



**<INSERT NAME HERE>**

**President’s Input**

Seventy-six years ago, the Greatest Generation was called on to help make a difference in the world. December 7, 1941 ... you know the rest. Although many would not return home from their commitment overseas, the impact by those who responded to the call—many of them draftees—would be significant for all of us. We should never forget those who responded and continue to support those who respond today to the call to defend freedom around the world. But let’s be sure that we understand what that freedom entails, what it requires, and how we should approach it. Your role in the great experiment that is known as America is not insignificant. Even what we do today as a Chapter provides a level of support that many of us may not see or feel, yet it matters. Our December meeting, while a

*(continued on page 3)*

**What’s my name?**

Here are the results of round one of “What’s my Name?”

1. Eyes to the Skies
2. Standing for America
3. SW IL MOAA Chapter Notifier
4. SW IL MOAA Chapter Guardian
5. SW IL MOAA Chapter Informer
6. The Sentinel

Please email your **Top Three** choices to:

rick.sunner@gmail.com

Subject: SW IL MOAA Newsletter Name

We’ll post the finalists in next month’s newsletter, where you’ll all have an opportunity to pick the winning name. The Chapter will pay for the winning member’s (and their guest’s) dinner at a dinner meeting.

**PLEASE VOTE!**

**Inside this issue:**

**Treasurer’s Report, November 2017**

Checking Account Balance ....	\$1,517
Savings/Scholarship Balance ..	\$5,128
CDs .....	\$14,923
Total .....	\$21,568

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Our annual holiday meeting and scholarship auction will be held on Saturday, 9 December.. Please join us with a \$25-\$35 wrapped gift and join the fun as we bid to raise money for our scholarship fund. Last year we raised enough money to award two \$1,000.00 scholarships. We will also have a silent auction table for any additional items our members would like to donate.

In addition to the auction, Jack Moelmann will be entertaining us with Christmas music on the organ.

## This Month's Program

**Saturday, 9 December 2017**

**Annual Christmas Dinner & Auction**

**Cardinal Creek Golf Course**

**Scott AFB IL**

**\$28/person**

**Social at 6 pm; Dinner at 7 pm**

**Cash Bar**

**Coat & Tie for Men/Equivalent Attire for Ladies**

### Menu

#### Christmas Buffet

Turkey & Baked Cod	Mashed Potato & Gravy
Vegetable Medley	Tossed Salad
Dessert	Tea & Coffee

**Directions to the golf course:** Enter the Shiloh (Main Gate) and turn left at the first traffic light. Continue driving around the runway approximately 1.25 miles. The club house will be on your left. For handicapped parking, please park inside the circle in front of the main doors.

Please note, worldwide Force Protection Conditions have resulted in stricter base entry procedures at Scott AFB. If you are bringing a guest (someone over 16 years without a military ID), you may need a Visitor Pass. Visitor Control Center hours are M-F, 0600 to 1800 and Saturday, 0800 to 1200.

## Upcoming Programs

Date	Venue	Topic
Jan 2018	Lunch at Silver Creek Saloon and Grill	TBD
May 2018	Venue TBD	Business Meeting
Jun 2018	Busch Stadium (tentative)	Watching the Cards!

**Please Note:** I'm fully transitioning to my duties in Chapter Communications as of January 2018. I'll be planning the May Business Meeting and our June Event. There will be a break in the meetings until we find someone to manage our Programs. If you're interested in helping the Chapter, please contact me at [rick.sunner@gmail.com](mailto:rick.sunner@gmail.com).

## President's Input (from page 1)

celebration of the season as we gather together and enjoy some good fellowship and food, is the primary way we raise funds for our Chapter's scholarship funds. The trend with attendance over the past few years has not been good, but the role played by those who have attended in support of our scholarship goals has been impressive. The burden of raising the funds has been passed along to a smaller and smaller group. We need to turn this around if we are to continue to impact the lives of young people in the JROTC units in the area or our descendants, wherever they may be. If you are planning to come to the meeting, please come and participate. You know it will be a great time. If you're not sure about attending the meeting, please come and see what it's like. This is a great opportunity to have some fun and enjoy some great music. You can read more about it in the Programs section of the newsletter.

You've served our nation well in the past. You serve our nation now with your election to participate and send messages to our elected representatives. Thank you for what you do to support Southwest and MOAA. God bless you during this season of hope.

