

Eyes to the Skies

President's Input

Thank you for your attention to the health and well-being of everyone. In spite of the continuing restrictions because of COVID-19, other illnesses, surgeries, and treatments continue, many unrelated to COVID. If you're part of this Chapter, you are likely familiar with our annual drives to raise money and collect goods for the St Louis Fisher House and Missouri USO. We are continuing that effort this year because both agencies provide a very essential service to our military and veteran populations. I had an opportunity to go to the St Louis airport back in December and discovered that the USO limited their hours, so they were not 24/7. That could change with the introduction of the vaccine for COVID. Fisher House is still in the business of helping out and reminds everyone that love is not cancelled. Visitors using the Fisher House, even during this season, are very appreciative that the facility, the volunteers and the donors allow them to be close to their loved ones while they're

Continued on page 3

| Treasurer's Report for Oct 2020 | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|--|--|
| Checking Account Balance | \$540 | | |
| Savings Account Balance | \$6,010 | | |
| Certificates of Deposit | \$15,146 | | |
| Total | \$21,696 | | |

F

Visit us on Facebook! (click logo on left)

Visit our website: www.moaa-swil.org

Send your comments to moaa.swil@gmail.com

2021 USO and Fisher House Donations Drive

Paraphrasing a well-known expression, "If it is to be, it is up to us!" It is our chapter's 2021 campaign to help fund the operations of the USO of Missouri and St. Louis Fisher House, which we did so remarkably well last year. Us is every member of the chapter and every non-member each one of us can inspire to join us. Us is our collective personal contributions to the campaign. Us is our collective efforts as workers in and for the campaign to get others to help us achieve our 2021 goal.

What I have described above is known in our military jargon as a Continued on page 3

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Don't forget, scholarship applications must be postmarked by 4 Mar 2021. Applications are available on the Chapter Website <u>moaa-swil.org</u> and in this month's "Eyes to the Skies". You may also contact me to send you an application at 618-628-0286, 618-409-9966, or <u>ram204@att.net</u>.

Thank you all and stay safe, Ann Morey

Reminder: Please review your chapter membership status and send in your local chapter dues, \$8 per year. Send to Southwest Illinois MOAA, PO Box 735 O'Fallon, IL, 62269.

| | | | _ |
|------------------------|---|-------------------------|----|
| Featured in this Issue | 9 | ; ➤ Chapter Officers | 5 |
| President's Input | 1 | Editorial Policy | 5 |
| ➤ USO/Fisher House | | : ➤ Chapter News | 9 |
| Donation Drive | 1 | ➤ Meeting Info | 12 |
| Treasurer's Report | 1 | and also in this Issue | |
| Programs | 2 | > Scholarship Info | 10 |
| Legislative Issues | 3 | COVID Vaccine Info | 11 |
| COLA Watch | 4 | ► ➤ After Action Report | 11 |

This Month's Program

Due to the current restrictions on gatherings, we will not hold a February 2021 Meeting.

WE DON'T BELIEVE THAT RESTRICTIONS WILL BE LIFTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE, SO ALL IN-PERSON MEETINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE ARE CANCELED.

WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED ABOUT FUTURE PROGRAMS IN THE NEWSLETTER.

As you know, we didn't have our annual Scholarship Charity Auction in December. We asked you to donate the money you would've bid on the gifts--thank you to those of you who did.

It's not too late to donate if you haven't already.

Send donations by check to: SW IL MOAA, PO Box 735, O'Fallon IL 62269

Upcoming Programs (all are tentative due to pandemic restrictions)

| Date | Venue | Topic |
|-------------|---------|--|
| Mar 2021 | None | None |
| Apr 2021 | None | None |
| 22 Apr 2021 | Virtual | MOAA SW IL Virtual Happy Hour, Topic: Aging Gracefully |
| May 2021 | TBD | Annual Business Meeting |
| Jun 2021 | None | None |

President's Input (continued)

being treated at one of the St Louis hospitals. Read about their wish list later in this newsletter.

