2026 | December



THE BORDER BULLETIN

EL PASO CHAPTER OF MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Nationally Ranked Five-Star Chapter * MOAA Affiliate from January 23, 1956 * Our70th Year

70 Years of Service to Fort Bliss and El Paso

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San Jacinto Plaza
At Christmas
William Oseles
2021

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 - 2022, 2024-2025
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 2022, 2024-2025
Four Star	2023
Winner	2020 thru 2013
Runner-Up	2009 and 2014

INPUT
Deadline for March 2027 Border Bulletin
31 January

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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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Editorial Policy

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

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11165 Gateway West
El Paso, Texas 79935
PH 915.598.0399

Report a Retiree Death

Monday – Friday
0730 – 1700
915-568-5207
After Hours (Installation)
915-569-6950/6951
Or visit:

https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary

President's Message

COL Robert Wagner, RET El Paso Chapter MOAA President

I hope those who attended the September luncheon enjoyed our guest speaker, Gail Joyce and our panel on surviving spouse!!! Our 70th Anniversary has been really special! I ask you to talk to your friends and Family to let them know we made this milestone and invite them to attend our December Christmas/Holiday luncheon.

In December, we will have the William Beaumont Army Medical Commander COL Wendy Gray as our guest speaker. She has continued to improve our medical care facilities to become the best in the military! Please make arrangements to attend and to bring contributions we will make to the Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) to support their efforts to collect 1,000 toys for our enlisted Soldiers' Families!! More info will be sent out prior to the luncheon.

Folks, we need your continued effort to build membership and help us grow into the future. Please help our organization continue to be a viable and important part of Ft Bliss and the Elpaso community. We need your help. Please let me know if you are interested in helping us as a member of the board and other positions. My two years as president will be up in December, so we need to be searching for a volunteer to become our next president and I need a Vice President!! Also, Lennie has taken on the presidency of the outreach and we need someone to take that over as well in the future.

I've said it before but we really need more members and need to get your help to make this happen. Remember, for two new members your annual dues will be paid by me. Connie Sullivan was able to recruit two new members and I paid her annual 2026 dues!!! Any ideas on how to increase our membership is greatly appreciated. I believe the spouses and especially surviving spouses are a population we could direct attention to with your help. We need your help to make every effort and focus on continuing the life of our organization.

I again want to reiterate my vision for the El Paso Chapter of MOAA which are three main lines of effort:

- Improve the membership program to not only give you as a current members a positive experience but to increase new membership. – tell me how we doing??
- Increase the visibility of the El Paso Chapter of MOAA in the El Paso community by educating the officers living in the area and community organizations supporting our military about the benefits of MOAA and the importance of supporting MOAA locally as well as nationally. - we are included in the monthly Community Information exchange (CIE), and will implement awards to recognize junior and field grade officers named after our recently departed General Officers, BG Kotter and MG Greer, respectively. The event will be on June 18th!!!
- Develop a fund raising conceptual plan that will not only provide funds for the organization to continue but also to support the outreach program. – we have updated our advertising fee schedule and looking for new advertisers. We need your help to get this information out and to get corporate sponsors please. We now have First Command paid for a year of advertising!!!!

These three focus areas will keep the organization alive in my opinion. We continue to need your feedback and support.

Again, I thank you for your confidence in me and our BOD Team, and thank you for being a member of the El Paso Chapter of MOAA.

Never Stop Serving!!

Bob



Picture of Bob and 86th ESB Family Readiness Leader Jane Stedman at the 86th ESB Deployment Event



Pharmacy Hours

Short notice changes to Pharmacy Operation Hours due to Command approved hospital activities will be posted to the WBAMC Facebook Page.
https://www.facebook.com/WBAMC1

Closed on federal holidays

Pharmacy Contact Information

Main Pharmacy - West Clinic Building 1st Floor

18511 Highlander Medics St, El Paso, TX 79918,
Monday-Friday 7:30am-4:30pm

Training Holiday & Minimal Staffing Hours:
7:30am - 4:00pm

Freedom Crossing (PX) Pharmacy

1611 Haan Rd, Fort Bliss, TX 79906
Monday-Friday 9:30am-6:00pm

Training Holiday & Minimal Staffing Hours
8:30am - 5:00pm

Mendoza Soldier Family Care Center Pharmacy

11335 SSG Sims St, Fort Bliss, TX 79918,
Monday-Friday 7:00am-4:30pm

Training Holiday & Minimal Staffing Hours
7:30am - 4:00pm

East Bliss Pharmacy

21227 Torch St, Fort Bliss, TX 79918
Monday-Friday 7:00am - 3:30pm

Training Holiday & Minimal Staffing Hours
7:00am – 11:00am

William Beaumont Army Medical Center Pharmacy link:

