

**June 2019**

## President's Input

Not all who serve wear a uniform. How true is that? You may have missed Military Spouse Appreciation Day (May 10), but hopefully did not miss Memorial Day, celebrated on May 27. Marking the official beginning of the Summer season, Memorial Day is an opportunity to recognize the contributions of those who gave their lives to the defense of this country. But, as I started out, not all who serve wear a uniform. Let's go back for a moment to appreciate those unsung heroes who kept the home fires burning while the military members were doing what they were called to do. The heroes who took care of the home, the bills, the yardwork, the kids, the sports events, schoolwork, homework, holidays, nursing, nurturing, disciplining, loving, compassionately, tirelessly, relied upon, unpaid. They were never sworn in. The only oath they took was to love and cherish, have and hold, in sickness and in health. They made the home secure. They made the community thrive. They held down the fort. Those who served owe much more to these unsung heroes than can ever be repaid. Our partners in life.

Did you know that military spouses are eligible for Federal jobs under the Military Spouses Program? Read more about this in the Legislative Update. And spouses can follow MOAA's Military Spouse site on Facebook.

*Continued on page 3*

The MOAA, Southwest Illinois chapter would like to thank USAA, Inc. for sponsoring our Scholarship winners and their families at the May 2019 Business Meeting.



<b>Treasurer's Report for May 2019</b>	
Checking Account Balance ...	\$1,315
Savings Account Balance .....	\$6,138
Certificates of Deposit .....	\$15,170
Total .....	\$22,623



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## This Month's Program

**Due to unforeseen circumstances, we won't be able to meet in June. Please join us in September for our 2019-2020 Kickoff.**

**Thanks again Ann, for hosting our Business Meeting!**

### Upcoming Programs

Date	Venue	Topic
Sep 2019	TBD	2019-2020 MOAA SW IL Kickoff
Oct 2019	Cardinal Creek Golf Course Clubhouse	TBD
Nov 2019	Cardinal Creek Golf Course Clubhouse	TBD
Dec 2019	Cardinal Creek Golf Course Clubhouse	Annual Scholarship Auction
Jan 2020	TBD	TBD
Feb 2020	Cardinal Creek Golf Course Clubhouse	TBD
Mar 2020	TBD	TBD

## President's Input (continued)

Till death do us part. During this year's Storming the Hill event, MOAA presented the issue of military spouse compensation when the military member dies. A resolution to the issue of the widows tax continues to be admired by Congress, but the age-old tune about offsets also continues to be the fall back. As this issue was presented to Congress, more often than not, the MOAA contingents received favorable feedback to resolve this disparity. But just how Congress will plan to do that is still the question. In the past, increased TRICARE fees have been offered as the offset. We'll see how all that will pan out soon.

We are finishing up the season of "awards" for students of JROTC and ROTC. The bright, eager, young (very young!) teens and adults inspire me and provide me with hope that our nation will continue to have good leaders, servants, and supporters ready to stand with those who have gone before. Those for whom Memorial Day holds special meaning. We can never and should not ever forget the lives sacrificed so that we can enjoy the blessings of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Pray for those serving today. Thank those who have served. God bless you for your service and thank you from the bottom of my heart!

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Last month, the news was about Storming the Hill going on and how we could help that effort from our vantage. The event is over, but fruitful results are promising. In an article by Tony Lombardo and Amanda Dolanski, "MOAA Members Storm Capitol Hill and Make a Difference," the two report that more than 170 MOAA members from across the country got to work to meet with members of Congress and their staffs in support of three issues to protect benefits our servicemembers, veterans and military spouses have earned:



- [A 3.1 percent pay raise for the troops](#)
- [A total repeal of the "widows tax"](#)
- [Stabilizing TRICARE](#)

Following are some reports from the teams who participated in the event:

- MOAA's North Dakota team - Lt. Col. Christopher Lindberg, USA (Ret) and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Greg Acs - focused on TRICARE and the pay raise during a meeting with Sen. John Hoeven's office. *"There's a lot of things I want to get done," said Lindberg, who served as an Army infantry officer for more than 20 years. It's the second year Lindberg has traveled from Fargo to meet with legislators. "There was a promise given to me 20 years ago that I would be taken care of, that I would have health insurance," he said. "In the last few years, TRICARE fees have gone up a lot. (Servicemembers) have been blown up. They've been shot at. They're not getting much more of a benefit than civilians. All we're asking for is stop the increases. Just stabilize it."*
- Beth Conklin, a member of the MOAA Spouse Advisory Council, stormed for the first time and met with members of the Colorado delegation. Her husband is an infantry officer in the Army and preparing for his first battalion command. She's lobbied the Hill before, on spouse employment issues, but storming with MOAA was a new experience. *"Coming in with a group is so much more impactful," she said. "You have a force behind what you storm for."*

## Legislative News (continued)

- This was the fourth storming for Lt. Col. Shelly Kalkowski, USAF (Ret). She was armed with the facts (for example, did you know Colorado is the 10th most populous state for troops and DoD personnel?). She was also determined to get 100 percent support from Colorado's two senators and seven Congressmen for a repeal of the widows tax. There are only two remaining from Colorado who have not co-sponsored, and Kalkowski made sure to get face-to-face chats with each of them to ask their support.
- Coast Guard Lt. J.G. Rachel Johnson, a member of the MOAA Currently Serving Advisory Council, stormed for her first time. She said it was “extremely rewarding” to represent the needs of junior officers serving today. *“To get this perspective at this point in my career is invaluable,” said Johnson, who is also a prior-enlisted Marine.*
- MOAA President and CEO Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret), said the members brought a high level of expertise and knowledge on all three storming topics. But they weren't the only ones. *“When we're going in the offices, I'm extremely impressed by the understanding of Congressional leaders and their staffs on the issues,” Atkins said.*
- Rep. Pete Stauber (R-Minn.), husband of Air National Guard veteran Jodi Stauber, pledged his support to all three of MOAA's storming initiatives. Stauber said feedback from MOAA members helps his office shape legislation in support of veterans' needs. Stauber has already signed on as co-sponsor for legislation that would end the widows tax. *“You will have no bigger fighter than me,” Stauber said. “The men and women who serve in the military, they deserve everything they've earned.”*
- Retired Brig. Gen. Tim Kennedy, who served 37 years with the Army National Guard, was accompanied by his wife Sue as they visited Stauber and nine other federal lawmakers from Minnesota during the annual Storming the Hill event. He was pleased with Stauber's continued support of veterans and their families. During each of his visits, Kennedy discussed MOAA's push to end the widows tax. He said at least three lawmakers pledged to sign on as co-sponsors, including freshman Congresswoman Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN). *“What I hope to achieve is that we move the needle on SBP-DIC [the widows tax],” Kennedy said. “And we did that.”*
- MOAA Chairman Adm. Walter Doran, USN (Ret), noted that Storming the Hill has become a vital tradition for the association. *“It's important that we do this because we represent the best interest of our members, across the country. We are a trusted source,” Doran said.*
- But it's just one part of our advocacy strategy to improve the lives of our members and all currently serving troops, retirees, veterans and their families. *“Storming the Hill is just one aspect,” Doran said. “We'll see members of Congress in their home offices, too. We become part of the dialogue.”*

Read more about these issues and Storming at [www.moaa.org/storming2019](http://www.moaa.org/storming2019).

We're not out of the woods with regard to these issues. The Fiscal Year 2020 budget is being discussed in committees on Capitol Hill. Please stay engaged on these issues by going to the Take Action section, Legislative Action Center, to send a message to your elected representatives on each of the three Storming issues. Your e-mails and postcards do make Congress take notice.

