “At this very dangerous time in our nation’s history, our country once again has our best and most combat-capable military officers on the field. I want to offer my sincere gratitude to the Military Officers Association of America and all the other patriotic Americans who spoke out to lift the holds on these military officers. Thanks to the support of MOAA and other military and veteran advocacy groups, these military officers and their families are no longer in limbo.”

MOAA’s work on the issue included in-person meetings with individuals from both parties and [a Nov. 7 letter to every senator](#) stressing the importance of ending the hold and the damage it created on multiple fronts. MOAA’s position was to support military members and their families, and not have them negatively impacted while the Senate and the administration rightfully debate policy issues.

Interfering with the confirmation process “is denying our military the leadership it needs to accomplish its demanding mission,” MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), wrote in the letter. “And as recent events highlight, the stakes could not be higher and the need for leadership could not be greater.”

Kelly praised Sullivan and other lawmakers for their work in ending the hold and asked for continued support from legislators on other defense and veterans matters.

“Many lawmakers on both sides of the aisle showed their support for the uniformed services community by speaking out forcefully on these disappointing holds,” Kelly said. “We need them to continue their support of the all-volunteer force by addressing so many other issues at the heart of service – improvements to compensation and living conditions for those who serve and their families, access to high quality medical care, and preservation of service-earned benefits for all generations of veterans and retirees. MOAA looks forward to supporting this work on behalf of not just our more than 360,000 members, but all of those who’ve worn the uniform, their families, and their survivors.”

Rainy-Day Dilemma: Know When to Tap Into Emergency Funds *By: Kevin Lilley*

Establishing an emergency fund can prevent financial pressures from causing full-on disasters ... but only if you use the money you’ve saved when you need it.

This message highlighted guidance offered by Lila Quintiliani, MOAA’s program director for financial benefits education and counseling, during a recent appearance on [Militarily Speaking](#), a podcast produced by Armed Forces Bank with a focus on military life and finances.

The episode, recorded as the threat of a government shutdown loomed near the end of last fiscal year, included advice from Quintiliani on how to manage your finances before or during any loss of income. One step neglected by many facing financial difficulty: Actually using the money you’ve set aside for such situations.

“We kind of have a psychological block against touching that,” Quintiliani said during the interview. “I’ve seen people get into debt because they didn’t want to touch their emergency fund, but that’s exactly what it’s for.”

Tapping into savings may be uncomfortable, but it can be a much better option than seeking emergency funds from “nefarious places,” Quintiliani said.

Other options include speaking with creditors and banks to find out what assistance is available, as well as accessing service-specific resources such as [relief societies](#) and family readiness centers on military installations.

Other advice offered during the interview for those facing financial problems:

- Prioritize expenses to meet basic needs and key financial obligations.
- Take stock of retirement account contributions, and consider scaling them back to address immediate needs.
- Rethink debt payments, prioritizing minimum payments over paying down balances to avoid deeper financial difficulty.

While the imminent threat of a shutdown passed in September, negotiations on Capitol Hill continue ... and even if the government remains open in the new year, servicemembers and others with federally connected income should be prepared for the cycle to repeat itself in the coming months and years.

“This is not really new, and I would say that it’s kind of evergreen advice – that you should always be ready for this, because unfortunately, it’s kind of the way things are right now,” Quintiliani said.

Quintiliani also covered MOAA’s advocacy and charitable efforts on the podcast, which launched in 2021. See more episodes [at this link](#), and get more financial guidance from MOAA’s experts at [MOAA.org/Finance](#).

General Edward Greer West Virginia's First Black General

By Ancella Bickley



Major General (Ret.) Edward Greer at his home in El Paso, Texas. Among his many honors, he received the Distinguished West Virginian Award in 1998. Photograph by Lewis Woodyard.

When Gary native Major General Edward Greer was promoted to Brigadier General in the U.S. Army in 1972, he became the first black person from West Virginia to achieve that rank.

"I was not surprised when he was named a general," LTC (Ret.) Preston Davis of Washington, D.C., says. "Of the many officers that I've known, Ed Greer had all of the attributes for promotion to general — the character, the military experience, and the warmth of personality that well fitted him for the tasks that the army set before him. He was always a person to be greatly admired."