## Federal Legislative News

TRICARE remains a top issue for MOAA. For some reason, the DoD still believes that the costs for military health care continue to spiral out of control! Their next move is to make **TRICARE fees** more predictable. In other words, DoD wants to "predictably" control TRICARE fee hikes instead of relying on indices or agreements to manage increases. While this action doesn't necessarily "break-the-bank" for military personnel, the impacts could be far-reaching in the precedent that is set. Already we know that health care costs are NOT spiraling out of control. MOAA offered a solution to increase fees no more than the Consumer Price Index (CPI) which governs the annual COLA raises for government employees, Social Security recipients, and military retirees. They've considered using the National Health Care index, which is more than double what the annual COLA increase would be based on the CPI. The 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) stipulated that the currently serving and retired populations would be exempt from any increases meted out to the new accessions starting January 1, 2018. The 2018 NDAA is suggesting that ALL military personnel—active and retired—would be affected by the increases. This issue may be moot if the 2018 NDAA has passed by the time you're reading this article. Please check on the MOAA website for the status of this item, and others, and TAKE ACTION by sending a message to our elected representatives.



[Contact your elected officials today with a MOAA-suggested message opposing these fee hikes.](#)

<http://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/app/write-a-letter?0&engagementId=409553>

When **military pay** in 1999 was determined to be more than 13% below the comparable civilian sector pay for the work being done, MOAA set out to reduce that to zero. That reduction took over 10 years and in 2011, the pay differential was zero. Now, because of the caps on military pay raises over the past 5 years, the differential is creeping up again. Last year—2.5%, this year 2.9%. And the military pay raise starting on January 1, 2018 could be either 2.4% or 2.1% depending on the version (House or Senate, respectively) that is adopted in the NDAA. And while this reduction will not likely create a significant impact now, the opportunity cost and losses experienced as a result of this decrease will come into play as the currently serving members retire and lose significant dollars over their lives. Will the money be missed? I guess we'll not know until someone figures out what they could not do based on what they did not receive. Let's help our youngsters receive what their service is worth and send a message to our elected representatives on this issue.

<http://takeaction.moaa.org/app/write-a-letter?3&engagementId=405393>

**Sequestration** looms as a sword of Damocles over us. The automatic trigger for deep cuts to our nation's defense spending will exhaust resources and capabilities, taking immeasurable toll on our military and their families. We cannot take a knee here. Please write to our elected representatives and encourage them to make repealing sequestration a priority.

<http://takeaction.moaa.org/app/write-a-letter?8&engagementId=288193>

COLA Watch. The September CPI is 240.939, 2.5 percent above the FY 2016 COLA baseline. The CPI for October 2017, the first month of the fiscal year, is scheduled to be released on November 15, 2017.

### The number that matters most for you: 2.0 percent.

MOAA's prediction of 1.8 percent fell just short because of an unexpected sharp rise in oil prices in September.

That is the final COLA for the 2017 fiscal year, meaning retired pay will be increased by 2 percent starting in January 2018. In other words, you will see a \$20 increase for every \$1000 of retired pay received. The final COLA is determined by comparing the average CPI of the final three months of the fiscal year to the same quarter of the prior year.

There's always bad news to offset the good news we get. Yes, a CPI of 2.5% will increase COLA by 2%,

but for many who are on **Medicare, Part B premiums** will also increase. Some who already pay \$134 a month will not see an increase based on COLA, but will likely see a different fee structure which translates to an increase in premiums. Those who were "held harmless" by the less-than-one-percent (specifically 0.3%) COLA increase last year will also likely see an increase in their Part B premiums. The higher income surcharges are a result of the "doc fix" law passed in 2015, which resolved the long-standing problem with Medicare payment rates to physicians. Bottom Line: [if your modified adjusted gross income is more than \\$133,500 \(as a single filer; \\$267,000 if you're filing jointly\), your monthly premiums may rise by \\$80. The chart depicts these changes.](#)

### 2018 Monthly Medicare Part B Premiums\*\*

2017 Individual Income	2017 Premium†	2018 Individual Income*	2018	Govt. Subsidy
Under \$85K	\$105 <sup>†</sup> - \$134 <sup>‡</sup>	Under \$85K	\$134 <sup>**</sup>	75%
\$85K - \$107K	\$188	\$85-\$107K	\$188 <sup>**</sup>	65%
\$107K - \$160K	\$268	\$107K- \$133.5K	\$268 <sup>**</sup>	50%
\$160K - \$214K	\$348	\$133.5K- \$160K	\$348 <sup>**</sup>	35%
Above \$214K	\$429	\$160K+	\$429 <sup>**</sup>	20%