## Legislative News (continued)

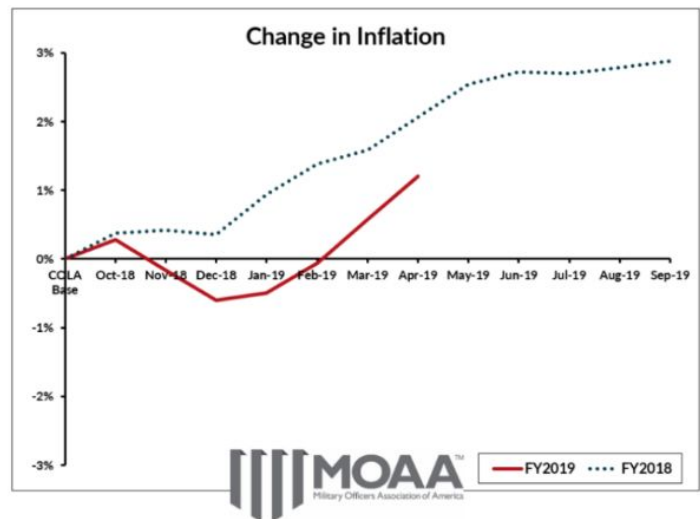
Southwest Chapter is a proud Founding Member of the MOAA Foundation. That Foundation supports several programs through donations. One particularly credible program is the Military Spouse Professional Development program. On May 10, spouses of military members were recognized by Military Spouse Appreciation Day. MOAA's president, Lt Gen Dana Atkins, spoke about military spouses in an article that was published in the May 2019 Military Officer magazine. "Military spouses have relentlessly busy lives: Holding down the fort while their servicemember is away. Moving to a foreign country on a PCS, even if they don't speak the language. Making sure their kids have access to decent school systems, running a household, and working — if they're able to find a job suitable for their education, work experience, and intelligence.

"Many forego their own professional dreams to maintain stability at home. They are the heartbeat of their households, often working behind the scenes to ensure their family's success.

As of May 10, Illinois Senate Bill 110, the exemption of property tax to surviving spouses, was co-sponsored by 18 Senators and 6 Representatives. The bill was referred on May 9 to the Property Tax subcommittee, and re-referred to the Rules Committee on May 10. Read more about this bill and the actions taken at [www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus)

### COLA Watch

The April 2019 CPI is 249.332, 1.2 percent above the FY 2019 COLA baseline. The Consumer Price Index for May is scheduled to be released June 12. The CPI baseline for FY 2019 is 246.352.



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](mailto:rick.sunner@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.





## Legislative News (continued)

Yes, military spouses do it all. But they're not necessarily given the support they need.

And MOAA aims to change that. As an association, we take care of not just our retirees, veterans, and servicemembers, but also their families. One of our key goals is to protect military family support programs and policies. Our advocacy experts meet with members of Congress and their staff, submitting statements for congressional hearings on military family readiness and shaping legislation that will improve quality of life for military families, such as increased oversight of military housing, expanding military spouse education and employment opportunities, and protecting the military shopping benefit." Read more about how MOAA is helping military spouses at:

[www.moaa.org/2019-news-articles/how-moaa-is-looking-out-for-military-spouses/](http://www.moaa.org/2019-news-articles/how-moaa-is-looking-out-for-military-spouses/)

As of April 1, 2019, DoD will no longer use the Priority Placement Program (PPP), also known as Program S, to register military spouses for federal hiring preference. This does not mean military spouse preference has ended, only that the mechanism to register for preference has changed. Now, military spouses can identify themselves for MSP through the application process on [USAjobs.gov](http://USAjobs.gov) rather than going in person to an office. Additionally, military spouses are no longer tied to one occupational series. Spouses now have the flexibility to select the job they would like to be considered noncompetitively for as long as the position offers MSP (a green icon with wedding rings indicates an eligible position).

Spouses can apply for as many jobs as they want using MSP. However, keep in mind, if a spouse declines a job offer extended through MSP, they can no longer use MSP at that duty station.

