

THE BORDER BULLETIN

El Paso Chapter of Military Officers Association of America

★★★★★ A NATIONALLY RANKED FIVE-STAR CHAPTER ★★★★★

A MOAA affiliate from January 23, 1956 - El Paso Chapter of Military Officers Association of America - Our 57th Year

Remembering Our Heroes this Holiday



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DECEMBER
2013

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Winter has arrived! The air is crisp and the days are short. We are anxiously awaiting our next MOAA El Paso Chapter meeting which will be a brunch followed by the annual Army-Navy Game. (I sure hope the Army performs better than they gave in most recent years!)

At that meeting, we will also install our newly elected Board of Directors.

If you believe in MOAA and believe in the mission of protecting and preserving our hard earned benefits, I urge you to become more active in the Chapter. Like most organizations, the majority of El Paso MOAA's work is done by just a handful of people. That, obviously, is not a recipe for continued success. We need YOUR help. As you will see from our proposed slate of officers, there are several vacant positions, meaning that work will not be done. Our Chapter has a long history of achieving 5 Star status, but that glorious history will be in jeopardy without new and engaged Board members. Please do consider stepping up and joining us as we plan our 2014 activities.

The Day at the Races will be on March 8th at Sunland Park. This is always an enjoyable day of fun, chance, and fellowship as NAUS, SMW, and MOWW join us at this MOAA-sponsored event. In the coming months, we will also invite Colonel Mike Heimall, the WBAMC Commander, to speak at an upcoming luncheon to give us an update on the new hospital, current available services, and plans for the future. If you have suggestions for speakers, please contact me, Bob Pitt, or Bill Moore.

Amidst sequestration, a government shutdown, budget cuts and furloughs, we are once again facing the annual expectation of decreased Medicare/TRICARE physician reimbursement rates. Current law calls for a 24 percent cut in Medicare/TRICARE reimbursement rates to doctors on January 1. Allowing such a large cut to take place would devastate access to care for millions of beneficiaries. For years Congress has

passed patchwork legislation to block these cuts, kicking the can from one year to the next year. This year, we are hoping for a permanent fix so this annual insanity can finally stop.

Most MOAA members using TRICARE, TRICARE for Life (TFL) and Medicare, or VA health care are concerned by the launch of the new health insurance initiatives Affordable Care Act/"Obamacare") and want to know how they're impacted. It's important to understand that TRICARE, Medicare, and VA health care are separate from the new health care marketplace (exchange). If you have TRICARE, TFL and Medicare, or VA health care you should not sign up for a marketplace plan.

I urge you to provide us with your email address so that we may send you real time information on legislative issues affecting your earned benefits. I cannot overestimate the collective power of constituents weighing in with their elected officials on issues coming for a vote. Whether you email them, call them, or write them a letter, your Congressman or Senator needs to hear from you. Often items are tacked on to seemingly harmless bills and only later we find out the devil in the details. Luckily, we have MOAA National to look out for us and threats to our hard earned benefits. But we need to be prepared to respond to their 'Calls to Action' or we may wake up one day to find a cherished benefit – Commissaries, healthcare, retirement plans gone or significantly diminished.

I wish you a delicious Thanksgiving surrounded by those you love and a joyous holiday season. Please never hesitate to contact a Board member if we may better serve you. .

Lennie Enzel
COL, USA, Retired
President

December LUNCH MENU

Baked Brunch Omelets w/tomatoes,
green onions, bacon, cheese
Grilled Bacon, Home Fried Hash
Brown Potatoes
Hot Red Velvet Pancakes w/cream
cheese topping
Fruit Cup with assorted fresh fruit
Water, Orange Juice, Coffee, and
Iced Tea

*Champagne served during social
hour

DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING PROGRAM

**Saturday, 14 December
Centennial Club**

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| 1030 - 1100 | SOCIAL HOUR |
| 1100 - 1115 | OPENING CEREMONY |
| 1115 - 1130 | VOTE & INSTALL 2014 BOD |
| 1130 - 1215 | MEAL SERVICE |
| 1215 - 1245 | PROGRAM |
| 1245 - 1255 | DOOR PRIZE DRAWING |
| 1255 - 1300 | CLOSING |
| 1300 | ADJOURNMENT |

**Please submit your Brunch
Reservations no later than
Wednesday, 11 December**

Treasurer: MOAA
PO Box 6144
El Paso, TX 79906-0144

All lunch reservations
with payment to our
postal mail box

\$ 20 Per Person

**REMITTANCE
ENVELOPE ENCLOSED**

Rosa Ramirez Guerrero

Rosa Ramirez Guerrero of El Paso, Texas, is an artist, educator, dance historian, and humanitarian. Her efforts have enhanced her commitment in promoting cultural awareness around the United States. She has also taught for EPISD, The El Paso Community College and at The University of Texas at El Paso. Mrs. Guerrero was the first of seven children in her family to graduate and earn her BA and MA from Texas Western College, now the University of Texas at El Paso.

Mrs. Guerrero founded and became the artistic director of the International Folklorico Dance Group. Her film "Tapestry," based upon creating cultural harmony and understanding, was honored with a national award for documentary filmmaking. She was awarded a lifetime membership with the Texas PTA and was the first Hispanic woman in El Paso to have a school, Rosa Guerrero Elementary, named in her honor.

