

2020 | June



2019

THE BORDER BULLETIN

EL PASO CHAPTER OF MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Nationally Ranked Five-Star Chapter • MOAA Affiliate from January 23, 1956 • Our 64th Year

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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, and 2018
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 2018
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

To our EL Paso MOAA Family,

Well the world has certainly changed since my last note. I would probably be worried if I was talking to any other group but if you are reading this then you have retired or been involved with the profession of arms in some shape or form. Now folks like us might not be great at everything but when the chips are down there is no one you can count on more than the men and women who wear the uniform, be they active duty or retired! As we all know in chaotic times, in the middle of the storm, there needs to be a calm hand on the tiller. We need to be the steady hand in our own orbit. Take care of your family and friends and keep them strong! For as we all know morale or lack of morale is ultimately the difference between victory and defeat. Being Soldiers we all know Mr. Murphy and have been involved in Charlie Foxtrot's both large and small. The lesson I have taken from many of my bad experiences is that it is never as bad as you think it is and conversely

you are never doing as good as you think. The truth lies somewhere in the middle. I think that is where we are right now, somewhere in the middle. I have no doubt that our nation we love so much and who you have given so much will come out the other end of this thing in good shape. That's just the character of the American citizen. In the meantime, we have some hard rowing in rough seas to accomplish. Let's make sure we lead on this in your own way. Stay connected with your family and neighbors through digital, phone, or tin cans with string, this is no time to go through a crisis alone. If you are alone and need help do not hesitate to reach out and call. I guarantee any member who finds someone in distress will answer the call and ensure our folks get the help they need.

Break...On another front there is some great news! The El Paso MOAA Chapter won the annual 2019 Col Marv Harris Communications Award from MOAA National. For all those involved (not me) great job! We will recognize our folks who put in all the hard work to make it happen at our next lunch. Additionally, I just received an email from MOAA National and they want to come out and visit us in the fall when this crisis is over and in our rearview mirror. Sorry about canceling the April lunch, camaraderie is key when the chips are down but I think everybody understands the danger of this new virus. For my

Navy Brothers out there the term "Hold Fast" comes to mind. I will leave you with a great quote from one of my heroes. Thomas Paine wrote the following in the dark days of the American Revolution that I think is appropriate today:

"These are the times to try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country. But he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman".

I look forward to seeing everyone in the summer (or sooner if possible). Please don't hesitate to contact me or anyone on the team if you need any assistance. You can get me at mikehester65@gmail.com

Keep your head down and powder dry and I'll see you on the high ground soon!

SHARE YOUR STORY!!

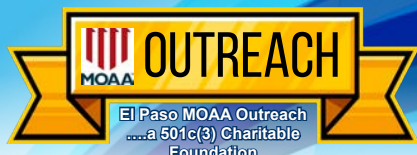
If individuals wish to submit stories to the Border Bulletin about Military Service please submit the in Word or Text Format along with any pictures to:



William.Oseles@flash.net

EL PASO MOAA OUTREACH FOUNDATION

JUNE 2020



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!!!

While we have had some success in bringing “new blood” onto the Board of Directors for our **El Paso MOAA Outreach Foundation**, currently there are two remaining Executive Board positions that need to be filled, **President** and **Programs Director**. **Just as important**, many of our Committees are still badly in need of Volunteers to help staff the critical work that needs to be done to run Outreach efforts supporting our three major activities; **Soldier & Family Programs** on Ft Bliss, local **ROTC/JROTC Programs** and **Veteran’s Programs**. In addition, this is the year that our Foundation requires an independent Committee review of our ByLaws, looking toward the future of the Foundation. Please consider joining us as a Board Member or Committee Member to help us manage the important activities of our Foundation.

A FEW HOURS A WEEK CAN GO A LONG WAY TO MAKING OUR OUT-REACH CONTINUE TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

Immediate Committee Needs: In addition to the requirement to establish a 2020-2021 **ByLaws Review Committee**, our new **Annual El Paso MOAA Memorial Scholarship** and the **2020 Giving Day Fund Raising Committees** are currently without the necessary personnel to fulfill our requirements. These are critical to our continued success in raising funds to support Grant Awards and selection of our Annual Scholarship recipient.

