

2021 | APRIL



THE BORDER BULLETIN

EL PASO CHAPTER OF MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Nationally Ranked Five-Star Chapter • MOAA Affiliate from January 23, 1956 • Our 65th Year

Inside this issue:

3
President's Message

4
Outreach Foundation

6
Pharmacy Hours

7
Chaplain Corner

8
Retiree & Annuitant
Pay Dates

10
Legislative

15
Surviving Spouse Liaison

16
Doc's Corner

INPUT

deadline for June 2021 Border Bulletin 10 May

The Border Bulletin NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Editor: COL William Oseles 319-9048

EDITORIAL ADVISOR

MG Edward Greer, USA 755-2244

Advertising Manager: COL William Oseles
publications@elpasomoaa.org

Printer: Northeast Printing, 755-6089

April 2021• Vol 65 No 3

The Border Bulletin is the Official publication of the
El Paso Chapter of

The Military Officers Association of America

P.O. Box 6144, Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0144.

This bulletin is published Bi-monthly.

Subscription is included in the annual
dues of \$20.00.

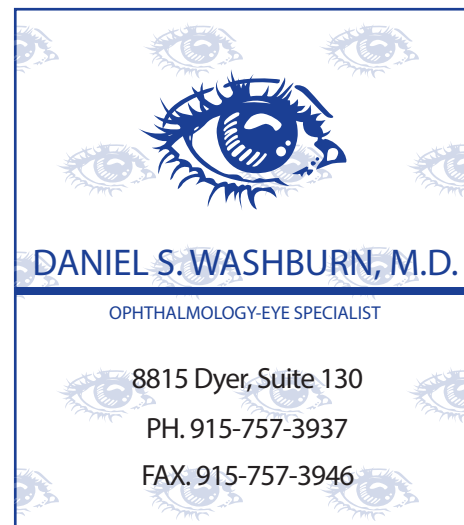
Statement of Publication

The Border Bulletin is the newsletter of the El Paso Chapter, Military Officers Association of America. It is published bi-monthly, even months, to inform the membership of issues and activities of interest to all. elpasomoaa.org is a non-profit entity within the State of Texas organized to represent the membership and to support the activities of the Texas Council of Chapters and MOAA National. Advertising contained on the website and in the newsletter and directory are not endorsed by the Chapter and does not represent any recommendation to the membership. Opinions expressed in articles contained herein are not necessarily those of the membership as a whole or the Chapter. Questions should be directed to the Editor, at the Chapter office.

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

Chapter Staff Emeritus

COL Margaret H. Baskfield	584-6826
LTC Rafael G. Garcia	593-1469
CW3 Emiliano Gorgas	594-0444
Major E. Dexter Lyerly	585-9619
Mrs. Blanche J "Maggie" Maguire	584-7682
LTC James L. McLaughlin	566-4976
LTC Daniel J. Schulte	755-3387
Mrs. Kathleen Schulte	755-3387
MAJ Edwin S. Stone, III	598-6058
Captain Jeanne B. Thompson	598-0981
COL Martin C. Wehmhoner	585-9106
COL Robert Pitt	533-5111
COL Lennie Enzel	755-2325
Mrs. Judy Stone	598-6058
COL Forrest Smith	449-8944
Mrs. Julie Pitt	533-5111
Mrs. Elma Smith	355-1849
LTC William Moore	842-9650
COL Steve Barrett	222-8307
Mrs. Janet Rasmussen	598-3835
Mrs. Connie Sullivan	778-0948



DANIEL S. WASHBURN, M.D.

OPHTHALMOLOGY-EYE SPECIALIST

8815 Dyer, Suite 130
PH. 915-757-3937
FAX. 915-757-3946

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, and 2019

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 2019

Winner

2010 thru 2013

Runner-up

2009 and 2014

Editorial Policy

MOAA national and the El Paso Chapter (a MOAA affiliate) are independent, nonprofit, and politically nonpartisan organizations.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MIKE HESTER

Howdy Team! Judging by the winds we have been having in our Area of Operations lately it seems spring is in the air (or is that just dust)! As you are reading this in May I assume it is already a hot one so I hope everyone is getting ready for the June – September slog of hot temps. At least with this crowd you do not have to remind everyone to stay hydrated and watch that heat.

We were hoping to have our first face to face lunch in April, however I only received 11 RSVPs for “yes” and 5 for “no it is too early” so we cancelled it. We will send out another RSVP for a June lunch and I hope we can finally see each other face to face as it has been over a year. I do not know about you but I am ready to get back to normal operating procedure. Please reply to the RSVP when it is sent out. 36 “Yes” is the magic number!!

With that said I hope everyone has got their vaccine (if you want it). If you are having any difficulty getting signed up or you are not sure what to do please come up on the net as we have plenty of folks that can point you in the right direction.

Although I sound like a broken record, we are still looking for a few good women and men to assist both the foundation and chapter operations. Every little bit helps and to be brutally honest I am growing concerned about the ability of the chapter and foundation to maintain future operations if we do not have some people who are willing to step up and catch hold and lift. We have excellent volunteers but it seems like the weight of the operations land on the same shoulders. We have some excellent initiatives to get the MOAA name on the street but as always it takes great folks like you to make it happen. Right now we have vacancies in the secretary position, marketing, recruiting, advertising. And if you just want to assist, I guarantee we can find some work that is suitable to your needs. If you are interested please give me a shout at mikehester65@gmail.com. If you do not want to talk to me feel free to contact any of the BOD members and we will get you on the management team.

I do hope to see everyone face to face in June. It has been quite a year! As always proud to serve and I will see you on the high ground soon!

Mike

PS- Did I mention we are looking for volunteers?

