



MOAATM
 Military Officers Association of America
 Southwest Illinois Chapter

*Eyes
 to the
 Skies*

April 2019

President's Input

Thanks to all participants responding to the call from Nick Wartonick and Ann Morey (and others) to contribute to the fund drive for USO of Missouri and the St Louis Fisher House! Another successful campaign due to the energy of those involved. Giving exceeded our \$5,000 goal! And that doesn't include the non-perishables donated by two area high schools and several other individuals. Thanks for taking the time to support this worthwhile cause.

Many thanks to Lt Col (ret) Scott Wadle (pronounced Wod-lee), USMC, who is the Programs Chair for Council & Chapters at MOAA, for the time he spent with our Chapter last month. Your board had the opportunity for a one-on-one session with Lt Col Wadle at breakfast before he shared time to present a quick overview of the national organization at the lunch meeting. We all appreciated his appearing and providing us with some great information on how MOAA is addressing many of the support issues facing the Chapters.

Happy 75th birthday to the US Air Force Academy! On April 1, 1954, President Truman signed the bill that authorized this institution, just 6-1/2 years after the US Air Force became a separate Service. April also has many other historically significant dates. On April 18, 1775, Paul Revere made his famous ride from Boston to (almost) Concord. "The Shot Heard Round the World" in Lexington, Massachusetts on April 19, 1775. The Doolittle Raiders made their foray across Japan on April 18,

Continued on page 3

Quarterly Happy Hour
Don't forget to join us in April for our happy hour meeting. (See Program News for details.)

| Treasurer's Report for March 2019 | |
|--|----------|
| Checking Account Balance ... | \$1,259 |
| Savings Account Balance | \$6,136 |
| Certificates of Deposit | \$15,150 |
| Total | \$22,545 |

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Visit us on Facebook! *(click logo on left)*

This Month's Program



Our April meeting is back at the Cardinal Creek Golf Course Clubhouse.

After dinner, we'll hear from Col (ret) Randy Lanning, a chapter member and volunteer AF Museum Docent.

Hope to see you there!

13 April 2019

Dinner/Meeting

Cardinal Creek Golf Course Clubhouse, Scott AFB IL

Tuscany Italian Buffet

Cash Bar

Social Hour: 6-7 pm, Dinner: 7 pm

Cost: \$22.00/person

Attire: Business Casual

Tuscany Italian Buffet

Three different Pastas
Three different Sauces
Italian Sausage and Peppers

Caesar or Tossed Salad
Garlic Bread
Tea & Coffee
Dessert

Quarterly Happy Hour Meeting -- Please join us for our Quarterly Happy Hour Meeting on 18 April from 1630 to 1830 hours (that's 4:30 to 6:30 pm). It's casual with no agenda or guest speaker. Just good conversation. See you there!

Upcoming Programs

| Date | Venue | Topic |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 18 May 2019 | Ann Morey's Home | Annual Business Meeting |
| Jun 2019 | TBD | TBD |

President's Input (continued)

1942, just over 3 months after the devastating attack on the US Naval Pacific fleet in Pearl Harbor. El Dorado Canyon—the raid on Libya—on April 14, 1986. Many others out there.

Two things: membership and help for transitioning servicemembers and their spouses. Basic membership is still FREE, but there are no time limits associated with this level. Services and support, however, are limited compared to the paying Premium and Life Members. MOAA BASIC Members have free electronic access to MOAA e-communications about news and support of critical advocacy efforts to protect your military benefits, along with some discounts for products and travel. Joining at the Premium (annual) level, the cost is \$48 for one year, \$82 for two years, and \$108 for three years. That fee also includes a subscription to the monthly Military Officer magazine (\$12 value), and opens up access to member books & guides, financial planning & investment advice, scholarships and interest-free loans & grants for your children, advice on military pay & benefits, career transition resources.