EL PASO VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM PHARMACY

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

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

Please note, window service at the Pharmacy will be limited to new prescriptions only. So, for all refills, please use one of the 4 options listed above.
Location: 2nd Floor, West Hallway.
Hours: Mon - Fri.,
8:00am-4:30pm; Except Tues.,
9:00am-4:30pm

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

CHAPLAINS CORNER—Consuelo Sullivan

Oh, Dear Members, what great joy to see Christmas come around again. For Believers, it is a season to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. For people that are non Believers , it is also a joyous time because they have family gatherings, parties and a lot of fun activities.
For all of us, it is also a time to be grateful for our blessings, especially for our wonderful Country.
To think about how very blessed we are to have the Freedoms that God has granted us through all the brave men and women who have sacrificed their lives for the Liberty and Justice that we enjoy every day.
May we continue to hold these precious Freedoms and Privileges close to our hearts, remembering our loved ones that gave their lives to accomplish it.
Also our hearts go out to people that have lost their loved ones this year. Our prayers are with them.
God bless us all and Merry Christmas and a very Happy and safe New Year!

Auxiliary -

Dear Members, I am sure you have noticed that I like to write articles of miracles. This one is about a dear friend of mine who is a famous Artist. Her name is Krystina Robbins. My daughter Cindy and I visited her home to see her fabulous paintings, and while she was showing us her beautiful house, she told us about the miracle that God granted her Mother and Father.

Her Father, Josef Grelock, was an Editor of a Newspaper in Poland, and her Mother, Agnes Grelock, was a teacher and taught two boys of a very rich family.

When the German Army were going into Poland, destroying everything they could, her parents fled the country. Her Mother and Father got separated and her Mother wound up in Paris, France with her and her three sisters. She got a job in the Sorbone Art School sawing
uniforms because that school was turned into a factory during the war. They, her Mother and three Sisters lost track of their Father and did not know where he was. Her Mother then went to London and worked at the Red Cross.
In the mean time, her Father joined the Resistance Polish Group and then enlisted in the Polish Army and was a 1LT. After 2 ½ years, her Mother saw her husband's name on a list to find people that were missing. He was at an American Allied Army Station in Dundee Scotland.
She embarked on a journey to find her husband and, yes, the miracle happened, they found each other.
And , yes, we believers believe in God because He is the God of miracles.
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Surviving Spouse Corner: Celebrating Service, Keeping Connections

By: Dr. Vivianne WerselBy: Dr. Vivianne Wersel
https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/spotlight/surviving-spouse-corner-celebrating-service,-keeping-connections/

For many uniformed service couples, celebrating a service birthday is more than marking a date on the calendar. Birthday balls, ceremonies, traditions, and gatherings have long been important parts of service life, shared with spouses and families.
For a surviving spouse, the loss of a loved one can also mean unexpectedly losing some of those traditions and connections to the military community. A birthday celebration that was once a special evening together might suddenly raise a different question: **Where is my place now?**

Some surviving spouses continue to attend service birthday celebrations, while others might find it difficult to return or wonder where they will fit in. Finding the right organization, unit, installation, or group can provide an opportunity to reconnect. Sometimes it simply takes time to once again find **"a place at the table."** Remembering and celebrating a spouse's service birthday can be a small, meaningful way to maintain that connection and continue the tradition that was once shared.

[SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER: Strengthening Emotional Well-Being]
Many of you know that Nov. 10 is the Marine Corps' birthday — complete with ceremonies, cake cutting, and "Happy Birthday, Marine!" But what about the other branches? Each service has its own special day, full of history, traditions, and pride. Here's when and why they celebrate — and how long they've been serving our nation.

Army: The nation's oldest military branch was established on June 14, 1775, a year before the Declaration of Independence. The Continental Congress created the Continental Army to coordinate the colonies' military efforts against Great Britain during the Revolutionary War. Today, the Army celebrates its birthday with ceremonies, historical displays, and, of course, cake.