With a career spanning more than 32 years, three wars, and numerous military postings, General Greer was among the early group of black men whose leadership capabilities propelled them into spotlighted positions in the early days of racial integration of the armed forces. Born March 8, 1924, in Gary, McDowell County, Greer was a May 1942 graduate of Kimball High School. He entered West Virginia State College that fall.

The college had an ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corps) program with mandatory enrollment, so Edward Greer and his friend Preston Davis became a part of it. Although the progress of World War II did not permit either man to remain in college long enough to complete the ROTC training and gain a commission at that time, their enrollment in the ROTC program allowed them to delay entering the service and finish their freshman year. "Rather than wait to be drafted," General Greer says, "all of the males in our class enlisted when the school year ended in May 1943."

When WWII ended, both Greer and Davis went back to West Virginia State, finished their college degrees, and were commissioned as army officers through the ROTC. Named a Distinguished Military Graduate in the 1948 graduating class, General Greer received a regular army commission, which assured a lifetime army career if he chose to follow it. In 1950 he and Preston Davis served in Korea together in the 159th Field Artillery Battalion, supporting the 24th Infantry Regiment, a black unit honored for its deployment in the West in the early days of settlement there and known as the Buffalo Soldiers.

"We have maintained our friendship for over 60 years," LTC Davis says. "General Greer was a fine soldier and also our mentor. Many of us from West Virginia State who were in the service turned to him for advice if we had a problem. He talked straight to us. He was a friend, but he was honest with you. He told you what you needed to hear."

Receiving his second star — the promotion to major general — in 1974, General Greer retired in 1976. His last assignment was as the deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Military Personnel Center at the Pentagon.

He looks back with pride at a distinguished military career and at his formative years in West Virginia. "I was born in Gary, West Virginia," he says while sitting in the kitchen of his home in El Paso, Texas. "But later we moved to Welch. There were 27 steps from our house in Welch down to the street," he says with a chuckle, as his wife places a bowl of fried apples on the table before him.

"His mother served apples every day," Mrs. Jewell Greer says. "I don't know if that was West Virginia cuisine or not, but he loves them."

Like many other black people, General Greer's family migrated to southern West Virginia in the early 1900's to take advantage of work opportunities. When the mines were working at full strength, word of mouth, family connections, and even newspaper ads brought in black workers by train, automobile, bus, and any other means that they could muster to get to McDowell County.

"My folks were from North Carolina," General Greer says. "My father, Walter Greer, left there looking for work. He and my mother first went to Pennsylvania, and my older brother, Bob, and my sister, Lillian, were born there. Then my family came to Gary where my father found work in the mines. He was employed by the Pennsylvania-based U.S. Coal & Coke Company, which operated the mines in Gary.

"I had a good childhood in West Virginia," he recalls.

You can read the rest of this article in this issue of Goldenseal, available in bookstores, libraries or [direct from Goldenseal](#).

West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History
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KTSM Interview

[Army general looks back on Korea, Vietnam, integration as 100th birthday nears \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/army-general-looks-back-on-korea-vietnam-integration-as-100th-birthday-nears/ar-BB1ibGGG?ocid=socialshare)

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/army-general-looks-back-on-korea-vietnam-integration-as-100th-birthday-nears/ar-BB1ibGGG?ocid=socialshare>

Could the All-Volunteer Force Withstand a Full Year Without a Budget?

By: Kevin Lilley

As MOAA hails the annual passage of a [defense authorization bill](#), our work on behalf of those who serve and have served, and their families, as part of the 2023 year-end cycle is far from over ... as Congress has yet to allocate a dollar to pay for what's in the new legislation.

And yet, inaction on the many improvements to compensation, benefits, and quality-of-life issues included in that bill somehow ranks low on DoD's list of problems connected to a lack of a full-year budget. While no appropriations mean no new programs, it also forces planners to scramble to maintain existing ones, leading to severe cuts and billions in misaligned funds.

And because of a bipartisan budget deal triggering sequestration if the budget isn't complete by Jan. 1, more billions would vanish from DoD coffers. While this money would be restored after a deal is in place, there's no guarantee such a deal will materialize. The longer it takes to reach a deal, the less time DoD will have to adjust programming to incorporate the funding — leading to more waste.