If you're in a transition phase, be that as a result of retiring, separating, or just a Permanent Change of Station, you might be interested in the offer that LinkedIn, the professional networking site, is making to military families in transition. LinkedIn offers for retiring servicemembers and veterans a one-year free premium membership, along with access to military-specific career programs, live webinars, and other tools, and in 2018 expanded that to military spouses who are making PCS moves or whose spouse is leaving service. And this offer extends to all ranks, all Services, so get the word out!

God bless you for your service and support of MOAA, the military community, and the nation!

MOAA Celebrates 90 Years of Advocacy

On Feb. 23, 1929, when Col. Arthur T. Marix, USMC (Ret), and 62 other officers gathered to start The Retired Officers Association (later evolving into the Military Officers Association of America in 2003), they couldn't have imagined how their legacy would enrich the lives of millions of servicemembers and veterans, and their families.



Birthdays are an ideal time to reflect on the milestones of past achievements - like 1985, when MOAA joined 15 military associations to form The Military Coalition; or 2001, when we helped establish TRICARE for Life; or 2017, when we won a 2.4-percent pay raise for active duty troops and helped extend the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance.

We also take this opportunity to look to our future. This April, MOAA looks forward to mobilizing our members to achieve more wins for the military and veteran community; we'll "Storm the Hill" and educate lawmakers on why we need to eliminate the Survivor Benefit Plan-Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset (also known as the widows tax), stabilize TRICARE fees, and maintain compensation for currently serving troops.

There's no need for any Hallmark cards poking fun at getting older - with more than nine decades of advocacy experience now under our collective belt, we can proudly say youth is overrated.

Thank you for helping to make the past 90 years so successful. Here's to the next 90!

MOAA staff and representatives from the numerous Councils and Chapters across the US will gather on April 8, 2019 for the annual Storming the Hill event in which each elected representative in Congress individually or their staff will be visited to receive a dose of the three issues that MOAA is pursuing this year. Those three issues are:

Legislative News (continued)

- 1) The widows tax, or Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)-Dependent and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset
 - a) SBP-DIC offset: <http://takeaction.moaa.org/app/write-a-letter?17&engagementId=495393>
 - b) Current federal law requires survivors of deceased military members to forfeit part or all of their purchased Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity when they are awarded the VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). This loss of any portion of the SBP annuity is known as the widows tax. For approximately 67,000 military survivors, the widows tax makes SBP the only insurance that you pay into but are legally prohibited from collecting.
- 2) Pay raise of 3.1% for active duty servicemembers
 - a) Active Duty Pay Raise: <http://takeaction.moaa.org/app/write-a-letter?7&engagementId=493696>
 - b) Sustain military pay increases comparable to the growth in civilian sector wages and salaries. The employment cost index (ECI) was 3.1 percent in 2018, and our active duty servicemembers deserve the full pay raise in the FY2020 NDAA.
- 3) TRICARE fees and co-pays.
 - a) TRICARE Fees: <http://takeaction.moaa.org/app/write-a-letter?3&engagementId=494195>
 - b) Yes, your TRICARE fees and cost shares are once again in the crosshairs. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) recently published their annual list of budget strategies with options for policymakers to consider as they begin the budgeting process for next year. And as we know, they will be looking to increase revenue any way they can get it – so knowing in advance the areas they are going to focus on is a powerful offense for MOAA.
 - c) The CBO has targeted the following areas in TRICARE, and none of the proposals reflect, or even hint at, the price a military retiree or their family has paid up front for their health care with their service and sacrifice. Nor, that DoD's annual outlays for TFL have actually gone down or remained flat year over year.

All three of these issues need our support and are available in the Legislative Action Center section of the MOAA website.

There are several other issues that require our support to ensure that the correct message is sent to Congress, among them are full concurrent support for disabled military retirees, helping Blue Water Navy veterans, and protecting Gold Star spouses during any future government shutdowns. Please go to the Legislative Action Center for more information on these issues-- <http://takeaction.moaa.org/?26>.