Navy: Just months after the Army was formed, the Continental Congress authorized the purchase of ships to disrupt British supply *lines — a move that marked Oct. 13, 1775, as the Navy's official birthday. Though the Navy was disbanded after the Revolution, it was reestablished in 1794. The modern Navy celebrates with fleet-wide observances, balls, and heritage events.*
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Continued on Page 8



EL Paso Chapter Outreach Foundation

Lennie Enzel, Acting President
Colonel, US Army, Retired

Welcome to winter! They say it will be a cold one – we shall see.

Thank you to those who have donated to support our multiple charitable initiatives. In September, we supported the city-wide Homeless Veteran Standdown. Recently, we received requests to support UTEP ROTC, a high school JROTC as well as a deployment fair for a Fort Bliss unit. The Board of Directors will weigh these requests against our available funds. Obviously, the more donations we receive, the more good works we can do.

As we always have, at our December Holiday Luncheon we will collect money and items for the Junior Enlisted Foodbank at the Armed Forces YMCA. They are requesting that we bring toys but also need non-perishable, non-expired food items and diapers as well as monetary donations. Please bring cash, a check, toys, food, or diapers to the meeting.

We continue to fund 3 scholarships to help our young people with their ever-rising college expenses. I encourage you to spread the word about that opportunity and encourage eligible students to apply. We also continue to support the very worthwhile Soldier Art Workshop and numerous VA programs. Perhaps the most heartwarming of these is the Veterans Treatment Court which diverts military veterans and active-duty service members with substance dependency, PTSD, TBI, or serious mental health issues away from traditional incarceration and into rehabilitation. Successful completion of the very rigorous program can lead to the dismissal or reduction of charges. We always have a Board member attend the graduation and give gift cards to the graduates. It is wonderful to see the pride of the graduates and their families. COL (Ret) Bob Wagner, El Paso MOAA Chapter President, was a recent speaker at a graduation. We are also looking into sponsoring an iteration of 'Coffee with Veterans'.

None of these very valuable programs would be possible without your contributions. Please continue to donate at https://www.elpasomoaa.org/donation_checkout.asp?donationid=1 or give us your donation at a meeting or mail it to EPMOAA, PO Box 6144, Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0144. **Please be sure to earmark your donation for the Outreach Foundaion**.

If you are aware of other military/Veteran opportunities worthy of our support, please let me know. I wish you a very happy, healthy, and safe holiday season.

El Paso, Texas
CHAPTER
MOAA
Military Officers Association of America
Outreach Foundation
a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization

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

Chapter MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT

YES! Sign me up as an El Paso Chapter Member

Name _____

Branch of Service _____ Rank _____
[ ] Retired [ ] Active [ ] Former
[ ] Reserve [ ] National Guard [ ] Auxiliary*
[ ] Friend of the Chapter
*Surviving spouse of eligible officer

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____ Phone Number _____

Unit_____

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

MOAA Number _____

Date of Birth _____

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

[ ] One-Year Hard Copy Membership $20

[ ] One-Year Electronic Membership $15

[ ] Multi-Year Memberships—— Contact Membership Chair

Method of Payment

[ ] Check (please make payable to El Paso MOAA) [ ] Visa [ ] Discover [ ]MasterCard [ ] AMEX
Charge my card $_____
Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____ CVS _____

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

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

Never Stop Serving!

MOAA

News

Pentagon Data Breach Could Impact Millions: What You Should Know

By: Kevin Lilley

https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/reads/pentagon-data-breach-could-impact-millions-what-you-should-know/

Unauthorized users accessed the records of millions of military-connected individuals housed in a Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) system, according to multiple media reports.

DMDC officials discovered the breach July 16, according to a notice sent to one of the individuals. The notice went out Sept. 18, according to a Military Times report.

Military Times was the first outlet to report the issue, but multiple media reports have followed despite no official news release or statement from the Pentagon or the DMDC as of Sept. 30.