The math is staggering: In 2021, DoD estimated a full-year continuing resolution would've cost the department [more than \\$40 billion](#). And that estimate didn't include any sequestration-related cuts, which would further reduce DoD budget topline by between \$26.5 billion and \$36.5 billion, according to a Senate Appropriations Committee [fact sheet](#).

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Charles Q. "CQ" Brown Jr., USAF, outlined some of the damage a full-year CR could do in a recent letter to Congress, calling such a situation "[historically costly](#)." Many of the issues raised in [Brown's letter](#) mirror top MOAA legislative priorities — it's a strong indication of the fallout these critical programs would face if lawmakers can't reach an agreement:

Personnel: A year without a full budget would trigger a \$5.8 billion personnel shortfall, Brown wrote. Programs designed to improve recruiting and retention would suffer, and PCS moves would stall, leading to an array of problems for military families.

Construction Projects: No new budget means no new buildings, ending all manner of modernization efforts as DoD looks to address [horrendous barracks conditions](#), among other concerns

Readiness: Ships would face delayed or canceled maintenance, munitions contracts would be jeopardized, and procurement and modernization efforts would suffer — Brown's letter notes particular threats to the nuclear triad and Indo-Pacific initiatives.

MOAA's Role

A yearlong CR could erase many of the advocacy gains made possible by the ongoing grassroots support of MOAA members across the nation. MOAA will continue to work on both sides of the aisle, in both chambers of Congress, to ensure lawmakers live up to the "support our troops" banner many have raised proudly.

As constituents of these legislators, you can help us make a difference — [send a message today](#) and make it clear the time for grandstanding is long over, and a deal must be made to ensure the continued strength of the all-volunteer force.

If you've already sent that message, send another with your personal story of service to reengage with your House member or senator. Or reach out to your lawmaker via MOAA's toll-free congressional hotline, 1-866-272-6622, and encourage them to take a leadership role not only in fixing this year's budget debacle, but in ensuring future sessions fund the government in a timely fashion.

The true cost of this delay is coming into focus — tens of billions of dollars wasted, all funds that could be used for much-needed quality-of-life improvements, or to shore up existing retiree benefits, or to keep construction and procurement projects on pace. Let your lawmakers know this irresponsibility can't be tolerated, especially as our force faces recruiting challenges and an ever-growing list of global threats.

[Take action today](#), and stay tuned to [MOAA's advocacy news](#) for the latest updates on this and other issues.



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elpasomoaa.org

El Paso Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
PO Box 6144
Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0144

March 2024 Membership Meeting & Lunch Centennial Banquet and Conference Center

11199 Sergeant E. Churchill Street, Fort Bliss, TX 79916

Date: Saturday, 2 March 2024

Time: 1130 -1330

Special Guest:

Major General Edward Greer

Menu

Chicken Tampequeña

Tossed Green Salad

Coffee, Iced Tea, and Water

MOAA Cake



Note attendees needing a vegetarian (Fettuccini Primavera) or vegan (Vegan Pasta) meal option must contact Dave Powell @ 915-491-1272 by Monday, 26 February 2024

Dress: Casual

Cost: \$22/person

Lunch Treasurer: treasurer@elpasomoaa.org

Membership or email queries: membership@elpasomoaa.org

Mail To: El Paso Chapter MOAA, Attn.: Treasurer, PO Box 6144, Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0144

Please fill in this acceptance slip, and return to the Treasurer by Wednesday, 28 February 2024 with a check for \$22 per person, the cost of the luncheon. **Late Reservations**, call Dave Powell, 915-491-1272, by Noon, Thursday, February 29, and pay at the door.

Lunch will be on Saturday 2 March 2024 at 11:30 a.m.

Please print guest names clearly to ensure the correct spelling on the registration listing.

I will / will not attend the lunch and there will be _____ attendees in my party.

My check for \$ ____ (\$22.00 per person) made payable to the "El Paso Chapter" is enclosed.

