

2023 | April



Fort Bliss Museum
Fort Bliss, Texas

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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Fort Bliss Museum

El Paso, Texas

Photo by:

William Oseles

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 2023 Border Bulletin 4 May

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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

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After Hours (Installation)
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President's Message

COL Lennie Enzel, MS, RN

Happy Spring! Thank you to all who attended the 11 March Luncheon at Applebee's on George Dieter Drive. It was wonderful to see everyone, and the location was a nice change of pace.

The location for our 10 June Luncheon will soon be announced. Our speaker will be Gail Joyce, Chair of the MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisory Council. She is an incredible speaker and has an amazing story of faith and perseverance through adversity. Please invite friends and family to attend and hear all she has to share with us. Surviving spouses are a large part of our Chapter membership and unfortunately is a role many of us get to unwillingly play in our lives.

Please reach out to those you know who are eligible to join our Chapter. If our chapter is going to thrive, we need a deeper 'bench'. We are grateful to COL Bob Wagner who is leading our membership efforts. If each of us got just one or two people to join our Chapter, think how lively our Chapter could become.

In last month's Border Bulletin, I asked each of you to think about how you could help the Chapter. I hope you have done that and are willing to do something to assist the Board and your fellow Chapter members. Some of you said you would like to help Connie Sullivan with phone calls or help LTC Dave Powell with the raffle. I hope you will convert those great intentions into actual assistance.

By the time you receive this edition of the Boarder Bulletin, I will have gone to Austin with the Texas Council and Chapters to lobby our Texas State Senators and Representatives about issues of importance to the Texas MOAA Chapters. I will share that experience with you in a future article or at our next meeting.

I would like to express my gratitude to BG Kotter who agreed to, once again, lead our Chapter's Outreach Foundation. Through this 501c3, we are able to do good works in our active duty and Veteran communities and also allow our donors to take a tax deduction. Standby for more information on how we are participating in various activities around town.

The Chapter Board of Directors and I are here to serve you. If we can do anything to assist you, please let us know. If you have ideas on how to improve the Chapter, please let us know. If transportation is keeping you from attending our meetings, please let us know.

Stay safe! I hope to see you at our next Luncheon.



TCC group meeting with reps at the Texas State Capitol

Retiree and Annuitant Pay Dates for 2023

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

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

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Main Pharmacy - West Clinic Building 1st Floor

18511 Highlander Medics St, El Paso, TX 79918,

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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

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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:

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- 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

A while back, one of my friend's husband (David Stewart) gave me this poem of his father. It touched me very much since my husband had been an Army Aviator, with three tours in Viet Nam as an Army Pilot. He as well, seldom talked of his experiences, but from what I saw, he carried the scars of the war in his heart. So also, all the soldiers who participate in conflicts of war, have their stories in their minds and souls. This is the poem of my friend's husband's father.

Dad's The 446 th B-24 Poem
To: Bennie Leroy Stewart

He spoke little of what he knew Part of 446 th Heavy Bomber Crew, Not of the men with which he flew,
Not of the hazards faced as they flew, Not of the death faced anew, Or of the flack, of cold, or lack of air,
Not of despair as friends they knew Never returned friendships to renew. As ordered on they flew

Fighting for freedom and for their crew. Bombs, food, equipment too Filled their planes in missions not
few. To English soil to return and start anew Over and over again they flew.

The German fighter and flack they knew Could well mean their end, Yet again and again into it they flew.

Honor, duty, orders, loyalty and freedom, For peace, for futures, for the oppressed, The imprisoned and
tortured, reasons they flew.

The outcome of flights they could not know, Yet on and on again they flew. Memories I do not have/
Much of what my Dad went through. Radio operator I knew was his duty on the crew. But what that
meant I never knew. What hardships, what trials and fear he knew.

Sacrifices, duties, and missions not few Those stories lost to me now, he is gone. I cannot ask, I cannot
know, But memories of his love, his work, his life, His sacrifice to family, community, church and school
Those memories I have and cannot loose.

Thank you Dad of the 446th Heavy Bomber
Crew.

By: David F. Stewart

As we can see and know, these warriors are
to be remembered in our prayers. For they
gave their all, under God, for the freedom of
our country and for us that are now bene-
fitting of their sacrifices.

Their lives were not given in vain, for we do
honor them and are grateful to God for such
brave, courageous and awesome heroes.