Our Future Scholarship Program

The MOAA Outreach Foundation Board of Directors voted in February to “partner” with the El Paso Community Foundation to establish our local El Paso MOAA Scholarship Program effective December of this year with our first Scholarship Award for the 2022 School year. Joining the El Paso Community Foundation in this effort will allow MOAA to expand our current Outreach Foundation Memorial Scholarship Program with a guarantee that once a Scholarship has been designated and funded, it will continue to be awarded each year without further MOAA Outreach Foundation funding—thus allowing us over time to achieve multiple awards with new funding. Our Scholarships will recognize the character, achievements and patriotism in similar aspects to the National MOAA Scholarship Program, but focused solely on local high-school seniors who have demonstrated selflessness in high school athletics and or other extra/co-curricular activities and who plans to pursue a two or four-year college/university or technical school degree.

Your Foundation BOD is currently developing the Scholarship Award policy and funding profile to meet our December funding Goal of \$10,000—to date we have raised over 40% of the necessary funding to initiate the new Program.

Look for further information at our next Membership Meeting

Our first Scholarship to be awarded through the
El Paso Community Foundation will be the

Sergeant Velton Locklear III Memorial Scholarship

named in honor of Velton Locklear, III a 1995 graduate of Eastwood High School where he excelled in the classroom and on the football field. After briefly attending college, Sgt Locklear followed his father's footsteps into the United States Army. Velton, III was serving as an infantry sergeant in the 25th Infantry Division on his second tour of duty in Iraq when he was severely wounded when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Humvee during combat operations in Riyadh, Iraq. He would die from those injuries on Sept. 23, 2006. Sergeant Locklear was a husband, father of two sons and a dedicated soldier. He touched the lives of many in life and in death.

You may donate online to support the MOAA Scholarship Program at:

<https://www.elpasomoaa.org/outreachscholarship>

or

Send your donation Marked “Scholarships” to El Paso MOAA Outreach Foundation

PO Box 6144 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906-0144



Foundation Officers 2020

President Vacant

Vice-President COL John Robins

Secretary CPT David Thackston

Treasurer LTC Dave Powell

Chapter Advisor COL Mike Hester

Board of Directors

President (Vacant)

Vice President

LTC (R) John R. Robbins

Secretary CPT Ashley Speer

Treasurer LTC (R) Dave Powell

Director, Veterans Activities

Col (R) Lennie Enzel

Ambassador, Military Org

Cpt (R) David Thackston

Director Col (R) Maureen Lofberg

Chaplain Connie Sullivan

President, El Paso MOAA Chapter

Col (R) Mike Hester

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

**Support
El Paso MOAA
Outreach Foundation.**

When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

TEXAS DRIVER LICENSE, REAL ID AND YOU


Please be advised that beginning October 1, 2021, federal agencies will only accept Texas driver licenses and identification cards for official federal purposes - including air travel and entering federal facilities - provided the Texas driver license or identification card is marked REAL ID compliant. REAL ID compliance is indicated by a gold circle with an inset star located on the upper right of the driver license or identification card. For additional information regarding the REAL ID Act, please visit <http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/federalRealIdAct.htm>.

Texas Department of Public Safety strongly encourages you to renew your license prior to October 1, 2021, to ensure that you have a REAL ID compliant card. If you already have a REAL ID compliant card, as indicated with a Gold Star in the upper righthand corner, you do not need to take any action before October 1, 2021.

If you have any questions, please email realid@dps.texas.gov.

Fort Bliss offers Texas driver license services at 505 Pershing Ave, Room A154

Respectfully,
William L. Moore
Lieutenant Colonel,
US Army, Retired
Webmaster
<http://elpasomoaa.org>



Texas DRIVER LICENSE

DL 00000194
 DOB 04/10/2014
 Class BM
 Exp 04/10/2018

1 SAMPLE
 2 N.J. DRIVING

6 12612 RIVER HILLS
 ASPEN, TX 12345

12 Restrictions P
 16 Hgt 5-09 13 Sex F 18 Eyes GRN

4 DD 300500000000000000000000194

M. Joy Driving



- Evaluation and Treatment of Orthopedic Problems
- Sports Care and Rehab
- Post-Surgical Rehab
- Work Related Therapy
- Spine Care and Stabilization
- Dry Needling
- Screen / Fall Risk Program
- Osteoporosis Program
- Neuro Rehab
- Aquatic Therapy (Trawood and Gateway)
- Blood Flow Moderation Training
- Women's Health Program

THE BORDER BULLETIN

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>

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 MyHealthVet 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



William Beaumont Army Medical Center

PHARMACY NOTICE



WBAMC Pharmacy Service UPDATE

Service Expansion Beginning September 14th 2020

Mendoza Curbside Pharmacy

Hours of Operation: 7:30am-4:00pm

Services Offered:

-24hr Drop-Off Rx Service

(SAVE A TRIP! Ask your WBAMC provider to initiate your New or Renewal Rx Request at the Mendoza Curbside Pharmacy, Rx will be ready within 24hrs (next business day) for pick-up!

-Acute Care Rx Same Day Pick-up (limited to certain types of medications)

-Tricare Online/Audio-care Prescription Refill Pick-up

Freedom Crossing Pharmacy

Hours of Operation: 9:30am-6:00pm

Ticket Kiosk turns off at 12:45pm for Lunch from 1:00pm-2:00pm

Services Offered:

-24hr Drop-Off Rx Service

(SAVE A TRIP! Ask your WBAMC provider to initiate your Rx Request at the Freedom Crossing Pharmacy, Rx will be ready within 24hrs (next business day) for pick-up!