† Most beneficiaries were protected by hold-harmless provision & paid less than \$134

‡ Beneficiaries not protected by hold-harmless provision

\* 2018 Part B income threshold based on 2016 modified adjusted gross income

\*\* Medicare actuaries' most recent projection; final number to come in 4-5 weeks



Last, and certainly not least, is the issue of the Widow's Tax—**SBP-DIC offset**. We are all aware of the numbers involved, both those affected and the loss of income as a result of the arbitrary offset. We're still not out of the woods on this issue. As Congress comes together on the 2018 NDAA, the Senate provision will cap the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) at \$310 permanently. Something has to be done by May 2018, which is the date that the current SSIA legislation expires. The Armed Services Committees of both the Senate and House have relatively few options to resolving this plight. Leadership is needed. Send a notice to your elected representatives today!!

<http://takeaction.moaa.org/app/write-a-letter?7&engagementId=309133>

## On this month in history, a lot happened ...

- Dec 1, 1941** - American Civil Air Patrol, a USAF auxiliary, was founded as Director of Civilian Defense, former NY Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, signed the formal order.
- Dec 1, 1955** - Birth of the modern American civil rights movement; Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her seat to a white man.
- Dec 2, 1823** - President James Monroe introduced his "Monroe Doctrine," prohibiting any further colonization of the American continents by European powers.
- Dec 2, 1942** - Physicists led by Enrico Fermi carried out the world's first successful nuclear chain reaction at the University of Chicago.
- Dec 2, 1982** - First permanent artificial heart was implanted by Dr. William De Vries in Salt Lake City.
- Dec 3, 1967** - First successful heart transplant performed by Dr. Christiaan Barnard in Cape Town, South Africa.
- Dec 5, 1933** - 18th Amendment (Prohibition) to the US Constitution was repealed.
- Dec 6, 1865** - 13th Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified abolishing slavery .
- Dec 6, 1877** - Thomas Edison spoke "Mary had a Little Lamb..." while demonstrating newly invented phonograph .
- Dec 7, 1941** - US Naval base at Pearl Harbor was attacked by nearly 200 Japanese aircraft in a raid that lasted just over one hour and left nearly 3,000 Americans dead. (America and Britain declared war on Japan one day later.)
- Dec 8, 1987** - President Ronald Reagan/Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev signed INF Treaty eliminating all intermediate-/short-range nuclear missiles. Four years later, the USSR ceased to exist.
- Dec 10, 1898** - Treaty of Paris was signed between American and Spanish representatives following Spain's defeat in the Spanish-American War.
- Dec 11, 1901** - First transatlantic radio signal transmitted by Guglielmo Marconi from England, to Newfoundland.
- Dec 14, 1799** - George Washington died at Mount Vernon.
- Dec 14, 1911** - Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen became the first person to reach the South Pole.
- Dec 15, 1791** - The Bill of Rights became effective following ratification by Virginia.
- Dec 15, 1961** - Nazi SS-Colonel Adolf Eichmann sentenced to death in Jerusalem for his role in the Holocaust.
- Dec 15, 1964** - Canada adopted a new national flag featuring a red maple leaf on a white background.
- Dec 16, 1773** - Boston Tea Party occurred as colonial activists disguised as Mohawk Indians boarded British ships anchored in Boston Harbor and dumped 342 containers of expensive tea into the water.
- Dec 16, 1944** - Big-band leader Glenn Miller disappeared in small plane over English Channel, presumably killed.
- Dec 16, 1944** - During World War II in Europe, the Battle of the Bulge began.
- Dec 17, 1777** - At Valley Forge, Continental Army led by Gen George Washington settled in for the winter.
- Dec 17, 1903** - After 3 years of experiment, Orville/Wilbur Wright achieved first powered/controlled airplane flt.
- Dec 19, 1732** - Ben Franklin published *Poor Richard's Almanac*; contained weather predictions, humor, proverbs.
- Dec 20, 1860** - South Carolina became first state to secede from the Union in prelude to the American Civil War.
- Dec 20, 1956** - Montgomery bus boycott ended after US Supreme Court ruling integrating Montgomery bus system.
- Dec 21, 1945** - World War II General George Patton died in Germany following a car accident.
- Dec 23, 1947** - Transistor was invented at Bell Laboratories by John Bardeen, Walter Brattain and William Shockley. (Sparked a revolution in electronics.)
- Dec 23, 1987** - Dick Rutan/Jeanne Yeager set new world record of 216 hours of continuous flight around the world without refueling. Their aircraft *Voyager* traveled 24,986 miles at a speed of about 115 miles per hour.
- Dec 25, 1776** - During American Revolution, George Washington crossed Delaware River, conducted surprise raid on 1,500 British-Hessians at Trenton, New Jersey, who surrendered after 1 hour with 1,000 taken prisoner by Washington who suffered only six wounded (including future president Lt. James Monroe). Victory provided boost to morale.
- Dec 30, 1803** - The *Stars and Stripes* flag was raised over New Orleans as the United States took formal possession of the territory of Louisiana.
- Dec 31, 1879** - Thomas Edison provided first public demonstration of electric incandescent lamp at lab in New Jersey.