She has been honored with many local, national, and international honors for her efforts as a humanitarian, which includes being a Distinguished Alumni of The University of Texas at El Paso, Inductee into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame, the Valley Forge Freedoms Foundation Award, the LULAC Arts and Humanities Award, the NEA Human Civil Rights George T. Sanchez Award,



December Guest Speaker
Rosa Ramirez Guerrero

and the Mexican Consulate OHTLI Award for her work with Mexican Americans and other minorities.

Rosa Guerrero wanted to be a teacher since the third grade. Her own teachers in the early 1940's and 1950's were not kind and did not understand her cultural background. She, like thousands of others, was punished for speaking Spanish in school. This was the reason she became an educator and swore to never punish her students for their racial and cultural differences.

Rosa Guerrero has been called "a tapestry of many cultures whose mission is to share this tapestry of cultural diversity, and how it is woven, with all people." She continues her mission of love, peace, and cultural understanding to this day as an educational consultant giving presentations and lectures.



Guest Speaker Commander Katherine O'Neil Tracy and MOAA President Lennie Enzel cut the cake at the RAD Reception.



El Paso

Mine was earned aboard USS HANCOCK. By my dad.

Susan S., USAA member



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2013 EL PASO CHAPTER, MOAA EVENTS SCHEDULE

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| December 14, 2013 | December Membership Meeting & Brunch |
| February 8, 2014 | February Membership Meeting and Lunch |
| March 8, 2014 | MOAA Day at the Races |
| April 12, 2014 | April Membership Meeting & Lunch |
| June 14, 2014 | June Membership Meeting & Lunch |
| August 9, 2014 | August Membership Meeting and Lunch |



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Holiday Mail Deadlines

The Military Postal Service Agency (MPSA) recommends that parcel post packages for servicemembers overseas be mailed by November 12 for delivery by the holidays. Officials at MPSA, an extension of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), have published a chart (below) that shows deadlines for various mailing options, broken down by the APO/FPO/DPO numbers of various destinations.

| Destination | Express | 1st Class | Priority | PAL | SAM | Parcel Post |
|---------------------------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|--------|-------------|
| APO/FPO/DPO AE 090-092 | 17 Dec | 10 Dec | 10 Dec | 03 Dec | 26 Nov | 12 Nov |
| APO/FPO/DPO AE 093 | N/A | 03 Dec | 03 Dec | 03 Dec | 26 Nov | 12 Nov |
| APO/FPO/DPO AE 094-098 | 17 Dec | 10 Dec | 10 Dec | 03 Dec | 26 Nov | 12 Nov |
| APO/FPO/DPO AA 340 | 17 Dec | 10 Dec | 10 Dec | 03 Dec | 26 Nov | 12 Nov |
| APO/FPO/DPO AP 962-966 | 17 Dec | 10 Dec | 10 Dec | 03 Dec | 26 Nov | 12 Nov |

EMMS: Express Mail Military Service is available to selected military post offices. Check with your local Post Office to determine if this service is available to your APO/FPO/DPO of address.

PAL: PAL is a service that provides air transportation for parcels on a space-available basis. It is available for Parcel Post items not exceeding 30 pounds in weight or 60 inches in length and girth combined. The applicable PAL fee must be paid in addition to the regular surface rate of postage for each addressed piece sent by PAL service.

SAM: SAM parcels are paid at Parcel Post postage rate of postage with maximum weight and size limits of 15 pounds and 60 inches in length and girth combined. SAM parcels are first transported domestically by surface and then to overseas destinations by air on a space-available basis.

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| CW4 William M. Ryerson | 772-6759 |
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| Captain Jeanne B. Thompson | 598-0891 |
| COL Martin C. Wehmhoner | 585-9106 |

Veterans Food Pantry



The Unitarian Universalist Community of El Paso, at 4425 Byron Ave operates a Veterans Food Pantry. Their hours of operation are Monday and Saturday, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The facility is closed on all National Holidays

Phone number: 915-562-4001.

If you know of a veteran in need, please direct them to the Veterans Food Pantry for assistance.



El Paso

WBAMC Pharmacy Services

Main Hospital Pharmacy

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Monday through Wednesday and Friday: | 7:30 AM – 6:30 PM | 915-742-2793 |
| Thursday | 8:30 AM – 6:30 PM | |
| Saturday, Training Holidays: | 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM | |
| Closed Sundays and Federal Holidays | | |

Freedom Crossing PX Pharmacy

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Monday – Friday | 8:30 AM – 6:00 PM | 915-742-9017 |
| Saturday & Training Holidays | 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM | |
| Closed Sundays and Federal Holidays | | |

Soldier and Family Medical Clinic (SFMC) Pharmacy

| | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------|
| Monday – Friday | 7:30 AM – 6:30 PM | 915-742-1802 |
| Closed Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal Holidays | | |

Soldier Family Care Clinic (SFCC) Pharmacy

| | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------|
| Monday – Friday | 7:30 AM – 6:30 PM | 915-742-1400 |
| Closed Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal Holidays | | |
| Pharmacy Refill Services | | 915-742-1400 |

Fort Bliss Gate Operating Hours

Alabama Gate, WBAMC, is open Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. and is closed weekends and federal holidays.
IBCT North Gate is open Monday - Friday 5am - 0900 Closed on holidays.

MOAA Spouse Blog:

Making it in the MilLife®
Making it in the MilLife™ is the blog where you can get deeper insight on current issues affecting military spouses and families, follow our spouse programs and read interviews with community leaders. Spouses are each other's best resource, so if you would like to be considered for a guest blog entry, contact us at moaaspouse@moaa.org.

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Chaplain's Corner

LTC John H. G. Rasmussen
Chaplain

I HAVE YOUR WOUNDED

"Dustoff! Dustoff! We have wounded! Popping green smoke!"