Reliance on military physicians may become more tenuous in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 if the anticipated cuts of 17,000 physicians actually comes to pass. In an article posted on the MOAA website, CAPT Kathryn Beasley, USN (ret), MOAA's Director of Government Relations, Health Affairs, discussed the impacts of the proposed personnel reductions, stating that this reduction in concert with an estimated shortage of physicians in the US by 2030 (42,600 to 121,300) spells certain challenges for military readiness. Additional impacts will likely be felt by the military beneficiary population who use Military Treatment Facilities, forcing them to seek care in the private sector and TRICARE network, with new and higher fees and co-pays. Services such as laboratory and pharmacy also become questionable as to availability. MOAA will continue to monitor activities in regards to the proposals in the FY2020 budget and beyond.

CAPT Beasley provided further information in an article about TRICARE satisfaction rates falling. Over 8,000 military beneficiaries responded to MOAA's most recent health care survey, which ended in January. Trends indicating dissatisfaction of TRICARE beneficiaries over certain aspects of the TRICARE program have shown even greater increases over last the last year. Of all respondents to the survey, 68 percent received their care with a civilian provider and 16 percent through a military treatment facility.

The graphic on the next page shows changes between the December 2017 and December 2018 surveys.

Legislative News (continued)

Key findings include:

- A notable decrease in overall program satisfaction experienced by beneficiaries using both TRICARE Select (a decrease of 10 percent) and Prime (a decrease of 12 percent). TRICARE for Life beneficiaries continue to maintain high levels of satisfaction.
- Most beneficiaries continue to be less satisfied with the cost of their care. TRICARE Select beneficiaries lead the way with 45 percent of respondents indicating some level of dissatisfaction. Changes to the TRICARE Pharmacy program have also impacted beneficiaries' satisfaction with the cost of their medications. All beneficiary categories show significant decreases.
- Active duty families were more likely to defer or cancel appointments and medications due to cost concerns than average. While 90 percent of respondents had never canceled an appointment or prescription, 81 percent of active duty families had.

A small representation of close to 4,000 write-in survey comments reveal a sense of anxiety and frustration many beneficiaries feel about the changes they have incurred with TRICARE fees and access to care:

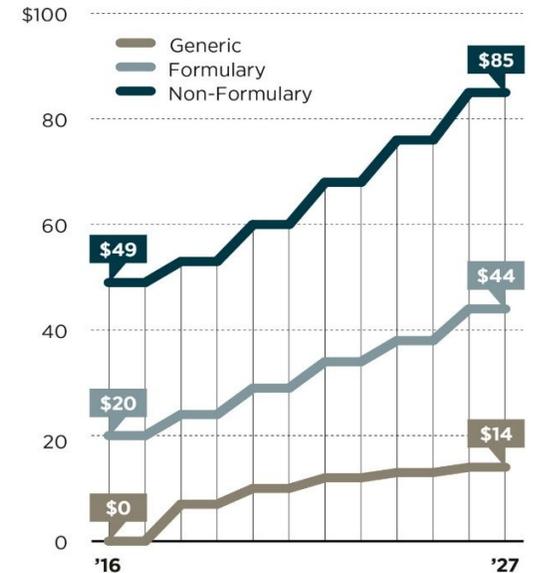
“Access to same day appointments unavailable at Eisenhower GA so families are forced to visit civilian Urgent Care at a \$30 copay. Access to routine appointments that should be within 7 days take 3-4 WEEKS - cost-shares of appointments such as speech went up from \$12 to \$30. Forced us to cancel MANY appointments for our daughter! Unable to afford Urgent Care appts AND speech appts AND pay for medications needed in retail pharmacy.”

Continued on next page

PRESCRIPTION COSTS ON THE RISE

Mail order generic prescriptions have already leapt from \$0 to \$7 since last year and are expected to double to \$14 over the next ten years. Over this same period, mail order formularies will increase 120%, and non-formularies will increase by 73%.