-Acute Care Rx Same Day Pick-up (limited to certain types of medications)

-Tricare Online/Audio-care Prescription Refill Pick-up

****Freedom Crossing does not have curbside. We thank you for observing mask and social distancing requirements in the Freedom Crossing waiting area.****

Stay Informed and Take Control of Your
Healthcare with the WBAMC App



Pharmacy

Main Pharmacy

(Bldg 7777 3rd Fl WBAMC) 5005 N Piedras St, El Paso, TX 79920.

[915-742-2793](tel:915-742-2793)

Freedom Crossing (PX) Pharmacy

1611 Haan Rd, Fort Bliss, TX 79906

[915-742-9017](tel:915-742-9017)

Soldier and Family Medical Clinic Pharmacy

2496 Ricker Rd El Paso, TX 79925.

[915-742-1802](tel:915-742-1802)

Mendoza Soldier Family Care Center Pharmacy

11335 Ssg Sims St, Fort Bliss, TX 79918.

[915-742-1400](tel:915-742-1400)

East Bliss Health and Dental Pharmacy

21227 Torch St, Biggs Field, TX 79918

[915-742-9286](tel:915-742-9286)

Special Drug Request

(Bldg 7777 3rd Fl WBAMC) 5005 N Piedras St, El Paso, TX 79920.

[915-742-3645](tel:915-742-3645)



CHAPLAIN CORNER

MRS. CONNIE SULLIVAN

Ever since the Pandemic, our world has been turned upside down. Some people find themselves under so much stress that as we know that the world keeps on going around and around, we find ourselves so distraught that we are just wanting to get off.

Why? Because this situation of the virus is new to us. Nothing like this had ever happened in our life time and not only to us, but all over the world.

It was like a balloon that was getting bigger and bigger and finally popped.

From this situation, we have experienced anxiety, fear, apprehension, uneasiness, panic and stress.



All these feelings are so difficult to control when we can't see the end of the tunnel, hoping that it will end soon in the near future.

Sometimes in order to ease these mental conflicts, perhaps if we take some moments of our busy lives, since our routines have changed, to focus on what we do have, for life goes on in different ways but goes on, we can count our blessings.

Our lives for some, might not be the happiest of times, especially if they have lost loved ones, but for the ones that are left, we can still rejoice if there is no more sickness in other members of the family.

If there are no contentions, strifes or misunderstandings

in our households, what more sense of gratitude can we have if all our family is together and getting along. Some might have little but little is better with happy homes than alot with ill feelings or unhappiness.

For now we need to continue the course of surviving without despair and not have loss of hope, having faith and thankfulness to our Almighty God, who gives us sunshine, rain and life.

If we continue doing our best and repenting of our sins and helping one another, maybe this sad situation will be lifted and we can resume our normal lives as it seems to be getting slowly there now.

NEW MEMBERS

MAJ Ramiro De Anda
BG Kenneth Shull
Mr. Ruben Garcia
Mr. Wesley Weikel
Mr. Gilbert Melendez
Mr. Ernest Torres

LTC Martha Caldwell
LTC Bob Dawson
CW4 Michael Seitz
LTC John Robbins
Mrs. Lois Lewis
LTC CB Mapes
SGM Velton Locklear
Mr. Henry Poku
COL Billy Speights

MEMBER RENEWALS

Mr. Jose Limon
Mrs. Manuela Stemsley
Mrs. Donna Bloedorn
LTC Martin Keip
LTC Bruce Gramlich
CW2 Dave Garcia
MAJ Michael Schulte
CPT Roger Nichols
Mrs. Lois Lewis

Mrs. Dagmar Becker
Mrs. Ruth Fisher
Mrs. Dorothy Ladd
Mrs. Colette Petty
LTC Richard Cobbs
CW4 Marshal Pyland
Mrs. Maria Childress
COL Steve Barrett

RETIREE PAY DATES FOR 2021

ANNUITANT PAY DATES FOR 2021

MONTH	DIRECT DEPOSIT DATES	MONTH	DIRECT DEPOSIT DATES
JANUARY	FEBRUARY 1	JANUARY	FEBRUARY 1
FEBRUARY	MARCH 1	FEBRUARY	MARCH 1
MARCH	APRIL 1	MARCH	APRIL 1
APRIL	APRIL 30	APRIL	MAY 3
MAY	JUNE 1	MAY	JUNE 1
JUNE	JULY 1	JUNE	JULY 1
JULY	JULY 30	JULY	AUGUST 2
AUGUST	SEPTEMBER 1	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER 1
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER 1	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER 1
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER 1	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER 1
NOVEMBER	DECEMBER 1	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER 1
DECEMBER	DECEMBER 30	DECEMBER	JANUARY 3, 2022



☎ 915.755.6089
 📱 915.303.1561 **text only**
 📠 915.757.2452 | 915.755.5705
 ✉ northeastprinting@yahoo.com
 🌐 northeast printing

DRIVE THRU

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 9728 Dyer St, Suite AA



• Invoices • Brochures • Stickers • Business Cards
 Affordable Bulk Printing • Coroplast Posters
 • Graphic Desing • Invitations • Banners

Armed Services YMCA – El Paso

Junior Enlisted Family Center

• Food Pantry • No-Cost Thrift Store • Baby Project • Soldiers Kits • Volunteering

Located on the corner of Sheridan and Cassidy at
2004 Sheridan Rd. Fort Bliss, TX



Donations

Duration Varies

JEFC Donations: Clothing, Shoes, Accessories, Toys, Nursing, Maintenance, Media, Electronics, Seasonal, Uniforms, Household, Furniture, Appliances, Sports Gear, Hygiene, Military Gear, Crafts and Books.

Food Pantry Donations: Non Perishable foods such as – Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruits, Bagged Grains, One box meals, Canned Protein, Breakfast items and Snacks.

Baby Project: Baby Wipes, Diapers, Baby Food, Baby Cereal and Formula.