Name of Member: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Name(s) of Guests: _____

Name(s) of Guests: _____

Name(s) of Guests: _____

Name(s) of Guests: _____



Doc's Corner
Daniel Washburn, M.D.

Question: Is significant vision loss guaranteed or inevitable as we age and get old?

Answer: No, although certain eye conditions are much more common in aging eyes, many people maintain good functional vision very late in life. The following is a brief discussion of the most common aging effects on the eyes.

- 1) The #1 thing that affects every eye as a normal part of the aging process is cataracts. A cataract is when the natural lens inside the eye that is normally clear and transparent turns cloudy with age and can make vision very blurry and hazy. Fortunately, there are great surgical techniques that can now fix cataracts when they develop.
- 2) Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is common over the age of 50. The center of the retina (macula) in the back of the eye can atrophy with age causing vision decline and distortion. There is treatment available for some forms of AMD but treatment is to stabilize it, not cure it.
- 3) Dry eyes – older people make fewer tears, especially females after menopause which exacerbates dry eye problems. Dry eyes are treated with artificial tear eyedrops and other medication such as Restasis or Xiidra. In advanced cases, other treatment options are available.
- 4) Near vision usually starts to get blurry in our mid 40s and beyond. The lens in the eye is soft and pliable when young and attached to a muscle so it can change shape to allow focus at all distances. After about 4 decades, the lens turns hard and is no longer pliable, so near vision starts to blur. This is usually treated with reading glasses or bifocals.
- 5) Spots or floaters – the inside of the eyeball is filled with jelly called vitreous. Vitreous is clear and transparent in young people but with age it often forms protein clumps which can be seen as floaters. Floaters are quite common and almost always benign but if floaters ever change suddenly or are accompanied by flashing lights or vision loss, it could be a sign of a serious problem and needs to be checked quickly.
- 6) Reduced night vision – as we age, the cells in the retina responsible for night vision start to weaken which degrades vision in low lighting. This makes night driving and other activities more challenging for older people.
- 7) Glaucoma is much more common as we age. Glaucoma is when the pressure inside the eyeball (different than blood pressure) damages the optic nerve that connects the eye to the brain. Glaucoma develops very gradually so people often don't notice it but can cause blindness if not diagnosed and treated. Checking for glaucoma is a part of any eye exam.
- 8) Diabetic eye disease – diabetes can happen at any age but is more prevalent as we age. If the blood sugar is too high, over time it damages delicate blood vessels in the retina and can cause permanent vision loss. Diabetes is one of the most common causes of blindness in the U.S. If you have diabetes, at least yearly eye exams are strongly recommended.

Daniel Washburn, M.D.
Former Chief Eye Surgeon at WBAMC



Auxiliary MRS CONNIE SULLIVAN

Dear Members, how sad for those who missed our last luncheon. The spirit of camaraderie was amazing.

We, all that were there, had an absolutely marvelous time. Our speaker Colonel Lee C. Freeman, Commander of William Beaumont Army Medical Center was outstanding. We hope that for our next one, the people that were not able to attend, can come and join us.

Since it was the Christmas Holiday Luncheon, it is always special, especially for those that are believers in Christianity.

For the people that believe that Christ was Jewish and that because of Him we have the Christian Faith and that He celebrated all the festivals, according to the Bible, we too as followers of the Savior ought to rejoice in the festivities of the Jewish Faith such as Hanukkah and the other ones that they, the Jewish people celebrate.

Other wise, why would we call ourselves Christians. There are, however, many that do embrace those holidays and enjoy them. This time of the year is also special for unbelievers because they participate in family gatherings and a lot of Christmas parties. So hopefully, God willing, the members that were not able to come will be able to attend.

May God be with us in this coming year and may He bless us and keep us safe.

May we also all have a prosperous year, protected and in good health. Those holidays and enjoy them.

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Why Join the El Paso Chapter of MOAA?

The local El Paso MOAA Chapter is the second oldest and continues to excel according to MOAA national standards. The local Chapter exists to promote the MOAA National's stimulation of love for our country and flag and to defend the honor, integrity, and supremacy of the national government and the Constitution of the United States. The Chapter aids members and member's interest in every possible way allowed by the Chapter By-laws.