Mail Order (90 day supply)



SOURCE: 2018 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

GRAPHIC BY JOHN HARMAN/MOAA

| Chapter Officers | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| President | Col (ret) Bob Norman |
| 1st Vice President | Open |
| 2nd Vice President | Maj (ret) Rick Sunner |
| Secretary | Lt Col (ret) Ann Morey |
| Treasurer | Col (ret) Dick Glogowski |
| Communications | Maj (ret) Rick Sunner |
| ROTC Liaison | CDR (ret) Tim Grout |
| Spouses Liaison | Narni Cahill |

Call for Articles! If you want to submit an article for the Eyes to the Skies, just send the draft article to me at rick.sunner@gmail.com. Please keep these things in mind:

- Submit your article by the 10th of the month
- The article must be in MS Word or text format

We reserve the right to edit the article so it fits in the newsletter and meets our (and MOAA's) editorial policy.

Editorial Policy

The Southwest Illinois Chapter Newsletter is published monthly by the Southwest Illinois Chapter which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are nonpartisan.



Legislative News (continued)



SOURCE: MOAA TRICARE BENEFICIARY SURVEY

GRAPHIC BY JOHN HARMAN/MOAA

"Can NEVER get a timely appointment at our military treatment facility - Referral cost increase -- \$12 to \$30 -- ridiculous; basically a tax hike."

"Tricare Prime costs went up which is fine but access to care went down. We basically have to pay more for less. Can't afford therapies and medications. Skip appointments and no longer refill medications because we can't afford them."

"\$30 each visit to physical therapy. Adds up when 15-20 visits required!! Also adding to cost is the \$35/month MEDICARE increase."

"\$41.00 cost per any referral out to specialist is absurdly high any prohibits me from making MANY necessary appointments. 10 physical therapy sessions in one month means I have to pay \$410 out of pocket that month and I cannot afford it. Second, those are preventative medicine/therapy. That means when I don't do them, I am ultimately just making things worse down the road. It would be cheaper for me to just have surgery."

MOAA has surveyed the military beneficiary population for over a year. Analyzing the data shows a majority of beneficiaries view their TRICARE benefit as one for which they are paying more and receiving less. Forgoing needed medical care and medications is not the health care benefit they thought they were getting. These surveys allow MOAA to accurately portray the effects these policies will have on beneficiaries. MOAA will continue its outreach and continue pressing for changes, while fighting any *new* disproportionate cost shares.

The Draft: A federal judge has ruled that a men-only draft is unconstitutional, but he stopped short of ordering the Selective Service System to register women for military service. The Houston judge sided with a San Diego men's advocacy group that challenged the government's practice of having only men sign up for the draft, citing sex discrimination in violation of the Fifth Amendment's equal protection clause. "This case balances on the tension between the constitutionally enshrined power of Congress to raise armies and the constitutional mandate that no person be denied the equal protection of the law," wrote U.S. District Judge Gray Miller of the Southern District of Texas.

The lawsuit was filed in 2013 against the Selective Service System by Texas resident James Lesmeister, who later added San Diego resident Anthony Davis and the San Diego-based National Coalition for Men as additional plaintiffs. The two men had standing to sue the government because they were within the age range of 18 to 26 in which men in the United States are required to register with Selective Service. Coalition attorney Marc Angelucci said in a statement on 23 Feb that he is pleased with the court decision. "Forcing only males to register is an aspect of socially institutionalized male disposability and helps reinforce the stereotypes that support discrimination against men in other areas" such as divorce, child custody and

Legislative News (continued)

domestic violence services, Angelucci said. “Women are now allowed in combat, so this decision is long overdue,” he added. “After decades of sex discrimination against men in the Selective Service, the courts have finally found it unconstitutional to force only men to register.”