Monetary Donations: Give online: www.asymca.org/donate-el-paso Donate over the phone: (915) 263-7164 Mail a check: 7060 Comington St. El Paso, TX 79930

Volunteering at the JEFC

Duration Varies

Offering active duty service members, military spouses and Fort Bliss Youth a positive opportunity to earn volunteer hours in their community. Volunteers can earn up to 52 hours a month during business hours to go towards school credit, promotion points or resumes.

Volunteer Requirements: - Current Physical - Must be registered in Amilia.

Ages 17 and under must be accompanied by parent or legal guardian.

To register visit: www.asymca.org/el-paso-sign-in

Baby Project

Duration Varies • Free to military E6 and below

Junior Enlisted military families in need are allowed one bundle of diapers, baby wipes and up to 10 baby food items per week during hours of operation while supplies lasts.

Hours of Operation: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:30am - 2:30pm

Location: 2004 Sheridan Rd. Fort Bliss, TX

Emergency Food Pantry

Duration Varies

Military families in need can pick up a voucher for further assistance while visiting ACS, which can then be redeemed at our JEFC during our hours of operation.

Hours of Operation: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and 3rd Saturday of the month from 10:30am - 2:30pm

Location: 2004 Sheridan Rd. Fort Bliss, TX

Army Community Services 2494 Ricker Road 915-568-0768

Shopping

Duration Varies • Free to military E6 and below

Free new and gently used items to Junior Enlisted E6 and below military families in need.

-Clothing, Shoes, Accessories, Toys, Nursing, Maintenance, Media, Electronics, Seasonal, Uniforms, Household, Furniture, Appliances, Sports Gear, Baby items, Hygiene, Military Gear, Crafts and Books.

Hours of Operation: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and 3rd Saturday from 10:30am - 2:30pm

To register visit: www.asymca.org/el-paso-sign-in



LEGISLATIVE

CW2 DAVE GARCIA, USA, RETIRED
GREETING COMRADES,

HOPE EVERYONE IS WELL AND SAFE, WITH ALL THE LEGASLATION PRESENTED IT SEEM THAT MOAA IS A FRONT ADVOCATE FOR SEVERAL HR AND SB...WITH SUPPORT OF OTHER VSO...ONE OF THE HR/SB THAT'S IN THE HIGH LIGHT AND BEING LOOKAT VERY STRONGLY IS HR 333 AND SB 5995 ...THE MAJOR STAR ACT...WHILE DEALING WITH THE 20 YEAR RETIREES AND THE CHAPTER 61 MEDICALLY RETIREE'S...I HAVE RECEIVED A RESPONSE FROM CONGRESSWOMAN ESCOBAR OFFICE ABOUT THE MAJOR RICHARD STAR ACT UNDER A NEW BILL...HR 1282 CONGRESSWOMAN ESCOBAR REPLIED AND QUOTED ...On February 24, H.R. 1282 was introduced and referred to the House Armed Services Committee and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. As a member of the Armed Services Committee, please rest assured that I will keep your thoughts in mind should this bill be brought for consideration in this committee and on the House floor. I will be keeping an eye on this response...Below our the MOAA accomplishments in the 116th congress and MOAA 2021 Priorities for the 117th congress... March 19, 2021 I ,represented MOAA and attending the legislation presentation on priorities to be submitted to our elective officials at the senate and congressional level... presented by The DAV Benefits Protec-

tion Teams of all three chapters... The following bills listed below: 11 House Bills and 4 Senate bills...which MOAA support a few...VSO united we will prevail...

- **1-S437(BURN PITS)**
- **2-H239, H344, H746, H789, H855, S89, AND S219 (CONTRACEPTION, WOMEN, COVID, PRE-CHECK)**
- **3-H303, H333, H584, H617, H637, S134, AND S344 (CONCURRENT RECEIPT AND COVID)**

MOAA IN ACTION: MAJOR LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MOAA engages with Congress on all manner of issues related to the uniformed services community. These efforts can include collaboration with other like-minded organizations and with The Military Coalition. We also rely heavily on our members who make their voices heard by contacting lawmakers via [MOAA's Legislative Action Center](#), by participating in our annual signature advocacy event, and through local efforts at the [chapter and council level](#).

For [more than 90 years](#), this work has led to real results – pay and benefits protected from budget-driven threats, continued access to quality medical care, and countless other areas of concern to our members, our military, and the wider uniformed services community.

No list could encompass everything MOAA's achieved since 1929, but below, you'll find some of the highlights. Click the links for details on each of the items (or scroll below the boxes to see the full list), and reach out to MOAA's legislative team at legis@moaa.org to discuss your concerns on these or other topics. Note: Items with an asterisk (*) are reoccurringly under attack or underresourced.

- [Repealing SBP-DIC offset](#), known as the 'Widows Tax' – saving up to \$12,000 per year for nearly 67,000 surviving spouses.

- [Executing a credible game plan for oversight of DoD's health care](#) – protecting continued access to quality care.*

- [Securing comprehensive privatized military housing reform](#) – improving housing, establishing Tenant Bill of Rights, and Congressional oversight.*

- [Lessening impact of TRICARE fee hikes](#) (Family = \$300 vice \$900) – fighting multiple efforts to end grandfathering for those who entered service before Jan. 1, 2018.*

- [Protecting TRICARE For Life \(TFL\)](#) – blocked five consecutive administration budgets proposing TFL enrollment fees (2013-2017).*

- [Maintaining pay raise comparability](#) – ensuring pay raises for our uniformed services keep pace with civilian sector increases.*

- [Providing Wounded Warrior protections and caregiver enhancements](#) – securing multiple improvements to VA caregiver programs.*

- [Defeating 'COLA Minus 1 Percent'](#) – ending Congressional attempts to reduce retired pay, costing an E-7 retiring after 20 years \$83,000, and an O-5 \$124,000, by age 62.*

- [Securing major GI Bill upgrades to include transferability](#) – and improving benefits for National Guard on Title 32 orders.*

- [Boosting compensation significantly for retirees with 50% VA disability](#) – still fighting for the rest to include those medically retired.*

- [Improving Guard and Reserve TRICARE coverage](#) – and securing a premium cut.