Thanks to all you do and bring to serving others in the community and nation. We will get through this together. God bless you, our first responders and those actively serving in the military, our elected representatives, and this great United States of America.

USO/Fisher House Donations (continued)

"Maximum Effort." It is (1) each member giving the maximum he or she can comfortably contribute financially. It is (2) each member doing the maximum he or she can do to bring in funds from outside the chapter. [So, put on your salesperson's (social correctness) hat and challenge yourself to collect as much as you can from whomever and wherever you can.] These two, (1) + (2), together give us the maximum opportunity to meet or exceed the \$9,250 all of us succeeded in collecting last year. Therefore, that's our 2021 goal.

The duration of this year's campaign is a short four weeks – Sunday, February 14 to Sunday, March 14. For maximum effectiveness and efficiency, running the campaign any longer is not necessary. Why? Because by starting to work immediately, with The RIGHT EFFORT, our jobs will surely get done before the campaign end date.

If you can take initiative before the official start of the campaign, that's great both for you and for the campaign. Please direct your personal checks and all checks you collect to either Ann Morey or Nick Wartonick. Mail them to Ann at 811 North Lincoln Drive, O'Fallon, Illinois 62269, or to Nick at 7342 Timberpoint Court, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208. Please make sure separate checks are made payable to the USO of Missouri or to the St. Louis Fisher House.

As we start the campaign in earnest, please remember that last year all of us succeeded because we had THE RIGHT SPIRIT. This year let's not fail because we lacked THE RIGHT EFFORT. Also remember, this will take a "Maximum Effort" by all of us to get it done.

Co-chairs, Ann Morey, 618-628-0268 (H), 618-409-9966 (M), ram204@att.net; and Nick Wartonick, 618-628-0858 (H), 618-406-6907 (M), wartonick-59@charter.net

If you normally receive the newsletter via email, but received it in the mail, then we don't have your correct email address. Send your name and correct email address to moaa.swil@gmail.com.

Since 1929, MOAA has been involved in several major legislative accomplishments that have secured significant gains for the military community, not because these were "good ideas," but because our military and veteran members deserved the support for their sacrifice at many levels. Relying on the membership-at-large to make their voices heard by contacting lawmakers, MOAA's successes are



indeed noteworthy and sometimes astounding, as they collaborate with other like-minded organizations and The Military Coalition. Here are a few of the successes:

[Note: Items with an asterisk (*) are periodically under attack or under-resourced.]

- Repealing SBP-DIC offset, known as the 'Widows Tax' saving up to \$12,000 per year for nearly 67,000 surviving spouses.
- Executing a credible game plan for oversight of DoD's health care protecting continued access to quality care.*
- Securing comprehensive privatized military housing reform improving housing, establishing Tenant Bill of Rights, and Congressional oversight.*
- Lessening impact of TRICARE fee hikes (Family = \$300 vice \$900) fighting multiple efforts to end grandfathering for those who entered service before Jan. 1, 2018.*
- Protecting TRICARE For Life (TFL) blocked five consecutive administration budgets proposing TFL enrollment fees (2013-2017).*
- Maintaining pay raise comparability ensuring pay raises for our uniformed services keep pace with civilian sector increases.*
- Providing Wounded Warrior protections and caregiver enhancements securing multiple improvements to VA caregiver programs.*
- Defeating 'COLA Minus 1 Percent' ending Congressional attempts to reduce retired pay, costing an E-7 retiring after 20 years \$83,000, and an O-5 \$124,000, by age 62.*
- Securing major GI Bill upgrades to include transferability and improving benefits for National Guard on Title 32 orders.*
- Boosting compensation significantly for retirees with 50% VA disability still fighting for the rest to include those medically retired.*
- Improving Guard and Reserve TRICARE coverage and securing a premium cut.
- Ensuring Guard and Reserve retirement age credit for active duty service now allowing 90 days to stretch over two consecutive years.