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

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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.

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Date of Birth _____

Spouse Name _____

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

*Surviving spouse of eligible officer

**Email address required for BASIC Membership

or

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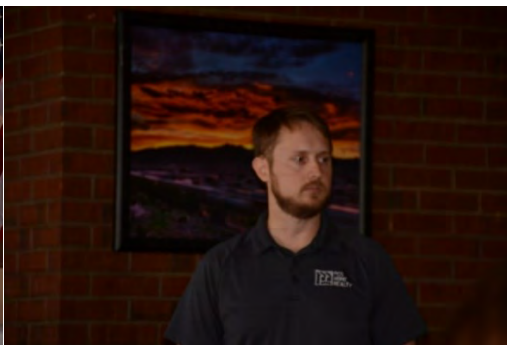
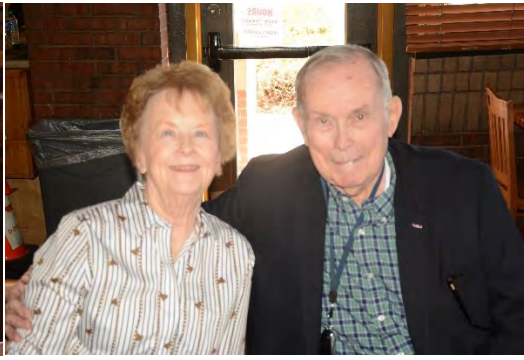
Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0144

Add your own voice to the fight.



February 2022 Luncheon Applebee's





Here's How Servicemembers and Retirees Can Get Free Tax Help

By: Kevin Lilley

Servicemembers as well as some retirees, veterans, family members, and survivors qualify for tax assistance through Military OneSource designed to meet the specific needs of those who serve or have served.

And all retirees and servicemembers qualify for free in-person assistance via a separate, DoD-run program.

Here's what you should know:

MilTax

[MilTax software](#) offers no-cost tax help and filing for eligible beneficiaries, with special attention to service-specific filing situations such as combat pay, living overseas, and filing in multiple states.

Military OneSource also can connect taxpayers with tax experts via phone (800-342-9647) or [chat](#) for one-on-one guidance.

In addition to servicemembers, other MilTax-eligible beneficiaries include:

- Spouses and dependents of servicemembers.

- Retirees and honorably discharged veterans, to include Coast Guard members, within 365 days of separation.

- Family members managing the affairs of deployed servicemembers or designated to manage the finances of a severely injured servicemember.

- Nonremarried surviving spouses and children of deceased servicemembers.

- Some DoD civilians.

Get full details on eligibility, as well as answers to other frequently asked questions, [at this link](#).

VITA

In-person assistance is available for servicemembers, retirees (regardless of how long they've been out of uniform), and families through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, available at [many military installations](#).

Click [this link](#) to find out what materials you should bring to your appointment.

More Resources

If you're not eligible for the above services, or if you're too far from a military VITA location, consider other online and in-person assistance, such as:

- IRS Free File: [Guided tax preparation](#) is available online via the IRS for those with less than \$73,000 in adjusted gross income.

- AARP: The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program offers in-person and virtual help to filers over 50 who fall below certain income limits. [Learn more here](#), or [find a location](#) near you.

- Military Legal Aid: Service branches provide legal services, including tax advice, to servicemembers, retirees, and family members. These vary by location and staffing; start your research with this [Legal Services Locator](#), provided by the Air Force.

- MOAA: MOAA does not provide individual tax preparation services, but our [financial resources page](#) includes links to recent news on taxes, and our [Webinar Archive](#) (exclusive to Life and Premium members) offers a variety of financial tools that may inform tax decisions.



Doc's Corner

Daniel Washburn, M.D.

At the start of each year, the most popular resolutions are improving diet and exercise habits. After enjoying a lot of good food during the Holidays, many Americans are now trying to get back on track with good eating habits. This article provides a very brief overview of dietary guidelines from the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services. The entire dietary guideline can be found at:

https://www.dietaryguidelines.gov/sites/default/files/2020-12/Dietary_Guidelines_for_Americans_2020-2025.pdf

It has been scientifically proven over many decades that the food and beverages we consume has a profound impact on our health and reduces the risk of chronic disease such as heart disease, high blood pressure, obesity, diabetes and some forms of cancer. Following dietary guidelines does not mean we can't enjoy good food, but it does take some time and effort to follow a diet pattern where the food is both tasty and healthy.