- [Ensuring Guard and Reserve retirement age credit for active duty service](#) – now allowing 90 days to stretch over two consecutive years.

MOAA's Legislative Priorities for the 117th Congress.

While MOAA continues efforts to shape the end of 2020's legislative session, we're also looking toward the 117th Congress, as well as the changes in the administration's leadership and priorities that may impact our servicemembers past and present.

Here is a preview of MOAA's legislative priorities for the coming session, which we are already working to influence during the incoming administration's transition.

These objectives are broad and topical in nature. They are subject to refinement and interpretation depending on the latest legislation, as well as activities on the Hill or within the administration and its departments. Visit the [Advocacy News page](#) for the latest on all these subjects and others.

- Protect the value of the military health care benefit.

- Protect the military health system's pharmacy benefit, and achieve flexibility in TRICARE pharmacy copays.

- Address barriers to accessing care within the military health system, including TRICARE coverage gaps and mental health care access challenges.

- Protect family support programs, and ensure military-provided services (housing, PCS, child care) are affordable, readily available, and meet quality standards.

- Sustain pay raises for the troops and COLA raises for retirees.

- Ensure Coast Guard members are paid during a government shutdown.

- Sustain Veterans Health Administration (VHA) foundational missions and services.

- Achieve equity of benefits, protections, and administrative support for Guard and Reserve members consistent with their active-duty counterparts.

- Reform the presumptive process to

support veterans claiming service-connected disabilities for toxic exposures.

- Achieve concurrent receipt of service-earned retirement pay and VA disability pay.

- Protect Arlington National Cemetery as an option for those currently eligible to receive full military honors through expansion of our national cemetery.

- Improve survivor benefits.

OUR BENEFITS ARE IN DANGER AGAIN...PLS CONTACT YOUR ELECTIVE OFFICIAL TO VOTE AGAINST THESE BUDGET CUTS...

BUDGET DEFICIT REDUCTION OPTIONS AFFECTING VETERANS....THIS A CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE PROPOSAL TO CUT OUR BENEFITS....

- MANDATORY SPENDING

- HEALTH

- ENROLLMENT PREMIUMS FOR TRICARE FOR LIFE (\$14B)

- OUT OF POCKET REQUIREMENTS FOR TRICARE FOR LIFE (\$27B)

- INCREASE PREMIUMS FOR PARTS B AND D OF MEDICARE (\$39-462)

- VETERANS

- END VA'S INDIVIDUAL UNEMPLOYABILITY PAYMENTS TO DISABLED VETS AT FULL RETIREMENT AGE FOR SOCIAL SECURITY (TWO AGE-RELATED ALTERNATIVES \$8-40B)

- REDUCE VA'S DISABILITY PAYMENTS TO VETS BY 30% AT FULL RETIREMENT AGE FOR SOCIAL SECURITY (\$25B)

- NARROW ELIGIBILITY FOR VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION BY EXCLUDING VETERANS WITH 10 AND 20% DISABILITY RATINGS (TWO BENEFIT ALTERNATIVES \$6-38)

- SOCIAL SECURITY

- LINK INITIAL BENEFITS TO AV-

ERAGE COSTS INSTEAD OF AVERAGE EARNINGS (\$69-109B)

- RAISE FULL RETIREMENT AGE (\$72B)

- MULTIPLE PROGRAMS

- USE AN ALTERNATIVE MEASURE OF INFLATION TO INDEX SOCIAL SECURITY AND OTHER MANDATORY PROGRAMS (\$223B)

BUDGET DEFICIT REDUCTION OPTIONS AFFECTING VETERAN

- DISCRETIONARY SPENDING

- DEFENSE

- REDUCE DOD BUDGET (\$317-607B)

- REDUCE DOD OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE APPROPRIATIONS (\$60-168B)

- REVENUE INCREASES

- INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RATES

- INCREASE (\$114-884B)

- RAISE RATES ON LONG TERM CAPITAL GAINS AND QUALIFIED DIVIDENDS BY 2% (\$75B)

- INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX BASE

- INCLUDE DISABILITY PAY FROM VA (\$113B)

- TAX SOCIAL SECURITY LIKE PENSIONS (\$459B)

- PAYROLL TAXES

- INCREASE PAYROLL TAX FOR MEDICARE HOSPITAL INSURANCE (\$878-1736B)

- INCREASE PAYROLL TAX FOR SOCIAL SECURITY (\$712-1406B)

- EXCISE TAXES

- INCREASE EXCISE TAXES ON MOTOR FUELS AND INDEX (\$237-512B)

- IMPOSE EXCISE TAX ON OVERLAND FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION (\$351B)