Some details from those reports:

Size: *The initial Military Times report put the number of affected individuals at 4 million. Follow-up reports from ABC News and Federal News Network said the hack affected about a million fewer people – 2.8 million – along with the accounts of 294,000 deceased individuals.*

Timeline: *The notice, posted on the online forum Reddit, says "a small number of unauthorized users" had access to the information from October 2025 until the July discovery. Per the notice, the Pentagon "does not have any indications of misuse of the accessed information."*

Data Details: *Records may have included full names, birthdates, contact information, Social Security numbers, and military occupational specialty or other military-specific personnel information, according to the notice.*

Response: *DMDC officials are "taking appropriate action to assess and enhance the cybersecurity posture of the DMDC system," according to the notice. Those affected by the breach can request a year of free credit monitoring service through IDX, a DMDC official told Time magazine. Details on the IDX services appear in the notification.*

About DMDC: *The center serves as the "one, central access point for information and assistance" for servicemembers, veterans, and families on benefits, entitlements, and other programs, according to the DMDC website. It oversees identification card issuance, manages the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), and fields data requests, among other duties. DMDC held more than 60 million personnel records as of FY 2024, per the DMDC website.*

Unanswered Questions: *It's unclear who was responsible for the breach, what individuals may have accessed the files, or whether any specific set of records was targeted.*

All servicemembers (active and reserve components) are eligible for free credit monitoring services from Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. Those who believe they may be victims of identity theft can file a report with the Federal Trade Commission.

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Surviving Spuses contiuied from Page 5

[SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER: The Value of Connection]

Marine Corps: *Formed at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia (yes, a real tavern), the Continental Marines were established on Nov. 10, 1775, as naval infantry. The date was restored as the official birthday in 1921 by Marine Corps Order No. 47. Marines worldwide honor it with a traditional cake-cutting ceremony, a reading of the 1921 order, and a birthday message from the commandant*

Air Force: *While airpower existed before World War II, it wasn't until the National Security Act of 1947 that the U.S. Air Force became a separate branch, distinct from the Army Air Forces. The Air Force celebrates Sept. 18 with base events, flyovers, and heritage displays.*

Coast Guard: *The Coast Guard traces its origins to the Revenue Cutter Service, established on Aug. 4, 1790, by Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton to enforce tariffs and prevent smuggling. Over time, it merged with the U.S. Life-Saving Service to form today's Coast Guard — a unique organization that serves both military and law enforcement roles.*

Space Force: *The newest branch of the armed forces was established on Dec. 20, 2019, when the FY 2020 National Defense Authorization Act was signed into law. The Space Force organizes, trains, and equips forces to protect U.S. interests in space. Its birthday is celebrated with ceremonies and STEM outreach events.*

[RELATED: Space Force to Add 10,000 Guardians in Next 5 Years]

U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps: *Although its origins are traced to the Marine Hospital Service of 1798, the Commissioned Corps was formally established on Jan. 4, 1889, as a uniformed service dedicated to public health. Officers serve in roles spanning health, science, and engineering across the nation and abroad, often alongside other armed services during emergencies.*

NOAA Commissioned Corps: *On May 22, 1917, the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Corps was established as a commissioned corps, and in 1970, it became known as the NOAA Corps. Today, as one of the nation's esteemed uniformed services, NOAA Corps officers play a vital role within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, commanding ships and piloting aircraft to monitor atmospheric and oceanic conditions.*

El Paso, Texas
CHAPTER
MOAA
Military Officers Association of America
Outreach Foundation
a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization

Giving Day 2026 is Here!

Each year the **El Paso MOAA Outreach Foundation** raises funds for our coming year charitable projects on **Giving Tuesday, the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving— this year on 1 December 2026.** Outreach programs depend on El Paso MOAA Members and Friends support on this important day. This year more than ever many active duty and veteran charitable organizations and activities are in need of our help—please help us to help them.

Thanks to our Member generosity last year in we support TWO National MOAA Scholarships in addition to a Chapter Scholarship program in El Paso. Charitable contributions were provided to Army ACS, the Jr Enlisted Food Bank, Veteran's Court, supporting Nursing programs and other Veteran programs. Additionally, your Foundation supports the Ft Bliss MWR Resilience in Art and SKIES Youth Programs.

Our Success in 2027 will depend on

El Paso MOAA Giving Day

First Tuesday after Thanksgiving!

December 1st, 2026

https://www.elpasomoaa.org

Please Don't forget to DONATE!!

Foundation Donations can be made at:

www.elpasomoaa.org/outreachfoundation

or

send your donation to the address below.