85% of daily calories should be made up of vegetables, fruits, grains (more whole grains than refined grains), dairy and protein such as meat, poultry, seafood, eggs and nuts. Despite the health benefits, Americans fall far short of getting these foods into our daily diet. For example, only 10% of Americans eat the proper amount of vegetables on a regular basis. When it comes to eating vegetables, not many people find it appetizing to gnaw on a raw stalk of broccoli. However, vegetables can be prepared in various ways that taste good and can be part of a mixed dish like tomato sauce for pasta or pizza or as part of a sandwich, taco, soup/stew or casserole.

15% of daily calories can come from other food and beverages such as those high in sugar, saturated fat and sodium but should be eaten on a limited basis. Alcohol intake should also be limited. Many Americans eat almost twice the recommended amount of sugar each day. Soft drinks are the biggest culprit with coffee, candy, ice cream, cookies and doughnuts not far behind. Life is much better if you can enjoy a jelly filled doughnut or an ice cream cone every once in a while. Healthy eating does not mean never having dessert, it just means not having dessert after every meal.

For most adults over 50, the recommended daily calorie intake is between 1500-2500 depending on your activity level and whether you are male or female. This can be achieved by limiting portion size and limiting foods dense in calories. The nutrition label on the back of all packaged foods lists the calorie and nutritional content for each serving. Getting in the habit of glancing at this label is helpful in monitoring your diet.

It would be nice if we all had a small scanner in our kitchen that we could wave our dinner plate beneath and it would instantly tell us the calorie and nutritional content of our meal along with the running totals for the day to warn us when we get off track. Unfortunately, we don't have this but with a little time and effort, it is possible to monitor what we eat so our diet is more closely aligned with recommended dietary guidelines. Doing this will make you feel so much better.

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



Auxiliary MRS CONNIE SULLIVAN

Auxiliary

My Dear Members, hope most of you had a wonderful Valentine's Day. I say the majority, because

there are some members that have lost their love ones.

To them, our hearts go out since a lot of us in this age group, have gone through that experience.

No matter how many years have passed for the ones that have lost their partners (Spouses), it is still very difficult being without them.

However, our loving awesome God, is there for us to soothe our hearts as time goes by.

This Valentine's Day, my Lord gave me the opportunity to perform some Spanish dances for the Disabled Veterans at the Ambrosio Guillen Nursing Home.

It was such a privilege and honor to dance for those wonderful Veterans who gave their all, under God, for the Freedom of our Country.

Their service to our nation to keep us free is so appreciated.

We all should include them in our prayers for as we know, Freedom is not Free. The sacrifices they went through to keep our country safe, takes a toll on the bodies of our precious soldiers.

At this time of the year, we also remember the sacrifice our Lord did for us, for believers.

We not only remember His sacrifice but His Resurrection that we celebrate with so much joy.

" Happy Easter " for believers and for the ones that just celebrate the festivity with bunnies and Easter

eggs and family gatherings, Happy Holiday.

May God continue to be with us now and always.



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Active Duty Spouse Survey Shows Familiar Challenges Aren't Letting Up

By: Jen Goodale

A DoD survey of nearly 12,000 active duty spouses released Feb. 9 confirmed many military families are struggling with spouse unemployment, food insecurity, a lack of accessible child care, and other familiar challenges.

The [2021 Active Duty Spouse Survey](#) (ADSS), fielded between July and November 2021, offered few surprises, but reemphasized the importance of MOAA's advocacy efforts in these areas, many of which are among [association priorities for the 118th Congress](#).

The survey's top findings include:

Spouse Employment Remains a Significant Challenge

Military spouse unemployment sits at 21% -- six times the national average. It's been 21% or higher since 2015, and rises even higher among spouses of junior enlisted members (31%), Army spouses (25%), and racial/ethnic minority spouses (26%).

Spouses seeking employment spend, on average, 19 weeks looking for a job. For the first time, DoD polled spouses on underemployment and found military spouses are 2.9 times more likely to be underemployed than their peers.

A rare piece of good news emerged from the data, an increased number of spouses are employed within their area of education or training.