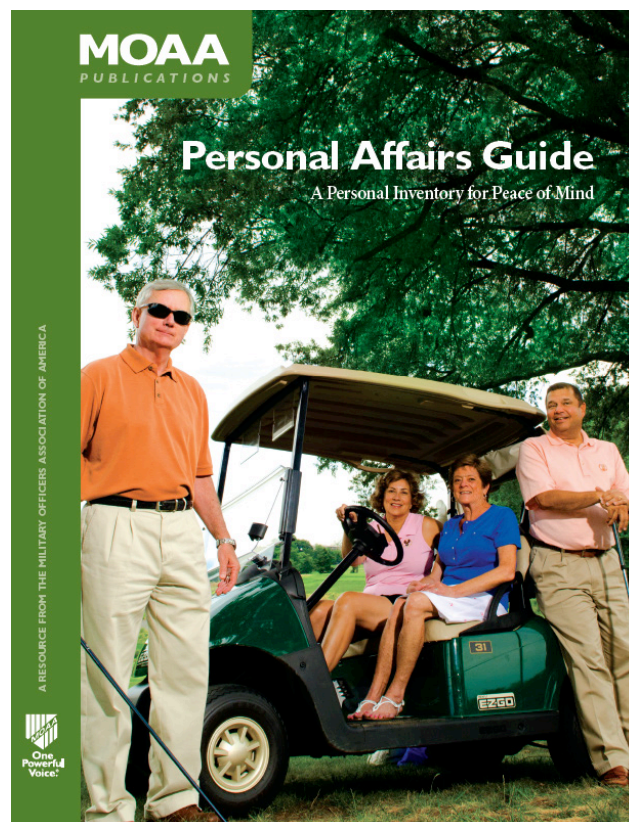
Need a new grill?

Let Arteflame be your next choice and save 10%.



ARTEFLAME

Send your order number to
info@elpasomoaa.org



Get yours today at MOAA.ORG; your family will Thank You!



elpasomoaa.org

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

BASIC MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT

☒ YES! Sign me up as a **FREE** BASIC MOAA Member

Name _____

Branch of Service _____ Rank _____

☐ Retired ☐ Active ☐ Former

☐ Reserve ☐ National Guard ☐ Auxiliary*

☐ Graduation Year (Cadet/Midshipmen) _____

Email Address** _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

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

We value your privacy. MOAA does not rent or sell its members' emails to third parties. If you include your email address, you will receive e-communications from MOAA as a member benefit. Visit www.moaa.org/email for details.

Date of Birth _____

Spouse Name _____

Your spouse has access to all of your MOAA member benefits.

Membership is open to active duty, former, retired, and National Guard and Reserve commissioned and warrant officers of the uniformed services and their surviving spouses.

* Surviving spouse of eligible officer

** Email address required for BASIC Membership

Chapter Name _____

M1300CJOIN

or

Chapter MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT

☒ YES! Sign me up as an El Paso Chapter Member

☐ Retired ☐ Active ☐ Former
☐ Reserve ☐ National Guard ☐ Auxiliary
☐ Friend of Chapter

☐ Reserve ☐ National Guard ☐ Auxiliary*

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 all of your MOAA member benefits.

☐ One-Year Hard Copy Membership \$20

☐ One-Year Electronic Membership \$15

☐ Multi-Year Memberships Contact Membership Chair

*Surviving spouse of eligible officer

M1300CJPRE

Method of Payment

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

Charge my card \$ _____

CCV _____

Card number _____ Expiration date _____

Signature _____

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

Send to:

El Paso Chapter MOAA
PO Box 6144
Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0144

Add your own voice to the fight.



THE BORDER BULLETIN

is the print newsletter of the
El Paso Chapter, Military Officers Association of America
(MOAA)

P.O. Box 6144, Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0144
<http://elpasomoaa.org>

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



THE APRIL MOAA MEMBERSHIP MEETING & LUNCHEON HAS BEEN CANCELLED

We were unable to get (36) people that indicated they would attend.

IF you wish to attend a MOAA Luncheon/Meeting on 12 June please
let Mike Hester know by the end of April.

Contact Mike Hester at mikehester65@gmail.com

If we reach the required number we will arrange the menu and a
Guest Speaker.



FORT BLISS ACCESS CONTROL POINTS

- A 100% identification card check of all personnel will be implemented at all Fort Bliss access control points.

- All Department of Defense and non-DoD vehicular occupants, including the driver and all of-age passengers, will have to present an ID card - valid state driver's license, government/federal ID card, passport, etc. - for authorized access to Fort Bliss.

- All vehicles and occupants entering Fort Bliss are subject to random searches and inspections, as has always been the standard.

- All non-DoD persons can expect to obtain a visitor's pass at certain gates with VCC (Visitor Control Centers). Travelers should plan their time accordingly as access times to Fort Bliss might be increased following these enduring security measure enhancements.

*For more detailed information on gate access and hours of operation see
<https://www.bliss.army.mil/gateinfo.html>.*



SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON **MRS. CONNIE SULLIVAN**

Since the announcement that the Covid19 vaccine was out ready to be distributed, there seems to be a frenzy or emotional agitation with some people having extreme anxiety wanting to get vaccinated as soon as possible, and of course, with good reason.

This Pandemic, as we know, has caused everyone so much grief, sorrow and affliction, and that is why there are so many people who are anxious, nervous and distressed,

while others have a more passive attitude, simply because we need patience for things to happen trusting that eventually the vaccine will be administered to everyone.

In my case, I just thought that if God wanted me to receive it, He would make it possible for it to happen.

So it finally did happen and am very grateful to God for two members of the MOAA Board of Directors that were so kind to guide me to be able to get it.

When I went to Fort Bliss to get the vaccine, the military personnel were so attentive and extremely helpful. They were so amiable that it made us Senior Citizens feel less tense and nervous.

Our Military is great, efficient, excellent and train our men and women

in the Armed Forces with the utmost professionalism.

Yes, it is the best in the world and still the most powerful one because it is under the grace of God.

As we know, the Covid is not to be taken lightly even as things are getting better. It is still a very serious situation and we need to continue taking as many precautions as possible.

Our Supreme Being only knows when it is going to be over, but we do know that He will continue to be with us no matter what and will never leave us nor forsake us.