For more information check out DoD's fact sheet detailing eligibility and steps to use MSP at:

[www.moaa.org/uploadedfiles/2018\\_news\\_articles/ppp-msp---fact-sheet-2019.pdf](http://www.moaa.org/uploadedfiles/2018_news_articles/ppp-msp---fact-sheet-2019.pdf)

## COUNCIL AND CHAPTER NEWS

### TAKE ACTION!

Check out these articles for information on how you can take action:

- **Ensure Safe Housing For Military Families**  
Congress is considering legislation to address health threats in base housing.
- **Act now to improve survivors' benefits**  
S. 1047 would align Dependency and Indemnity Compensation payments with other federal survivor benefits.
- **Do Not Cap Pay or Cut Benefits**  
One budget options for lawmakers to consider are capping your pay raises, cutting back your BAH.
- **Do Not Dismantle Military Medicine**  
The DoD's FY 2020 budget calls for elimination of approximately 18,000 military medical positions, roughly 20% of its medical force.

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

### Floyd Dean Castleman, 1928 - 2019

Dean Castleman, age 90, passed on to be with Our Lord on April 28, 2019, in O'Fallon, Ill.

Dean was born



December 29, 1928 in Cape Girardeau, MO. He grew up in Creve Coeur, IL and enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1950. Dean was a pilot, flying cargo missions all over the world, including being stationed in Vietnam in 1970-71. After 28 years, Dean retired as a full Colonel.

He leaves behind his beautiful wife, Lita Susan, married 66 years; his two daughters, Lori Ann Castleman of Tampa, FL, and Linda Susan (Kevin) O'Berry, of Glendale, AZ; two granddaughters, Lauren Moore and Kristen O'Berry; and great-grandson, Rhys Moore.

## SWIL MOAA Recognizes Seven Cadets with MOAA ROTC Medals

By Tim Grout

This year SWIL MOAA recognized seven deserving ROTC/JROTC cadets during annual award ceremonies with the MOAA ROTC medal. This medal is 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.

Recipients are selected by their individual's unit commander. A recipient must be in good academic standing; be of high moral character; demonstrate a high degree of loyalty to the unit, school, and country; and demonstrate exceptional potential for military leadership.

### The 2019 Awardees:

#### Army ROTC

- Southern IL Univ-Edwardsville Army ROTC - Carter M. Page

#### Air Force JROTC

- Alton High School – Kobe Robinson
- Cahokia High School – Lakendra McNeil
- Dupo High School – Madison Rey
- East St Louis High School – Alexis Hously
- Mascoutah High School - Matthew Clayton
- O'Fallon High School – Conner Lynn



Pictured: Chapter President Bob Norman, Col (ret) with Mascoutah HS JROTC Cadet Matthew Clayton

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## Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville Commissions Second Lieutenants

By Tim Grout

SWIL MOAA attended the 2019 commissioning rehearsal for Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville Army ROTC Unit, and presented the new Second Lieutenants with a Gold Bar set and a one year membership to MOAA to the following officers:

- Taylor Anderson – Army Nurse Corps
- Leah Goodsell – Army Reserve Medical Service Corps
- Grant Hebenstreit – Illinois Army National Guard Quartermaster Corps
- Yinzhu Jin - Army Intelligence Corps
- Deana Mrozowski – Army Signal Corps
- Austin Prevallet – Army Air Defense Artillery
- Jacob Stengel – Illinois Army National Guard Intelligence Corps
- Jared Wilson – Army Transportation Corps



Front row (L to R): Leah Goodsell, Taylor Anderson, Yinzhu Jin, Deana Mrozowski

Back row (L to R): Col (ret) Norman, Austin Prevallet, Jacob Stengel, Jared Wilson, Grant Hebenstreit, CDR (ret) Grout

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

## Meeting Announcement

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we won't be able to meet in June. Please join us in September 2019 for our Chapter Kickoff. Details will be in our September newsletter.

RESERVATION FORM FOR SW IL MOAA CHAPTER MEETING

**Reservation deadline (mail, e-mail, or phone call received by): None.**

E-mail to [swimoaa@charter.net](mailto: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:** \_\_\_\_\_