Interested in participating? We promise to make your time worthwhile! Contact any of our current Board Members and see how you can help.

LTC (R) John Robbins	jrronyucca@outlook.com	915 309 1891
CPT Ashley Sperry	ashley.m.sperry.mil@mail.mil	937 207 0715
LTC (R) Dave Powell	LTC.Ret.Powell@outlook.com	915 491 1272
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Krystyle Hopper	design-dhuban@live.com	575 252 0007
Connie Sullivan	spanishdancer4@gmail.com	915 778 0948

The Foundation is also seeking other local Military/Community Organizations that would like to be recognized as part of our “Ambassador” program and working with the MOAA Outreach Foundation to support common goals and initiatives affecting our Military Community. If you belong to a local Veteran/Community Organization that would like to join us, please contact LTC (R) John Robbins.




Foundation Officers 2020

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Vice-President COL John Robins
Secretary CPT David Thackston
Treasurer LTC Dave Powell
Chapter Advisot COL Mike Hester

Board of Directors

President (Position Open)
Vice-President LTC John Robins
Secretary
 Captain David Thackston
Treasurer
 Lieutenant Colone Dave Powell
Outreach Programs



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JUNE GUEST SPEAKER CANCELED



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11380 Gateway North Blvd. • Suite 505 • 915-317-1145

1300 Murchison • Suite 314 • 915-313-1294

880 S. Telshor • Suite 202 • Las Cruces, NM 88011 • 575-339-1066

3330 Rinconada Blvd. • Suite 5 • Las cruces, NM 88011 • 575-323-8077

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>

NEW MEMBERS

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Mrs. Ruth Fisher

RENEWALS

CW4 Michael Seitz

LTC William Davitt

Mrs. A. Jean Foster

LTC Martha Caldwell

LTC BJ Jackson

Mrs. Kathrine La Bounty

Mrs. Dagmar Becker

LTC Terrence Powers

Mrs. Colette Petty

MAJ Maginia Morales

CPT Jeanne Thompson

Mrs. Judith Colletti

Mrs. Dorothy Ladd

WBAMC PHARMACY

New Hours of Operation

EFFECTIVE 05 October 2019



**Due to Operational Requirements ALL Sites are Open
Monday - Friday ONLY!**

WBAMC Main Pharmacy

Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 4:30 pm

Closed 3rd Thursday until 8:30am for Staff Training

Mendoza Pharmacy

Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 4:30 pm

Closed 3rd Thursday until 8:30am for Staff Training

SFMC Pharmacy

Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 4:30 pm

Closed 3rd Thursday until 8:30am for Staff Training

East Bliss Pharmacy

Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 11:45 am

Freedom Crossing Pharmacy

REFILLS ONLY

Monday - Friday 9:30 am - 6:00 pm

Prescriptions called into the pharmacy automated refill line ONLY

EL PASO VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM PHARMACY

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- 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



DOC'S CORNER

DR. DANIEL WASHBURN.

The covid-19 pandemic has taken a dramatic toll on the physical health and economic status of Americans. This is very apparent. Much less visible is the staggering impact the pandemic has had on America's mental health.

Several studies have estimated that before the pandemic, 3% of Americans had serious mental health illness. During the pandemic, that has risen to 28%. For more moderate mental health illness, the number of Americans afflicted has risen from a pre-pandemic level of 22% to an overwhelming 70% currently.

There are many reasons for the pandemic related rise in mental health problems. Everyone is at risk of contracting a disease, which in some cases can be deadly. Many business owners have had to close their businesses and people have lost their jobs. Unemployment is nearing Depression Era levels causing heavy financial burdens and uncertainty for many. Daily rou-

COVID MENTAL HEALTH

tines and schedules have been disrupted. Isolation is necessary and so direct contact with family and friends is limited. News reports paint a picture of unrelenting gloom with little immediate light at the end of the tunnel.