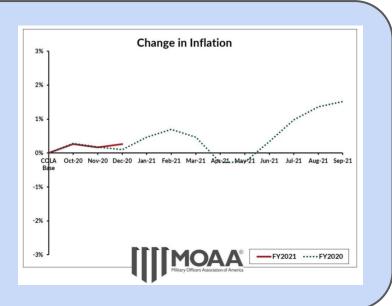
 Continued next page

COLA Watch

(moaa.org/content/take-action/cola-watch)

The December 2020 CPI is 254.081, 0.3 percent above the FY 2021 COLA baseline.

The Consumer Price Index for January is scheduled to be released Feb. 10. The CPI baseline for FY 2021 is 253.412.



Read more at https://www.moaa.org/content/topic-and-landing-pages/moaa-in-action/.

The 117th Congress is now in session! Democrats now control the Executive and Legislative branches of our government. And, in Congress, 91 members have military service experience, the lowest number since WWII. MOAA will need our support to gain the momentum needed to inform our elected representatives of the issues below, which are the Association's goals as provided in the January 2021 Military Officer Magazine:

- Recognize the COVID-19 Pandemic Changed the Landscape for Many of Our Priorities
- Protect the Value of the Military Health Care Benefit
- Protect the MHS Pharmacy Benefit and Achieve Flexibility in TRICARE Pharmacy Copays
- Address Barriers to Accessing Care Within the MHS, Including TRICARE Coverage Gaps and Mental Health Care Access Challenges
- Achieve Concurrent Receipt of Service-Earned Retirement Pay and VA Disability Pay
- Protect Family Support Programs, and Ensure Military-Provided Services (Housing, PCS, Child Care) Are Affordable, Readily Available, and Meet Quality Standards
- Reform the Presumptive Process to Support Veterans Claiming Service-Connected Disabilities for Toxic Exposures
- Achieve Equity of Benefits, Protections and Administrative Support for Guard/Reserve Members Consistent With Their Active Duty Counterparts
- Sustain Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Foundational Missions and Services
- Protect Arlington National Cemetery as an Option for Those Currently Eligible to Receive Full Military Honors, Through Expansion of Our National Cemetery
- Sustain Pay Raises for Servicemembers and COLA Raises for Retirees
- Improve Survivor Benefits
- Ensure the Coast Guard Receives Pay During a Government Shutdown

Continued next page

| Chapter Officers | | |
|------------------|---|--|
| President | Col (ret) Bob Norman | |
| 2nd VP/Comm | Maj (ret) Rick Sunner | |
| Secretary | Lt Col (ret) Ann Morey | |
| Treasurer | Col (ret) Bob Koss Col (ret) Phil Yavorsky | |
| Membership | Maj (ret) Sabrina Luttrell-Andrews | |
| Programs | Yasemin Koss | |
| 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 moaa.swil@gmail.com. Please keep these things in mind:

- Submit your article by the 10th of the month prior
- 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.



Also in the January 2021 issue of Military Officer Magazine, the Chairman of MOAA, General Walter "Skip" Sharp, USA (ret) provided the following goals for the Association in 2021:

- Advocacy. Centering on service-earned entitlements such as health care, pay, and benefits.
- **Expanding the scope of MOAA's charities.** Scholarship Fund for deserving students, The MOAA Foundation to help military families, and the COVID-19 Relief Fund to provide emergency financial assistance for struggling servicemembers and veterans.
- Increasing engagement and member experiences. Building on MOAA's success to attract and retain members with programs and services, and innovating influence through the magazine and digital products.
- **Increasing membership.** Getting the word out on who we are and how we advocate for servicemembers and veterans and their families.
- **Innovating chapters and councils.** Financial and training support to our state council presidents, and expanding the virtual chapter program.
- **Focusing on diversity.** Diversity of the board of directors to ensure proper representation.