The government asked the judge to dismiss the suit or stay a decision until a national commission studying the issue of women’s draft registration reaches a recommendation. The judge noted that could take years, and even then Congress isn’t required to follow the commission’s findings. “Congress has been debating the male-only registration requirement since at least 1980,” Miller wrote. The government pointed to a 1981 U.S. Supreme Court decision that the Military Selective Service Act was constitutional as written, to exclude women, because women restricted from combat were not offered similar opportunities that men had. Miller found that reasoning no longer applicable, since the Department of Defense lifted all gender-based restrictions on military service — including combat roles — in 2015.

The judge likewise disagreed with the government’s position that drafting women would be an administrative burden and that far more women than men will be found physically unfit for service after being drafted. Congress has expressed few concerns about female physical ability, but did focus more on societal consequences of drafting young mothers to go off to war, Miller said. “If there was ever a time to discuss ‘the place of women in the Armed Services,’ that time has passed,” Miller concluded.

VA Disability Claims: Priority Processing for Purple Heart Awardees

VA News Release

On 26 Feb at a congressional hearing before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie announced that effective in April, VA will provide priority disability benefits claims processing for the initial claims from discharged combat Veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart Medal. “Those who hold the Purple Heart, the recognition of wounds taken in battle, will now receive priority consideration when it comes to claims before the Department of Veterans Affairs,” said Secretary Wilkie. The Veterans Benefits Administration will amend its priority processing categories to include initial claims received from Purple Heart recipients on or after April 1, 2019.

Purple Heart recipients are already treated on a priority basis at VA hospitals and are exempt from co-payments for their medical care. The Purple Heart award is the oldest U.S. military decoration and is awarded to U.S. service members for wounds suffered at the hands of the enemy. General George Washington awarded the first purple-colored heart-shaped badges to soldiers who fought in the Continental Army during the American Revolution. In 1932, it was revived to commemorate Washington’s 200th birthday.

ILLINOIS News

In the Illinois General Assembly, HB0034 amends the Property Tax Code to extend the tax calculations based on a veteran’s disability to the surviving spouse upon the death of the veteran. Currently, when the veteran dies, the property taxes return to the regular rate for the surviving spouse. Please contact your representative to support this important legislation for the families of our deceased veterans.

Governor JB Pritzker announced a new appointment to lead the Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs, nominating Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia to head the agency. “The Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs has faced numerous challenges, and it’s a priority for my administration to ensure that our veterans are treated with dignity and get the care and opportunities they deserve,” said Governor JB Pritzker. “Representative Chapa LaVia is a steadfast advocate and effective change-maker, and I appreciate her willingness to continue to serve.”

Legislative News (continued)

“As a veteran, I’m honored to step up and serve all the men and women who have served our nation,” said Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia. “Illinois has much work to do to live up to our responsibilities to our veterans, and I am deeply committed to making Illinois the best state in the nation to be a veteran.”

Lieutenant Colonel (R) Jaime E. Martinez, the executive director of Illinois Joining Forces, asked the administration to remove his name from consideration to serve as the Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs.

“I have asked Governor Pritzker to remove me from consideration for director at this time and want to personally thank him for his confidence in my leadership abilities and experience,” said Colonel Martinez. “This decision has not been made in haste, for those who know me I have always strived to serve my country and my state without recourse and will continue to follow that mission. I applaud the Governor for his leadership and for prioritizing the quality of life and safety of all Veterans and their families in Illinois.”

Representative Linda Chapa LaVia will serve as Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA).