Even in our greatest sorrows, He will comfort our souls and give us peace in our daily lives and hopefully things will get better very, very soon, for in GOD WE TRUST!



Junior Enlisted Family Center

Located at 2004 Sheridan Rd. Fort Bliss, TX 79906

No Cost Thrift Store: Closed

Food Pantry: Fridays 10:30am-2:30pm

Baby Project: Fridays 10:30am-2:30pm

JEFC drive-thru Food Pantry: Wednesdays 3-5pm

Hosted at 7060 Comington St. El Paso, TX 79930

Junior Enlisted military families in need are allowed one bundle of diapers, baby wipes and up to 10 baby food items per week during hours of operation while supplies last.



DOC'S CORNER

DR. DANIEL WASHBURN.

El Paso has forever been known as the Sun City. While some U.S. cities have barely more than 100 days of sunshine each year, El Paso enjoys an incredible 297 sunny days which is 82% of the days annually. This makes El Paso, along with Phoenix and Las Vegas, not only one of the sunniest cities in the U.S. but in the entire world.

It's great to enjoy so much sunshine, but the sun can also cause some adverse effects such as dry eyes. When evaluating a city population's risk for dry eyes, the amount of sunshine is considered along with temperature, humidity, wind, altitude, pollutants and allergens. The climate in El Paso makes our city the second worst city in the country for dry eye disease (Las Vegas takes the #1 spot).

The mainstay of therapy for dry eyes is over the counter lubricat-

ing eyedrops or artificial tears. The two main types of tears are preserved and non-preserved. Tears with preservative come in multi-use bottles that contain preservative to ensure bacteria or pathogens don't grow in the bottle once it is opened and sits around. Preserved tears can be used up to 4-5 times daily, but any more than this is too much preservative in the eyes which is not healthy. Preservative free tears come in single use vials and have no limit on their frequency of use. How often tears are used depends on the person and their symptoms. A wide array of artificial tears are available at stores such as Walgreens and Walmart.

When frequent use of lubricating eyedrops does not fully control dry eye symptoms, then treatment is often augmented with prescription eye drops. Many of the symptoms of dry

eyes are caused by ocular surface inflammation due to the poor tear film. Anti-inflammatory eyedrops will usually help relieve these symptoms. The most common of these medications is cyclosporine (Restasis/Cequa) or lifitegrast (Xiidra).

In specific cases, other treatments can be considered, such as: tear duct plugs, temporary use of steroid eyedrops, lifestyle modifications such as less screen time, modifying surroundings such as avoiding heaters and using a humidifier, oral flaxseed or omega-3 and others.

Although many El Pasoans experience dry eyes, symptoms are usually controllable with proper treatment.

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



El Paso, Texas
C H A P T E R
MOAA
Military Officers Association of America
Outreach Foundation
DONATE

Our Helping Hand at Work

Our final 2020 Foundation Grant Award went to the Ft Bliss Army Community Service (ACS) to assist with COVID related needs of our Active Duty Military Families at Ft Bliss and local Veterans. Presentation of a \$2000 Grant was made this month by Members of the Foundation BOD with attendance by the Director of ACS, Nancy Thomas-Mainor, Eddie Kidd, SFAC Director and the ACS Professional Staff who provided an Overview of ACS Activities and Programs on Ft Bliss.



L to R: Eddie Kidd, SFAC (hidden in the back), Chapter President Col Mike Hester, ACS Director Nancy Thomas-Mainor, Foundation VP LtC John Robbins, and our Chaplain Connie Sullivan

LtC J. Robbins, C. Sullivan

If you haven't worked with ACS in a while it might surprise you how extensive ACS programs are for our Soldiers, Vets, and their Families. In addition to being the central point of distribution for general post information and Ft Bliss upcoming events & activities through their Facebook,

[www.facebook.com/Fort Bliss Army Community Services](https://www.facebook.com/FortBlissArmyCommunityServices)

ACS operates many critical Support Programs for our Military Community:

- Financial Readiness Family Advocacy
- Army Emergency Relief Employment Readiness
- Exceptional Family Member Relocation Readiness

It was interesting and very informative to see the ACS facilities, speak with their Staff and note the commonality of our Foundation Goals with the Goals of ACS. We on the Foundation BOD look forward to future cooperation in bringing help to our Military families.



Bataan 2021 to be a Virtual Event

The 32nd annual Bataan Memorial Death March will be hosted virtually for the first time in event history. Marchers will be able to participate anytime between April 9 and April 18, 2021. The decision by White Sands Missile Range to host the event virtually allows leadership to keep COVID safety the top priority for participants, volunteers, staff and community supporters. It

also gives participants the flexibility to choose a date and route that works best for them, while honoring the memory of World War II heroes.

On April 9, 1942 tens of thousands of American and Filipino Soldiers were surrendered to Japanese forces and were forced to march more than 60 miles in the scorching heat through the Philippine jungles. Thousands died and those who survived faced the hardships of prisoner of war camps. The Bataan Memorial Death March is a challenging and grueling march that tests both mental and physical abilities. For the 2021 virtual experience, marchers are encouraged to choose a challenging stretch of road or trail in honor of the historical march. Marchers can choose between the full 26.2 mile marathon length or a 14.2 mile honorary distance.

The March officially kicks off on April 9th, 2021, and participants may choose any day between April 9th and April 18th, 2021 to complete their mileage. The March must be completed in one day. Returning marchers will find they will only need to select their distance for the 2021 March, as multiple categories are not necessary in a virtual environment. Event organizers still encourage participants to march in their own way, to include in uniform or with a “ruck” if desired and safe.