Although we are in the midst of a crisis, there are things you can do to preserve your mental health. Try to still eat healthy, well balanced meals. Get daily exercise. Since exercise options are limited you may have to be creative. You don't have to run a marathon in your 20-foot backyard like James Campbell did in Britain. Instead, try to find simple ways to exercise every day. Take time each day to sit quietly and think or meditate. Go to bed at your regular time and make sure to get enough sleep. Avoid alcohol. If you are accustomed to attending church, you can still find ways for daily or weekly spiritual worship without meeting in a large congregation. Although

you may not be face to face, still stay connected with family and friends. Spend time doing hobbies you enjoy. It is important to watch the news for updates on the pandemic but don't overdo it. Spend time every day away from the news.

As everyone says, these are difficult times. However, Americans have successfully overcome overwhelming challenges before and we have to trust that this pandemic challenge will also be overcome, and everything will be ok. Take appropriate steps to protect your mental health and if you have any mental health symptoms you are concerned about, please make sure to seek help from family, a friend, your doctor or anyone you can reach out to.

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





CHAPLAIN CORNER

MRS. CONNIE SULLIVAN

In these devastating times, the Coronavirus has taken all our focus and energies just trying to be safe, patient and well.

So, since it's June and it is the month that we celebrate Father's Day, giving our fathers attention, perhaps, it can bring us a little distraction from this horrendous and dangerous virus.

Father's Day does not get the excitement that Mother's Day gets. It is not that one is more important than the other, it's just that mothers, in most cases, are more spoiled.

In my family, it was that way and we were very happy about it because she was our most precious jewel.

We all have stories of our fathers, of how they molded our lives to become who we are.

My Father came to this country in his early twenties and was eternally grateful to God for the opportunity to become a citizen of this great nation.

He was so proud to be an American and wanted to service



in the military.

However, he was not able to serve because he had a very serious problem on his right knee that disqualified him.

His dismay and disappointment was consoled by his two sons who both joined the military service. One in the Army and the other one in the Navy.

He was extremely proud of them for serving the country that he so very much loved.

My Father was a very skilled tailor and worked in a very prestigious tailor shop next to Hollywood when we lived in California.

He was meticulous and a perfectionist with whatever he did. He was also very strict with his children but yet had a heart of gold. His manner of discipline was just a look, and that's all it took because that look, made us tremble and quiver to the core.

My mother was his queen and

sweetheart and he demanded respect for her no matter what we did or thought and for that we were very grateful.

My biggest treasure of the memories that my father left me was that he taught me to love God by his example of charity.

There was nothing within his reach that he would not do to help people. His kindness was extraordinary.

He was there for me when I most needed him. He and my mother took care of my

first child when I was destitute and in extreme dire need of assistance and for that I am eternally grateful.

My father gave me the greatest gift a father can give his child, and that is the lesson of

trusting Almighty God with all of my heart, soul and mind and to love Him.

May God keep us safe with peace, patience and health in these such difficult times.

RETIREE PAY DATES FOR 2020

ANNUITANT PAY DATES FOR 2020

MONTH	DIRECT DEPOSIT DATES	MONTH	DIRECT DEPOSIT DATES
JANUARY	JANUARY 31	JANUARY	FEBRUARY 3
FEBRUARY	FEBRUARY 28	FEBRUARY	MARCH 2
MARCH	APRIL 1	MARCH	APRIL 1
APRIL	MAY 1	APRIL	MAY 1
MAY	JUNE 1	MAY	JUNE 1
JUNE	JULY 1	JUNE	JULY 1
JULY	JULY 31	JULY	AUGUST 3
AUGUST	SEPTEMBER 1	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER 1
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER 1	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER 1
OCTOBER	OCTOBER 30	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER 2
NOVEMBER	DECEMBER 1	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER 1
DECEMBER	DECEMBER 31	DECEMBER	JANUARY 4, 2021



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FORT BLISS CEMETERY MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY PLANNING DUE TO COVID-19

Hello Cemetery Support Committee Members.

I would like to take this opportunity to say hello and hope that you are all doing well.

I need to pass on to you that in response to the Covid-19 pandemic we have made some changes as to how we will be honoring those on Memorial Day. This year we will be having a ceremony but the ceremony itself will not be open to the public. We are in the process of setting up a way to broadcast it or livestream it and once we get that established I will make notification to you. We will be encouraging families to visit the cemetery over the weekend and not all on Monday.