"Dustoff" pilots fly Army MEDEVAC helicopters. Although the technical name for this type of unit is Medical Evacuation, they're call sign is "Dustoff" ... I like to think it's because they come in fast and hard, keeping their engines running while the casualties are loaded. Sometimes they don't even touch down, hovering just above the ground so they can take off as soon as the last man is put on board, leaving nothing but a cloud of dust from the whirlwind created by the rotors for the enemy to capture or kill. Hence, "Dustoff."

As the "dustoff" pilot left the Landing Zone (LZ), he would often broadcast the following message of reassurance to the worried ground commander below: "I have your wounded."

A "Huey" pilot in Vietnam named Kelly spoke these words of comfort, "I have your wounded," to a ground commander a split second before a bullet pierced his heart. His co-pilot managed to get the Huey and its passengers to safety, but the ground commander would never forget his words, nor would he forget the selfless service and sacrifice Kelly and his fellow "Dustoff" pilots made that day.

There is another who remembers Kelly's final broadcast as well—a fellow "Dustoff" pilot. Major General Patrick H. Brady, USA (Ret.) told this story at an Officer

Professional Development (OPD) presentation that I was privileged to attend at Wheeler Army Airfield, Honolulu, Hawaii in 2003. Brady was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his courageous efforts to rescue soldiers in Viet Nam (he went through three helicopters that day) and the Distinguished Service Cross (twice!), the second highest Army award for valor.

Yet Brady considers Kelly, who was his commander at the time, to be the true hero. He will never forget his commander's last radio transmission, "I have your wounded," and what those four words meant to the wounded, the ground commander, and the Dustoff crew. Kelly inspired to go on to rescue over 5,000 soldiers from the battlefields of Viet Nam. No one forced him to do the impossible—he simply did incredible things that day out of love for his comrades in arms, fellow soldiers, brothers.

"I have your wounded." As a Christian Chaplain and Pastor, I can't help but think it's an appropriate message as another Holiday season approaches. Because it points toward the One who said, "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends," ... the One whose last words on the cross, "It is finished," signified mission accomplished and that all who have been wounded by sin, death, and the devil are safely on their way home—as if he had said to his Father in our hearing, "I have your wounded. And nothing is going to hurt them ever again."

JUNIOR ENLISTED FAMILY CENTER, YMCA FOOD PANTRY

The YMCA Food Pantry provides services to E-5s and below and is located in building #1717 (the old commissary) on Marshall Road. The entrance for the Food Pantry is behind the building by the loading docks near Pleasonton Road. The hours of operation are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from Noon to 1700 hours.

In an emergency, occasionally a Jr. Grade Officer or a Retiree is helped. To receive food, a form must be signed by a chaplain or someone in authority in the soldier's unit. Families must show a military I.D. The center focuses on helping truly needy families.

If you are interested in donating non-perishable food items to the Food Pantry, please bring your items to our El Paso Chapter, MOAA Membership Meeting and Brunch on December 14. A table will be available for your donations in our meeting room. Brunch start time is 10:30 A.M.

The pantry accepts any sealed non-perishable food. Items that routinely run out of are peanut butter, canned tuna, cereal, pasta, and pasta sauce.

Disposable diapers in all sizes, baby formula and baby food are, also, in need.

If you are redecorating your home and you have furniture, or other household items in good condition that you would like to donate, please phone Nina Carey, Coordinator, Junior Enlisted Family Center, YMCA at 915/564-0009 during the hours of the center's operation. Please don't leave things on the loading dock without contacting Nina first as the items left are often "lost."

Should you elect to give a monetary donation for the Food Pantry, please draw your check payable to: Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) and put "Junior Enlisted Family Center (JEFC)" on the memo line. Additionally, a collection box for your checks or cash will be on the donation table.

Thank you for your consideration of helping our needy families at Fort Bliss.

Input deadline for February 2014 Border Bulletin by 3 January 2014



El Paso



elpasomoaa.org

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

December 2013 Membership Meeting & Brunch
The Centennial Club and Conference Center
11199 Sgt. E. Churchill Street, El Paso, TX 79918

Date: Saturday, 14 December 2013

Time: 1030 - 1230

Guest Speaker: Mrs. Rosa Ramirez Guerrero

Menu:

Baked Brunch Omelets w/tomatoes, green onions, bacon, cheese

Grilled Bacon, Home Fried Hash Brown Potatoes

Hot Red Velvet Pancakes w/cream cheese topping

Fruit Cup with assorted fresh fruit

Water, Orange Juice, Coffee, and Iced Tea

*Champagne served during social hour



Dress: Casual (Army / Navy gear encouraged)

Brunch Secretary: secretary@elpasomoaa.org

Membership or email queries: membership@elpasomoaa.org

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

Please fill in this acceptance slip and return to the Secretary by Wednesday, 11 December 2013 with a check for \$20 per person, the cost of the brunch. **Late Reservations**, call Bob Pitt, 915-533-5111 or Bill Moore, 915-842-9650, by Noon, Thursday, December 12, and pay at the door.

Brunch will be on Saturday 14 December 2013 at 10:30 a.m.

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

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

My check for \$ _____ (\$20.00 per person) made payable to the "El Paso Chapter" is enclosed.

Name of Member: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Name(s) of Guests:

Homefront — Preparing for the Worst

We are born, we grow up, and we make our way through life by design, faith, or blind luck.