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

12 September Luncheon













El Paso Mineral, Gem & Fossil Show

December 4–6, 2026

Friday & Saturday 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-5pm

El Paso Maida Shrine Auditorium
6331 Alabama Street, El Paso, Texas



Free Parking · Door Prizes · Family Friendly · Free Admission · Kids Activities

Vendor contact: Liz K. • 915-328-5488 • ekosturakis@gmail.com

Est. 1947

www.epmgsTX.org

EL PASO MINERAL AND GEM SOCIETY SCHOOL
(The Redgie Medlock School of Jewelry Arts)

Memorial Park Senior Center
1800 Byron St. • El Paso, Texas 79930

For information and registration call 915-212-0391 from 9am-4pm

CLASSES

LAPIDARY - Monday and Wednesday 9am-12pm
Cutting a rock/stone into slabs then shape and polish them to make a cabochon

SILVERSMITH - Monday and Wednesday 9am-12pm & (afternoon class) 12:30-3:30pm
Setting a cabochon in silver. Cutting, shaping and soldering the silver into jewelry

FACETING - Tuesday and Thursday 9am-12pm
Shaping and polishing crystals and precious stones into gems

LOST WAX CASTING - Tuesday and Thursday 9am-12pm
Carving a mold out of wax to make a plaster mold and pouring the melted metal into the form

CREATIVE ARTS - Tuesday and Thursday 12:30pm to 3:30pm
Alternative methods of jewelry making offered at different sessions such as wire wrapping, glass fusing, beading, chain making, precious metal clay, etc....

The class sessions are 6 weeks long. The school is closed 1 week after each session then opens again for another 6 weeks, etc..

Tuition for each session ranges from $26 - $56 depending on age and place of residence (subject to change)

DRAFT CLASS SCHEDULE OCT 8, 2026

KIDS CLASSES—SKIES	ADULT CLASSES—ART & HOBBY	SPECIAL EVENTS
VETERAN CLASSES	INTREPID CENTER CLASSES	TEEN CENTER CLASSES

Date / Time	Program	Workshop / Class	Instructor
★ JANUARY 2027			
Wednesday's 4:30–6:00 PM	KIDS	Fiber Art 1	Lindsay Kronmiller
Thu Jan 22, 5–7 PM Sat Jan 24, 10 AM–2 PM	ADULTS	Mixed Media / Drawing	Carmen Navar
TBD	VETERANS	Veteran Class	TBD
★ FEBRUARY 2027			
Wednesday's 4:30–6:00 PM	KIDS	Drawing 1	Mark Cardoza
Sat Feb 6, 10 AM–2 PM	ADULTS	Metal Embossing	Romy Hawkins
TBD	INTREPID	Intrepid Center Class	TBD
★ MARCH 2027			
Wednesday's 4:30–6:00 PM	KIDS	Watercolor 1	Paul Branham
Fri Mar 20, 5–7 PM Sat Mar 21, 10 AM–2 PM	ADULTS	Charcoal/Pencil & Pastel Self Portrait	Frank Rimbach
TBD	TEEN	Teen Center Class	TBD
★ APRIL 2027			
Wednesday's 4:30–6:00 PM	KIDS	Encaustics	Kirsten J.
Saturday, April	SPECIAL	Video Walking Tour	Kyran Adams
Fri 10, 5–7 PM Sat Apr 11, 10 AM–2 PM	ADULTS	Plein Air Painting	Krystyna Robbins
TBD	VETERANS	Veteran Class	TBD
★ MAY 2027			
Wednesday's 4:30–6:00 PM	KIDS	Mixed Media	Terri Finklea
Thu May 20, 5–7 PM Sat May 22, 10 AM–2 PM	ADULTS	Encaustics	Michael Capron (Percepticon)
TBD	INTREPID	Intrepid Center Class	TBD
★ JUNE 2027			
Wednesday's 4:30–6:00 PM	SKIES	Acrylic/Mixed Media	Gina Lochausen
TBD	KIDS SUMMER CAMP	SKIES CAMP	TBD
Sat Jun 6, 10 AM–2 PM	Adult (SAW)	Glass Fusion	Lisa Magnano
TBD	TEEN	Teen Center Class	TBD



GUEST SPEAKER

COLONEL WENDY L. GRAY

Director, William Beaumont Army Medical Center

Colonel Wendy L. Gray recently served as Chief of Staff, Medical Readiness Command West for the past year.