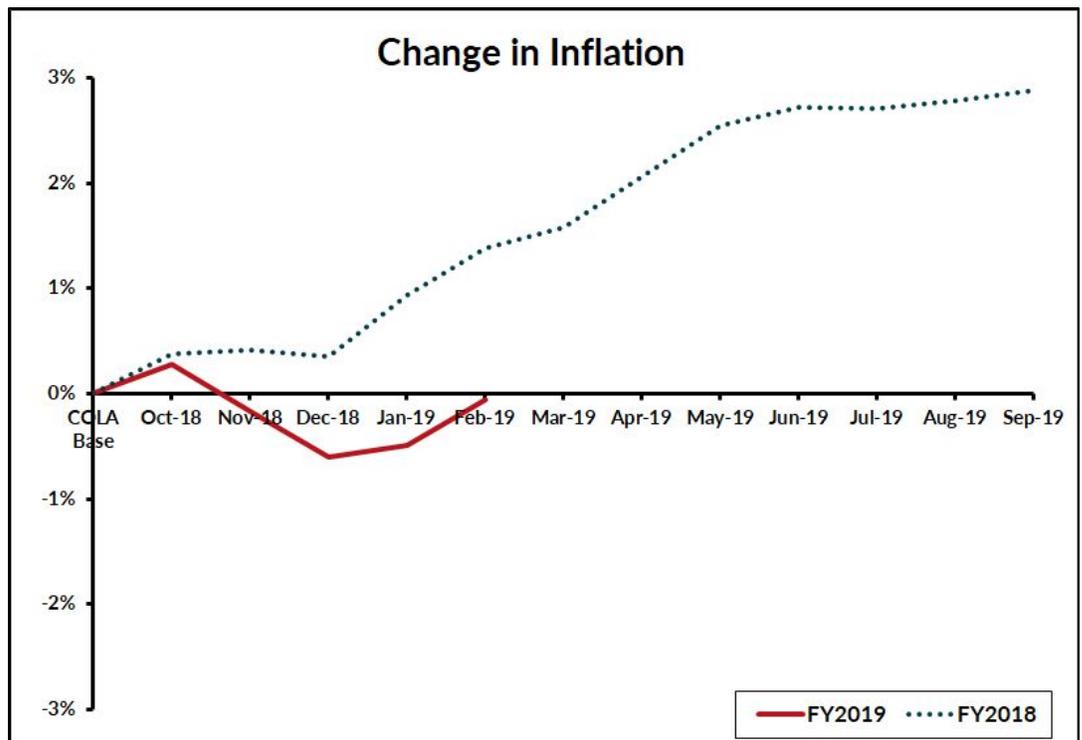
Representative Chapa LaVia was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 2002, becoming the first Latino to be elected to the General Assembly from outside of Cook County. When she was elected, she resigned her commission in the Illinois Army National Guard. Chapa LaVia was born and raised in Aurora, Illinois. She graduated from East Aurora High School and then went onto to become the first in her family to graduate from college. Recognizing the commitment she has for her fellow veterans, she joined the House Veteran Affairs committee during her first term starting in 2003. Two years later she was promoted to Vice-Chair of the committee, and since 2009 has served as the committee’s chair. Chapa LaVia is a member of the Roosevelt-Aurora American Legion Post 84 and the Military Officers Association of America (West Suburban Chicago Chapter) Linda lives in Aurora with her husband Vernon, a veteran of the United States Navy, and their two teenage daughters.

COLA Watch

The February 2019 CPI is 246.218, 0.1 percent below the FY 2019 COLA baseline.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for March is scheduled to be released April 10.

The CPI baseline for FY 2019 is 246.352.



The 2019 USO/FISHER HOUSE DONATIONS DRIVE

By Nick Wartonick

Your Money Is Well Spent

By the time you read this, the money collected during our chapter's 2019 campaign will have been delivered to both our local USO and local Fisher House. These two organizations will spend your donations on their needs to prepare themselves to serve and support in their respective roles, so their purposes, operations and physical set-ups should be of interest. The following overviews will give you a perspective and some facts and figures on their significant contributions to our military community.

USO of Missouri, Inc.