We wake up every day and drag ourselves to work in pursuit of the oft-illusory American Dream. We have kids who we eventually drive to piano lessons, ball practices, colleges, and weddings. Or we worry when they drive themselves. We cook countless dinners, pay countless bills, shop till we drop, and maintain our homes and our families as best we can given our circumstances du jour. We pay our taxes, and eventually we die, rounding out the cosmic trifecta of life.

Giving death its due attention

No one wants to think about his or her own death or the passing of a loved one. It is, however, an ironic fact of life. Blink, and a future can unexpectedly and irrevocably change.

Whether heartbeat's thief is old age, war, illness, self-imposed, senseless crime, or a tragic accident, death happens all the time, and it can happen to you.

Those we love often are left behind to blindly and painfully manage the dirty details involved with shuttering the windows of a life that is past.

The topic is an uncomfortable one. Giving your ultimate demise its due attention now, however, may ease the suffering of those you eventually leave behind.

Determining who gets your will

A last will tells those left behind how to divide your assets, pay your outstanding bills, and even how to manage your online social media accounts once you're dead.

As a member of the military family, you probably already have one. If not, make the effort to get one now. If you already have one, review and revise it as necessary. If you don't have one when you die, the courts will make these decisions for you.

You also might want to consider getting a living trust, which is a document used to transfer property to beneficiaries, usually by avoiding probate court.

A living will is different from a last will. It allows you to outline health care wishes in advance. For example, if artificial life support becomes a requirement for you to exist and you don't want to live your life in this way, a living will tells the world when and whether they should pull the plug on you.

The legal office on the military installation nearest you might be able to assist you in writing or revising your will or in creating a living will or trust.

Reputable online sites such as Rocket Lawyer and LegalZoom also can assist you. Or, surprise, surprise, there's also an iPhone or iPad app for that called MyWill. For more information on creating a will, see *Writing a Will and What Can Go Wrong with a Do-It-Yourself Will*.

A letter of instruction or intent

A letter of instruction or a letter of intent, unlike a will, is not a legal document but it is a highly useful one to those you leave behind. Color it a cheat sheet of sorts that could tell

others: the location of your last will and how to locate and access important financial and legal paperwork to include insurance policies, birth certificate, DD Form 214(s), VA disability information, pensions, 401(k) accounts, and your Social Security number as well as titles and deeds to any property you own or owe on; account names, numbers, usernames, passwords, and PINs; what your assets are, where they are located, and points of contact for them; whether you want white lilies on top of your casket or a keg of beer and a live band at your funeral;

who you want to care for your dog or your gerbil now that you can't; where to find the key to your safe-deposit box or the combination to the house safe; how you really feel about your Aunt Betty and her so-called taste in art; how you want your obituary to read; what you want your kids to know that you can't tell them in person; or who you want to be contacted and notified in the event of your passing.

For more information about letters of instruction, see *Letter of Instruction: Don't Leave Life Without It or Estate Planning: Preparing a Last Letter of Instruction*.

Power of attorney

While wills and letters of instructions clarify which kid gets your pearl necklace after you've departed this world, a power of attorney can tell the world who can legally manage your financial and legal affairs or who can make health care decisions for you in the event you become disabled or incapacitated. These are also sometimes known as advance directives.

Not surprisingly, there are different types of powers of attorney. A springing power of attorney goes into effect once you are incapacitated or mentally incompetent while a durable power of attorney is valid before and after you've become unable to handle things for yourself.

Which one is right for you? I'm no lawyer. Only you can say, and getting the advice of good lawyer can help you make those decisions and prepare the necessary forms.

Online sites like those mentioned above can help you create powers of attorney, or consider consulting with your own attorney or with one from the military legal office. Remember, state guidelines could vary, and unlike wills, powers of attorney need to be notarized.

For more information about durable and springing powers of attorney, see *Power of Attorney Basics* (http://www.militaryonesource.mil/search?content_id=269356).

Your life can be complicated. Make it easy on your loved ones if you should check out first.

About the author: Janet Farley writes about job search, workplace, and lifespan issues. She is the author of *The Military Spouse's Employment Guide: Smart Job Choices for Mobile Lifestyles* (Impact Pubs, 2012) and *Quick Military Transition Guide: Seven Steps to Landing a Civilian Job* (Jist Inc., 2012). Read her new blog *Life's Too Short to Hate Your Job* at www.janetfarley.wordpress.com.

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Walk-In Tricare Help Centers May Be Cut In Us, But Would Continue Overseas

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department is weighing an option to save money by closing Tricare customer service centers at stateside military treatment facilities, where contractors provide face-to-face help with questions on topics such as enrollment and claims processing, but stressed that no changes are in the works at Tricare Service Centers overseas.

The potential closure of the centers, which serve hundreds of thousands of troops and their families throughout the United States, is part of a reorganization of DOD health care administration into the new Defense Health Agency, intended to save billions of dollars by increasing efficiency and reducing duplication of services.

But there's been no final decision to close the U.S. help centers, a defense official said Friday in an email.

"When the Defense Department announced the creation of the Defense Health Agency, elimination of walk-in service at Tricare Service Centers was one of the proposed actions to increase efficiency," said Pentagon spokeswoman Lt. Col. Cathy Wilkinson. "However, the plan has not been finalized concerning the implementation or timing of such action."

Regardless of the final decision, Tricare users based overseas won't be affected, Wilkinson said.

"I can verify that NO changes to Tricare Service Centers overseas are being considered," she said.

If DOD moves ahead with closing the centers, they'll be replaced by call-in help lines, according to plan for the reform of the defense health system the Pentagon submitted to Congress in June.