## State and Local Veteran News

### Illinois Joining Forces

Illinois Joining Forces (IJF) is a joint Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) and Department of Military Affairs (DMA) effort designed to better serve veterans, service members, and their families throughout the state. IJF will bring together, under a common umbrella, a field force of public, non-profit, and volunteer organizations in order to continually foster increased awareness of available resources and better partnership and collaboration between participating organizations. Illinois Joining Forces will establish a state-wide public and private organizational network that will identify, collaborate, and marshal available resources and services in order to create efficient access and delivery of these programs to the State's military and veteran communities.

### Illinois Bicentennial Honor 200 Veterans

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Illinois Bicentennial Committee will honor the work of 200 veterans from across the State of Illinois, whose contributions are above and beyond the call of duty as they dedicate their time and energy to assist their fellow veterans and service members. Nominees are evaluated based on their achievements, and on the extent to which their contributions have aided, benefited and provided inspiration to their Community at large.

Visit <https://www.illinois.gov/veterans/pages/default.aspx> for details about these and other IL programs.

### Easter Egg Winners

October 2017 — Linda Lowe

November 2017 — No one!

December 2017 — ????

Nov 2017 Solution: the Easter Egg was located on page 6, in the top-left quadrant of the FY 18 NDAA graphic, to the right of the 2.4%. It was a small image of an aircraft—specifically, a B-52.

### Can you find the Christmas Image?

No one guessed last month's Challenge. The first person to give me the exact location of the Christmas image hidden somewhere in this newsletter AND tell me what it is will win one free 50/50 ticket for the December 2017 meeting.

GOOD LUCK!

E-mail your answer to [rick.sunner@gmail.com](mailto:rick.sunner@gmail.com)

### 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

**Reminder!**  
Chapter dues are payable at  
the end of December

## Did You Know?

### By CDR (ret) Tim Grout, ROTC/JROTC Liaison

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.

To be eligible for the MOAA JROTC/ROTC Medal, a candidate must:

- be in the next-to-last year of an ROTC or JROTC program
- be in good academic standing
- be of high moral character
- demonstrate a high degree of loyalty to the unit, school, and country
- demonstrate exceptional potential for military leadership

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.

### JROTC/ROTC Units Supported by SWIL IL MOAA

#### Army ROTC

- Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

#### Air Force JROTC

- Alton High School
- Dupo High School/Columbia High School
- East St Louis High School
- Mascoutah High School
- O'Fallon Township High School

#### Army JROTC

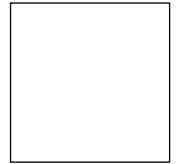
- Cahokia High School

## 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.



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



## Meeting Announcement

Our December dinner & auction will be held on **Saturday, 9 December 2017**, at Cardinal Creek Golf Course on Scott AFB IL. (See Program News for details.) Cost is **\$28.00** per person.

RESERVATION FORM FOR SWI MOAA CHAPTER MEETING

**Reservation Deadline (Mail received by, email, or phone call): 4 December 2017**

E-mail to [swimoaa@charter.net](mailto:swimoaa@charter.net), or complete this form and mail it along with your check for the cost of the meal(s) 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 with a commitment to pay at the door.

Number of Reservations Desired:

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_