We will also not be having any organized flag placing on the gravesites, families are welcome to place flags just want to ensure that they are following social distancing and CDC guidelines. The staff at Fort Bliss will be placing an Avenue of Flags this year. We certainly appreciate all of your support as always and especially for Memorial Day.

As this Covid 19 posture changes I will try to keep you informed and I am hoping that you all stay safe during this time. Any questions please feel free to give me a call.

R/S
 Jamie Porter
 Director, Fort Bliss National Cemetery
 5200 Fred Wilson Avenue
 P.O. Box 6342
 El Paso, Texas 79906
 O (915) 564-0201 Ext 110
 C (915) 222-6334
 F (915) 564-3746
 E-mail: James.Porter5@VA.GOV



JUNIOR ENLISTED FAMILY CENTER YMCA FOOD PANTRY



The Junior Enlisted Family Center's Food Pantry serves Fort Bliss needy families E-6 and under with non-perishable food. Presently, 1200 families are being assisted. The Food Pantry is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 12 noon until 4:00 p.m. Phone #: 915-562-8462 ext.351 Approximately 150 people are helped each day.

Located in the Trading Post (old Commissary), 1717 Marshall Road, the entrance is located behind the building on the loading docks that face the Post Office. There are steps up to a door. Once you enter the doorway, immediately turn left and go down a hallway. The Family Center is straight ahead.

If a soldier is in need, the soldier must get a form from a chaplain or someone in his unit who is authorized to provide the form. Upon entering the Family Center, the soldier or spouse must provide the form and their military ID. The Pantry is dedicated to helping the truly needy families.

What can you do to help? You may take donations of non-perishable food to the Pantry during the hours they are open. Please don't leave donations on the docks as those items are often "lost." Those food items that are in great demand are boxed macaroni and cheese, Ramen noodles, cereal, oatmeal, pasta and pasta sauce. If you have gently used furniture that you no longer want or other items such as baby strollers, a call to Hanna Okura, Program Director, will get those unwanted items to families on Fort Bliss who need them. Furthermore, the Commissary will place a large carton near the exit for donations of non-perishable food from time to time during the year. Also, several times a year, there are brown paper sacks pre-packaged with food in the commissary which you may purchase and place in a carton near the exit.

Any help that you might provide will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Hannah Okura if you have questions. Thank you.

First Published in the El Paso Daedalian Flight Newsletter: A Short Story by Bob Pitt

On 5 October of each year for the past 30 (now 55 years ago) years or so I have received a telephone call from LTC Tony Weissgarber, USAF (Retired). Tony never fails to call to remind me that it is 5 October and to congratulate for surviving a mission over Hanoi on 5 October 1965.

** [Unfortunately, the telephone calls stopped a few years ago with Tony's passing.]

It's hard to believe that it has been more than 50 years since Tony and I took off from Udorn Air Base, Thailand in RF-101 Voodoos. I was a captain then and flight leader for the mission. Tony, a major and my operations office officer, was flying my wing. We flew in an easterly direction and went "feet wet" around Danang. Over the Ocean we turned to 39 degrees and headed for the Gulf of Tonkin, releasing our drop tanks and letting down through the overcast. As we broke out underneath at about 2,000 feet, we observed a fleet of junks displaying a myriad of bright colors. How beautiful, I thought until they opened up with a barrage of small arms fire. Fortunately, for Tony and me, the fire was behind us as we were doing 408 knots.

After passing east of the islands off Haiphong, we turned

westward to a heading of 306 degrees and shortly thereafter to 290 degrees. As we approached the valley north of Hanoi, flying at tree-top level, we accelerated to 600 knots. The valley was approximately 1000 feet lower than the terrain both to the east and the west. The time of the flight to cross the valley was about 20 seconds at 600 knots. Our plan was to cross the valley, masking ourselves in the mountains to the west and turn south to our targets

However, seven shelves seven seconds off the shelf, the whole valley opened up with a heavy barrage of automatic anti-aircraft and small arms fire. Suddenly I felt a tremendous explosion. "I'm hit!" I yelled.

"You're on fire!" Tony responded.