According to the plan, call centers would improve customer service and be far cheaper.

"The Tricare Service Center (TSC) initiative will improve customer service efficiency by eliminating expensive walk-in service centers located at every [Military Treatment Facility] and providing greater access to information through current toll-free call centers and readily available



Arlene R. Smith

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AT YOUR SERVICE

Thank you to all who served or are serving!



internet resources," the plan stated. "These options are available 24/7 worldwide and more than 80 percent less expensive per encounter compared to the TSCs."

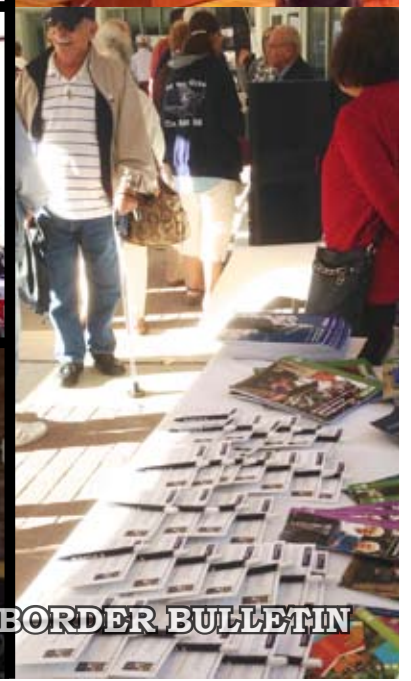
The military's consideration of cutting the service centers was first reported early Friday on the website MilitaryOneClick at <http://militaryoneclick.com/militaryoneclick-investigates-reports-of-dod-closing-walk-in-tricare-service-center/>.

SOURCE: Stars and Stripes Article at <http://www.stripes.com/news/us/walk-in-tricare-help-centers-may-be-cut-in-us-but-would-continue-overseas-1.251767>

Retiree and Annuitant Pay Dates for 2014

| Entitlement Month | Retiree Payment Dates | Annuitant Payment Dates |
|-------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| January 2014 | Friday, January 31, 2014 | Monday, February 3, 2014 |
| February 2014 | Friday, February 28, 2014 | Monday, March 3, 2014 |
| March 2014 | Tuesday, April 1, 2014 | Tuesday, April 1, 2014 |
| April 2014 | Thursday, May 1, 2014 | Thursday, May 1, 2014 |
| May 2014 | Friday, May 30, 2014 | Monday, June 2, 2014 |
| June 2014 | Tuesday, July 1, 2014 | Tuesday, July 1, 2014 |
| July 2014 | Friday, August 1, 2014 | Friday, August 1, 2014 |
| August 2014 | Friday, August 29, 2014 | Tuesday, September 2, 2014 |
| September 2014 | Wednesday, October 1, 2014 | Wednesday, October 1, 2014 |
| October 2014 | Friday, October 31, 2014 | Monday, November 3, 2014 |
| November 2014 | Monday, December 1, 2014 | Monday, December 1, 2014 |
| December 2014 | Wednesday, December 31, 2014 | Friday, January 2, 2015 |







El Paso

❧ TAPS ❧



Richard F. Wasiewski (Ski/Sonny), loving husband, father, brother, and friend passed away on September 25, 2013. Born in Haverhill, Massachusetts to Anthony and Katherine Wasiewski on July 15, 1931. He was an exceptional athlete and was once scouted by the Boston Red Sox. He graduated from Norwich University and pursued a career in the military, retired

as a Lieutenant Colonel. For the next 20 years he was a Pharmaceutical Representative for Sandoz.

He is survived by his loving family, two daughters Deborah Wasiewski Wightman and Monica Wasiewski Daw, two sons Michael and Paul Wasiewski, seven grandchildren, Katherine Panos Torres, Nickolas Panos, Drake Wilcox, Seth and Jocelyn Daw, Emilee Ann and Rebecca Wasiewski. He is also survived by his sister Walda Wasiewski Gaudreau and many nieces and nephews. Proceeded in death by his two sisters, Genevieve Wasiewski Sweeney and Virginia Wasiewski Czerepak. He enjoyed attending many of his grandchildren's sport activities. He was loved by many and will be deeply missed as he dedicated his life to family and friends.

A Graveside service was held at Fort Bliss Cemetery Friday, October 4th, 2013 at 10:00am. No flowers please, all condolences in the form of donation to Wounded Warrior; www.woundedwarriorproject.org.

New Members

Renewals

LTC Henry Nesbitt
LTC John Ozaki
LTC Bruce Gramlich
Mrs. Louise Cross
LTC Tu Huu Nguyen
Mrs. Mary Wilke
MAJ Rodney Gilbert
Mrs. Sylvia McGriff
MG James Maloney
CW4 Elwood Bechtel

COL Gary Mundy
Mrs. Ruth Cramer
LTC Donald Hughes
MAJ Maginia Morales
COL Homer Pitzer
Mrs Eva Haggard
Mrs Ursula Landrie
Mrs Elizabeth Brinkley
Mrs Reva Reel
CW3 Gary Mann

Mrs Evelyn Kordek
COL Joe Simonelli
COL William Bissell
Mrs Chiquita Brogdon
Mrs Mary Resen
COL Paul Parks
MAJ George Charity
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FREE MEMBERSHIP



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Contact the El Paso MOAA Membership Director (membership@elpasomoa.org) for additional information.



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"ED Stone, center, displays 13th consecutive "Five-Star Chapter Excellence Award" at the Annual Meeting of the National Membership on 16 November 2013 in Colorado Springs, CO."