Her career began as a Combat Medic, transitioning to a Licensed Practical Nurse before entering the Noncommissioned Officer Corps in 1995. In 1999, she was selected for the Army Enlisted Commissioning Program, earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia, and commissioning as a Second Lieutenant into the United States Army Nurse Corps. Colonel Gray's commitment to advanced education led her to the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland, where she earned a Master of Science in Nursing as a Family Nurse Practitioner and subsequently qualified as an Aviation Flight Nurse Practitioner. She is a graduate of the Officer Basic Course, Advanced Course, Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College. A dedicated professional, she is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing and the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

Throughout her career, Colonel Gray has held key leadership positions including Commander of Fox Army Health Center, Director of Strategic Initiatives Group, OTSG, Commander of Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center, and Deputy Commander for Nursing at Rader Army Health Center. She also served as an Assignment Officer for the Army Nurse Corps Branch at Human Resources Command, Officer in Charge of the Warrior Transition Clinic at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, Commander of the Community Based Warrior Transition Unit in Rock Island, Illinois, and Department Chief, Department of Warrior Care, Ireland Army Community Hospital, along with clinical and leadership positions at Brooke Army Medical Center and Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Colonel Gray's military awards include the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Army Achievement Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster. She is also a respected member of The Order of Military Medical Merit.

She is married to 1SG (Ret.) Lomack Gray Jr., and together they are proud parents of 1LT Taylor B. Gray.

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

December 2026 Membership Meeting & Lunch
Centennial Banquet and Conference Center
11199 Sergeant E. Churchill Street, Fort Bliss, TX 79916

Date: Saturday, 5 December 2026
Time: 1130 -1430

Guest Speaker:

Colonel Wendy L. Gray

Commander, WBAMC



Menu

Herbed Roast Beef

Rosemary Oven Roasted New Potatoes

Tossed Green Salad

Coffee, Iced Tea, and Water

MOAA Cake

Dress: Christmas Casual

Cost: $25/person

Lunch Treasurer: treasurer@elpasomoaa.org

Membership or email queries: membership@elpasomoaa.org

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

Please fill in this acceptance slip, and return to the Treasurer by Wednesday, 2 December 2026 with a check for $25 per person, the cost of the luncheon. **Late Reservations**, call Dave Powell, 915-491-1272, by Noon, Thursday, December 3, and pay at the door.

Lunch will be on Saturday 5 December 2026 at 11:30 a.m.

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

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

My check for $ _____ ($25.00 per person) made payable to the "El Paso Chapter" is enclosed.

Name of Member: _____

Telephone Number: _____
Name(s) of Guests: _____

Name(s) of Guests: _____

Name(s) of Guests: _____



Doc's Corner
Daniel Washburn, M.D.

Gluten is a protein found in many foods including grains such as wheat, barley and rye. Gluten intolerance is estimated to affect 1 in 20 people in the U.S. Anyone can have gluten intolerance but is more common in women. Some people are born with this condition and others develop it later in life. You are at higher risk of having gluten intolerance if you also have irritable bowel syndrome or sensitivity to other foods.

Gluten intolerance is when you get sick eating gluten. Symptoms from eating gluten vary but may include feeling bloated, gassy, tired, stomach pain, headache, trouble concentrating, nausea, diarrhea or constipation. The exact cause of gluten intolerance in uncertain but for some reason, some people's bodies don't absorb these proteins, so they ferment in the gut and cause symptoms.

Gluten intolerance and gluten allergy or celiac disease is not the same thing. They cause similar symptoms but are not the same. In celiac disease, there is an immune response against gluten which causes inflammation in the intestines and can damage the gut. In gluten intolerance, there is no immune response, just certain symptoms from eating gluten.

A doctor diagnoses gluten intolerance by reviewing symptoms and getting a medical history. While on a gluten diet, blood and skin tests are done to rule-out celiac disease. Then, symptoms are monitored while on a gluten free diet. Gluten is then eaten again and symptoms once again monitored. If celiac disease is not present and symptoms worsen and improve while on and off gluten, then gluten intolerance is diagnosed.

Unfortunately, there is not a cure for gluten intolerance. Treatment is avoiding gluten in the diet as much as possible. A gluten free diet can lead to other vitamin and nutrient deficiencies so the diet should be monitored by a healthcare provider or nutritionist. Gluten is in many foods such as pasta, cereal, beer, bread and baked goods, many packaged snacks, pancakes, waffles and donuts. Also, in condiments such as ketchup, salad dressings, soy sauce and barbecue sauce. It is not simple to eat a gluten free diet but will alleviate the distressful symptoms of gluten intolerance.