The USO of Missouri, Inc. is a civilian, non-profit, financially independent entity that provides a home-like atmosphere for our troops (and often their families) when they travel and when uniformed military personnel are deployed away from their families or home stations. It receives no government, military or United Way funds, and it is not a DOD agency. Their mission statement is: "The mission of the USO of Missouri, Inc. is to strengthen America's military service members by keeping them connected to family, home and country throughout their service to the nation."

The hub or center of the USO of Missouri is the James S. McDonnell USO (named for the founder of McDonnell Aircraft), which was first established in 1981 in the Main Terminal (now Terminal 1) at St. Louis International Airport at Lambert Field. In 2005, the Dennis Jones Family Foundation provided the agency with a mobile unit to enable travel throughout Missouri and Southern Illinois, thereby taking USO services and amenities straight to the troops wherever they may be located in the region. There are now two mobile units. Next, the 18,000 square foot Fort Leonard Wood USO was added to the system in mid-2006 to localize services for this sprawling Army training center. Finally, in 2007, through the generosity of the Vern and Joan Wendt family, the USO at Lambert Field was expanded to two facilities with a much needed addition in Terminal 2. The facilities at the airport and Fort Leonard Wood provide absolutely free places to call or email home, play video games, watch television or a movie, grab a snack, recreate, or even take a nap in the airport dormitory.

Some facts and figures about 'our' USO are:

- Since 1981, some 5,200,000 traveling military and their families have benefited.
- In recent years, about 275,000 military men and women and their families are served annually.
- At Christmastime alone, upwards of 5,000 uniformed travelers will visit the airport's centers in a single day.
- Up to 1,000 new recruits meet at the Terminal 1 facility each week.
- Ten staff members and 1,200 dedicated volunteers serve, including 24/7, 365 coverage at the Terminal 1 facility.
- It would take almost \$1,000,000 to pay the volunteers.

St. Louis Fisher House

At the founding of the Fisher House Foundation in 1970, Zachary Fisher stated, "Dedicated to our greatest national treasure...our military service men and women and their loved ones."

St. Louis Fisher House was opened on July 28, 2010, with the exact same dedication. It is a civilian, non-profit organization. It provides a free "home away from home" environment for the families of veterans receiving care at St. Louis Veterans Administration Medical Centers (VAMCs) and families of active duty

USO/Fisher House (continued)

men and women receiving care at the local VAMCs or in other area medical facilities. Guests, who can also serve as caregivers, are accommodated in warm, caring, comfortable and convenient lodging while their loved ones are undergoing extensive treatment and/or rehabilitation. The attractive, modern house is located on the Jefferson Barracks VAMC campus.

The house has twenty guest suites, multiple common lounging and dining areas, a very large kitchen and quite adequate laundry facilities. The kitchen is equivalent to about four or five normal kitchens grouped together where meals are prepared both by the guests and for the guests by volunteers. The laundry facilities are equivalent to a small laundromat. Most basic household services, supplies and necessities are provided to and for the guests, along with some foods, beverages and snacks.

Some facts and figures about 'our' Fisher House are:

- St. Louis Fisher House has housed 16,510 guests in its short history.
- Last year, a record 3,795 guests were provided lodging.
- The average guest stay is 5 days.
- The longest guest stay has been 14 months.
- Guests must be from over 50 miles away, and the required minimum stay is three days.
- The number of volunteers helping out at the house varies from 30 to 50 per month.
- The John Cochran VAMC has approved the construction of a second St. Louis Fisher House near its downtown location. It will be a 16 suite house to be completed in about four years.

Based on this snap-shot information about 'our' USO and 'our' Fisher House, you can easily see why your ongoing loyal support is both needed and appreciated. Because the writing of this article predates the conclusion of this year's campaign, I cannot give you final numbers on the contributions to the two organizations. Suffice it to say, we were successful in attaining, even exceeding, our minimum combined goal of \$5,000.

Categorically, it was a good, but not a great, year. What was achieved this year portends the hidden potential for next year when we get a larger percentage of the chapter membership to participate, and when we get a large number of members to work on collecting funds from outside the chapter. You have many months to plan what you will try to accomplish next year. But, please start now to assure a loftier goal can be achieved next year.