I glanced at my rear-view mirror and saw a large wall of fire behind me. "Which engine?" I asked.

"You're left, I think," was the reply.

I shut down my left engine. In a few seconds the fire subsided. Nothing I could do about that. "Should I eject?" I pondered. Nope! At this speed I would probably hit the wall of the karst of the west side of the valley. Even if I survived, I would most likely become a guest at the

Hanoi Hilton...and I heard their room service was lousy. "So, if it blows, it blows," I thought to myself.

It didn't blow. We made it across the valley and were in the cover of the mountains. "I can't go for the target." I announced. "I'm going to try and make it back to the Gulf."

"Okay," Tony replied, "I'll go for the target and try to meet you over the Gulf."

Tony turned south for the target and I turned north to find a quiet spot to cross back over the valley and head to the Gulf. My right overheat light was still staring at me in the face, my fuel was depleting rapidly and my left wing appeared to have more surface outboard than it had near the fuselage...where I took the hit. (I later learned that I had taken an 85 millimeter through my engine.)

I turned eastward to cross the valley. I could barely maintain 300 knots with one engine. If only I could make it out to the Gulf, I could eject and have the Navy fish me out. Everything was quiet crossing the valley. My bird held together and I made it to the Gulf. If I stayed on the deck, I knew I'd soon be out of fuel. If I climbed to conserve fuel, the Chinese MIGs may

jump me and, in my condition, I couldn't run or maneuver. I had no choice; I had to climb.

Everything held together, no MIGs...and the further south I flew, the better I felt. However, my fuel was getting dangerously low. I called for a tanker. A few minutes later, I saw a speck at 12 o'clock. It turned out to be a KC-135, violating the rules by following by flying much further north than authorized to help me out.

"I can't maneuver," I radioed. "You'll have to pull in front of me!" In the next few minutes, I witnessed the sweetest "gaspasser" I'd ever seen...flying like a fighter pilot, banked up a 60 degrees...put that big bird right on my nose. I hit my probe switch, but nothing happened. Apparently, the hit had knocked out my utility hydraulic system. "Thanks for your great effort," I said, "but I can't get my probe up, so I will have to make it to Danang with the fuel I've got! You better get the hell out here!"

About ten minutes north of Danang, I pulled my throttle back and began my descent. My fuel gage was on zero. Tony rejoined me, having made a successful pass on his target. A couple of miles out I lowered my landing gear – the pneumatic system as my utility hydraulic system was gone.

Although 190 knots for customary for a no-flap landing, I maintained 250 knots on final just in case I flamed-out short of my objective. I decided that if

the engine quit above 100 feet, I'd pull up and eject; below 100 feet, I'd ride her in.

I made it to the overrun. A tremendous crosswind from the right required that I fly with my right wing extremely low. I pulled the drag chute in the air to slow down and made a decent landing. As my airspeed dissipated, I could no longer maintain directional control aerodynamically and my nose-wheel steering was...you guessed it...also on the utility hydraulic system. I ran off the left side of the runway at 150 knots. Dead ahead, near the far end of the runway, I spotted a GCA shack. "Get 'em out of the shack!" I explained. "I can't steer!" I could get killed doing this, I thought. Well, if I'm going to die, I want to see it. I hit the shack with the nose and left wing and found myself in a cloud of dust sliding over the terrain on my belly, the right wing kept trying to dig in and I thought, now that I survived the impact of wiping out the GCA shack, I'm going to end up scrapping off my head.

I didn't flip over. I spun around a few times and came to a rest. I opened my canopy and saw a figure in a silver suit gazing at me through a window in front of his face. "Don't worry about the thing burning," I said. "There's nothing in it to burn."

A few feet behind the fire fighter stood two Air Force captains in Class-B uniforms – one was a flight surgeon, the other was the chaplain. In a subsequent Stars and Stripes article concerning

the mission, a creative reporter quoted me as saying, "There they were – one for the body and one for the soul." I don't think I ever made that statement, but it sure sounded good.