Scholarship Recipient Thank You Letter

September 9, 2013

The 1st Armored Division –El Paso Chapter, MOAA #2 Designated Scholarship
c/o El Paso Chapter, MOAA
PO Box 6144
El Paso, TX 79906-0144

Dear El Paso MOAA Chapter,

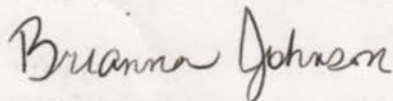
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous assistance by providing me with an interest-free loan and grant through your organization. MOAA contributes so much to our military communities, particularly in support of education. This loan will lessen the financial burden, so that I may concentrate on my academics and pursue my dream. I am very grateful and honored to be one of the chosen recipients.

Your confidence and willingness to contribute to my future education is very appreciated. Since a young child I have wanted to work with special needs children, and you are helping that become a reality. Being a military child and moving frequently, I have been exposed to many different cultures, people, and experiences. I feel this diversity, as well as my ability to overcome adversity, will be an asset as I move on to the next chapter of my life.

Currently I am attending San Diego State University in pursuit of my Bachelor's Degree in Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences. Given my interest in this field, I chose SDSU because of their top-ranked program, which has been recognized on a national level. My ultimate goal is to attend the Masters Program here as well in hopes of becoming a speech pathologist and become a source of hope for children with disabilities and encourage them to persevere.

Again, thank you for investing in my education and future success. I promise to take this opportunity, work hard, and use my education as a stepping stone to give back to our healthcare community and those in need.

Sincerely,



Brianna Johnson



El Paso



MOAA

Military Officers Association of America



THE 1ST ARMORED DIVISION EL PASO CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP

GOAL
\$25,000

**\$17,560
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The "The 1st Armored Division - El Paso Chapter, MOAA #2" was established on 7 February 2011. The 1st Armored Division - El Paso Chapter, MOAA #2 Scholarship is a part of "the MOAA Scholarship Fund; and thus, it is a nonprofit, charitable organization, incorporated in Virginia and declared tax-exempt by the Internal Revenue Service under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Its tax identification number is 54-1659039." Please draw your check payable to "MOAA Scholarship Fund," and mark the memo line with "1st Armored Division/TX05 - 501(c)(3)."

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Members and friends of the El Paso Chapter, MOAA are encouraged to donate to this worthy cause for eligible children of soldiers assigned to the 1st Armored Division.

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Personal Affairs**Jose Luis Hernandez**
Personal Affairs Chairman**Tech Tactics — Choosing a Web Browser**

A new report about the reliability of Web

browsers sheds new light on these tools and might prompt you to take another look at the browser you use. There's little more frustrating than having your browser lock up, forcing you to restart it or reboot your computer. So it makes sense to go with a reliable browser. According to Sauce Labs, an Internet software testing company, the browser with the worst crash record over the past two years is Apple Safari. Next worst is Opera. Microsoft Internet Explorer is in the middle of the pack of the five major browsers. The best is Mozilla Firefox, followed by Google Chrome.

All in all, the crash (error) rates are pretty low, with Safari having an error rate of just 0.12 percent. What's more, according to the findings, recent versions of browsers are more stable than previous versions.

Two factors users often consider when deciding whether to change browsers are reliability and speed. Speed has been Chrome's claim to fame from its inception. But the latest testing by PC Magazine includes a big surprise. The top three browsers, Internet Explorer, Firefox, and Chrome, all are neck

and neck regarding performance. But the overall speed champ right now is Internet Explorer. However, the small differences among browsers render speed a relatively unimportant factor. Choosing a browser might more so depend simply on availability. Microsoft produced a version of Internet Explorer for the Mac between 1998 and 2003, but it has not made a Mac version available since then. Versions of Internet Explorer for UNIX were released for three years, between 1999 and 2001.

Similarly, Apple previously made Safari available for Windows, starting in June 2007, but it discontinued this in May 2012. The latest version of Safari is available only for Apple's operating systems. If you're using an older operating system, you might be limited as well. The latest version of Internet Explorer runs only on Windows 7 or Windows 8, not on Windows XP or previous versions of Windows. Chrome has the widest availability of the three major browsers, with versions for Windows, Mac OS X, Linux, Android, and iOS. Unlike Internet Explorer, the latest version of Chrome supports Windows XP running XP Service Pack 2 or 3. Windows XP users also have the latest versions of Firefox and Opera available.

Firefox is available for Windows, Mac OS X, Linux, and Android. Opera is available Windows, Mac OS X, Linux, FreeBSD, Android, iOS, and other mobile devices. It's easy to use more than one browser. All five of the top browsers are free for personal use. There's no reason not to download one and see whether you like it better. But keep in mind, unless your computer has a great deal of memory, it's probably not a good idea to have more than two loaded simultaneously. Here are the download sites for the five major Web browsers:

Internet Explorer:

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/internet-explorer/download-ie>

Firefox:

<http://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox>

Chrome:

<http://www.google.com/chrome>

Safari:

<http://www.apple.com/safari>

Opera:

<http://www.opera.com/download>

About the author: Reid Goldsborough is a syndicated columnist and author of the book *Straight Talk About the Information Superhighway*. He can be reached at reidgoldsbrough@gmail.com or reidgold.com.

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DS Logon Will Soon be a Must for Most Retirees

When the Army closes the last retiree and family member Army Knowledge Online (AKO) accounts on Mar. 31, 2014, DS Logon will be the only access method for these users. If you do not have a DS Logon account go to <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/dsaccess/> to start the process.