Ann and I thank you for your continuing support, and we ask you to enjoy the good measure of success the Southwest Illinois Chapter of MOAA can claim for its 2019 donations drive.

Ann Morey (618-628-0268, ram204@att.com)

Nick Wartonick, 628-0858, wartonick-59@charter.net

STATE/LOCAL/CHAPTER NEWS

DID YOU KNOW...

Illinois now has a veteran's designation to be put on your driver's license or a state issued ID card. The driver's license or ID card can then be used as proof of military service and in some cases may be used to obtain military/veteran discounts. Just take your DD form 214 to the Illinois Veteran's Department Office and they will stamp a copy. Then take the stamped/verified copy to the driver's license renewal office. If you do this when your license is up for renewal there is no cost. In between renewal times, it will cost you \$5.00 to have the change made. The Illinois Department of Veterans is at 4519 W Main Street, Belleville, IL. Their phone number is 618-233-5140 and I suggest you call for their hours of operation.

Reference: Themilitarywallet.com. This website has lots of good information. Have a good day, Ann Morey

From the MOAA website ...

- ❖ [Commissary Changes Coming? What the Budget Could Mean for Your Shopping Benefit](#)
- ❖ [Here's How the New VA Appeals Process Works](#)
- ❖ [Bills Will Help Medical Retirees](#) (Encourage Your Lawmakers to Support Them All)
- ❖ [How to Protect Seniors from Financial Abuse](#)
- ❖ **New VA Program:** [Veterans Employment Through Technology Education Programs](#)

For information about how you can get more involved, visit the MOAA [Take Action Center](#) webpage.

ROTC/JROTC Support

Each year the SWIL MOAA Chapter recognizes outstanding JROTC and ROTC cadets from our area with the MOAA JROTC/ROTC Medal. The MOAA JROTC/ROTC medals are used to recognize an outstanding cadet or midshipman in his or her next-to-last year in the program who has demonstrated exceptional potential for military leadership. Candidates for the MOAA medal are nominated by their unit commander.

SWIL MOAA also presents each ROTC graduate at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville with a Gold Bar Set and Basic MOAA membership. During the awards night MOAA representatives are given the opportunity to meet with the cadets, present the Gold Bar sets, and talk about how a MOAA membership serves officer in every stage of their career.

Last year SWILMOAA Chapter presented six Gold Bar sets to newly commissioned Army ROTC officers at SIUE and recognized five outstanding cadets at local JROTC units with the MOAA Medal.

The SWIL Chapter of MOAA represents five area Air Force JROTC Units, one Army JROTC unit, and the Army ROTC Unit at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Interested in being a presenter at a local high school JROTC award ceremony? Contact Tim Grout at grouttj@gmail.com

JROTC/ROTC Units Supported by SWIL IL MOAA

| Air Force JROTC | Army ROTC |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alton High School ● Dupo High School/Columbia High School ● East St Louis High School ● Mascoutah High School ● O'Fallon Township High School | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Southern Illinois University Edwardsville <p>Army ROTC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cahokia High School |

Southwest Illinois Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 735
O'Fallon IL 62269

Meeting Announcement

This month's meeting will be held on Saturday, 13 April 2019 at the Cardinal Creek Golf Course Clubhouse at Scott AFB. (See Program News for details.) Cost is \$22.00 per person.

RESERVATION FORM FOR SWIL MOAA CHAPTER MEETING

Reservation deadline (mail, e-mail, or phone call received by): 8 Apr 2019.

E-mail to swimoaa@charter.net, or complete this form and mail it to: Southwest Illinois MOAA, P.O. Box 735, O'Fallon IL 62269 **to be received by the deadline.** Alternatively, phone Dick Glogowski at 618-624-6115.

Number of Reservations Desired: _____

Member's Name: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____