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

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MEMBERSHIP

Tom Handy

Strength in our chapter does not happen by accident. We build it through deliberate action, shared commitment, and staying connected to the Fort Bliss community that makes the borderland strong.

Every legislative win we secure for service members, every scholarship we fund for local students, and every veteran initiative we support in Greater El Paso depends on our organization's size and engagement. When our ranks grow, our voice carries real weight in Washington.

Right now, El Paso is home to thousands of retired, former, and active-duty officers, noncommissioned officers, and dedicated military family members who have never stepped through our door. Many don't realize our mission extends across the entire military household, or they assume MOAA is only for commissioned retirees.

Our mission requires the perspective, leadership, and daily grit of our NCOs and the unwavering support of our military spouses and surviving spouses. We are far stronger when the entire military family has a seat at the table.

That is where each of you comes in.

Personal outreach beats a flyer or an email blast every single time. People listen when the invitation comes from someone they trust, someone who understands the demands of military service and the realities of transition and family life.

When you connect with prospective members this month, focus on what our chapter delivers:

- Grassroots advocacy - Protecting military healthcare, earned retirement pay, survivor benefits, and veteran entitlements from persistent budget cuts.
- Total force representation - Bridging the experience of officers, senior NCOs, and family members to address issues impacting the entire military community.
- Local community impact - Supporting Fort Bliss units, expanding outreach for surviving spouses and delivering practical community assistance right here in El Paso.

Genuine fellowship - Connecting with people who understand service, shared sacrifice, and the commitment to give back long after hanging up the uniform.

Steady growth is straightforward. If every current member introduces just one person—a colleague, an NCO leader you served with, or a military spouse looking to stay connected—we double our capacity to support our local community.

Bring a guest to our next general meeting. Introduce them to our team, let them experience the room, and show them that our dedication to service continues long after active duty.

Reach out to me directly if you have a prospective member who needs details on joining or getting connected with our local chapter. Let’s keep moving forward.

Thanks,

Tom

Tom Handy
Ghost Writer
915-996-1076

Why Join the El Paso Chapter of MOAA?

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

Local Meetings

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

Local Chapter Activities

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

Local Community Action

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

Key Dates 2027
MOAA Meetings & Luncheons
March 13, 2027
June 12, 2027
September 11, 2027
December 4, 2027
Input for the Border Bulletin
January 31, 2027
April 30, 2027
Aug 01, 2027
October 30, 2027

Board Meetings
30-Jan
24-Apr
31-Jul
31-Oct

New Members

LTC Steve Sawyer
MAJ Jameson Hoffman
Mr. Steven Loos
Mrs. Lillian Crouch
Mrs. Ruby Rhodes
SGM Michelle Crittendon

CPT Emonena Itugbu
MAJ Stephanie Okolo
COL John Abella
LTC Deliris Montanez
COL John Dorney

Renewals

COL Daniel Washburn
COL Blake Wayman
Mrs. Laura Charity

Retiree and Annuitant Pay Dates for 2027

Entitlement Month	Retired Pay Date	Annuitant Pay Date
Jan-27	1-Feb-27	1-Feb-27
Feb-27	1-Mar-27	1-Mar-27
Mar-27	1-Apr-27	1-Apr-27
Apr-27	30-Apr-27	30-Apr-27
May-27	1-Jun-27	1-May-27
Jun-27	1-Jul-27	1-Jul-27
Jul-27	30-Jul-27	30-Jul-27
Aug-27	1-Sep-27	1-Sep-27
Sep-27	1-Oct-27	1-Oct-27
Oct-27	1-Nov-27	1-Nov-27
Nov-27	1-Dec-27	1-Dec-27
Dec-27	31-Dec-27	31-Dec-27

Foundation Officers 2025

President COL Lennie Enzel (RET)
Vice-President VACANT
Secretary VACANT
Treasurer LTC Dave Powell (RET)
Chapter Advisor COL Robert Wagner (RET)

Board of Directors

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Vice President VACANT
Secretary VACANT
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Col (R) Lennie Enzel (RET)
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Cpt (R) David Thackston (RET)
Chaplain Connie Sullivan
President, El Paso MOAA Chapter

COL Robert Wagner (RET)



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Thrift Shop Liaison	**VACANT**		
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Awards/Grants	**VACANT**		
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elpasomoaa.org

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