For most of us who live near a Military Treatment Facility, getting immunizations may not be an issue of cost or payment. Shane Ostrom lays out guidance to consider for the medical payment coverage for the Shingles shot, one type which is recommended for anyone over 50 years old and another recommended for those over 60 years old. TRICARE covers the shingles vaccine two different ways – under your medical coverage, or under your pharmacy coverage. For those age 64 and under and not on TRICARE For Life (TFL), the full cost of the shot is covered by TRICARE Prime, US Family Health Plans and TRICARE Select plans, whether administered at a pharmacy or at a doctor's office. TFL offers a bit more of a challenge. Of course, over 65 means Medicare, but the shot is covered by Part D Pharmacy coverage, which is generally not used by military retirees. So, because Medicare Part A or B does not cover the shot, the entire cost of the shot falls to TFL, which means two options: (1) use the TRICARE pharmacy benefit by going to a TRICARE network pharmacy and get the vaccine for free, or (2) get the shot at a doctor's office, which falls under medical coverage and TFL deductibles and cost shares apply. Bottom line is that you pay for the shot. Consider your options and select wisely.

(https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2020-news-articles/tricare-and-the-shingles-shot-what-you-need-to-know/)

Take Action!

These important issues require your immediate attention. Send your elected officials a MOAA-suggested message today.

(Note: for more details about issues you can carry to our legislators, see the Take Action article in Council and Chapter News, or go to https://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/?0)

Watch for the opportunity to send a message to Congress in the coming months on the bills listed here.

Federal - HR 5995 -- A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to expand eligibility to certain military retirees for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay or combat-related special compensation, and for other purposes.

Federal - HR 413 -- A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the work opportunity credit to small businesses which hire individuals who are members of the Ready Reserve or National Guard, and for other purposes.

- **Federal HR 847 --** A bill to provide interim appropriations for the Coast Guard Retired Serviceman's Family Protection and Survivor Benefits Plans for each fiscal year after fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes.
- **Federal S 3393 --** A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with fewer than 20 years of service and a combat-related disability, and for other purposes.
- **Federal S 21 --** A bill making continuing appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event of an appropriations act expired prior to the enactment of new appropriations (official title to be confirmed).
- **Federal S 1047 --** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to create a dependency and indemnity compensation allowance for surviving spouses receiving dependency and indemnity compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.
- **Federal S 2216 --** A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to formally recognize caregivers of veterans, notify veterans and caregivers of clinical determinations relating to eligibility for caregiver programs, and temporarily extend benefits for veterans who are determined ineligible for the family caregiver program, and for other purposes.
- **Federal S 2981 --** A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002, and for other purposes.
- **Federal HR 2406 --** A bill to amend the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 to make certain changes to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's commissioned officer corps, and for other purposes.
- **Federal HR 5995 --** A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to expand eligibility to certain military retirees for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay or combat-related special compensation, and for other purposes.
- **Federal HR 413 --** A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the work opportunity credit to small businesses which hire individuals who are members of the Ready Reserve or National Guard, and for other purposes.
- **Federal HR 847 --** A bill to provide interim appropriations for the Coast Guard Retired Serviceman's Family Protection and Survivor Benefits Plans for each fiscal year after fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes.

NDAA Includes Free National Park Access for Gold Star Families

by Jim Absher, Military.com | December 31, 2020

A provision of the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) will give Gold Star families free access to public lands across the country.

The "America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass" has an \$80 annual price tag for most Americans.

Now, Gold Star families, defined as those who lost a family member in war, an international terrorist attack, or a military operation outside of the United States, will also be eligible for the free admission pass.

The pass gives free access to the holder of the Gold Star Family pass as well as up to three passengers per vehicle 16 years and older. Children under 16 are admitted for free.

Continued next page

7

While active duty military members and their dependents have had free access to National Parks for several years, and disabled veterans qualify for the free Access Pass, there has been confusion about exactly who is and isn't eligible for the programs, with enforcement and rules sometimes varying by location.

But a wave of new legislation and park policy has clarified the program over the last several months. In November, Interior Department officials announced that the free pass program would extend to all veterans and Gold Star family members. Early this month the president signed into law a rule granting the pass to disabled veterans. And, once signed by President Donald Trump, the change included in the NDAA will move from park policy to law the free pass for Gold Star families.

While not all of our nation's 2,000 public recreation areas charge entrance fees, many of the more popular destinations such as Yellowstone National Park and Grand Canyon National Park charge an admission price of up to \$35 per vehicle.