The Chapter supports El Paso area VSOs that provide services and protects the interest of the veteran community.

Local Meetings

For over twenty-five years, the Chapter has enjoying membership luncheons at the Ft. Bliss Centennial Club in East Fort Bliss. the Centennial club has become our home for a time of comradery, a guest speaker, and Chapter meetings on a quarterly basis.

Local Chapter Activities

The Chapter provides timely email alerts to educate and encourage participation in local and national legislative and health issues. The Chapter has initiated many important programs which are still honored to this day. The quarterly Chapter newsletter, *The Border Bulletin* and web site: <http://elpasomoaa.org> provide *timely information on Chapter activities, articles, and other items interests.*

Local Community Action

The Chapter put into motion the development of the El Paso Chapter Outreach Foundation a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization to support, fund, and enhance El Paso MOAA Chapter activities with sponsoring of two college financial opportunities, support local service members, units' needs, events, and special requests for support from Active, Spouses, and Beneficiaries in the local El Paso and Ft Bliss communities.

Key Dates 2024

MOAA Meetings & Luncheons

March 2, 2024

June 8, 2024

September 14, 2024

December 14, 2024

Input for the Border Bulletin

January 29, 2024

April 29, 2024

July 29, 2024

October 28, 2024

New Members

Mrs Ruth Jester
Mrs. Ryleigh Jester
Mr. Brayden Jester
Mrs. Jan Sangster

Renewals

COL Robert Wagner
CDR Roger Springstead
LTC Dave Powell
COL James Scott
MG Charles Rodriguez
MAJ Betty Ritchley
Mrs. Margarita Powers
Mrs. Wiebke Long
COL Donna Diamond
LTC Martin Keipp
COL Lennie Enzel
Col Billy Speights
CW4 Robert St Almond
LTC Anthony Traficante
Mrs. Mary Henry
W01 James Schreiner
LTC Martha Caldwell
Mrs. Joyce Seitz
MAJ Edwin Stone
CAPT Joseph Quintana
MG Edward Greer
Mrs. Ellen Pipkin

Retiree and Annuitant Pay Dates for 2024

Month	Retiree Deposit Date	Annuitant Deposit Date
January	Feb. 1	Feb. 1
February	Mar. 1	Mar. 1
March	Mar. 31	Apr. 3
April	May. 01	May. 01
May	Jun. 01	Jun. 01
June	Jul, 30	Jul, 30
July	Aug. 1	Aug. 1
August	Sep. 1	Sep. 1
September	Sep. 29	Oct. 2
October	Nov. 1	Nov. 1
November	Dec. 1	Dec. 1
December	Dec. 29	Jan. 1, 2024



Foundation Officers 2023

President BG Jack Kotter
Vice-President VACANT
Secretary VACANT
Treasurer LTC Dave Powell
Chapter Advisor COL Lennie Enzel

Board of Directors

President (Vacant)
Vice President VACANT
Secretary VACANT
Treasurer LTC (R) Dave Powell
Director, Veterans Activities
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Chaplain Connie Sullivan
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Secretary - Treasurer	LTC (RET) Dave Powell	915-491-1272	lrc.ret.powell@outlook.com
Chaplain	Mrs. Connie Sullivan	915-778-0948	spanishdancer4@gmail.com
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Past President	COL (RET) Forrest Smith	915-449-8944	tarableu@gmail.com
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Programs	VACANT		
Public Relations	VACANT		
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Post Liaison	VACANT		
Thrift Shop Liaison	VACANT		
Door Prizes	VACANT		
Awards/Grants	VACANT		
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Vice President	VACANT		
Secretary	VACANT		
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Director, Marketing	VACANT		
Chaplain	Mrs. Connie Sullivan	915-778-0948	spanishdancer4@gmail.com
Director, VA Advisor	COL (RET) Lennie Enzel	915-755-2325	lennieenzel@icloud.com
Director, Ambassador, Military Organizations	CPT (RET) Dave Thackston	915-479-4467	dcthackston@aol.com
Chairman, Fund Raising/ Giving Day Committee	VACANT		
Chapter Advisor	COL (RET) Lennie Enzel	915-755-2325	lennieenzel@icloud.com



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