Common Access Card (CAC) holders may upgrade their accounts

immediately using their CAC.

Individuals who do not have a CAC and who cannot complete the remote proofing process may request an activation code from the Defense Manpower Data Center if they have a mypay account established at DFAS. Ensure that your mypay account is current.

Users who cannot complete any of these preferred processes may

obtain a DS Logon premium account by visiting a VA Regional Office or a TRICARE Service Center, locations of which can be found on the 'DS Logon — My Access Center' at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/dsaccess/>. Many RAPIDS offices (military ID card offices) can also provide DS Logon accounts. Check in advance to ensure they have the capability.



El Paso

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We live in an increasingly mobile world, with more and more people possessing technology that allows them to use the Internet on the go. Beneficiaries can access their TRICARE benefits and benefit information on their mobile devices through a variety of mobile applications and mobile-optimized sites.

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Each of the TRICARE regional contractors also has their own mobile site or app. Health Net, the
Cont'd on page 22

EL PASO CHAPTER NATIONAL AWARDS

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Runner-up

2000 and 2001

Five-Star Chapter

2001 thru 2013

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Winner

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Runner-up

2008 thru 2011

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Membership

LTC (R) Joe Gollasch
Membership Chairman

El Paso MOAA Membership



Membership is open to Active Duty, Retired, Former Officers, Reserves, National Guard, and Warrant Officers of the seven uniformed services: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Spouses, Widows and Widowers may also join.



The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is dedicated to preserving the hard-earned benefits of servicemembers. The more members we have, the stronger our voice. Our mission is urgent and we need the support of all beneficiaries.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

May your Holiday Season be filled with Joy, Happiness, and Love

MOAA works throughout the year representing and lobbying on behalf of all beneficiaries. MOAA speaks with one voice... Help keep MOAA strong and the most influential military lobbyist on the Hill. Encourage a friend or colleague to join our chapter and continue our support of the Fort Bliss and El Paso communities.



MOAA BASIC MEMBERSHIP MOAA's new no-fee electronic BASIC Membership gives busy officers the opportunity to experience what MOAA is all about. You'll stay current with our e-newsletters and have opportunities to participate in grassroots activism effort.



MOAA PREMIUM MEMBERSHIP Get full access to everything MOAA has to offer with our PREMIUM Membership, including our full spectrum of our career resources (one-on-one career counseling, résumé reviews, and interviewing advice and critiques), countless discounts on products and travel, and access to all MOAA exclusive publications and news updates.



MOAA LIFE MEMBERSHIP MOAA LIFE Membership remains the most elite level of membership for military officers and their spouses. When you become a LIFE Member of MOAA, you not only make us a stronger advocate for America's military officers, but you also make a lifetime investment for yourself and your loved ones.

Contact El Paso MOAA Membership at: membership@elpasomoaa.org

*Ed Stone*

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Legislative

Edwin (Ed) S. Stone, III
Legislative Chairman



Snuffy Smith Deep in the Weeds with No Idea About What's Playing Out

Snuffy is hunkered down, still trying to decide what is taking place. The present view of military personnel issues has been overshadowed by Shut-down, Sequestration, and the draw-down. Confusing, all of it...and still, Snuffy fights on protecting us from enemies foreign!

Still, Snuffy can't take his eyes off past changes offered up by the Defense Department in TRICARE, and pay and allowances affecting Active Duty and Retirees. Somewhere buried in the Pentagon in a windowless room you can bet that there's still a nest of pernicious bureaucrats shaving away at Snuffy's livelihood waiting for the moment to launch another attempt to diminish him.

Here's an excerpt from what MOAA sees at the moment:

- Defense Appropriations/Authorization Bills: pass a defense budget and an authorization bill for FY2014
- “Doc Fix”: come up with a debt deal to avert the 24.4% Medicare/TRICARE physician reimbursement rate cut scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2014
- Sequestration: address the disproportional and harmful sequestration cuts that will reduce the Pentagon's budget by \$52 billion in FY2014
- Another Continuing Resolution: agree to a long term budget or pass another continuing resolution by January 15 to avoid another government shutdown
- Debt ceiling: raise the debt ceiling by February 7. A new budget deal would likely include a debt ceiling increase - See more at: http://www.moaa.org/Main_Menu/Take_Action/Top_Issues/Serving_in_Uniform/Compensation/Shutdown_Ends,_But_What_Lies_Ahead_.html#sthash.7PpvBM3i.dpuf

Use the links above to address the suggested messages if you agree.

The 2013 National Defense Authorization Act set up a commission to come up with a plan to revise and reform future military compensation. Here's an overview of the charge and organization: http://www.moaa.org/Main_Menu/Take_Action/Top_Issues/Serving_in_Uniform/Compensation/Military_Compensation_and_Retirement_Modernization_Commission.html Here's the site for the public to make their comments: <http://www.mcrmc.gov/index.php/public-comments> The charge is to not make changes to those currently serving or retired.

Snuffy has a weather-eye on the very last sentence in the foregoing paragraph...the camel's nose under the tent? Why? The Pentagon is trying to slow the growth of military compensation with pay caps. Colonel Mike Hayden, USAF, Retired, MOAA's Director of Government Relations addresses this one in a great article: http://www.moaa.org/Main_Menu/Take_Action/The_Bottom_Line/2013_The_Bottom_Line/The_Bottom_Line_-_Slow_the_Growth_or_Pay_Caps_-_You_Choose.html So you see, while the Commission does not address Active Duty or current Retirees, an assault on the Active Duty is on-going that translates into their here and now and their retirement.