Registration will open on Thursday, January 21st, 2021. The registration fee will include domestic shipping (included are APO, FPO and DPO addresses), a Bataan Marcher T-Shirt, Marcher Bib, Commemorative Dog Tag, and a Participation Medal. For international registrations, there will be an additional fee of \$21.90 for each person that registers to cover shipping costs. As with all virtual fitness events, the March is based on the honor system. Event organizers will not be tracking finishing times, instead focusing on the memorial aspect of the event.

The first 9500 participants registered before March 22nd, 2021 will receive a full marcher packet before the event start date. Any registrations surpassing 9500 and/or received after March 22nd, 2021 are not guaranteed a marcher packet and that packet may not arrive before the event start date. Due to shipping demands, potential delays and international orders, items may take longer to arrive.

[Bataan Memorial Death March – More Than Just A Marathon
\(bataanmarch.com\)](https://bataanmarch.com/)

<https://bataanmarch.com/>



WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE

2020/2021 Slate El Paso Chapter MOAA Board of Directors & Officers

	2020	2021
OFFICERS	NAME	NAME
President	COL (RET) Mike Hester	COL (RET) Mike Hester
Secretary	Col (RET) Steve Barrett	VACANT
Treasurer	LTC (RET) Dave Powell	LTC (RET) Dave Powell
Chaplain	Mrs. Connie Sullivan	Mrs. Connie Sullivan
DIRECTORS	NAME	NAME
Immediate Past President	COL (RET) Forrest Smith	COL (RET) Forrest Smith
Past President	COL (RET) Lennie Enzel	COL (RET) Lennie Enzel
Legislative Liaison	CWO (RET) Dave Garcia	CWO (RET) Dave Garcia
Membership Chairman	CAPT (RET) Steve Mendoza	CAPT (RET) Steve Mendoza
Programs	Col (RET) Bob Pitt	Col (RET) Bob Pitt
Public Relations	LTC (RET) Martha Caldwell	LTC (RET) Martha Caldwell
Publications / Newsletter Editor	COL (RET) William Oseles	COL (RET) William Oseles
Surviving Spouse Liaison	Mrs. Connie Sullivan	VACANT, Mrs. Connie Sullivan will remain if new volunteer not identified
COMMITTEES	NAME	NAME
Marketing Manager	CAPT (RET) Dave Thackston	CAPT (RET) Dave Thackston
Personal Affairs	Mr. Joe Hernandez	Mr. Joe Hernandez
TOPS	COL (RET) Chuck Wehmhoner	COL (RET) Chuck Wehmhoner
ROTC / JROTC / Youth Activities	LTC (RET) Dave Powell	LTC (RET) Dave Powell
Post Liaison	Vacant	VACANT
Thrift Shop Liaison	Vacant	VACANT

2020/2021 Slate El Paso Chapter MOAA Board of Directors & Officers

Door Prizes	LTC (RET) Martha Caldwell	LTC (RET) Martha Caldwell
EL PASO MOAA OUTREACH FOUNDATION	NAME	NAME
President	Vacant	VACANT
Vice President	LTC (RET) John Robbins	LTC (RET) John Robbins
Secretary	Captain Ashley Sperry	Captain Ashley Sperry
Treasurer	LTC (RET) Dave Powell	LTC (RET) Dave Powell
Director, Marketing	Krystyle Hopper	Krystyle Hopper
Chaplain	Mrs. Connie Sullivan	Mrs. Connie Sullivan
Director, VA Advisor	COL (RET) Lennie Enzel	COL (RET) Lennie Enzel
Director, Ambassador, Military Organizations	CAPT (RET) Dave Thackston	CAPT (RET) Dave Thackston
Chairman, Fund Raising/ Giving Day Committee	COL (RET) Maureen Lofberg	COL (RET) Maureen Lofberg
Chapter Advisor	COL (RET) Mike Hester	COL (RET) Mike Hester

EL PASO CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

COL Mike Hester 760-969-2102

SECRETARY

COL Steve Barrett 222-8307

TREASURER

LTC David Powell 491-1272

CHAPLAIN

Ms. Connie Sullivan 778-0948

DIRECTORS

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

COL Forest Smith 449-8944

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

CW2 Dave Garcia 549-2775

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

CPT Steve Mendoza 755-6726

PROGRAMS

COL Bob Pitt 533-5111

PUBLIC RELATIONS

LTC Martha Caldwell 785-375-9404

PUBLICATIONS/NEWSLETTER EDITOR

COL William Oseles 319-9048

SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON

Ms. Connie Sullivan 778-0948

COMMITTEES

WEBMASTER/MASS EMAIL

LTC William L Moore 842-9650

PERSONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Mr. Joe Hernandez

TOPS

COL Chuck Wehmhoner 585-9106

ROTC/ JROTC / YOUTH ACTIVITIES

LTC Dave Powell 491-1272

DOOR PRIZES

LTC Martha Caldwell 785-375-9404

MARKETING MANAGER

LTC David Thackston

POST LIAISON

Thrift Shop Liason

Mail:

El Paso Chapter, MOAA

PO Box 6144

Fort Bliss, Texas 79906-0144

Telephone:

Secretary -- 915-757-9963 or 915-842-9650

Email:

President -- president@elpasomoaa.org

Secretary -- secretary@elpasomoaa.org

Treasurer -- treasurer@elpasomoaa.org

Membership -- membership@elpasomoaa.org

Historian -- historian@elpasomoaa.org

Publications -- publications@elpasomoaa.org

General Info -- info@elpasomoaa.org

Webmaster -- web@elpasomoaa.org

EPMOAA Outreach Foundation -

outreachfoundation@elpasomoaa.org

THE BORDER BULLETIN

is the print newsletter of the
El Paso Chapter, Military Officers Association of America
(MOAA)

P.O. Box 6144, Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0144
<http://elpasomoaa.org>

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. Postage

PAID

El Paso, Texas

Permit No. 2149