Besides giving free admission to all National Parks, the pass also holders free admission to other participating Department of the Interior agencies as well as sites administered by the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The National Park Service has already begun issuing the free passes under their November policy change. Interested Gold Star families can download the application at:

https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/upload/Gold-Star-Family-Free-Access-Voucher.pdf.

The program does not cover expanded amenity fees such as camping, tours, special recreation permits or organized groups or concession-operated facilities or activities.

Many states also offer free access to public lands for military members, veterans and Gold Star families. In many cases you don't even need to be a state resident to get free access. See what your state offers at:

https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/state-veterans-benefits-directory.html.

.....

Dear Fellow Officers and Spouses,

If you have something to say, we'd love to hear from you! Follow these simple steps:

- 1. Write something.
- 2. Send it to the newsletter editor (that's me!) at <u>moaa.swil@gmail.com</u>.
- 3. Read it in the next newsletter.

Of course we may have to edit your article for content and space, and we'll make sure it meets MOAA's and our editorial policies. But we'll do our best to ensure your full article is included in the newsletter.

We can't wait to hear from you! (And thanks, Kim, for you contributing article.)

Best wishes.

Rick Sunner

2d Vice President & Newsletter Editor

COUNCIL AND CHAPTER NEWS

News from National MOAA

For more information about the articles in this month's newsletter and how you can get more involved in other issues, visit the MOAA <u>Take Action Center</u> or <u>News</u> webpages.

- MOAA's 2021 Legislative Priorities
- Here's What the Flurry of Recent Veterans Legislation Means to You
- Veterans in the 117th Congress, by the Numbers
- MOAA's 2020-21 TRICARE Guide
- VA's Solid Start Program Reaches Nearly 70,000 Veterans in First Year
- What Will the 2022 Military Pay Raise Look Like?
- Fraud Alert: Army CID Reports Rise in Impersonator Scams
- The Shingles Vaccine and Your TRICARE Coverage
- MOAA Secures Major Provisions to Support Military Families With Special Needs
- 2020 Impact Report: Stories of Thanks Show the MOAA Scholarship Fund in Action
- Study Suggests Legislation to Fight Obesity, Improve Military Recruiting
- Surviving Spouse Corner: 2020 Review

SW IL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

The <u>VSO</u> provides free assistance to veterans, their dependents, and survivors in navigating complex services and benefits. The nearest VSO is in Belleville, and can be contacted at 618-233-8445/5140.

Visit the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs by following this <u>link</u>.

For information on services available to the aging population, please visit the <u>Illinois Department on Aging</u>.

Use the links below to read some timely veteran-related articles.

Send a Vet a Message

Send a message of support to residents or staff at our Illinois Veterans' Homes! Fill out this quick form and a virtual message will be sent to the person or facility of your choosing.

• Illinois Veterans Newsletters

Illinois Veteran News is an award-winning email newsletter created by IDVA to deliver important news and information to the Illinois veteran community including their families, fraternal organizations, employers, businesses, military, government agencies and the news media. Readers can expect timely and relevant information about state, local and federal services/benefits while highlighting IDVA's strategic priorities, upcoming events and employment/training opportunities.

Read the latest edition (March 2020) by following this <u>link</u>.

• Operation Rising Spirit

The IL Dept. of Veterans' Affairs launched "Operation Rising Spirit" to challenge service organizations, volunteers, and patriots of Illinois to raise the spirits of military veterans and the heroic staff who care for them at state veterans' homes. To participate, click here to see the contact information for each home.

• Veterans Drivers License

The veteran's designation will help ensure our military veterans receive the services and benefits for which they are entitled.