Well, after an intelligence debriefing and a physical – during which I discovered I was slightly wounded and I had hurt my back – I borrowed a fellow-pilot's bed for the night, cleaned up and proceeded to the Club. It seemed every pilot in the Air Force was there, having returned from missions over North Vietnam. Some looked like teenagers and others like old men in their fifties. But they all looked great! I had a couple of drinks with the chaplain who greeted me earlier, joined a few other pilots for a midnight breakfast at the mess hall and hit the sack.

The following day, I hitched a ride back to Udorn on a C-130. We stopped at Bien Hoa and I had dinner with an Army Captain. My squadron mates were out to greet me when I arrived at Udorn well after midnight. Like a cowboy thrown from his horse, I was back in the saddle again the following day – flying an easy mission over South Vietnam.

As Tony reminds me each year, I did survive 5 October 1965. I was later awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for getting the bird back and a Purple Heart for the wounds I received on the mission. Tony was awarded the Silver Star for his conspicuous gallantry over Hanoi that day. Yes, it's hard to believe it's been more than 50 years.



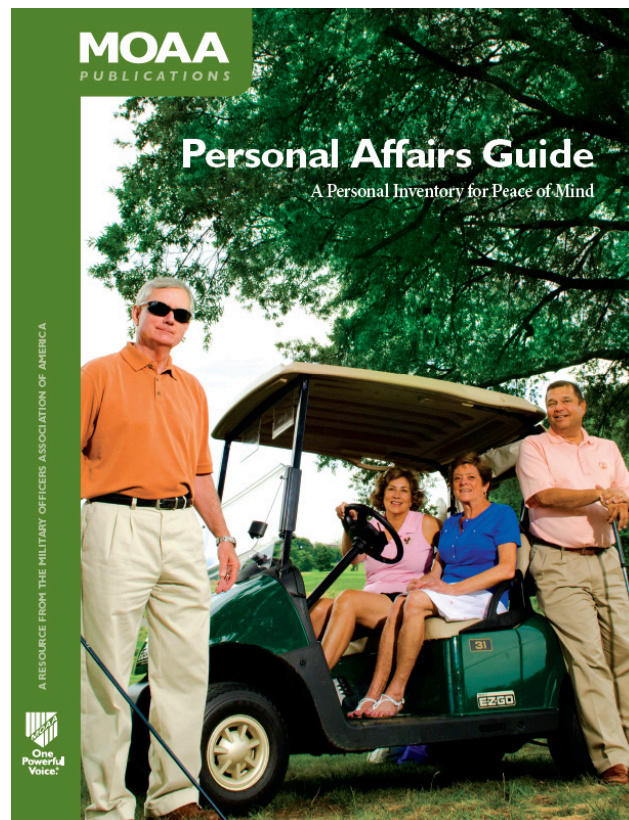
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Phone Number _____

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

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

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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
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**OUR BI-MONTHLY LUNCHEON
PROGRAMS ARE CANCELED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**



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**

As we are all experiencing the devastation of the Coronavirus, we can only imagine and worry about what the future will be like.

This situation, as we know, is a tremendous traumatic event that no one had thought would happen in our life time, especially in this country.

It has made many of us reflect

on what is really important in our lives. It, for some, has brought an opportunity to be closer with their families, to others it has caused extreme sorrow, and then there are some that it does not seem to bother them one way or another, perhaps, because the virus has not hit home.

Whatever the case, for believers, we have found out or have come to the realization that we can rely on God for patience, comfort and peace, that whatever we are going through, He is there for us. For unbelievers, maybe they just feel very strongly that this will pass, hopefully, sooner then later.

Either way, we are all in this together because as we know, this virus does not discriminate between races.

We just have to take one day at a time, with hope and faith and hopefully by the time this article is out, that things will be more to normal then where we are in this month of May.

With this hope and faith, repenting of our wrong doings and staying the course for a brighter future, we can look ahead and keep thinking that things will soon be great again.

This will give us comfort and the peace that we are in so much need of.

May we endure to the end, knowing that even though it's been a difficult time, we can continue to be strong and can continue to go through this with God's help and Him on our side as well.

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>.

erLicense/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

Real ID frequently asked questions for the public are available here <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id-public-faqs>.