Snuffy smells something bad...odoriferous...like “chicken stuff.” If one smells chicken-stuff, it's chicken-stuff!

Staying current, abreast of issues is the reason for being a member of MOAA, TCC, and a Chapter! Remember, there's always tomorrow and the next Session!!!

2014 Slate: Board of Directors and Officers

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| UTEP ROTC Liaison | COL Steve Barrett |

Anyone interested in filling a vacant position on the Board of Directors, please contact COL Lennie Enzel or LTC Bill Moore.

Cont'd from page 18

North Region contractor, operates www.hnfs.com/go/mobile, which allows beneficiaries to locate TRICARE-authorized providers and access resources including contact information and information about benefits, claims and eligibility. The South Region contractor, Humana Military, has a mobile site at m.humana-military.com. Humana Military Mobile offers links to a provider locator, a search tool for urgent care centers and eligibility and plan information.

In the West Region, UnitedHealth Military & Veterans has a mobile app for mobile devices called "OptimizeMe." This app encourages healthy lifestyles by letting users

challenge other users to health and fitness goals on their smartphones. OptimizeMe lets users track their own progress and post the results to Facebook. Beneficiaries can download OptimizeMe from iTunes or the Google Play store.

The TRICARE pharmacy contractor Express Scripts, Inc. (ESI) offers both a mobile site, www.express-scripts.com/mobile, and an app called Express Rx. These allow beneficiaries to get benefit information, start home delivery of their prescriptions, check order status, order prescription refills and find a nearby network pharmacy. They even have information about drugs and potential side effects. Beneficiaries must register with ESI before using the mobile site by going to www.express-scripts.com/activate.

The Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) also offers a mobile app (for Android phones) called milConnect Mobile. The app allows beneficiaries to locate identification card-issuing facilities, find contact information for TRICARE regional contractors and review frequently asked questions. Beneficiaries can download milConnect Mobile from the Google Play store.

These mobile options make it easier than ever to get the information and access beneficiaries need to take control of their health care options. If beneficiaries can't get the information they need from one of these mobile options, they can always call TRICARE or their contractor. Visit www.tricare.mil/callus for a list of contact numbers.

Coaching into Care

Overview: Coaching Into Care provides a "coaching" service for family and friends of Veterans who see that their Veteran needs help. Coaching involves helping the caller figure out how to motivate their Veteran to seek services. The service is free and provided by licensed clinical social workers and psychologists. The goal of the service is to help the Veteran and family members find the appropriate services in their community.

Coaching Into Care takes your privacy, and that of your Veteran, very seriously. We keep all calls confidential, except for cases in which we act to protect the lives of you, your Veteran, or others. Coaching into Care is a free and confidential coaching service to help callers discover new ways to talk with their Veteran about their concerns and about treatment options. Contact us at 1-888-823-7458.

When to Call:

Learn how to enroll for VA care
If you do not know how a Veteran can get enrolled in VA care, call Coaching Into Care. Our telephone responders understand the procedures, what documents your Veteran needs and what to do with them, as well as other VA resources that might be of help

Learn to talk with your Veteran about getting help

Having important conversations can be difficult. If you are worried about your Veteran and don't seem to be able to find the right words to tell them, you can call and talk to our team. We can help you come up with ideas about what to do and say to help your Veteran take the next step. (see What to Expect tab).

What to do if your Veteran is enrolled in care but no longer attends appointments
People drop out of treatment for all kinds of reasons. Sometimes family members are not aware of the treatment that their Veteran attends, often because it is not openly discussed. If you are a close family member who wants to learn how to be more helpful in your Veteran's, call Coaching Into Care. These can be difficult conversations, and our coaches can work with you every step of the way in order to help you open up lines of communication.

What to do if there is a crisis or you are worried someone is in danger
The Veteran's Crisis Line can be reached at 800-273-8255, press 1. You can even text them at 838255, or chat online at <http://veteranscrisisline.net/> for help.

You can also call 911 to reach your local emergency services, or go directly to your nearest emergency room (ER).

What to do if your Veteran is already in VA medical or mental health care, you provide care for him or her, but you need some help

The Caregiver Support Line (1-855-260-3274) can help you connect with services for caregivers of our nation's Veterans. You can also look up your local Caregiver Support Contact at <http://www.caregiver.va.gov>

What to expect:

When you call Coaching Into Care, you will talk with a member of our team who specializes in helping callers get information about how to help their Veterans and how to navigate the VA system. We can help you get information about mental illness, services available at the VA, and tips on how to begin the conversation with your Veteran. Call times vary, but generally take 10 to 30 minutes, depending on the issue and may extend for several calls with the same coach.

We are careful to keep your information confidential, except in cases where someone's life is in danger or a child, elderly, or disabled person is being abused. In those cases, we will only release the information that is necessary to protect the lives and wellbeing of those involved.

Contact Us

Mail:

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

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President -- president@elpasomoaa.org
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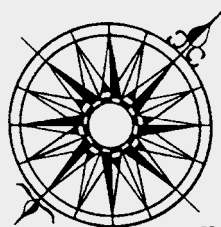
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| Database/Chapter POC | LTC William L Moore | 842-9650 |
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The Border Bulletin is the newsletter of the El Paso Chapter, Military Officers Association of America. It is published bi-monthly, even 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.

El Paso Chapter, MOAA

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THE BORDER BULLETIN

is the print newsletter of the
El Paso Chapter, Military Officers Association of America
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P.O. Box 6144, Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0144
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