Our Chapter's Scholarship Application (also found at this link)

By Ann Morey, LtCol (ret), Dec 2020

SOUTHWEST IL CHAPTER, MOAA INEZ PETERS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION CWO3 CHARLES E. NALLEY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

| NAME | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--|
| HOME ADDRESS | | | |
| CITY | STATE | ZIP | |
| PHONE NUMBER | E-MAIL | | |
| PARENT/GUARDIAN | | | |
| ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT FROM A | ABOVE | | |
| NAME OF CHAPTER SPONSOR_ | | _RELATIONSHIP | |
| HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE CURRE | ENTLY ATTENDING_ | | |
| HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION DA | ATEGPA | CLASS STANDING | |
| COLLEGE OR SPECIAL TRAINING | G CREDIT: HOURS | SEMESTERS | |
| NAME OF COLLEGE/UNIVERSIT | Y ATTENDING or PLA | NNING TO ATTEND: | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| APPLICANT SIGNATURE | | DATE | |
| | | | |

APPLICATION PACKAGE MUST INCLUDE:

(Incomplete packages will not be considered)

- Legibly completed application.
- Two one-page essays, one side, single space, font Times New Roman 12.
 - One-page essay outlining career goals and why the applicant chose or plans to pursue a particular field of study.
 - One-page essay on the applicant's participation in a particular extracurricular, school, or community activity highlighting accomplishments and explaining personal benefit from the activity.
- A letter of recommendation from a member of the school faculty or staff who can comment on your qualifications for your career choice.
- A letter of recommendation from an adult leader of an extracurricular, school, or community activity, organization, club, or employment in which the applicant was active.
- Official high school transcript, reflecting at least three years of high school and including any college credits as applicable. If you are currently enrolled in a college, also include your official college transcript.
- A copy of any and all of your ACT and/or SAT scores.
- A listing of all school and community clubs, organizations, and/or groups to which you are or were a member. Include any leadership positions, honors, and/or awards as applicable with the listed activities. This should also include participation identified in the one-page essay above.

Forward the completed package to:

Southwest Illinois MOAA PO Box 735 O'Fallon, IL, 62269 Attn: Ann Morey

APPLICATION MUST BE POSTMARKED NOT LATER THAN 4 MAR 2021

After Action Report: January Virtual Happy Hour

by Rick Sunner, Major, USAF, Retired, 21 Jan 2021

I had the pleasure of attending our first-ever virtual chapter meeting. It was a casual affair and about 18 people attended. We even had a guest speaker! Gail Joyce, Council Chair of MOAA National's Surviving Spouse Advisory Council, spoke for over an hour on Surviving Spouse issues. It was very informative. I can't capture everything she said--mostly because I didn't write it down. But she did talk about information that is already on the MOAA National website. So, I will pass that information on to you:

- Surviving Spouse Corner: How Surviving Spouses Benefit From MOAA Membership
 - by Dr. Vivianne Cisneros Wersel, Surviving Spouse Advisory Council member.

MOAA's mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families. As a MOAA member, surviving spouses have opportunities to connect with kindred surviving spouses in addition to receive information about benefits and programs that might be new to them. Understandably, when someone becomes a surviving spouse, there is a certain knowledge gap to navigate. Surviving spouses of MOAA work to help close that gap.

- Surviving Spouses Resources and Links
 - This page is designed to provide resources to surviving spouses and answer some of the more frequent asked questions of MOAA regarding survivor issues. Access more MOAA resources by visiting MOAA.org or MOAA's Surviving Spouse page.
- MOAA Surviving Spouse Page
 - MOAA continues to champion the issues of the surviving spouse community while providing expert guidance for financial and retirement planning for its members. You'll also find links to critical advocacy issues as well as member-exclusive resources and benefits.
- <u>Surviving Spouse Corner: 10 Helpful Resources for Surviving Spouses</u>

by Suzanne Walker.

The resources on this page can help surviving spouses navigate the complex world of obtaining military benefits, find much-needed comfort and support, and work through the difficult days after the loss of a spouse.

• Introducing: The MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisory Council

Attention!

Did you know that veterans can receive the COVID-19 vaccine at the VA? (Well, you can!)

Just call the VA at 314-289-7039. (Expect to wait and you may have to call several times to get through.)

Find more information at



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

Meeting Announcement

This Month's Meeting has been cancelled due to the current pandemic restrictions and an abundance of caution.