LEGISLATIVE

CW2 DAVE GARCIA, USA, RETIRED

Greeting,
Hope everyone is safe...These articles from MOAA and DAV organization are asking all who are members to outreach to you Congresswoman to support these bills by voting for passage...Other Bills mentioned in the last newsletter are on hold for right now...

Waive TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy Copays During the COVID-19 Emergency

Many military beneficiaries cannot access their military treatment facility pharmacies due to installation access restrictions or social distancing measures. Please act now to urge your Representative to co-sponsor H.R. 6573, the Help our Heroes Access Medicine Act, authorizing DoD to temporarily waive TRICARE pharmacy copays during national emergencies.

<http://takeaction.moaa.org/app/write-a-letter?2&engagementId=507908>

Write to Congress to Evaluate Military Health System Reform against COVID-19 Lessons Learned

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused extraordinary flux in the civilian health care system together with increased demands on uniformed medical providers. Act now to urge Congress to halt plans to cut uniformed medical personnel and reduce military treatment facility capacity.

<http://takeaction.moaa.org/app/write-a-letter?5&engagementId=507024>

Protect Gold Star spouses during future shutdowns

Under current law, Gold Star spouses receiving benefits from the Department of Defense are protected from interruptions in payments during a government

shutdown. But because Coast Guard paychecks come from the Department of Homeland Security, these survivors are still at risk.

<http://takeaction.moaa.org/app/write-a-letter?11&engagementId=496048>

Support concurrent receipt for all disabled military retirees

Act now to support concurrent receipt of both military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation, regardless of VA disability rating.

<http://takeaction.moaa.org/app/write-a-letter?14&engagementId=496929>

Act now to extend CHAMPVA coverage

Did you know many adult children of veterans who are disabled or who died from a service-connected disability risk losing their health care through no fault of their own during the COVID-19 pandemic?

<http://takeaction.moaa.org/app/write-a-letter?17&engagementId=498679>

Support the Jobs and Childcare for Military Families Act

According to Department of Defense data, 24% of the military spouse labor force remains unemployed. That's over six times higher than the national unemployment rate. Additionally, many military families feel the impact of the rising cost of health and dependent care. To retain the best and brightest in an all-volunteer force, we must remove as many barriers to family financial stability as possible. Ask Congress to expand the Work Opportunity Tax Credit to military spouses and provide Flexible Spending Accounts as a servicemember benefit.

<http://takeaction.moaa.org/app/write-a-letter?20&engagementId=499645>

Representative Chris Pappas introduced H.R. 6591 to ensure that veterans do not have to worry about seeking emergency COVID-19 care during the current public health emergency.

Even under normal circumstances, veterans using the VA health system often experience problems with billing for emergency care because of administrative and bureaucratic hurdles. This can cause a significant financial burden for the veteran and their family. Moreover, even if VA agrees to reimburse the treating facility for the veteran's care, veterans may be held liable if VA does not pay them timely.

To address these problems, H.R. 6591 would temporarily ease current requirements, which include the veteran must have received care from VA within the last 2 years, preauthorization from VA for emergency care, and that the veteran must be transferred to a VA facility once their condition is stabilized. Finally, the bill would make VA the primary payer for that care even if the veteran has private health insurance, Medicare, or TRICARE (although VA may still seek reimbursement from these insurers).

Key Bills

These are some of the important issues before Congress

Federal - HR 333

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans' disability compensation, to extend eligibility for concurrent receipt to chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service, and for other purposes. Support

Federal - HR 413

A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the work opportunity credit to small businesses which hire individuals who are members of the Ready Reserve or National Guard, and for other purposes. Support

Federal - HR 847

A bill to provide interim appropriations for the Coast Guard Retired Serviceman's Family Protection and Survivor Benefits Plans for each fiscal year after fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes.

Federal - S 1047

A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to create a dependency and indemnity compensation allowance for surviving spouses receiving dependency and indemnity compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Federal - S 21

A bill making continuing appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event of an appropriations act expired prior to the enactment of new appropriations (official title to be confirmed).

MPAA/DAV Legislative Coordinator. Dave Garcia filling small containers of hand sanitizer donated by Lowe's northeast Home Improvement to be donated to the VA health providers, nurses, Lvn and MSA For VA Team A,B and C



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