PCS Moves Negatively Impact Financial Stability

This seems like common sense, but it's important to track the impacts of PCS moves on military family financial stability. Respondents cited increased financial stress due to lost income/unemployment and unreimbursed moving expenses related to a PCS move. Of those spouses seeking employment following a PCS move, 47% reported spending more than four months finding work.

Additional stress-inducing factors caused by PCS moves included delays in housing availability, time spent coordinating with moving companies, changing schools, and the lack of availability of special medical and/or educational services at the new duty station.

Food Insecurity Affects Military Families

One in four military spouse respondents reported some level of food insecurity, with Marine Corps (28%), Army (27%), junior enlisted (45%), racial/ethnic minority (30%), and unemployed (41%) spouses reporting higher instances of food insecurity.

Food insecurity is a nationwide issue requiring complex solutions. The introduction of the basic needs allowance is a positive step forward, but work remains to ensure this support program reaches those who need it most.

DoD Child Care Is High-Quality, But Inaccessible

Alarming, 24% of respondents stated they are using civilian child care providers but not receiving military child care fee assistance. Hopefully this will be addressed by a provision in the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (Section 579) requiring service secretaries to promote awareness of military child care assistance programs. The primary reason for unemployment cited by spouses was the inability to access child care.

Spouses' Satisfaction With Military Life Is Dropping

The percentage of spouses satisfied with military life has steadily declined since 2012. In the 2021 survey, 22% of respondents reported being dissatisfied, with junior enlisted (27%), unemployed (26%), and dual military (26%) spouses citing higher rates. Additionally, only 54% of respondents think their servicemember should stay on active duty.

This biennial DoD survey provides insights on the experiences and attitudes of active duty spouses, and though the results are unsurprising to those living the lifestyle, they help paint a picture of the true challenges and hardships military spouses face. It falls on our shoulders, as advocates and grassroots supporters, to educate lawmakers and urge them to support policies that improve military quality of life.



LEG-

ISLATIVE CORNER

DAVID GARCIA

Greetings Comrades,
 The Disabled American Veteran
 Northeast Chapter No. 187 with
 the support of DAV, Borderland
 Chapter 10 and DAV Sunshine
 Chapter 165 Benefits Protection
 Teams will be conducting our 1st
 quarterly Legislation update for
 2023 on legislation priorities on all
 level of government who repre-
 sent us in the State Senate and
 Congressional Districts of 16 and
 23...

This updated legislation presen-
 tation will be conducted by Michael Bearce our chapter 187 BPT researcher and analyst keeping us in-
 formed on important legislation on Senate/House Bill at the federal level. Afterwards, our second pre-
 senter will be conducted by Jose Mercado our chapter BPT team a researcher and analyst on State,
 County, and City level legislation to include Maria Gonzalez will be presenting update on Female Veter-
 an legislation.

We are cordially inviting you, our elective officials who represent the veteran/military community
 within your district in the City of El Paso, Texas, or a representative. And all Veteran Service Organiza-
 tions or supporting agencies to attend this important legislation presentation updates ...Please save this
 date: Friday March 31, 2023, from 12:00 to 2:00, At American Legion Post 58, 4724 Vulcan Street 79904.
 Please RSVP to this email to (P.O.C David Garcia by March 24, 2023.If you plan on attending... hope to
 see everyone there and thank you for your tremendous support...

This presentation will be in a lunch setting. the legion will provide a chef to prepare your order at cost...

Respectfully,
 David Garcia
 DAV, N.E. Chapter 187
 Benefits Protection Team Leader

New Members

Mr. Wesley Gilmore

Mr. Joseph Pawloski

Renewals

COL James Scott

Mr Henry Poku

Mrs. Colette Petty

Mrs. Evelyn Kordek

Mrs. Joyce Seitz

Mrs. Ruth Fisher

CAPT Joseph Quintana

Mrs. Dorothy Ladd

SFC David Snider

Mrs. Dagmar Becker

MAJ Charles Valentine

LTC John Robbins

Mr. Gus Rodriguez

Key Dates

MOAA Meetings & Luncheons

March 11, 2023

June 10, 2023

September 9, 2023

December 9, 2023

Input for the Border Bulletin

March 4, 2023

May 6, 2023

July 1, 2023

September 1, 2023

November 3, 2023

2023 El Paso MOAA Chapter & Outreach Officers

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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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