



MOAATM
 Military Officers Association of America
 Southwest Illinois Chapter

*Eyes
 to the
 Skies*

March 2019

President's Input

Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow on Groundhog Day, so we're in for an early Spring.* Will March come in like a Lion or a Lamb? And then how will it go out? Questions galore! You may also have questions about filling out your 2018 taxes. You could be putting more money back in your pocket as a result of the changes. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, the Veterans Benefits and Transition Act, the Combat Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act and DoD policy changes all have affected the tax code as it applies to military personnel. Although seven deductions were eliminated (<http://test.moaa.org/Content/Publications-and-Media/News-Articles/2018-News-Articles/Tax-Code-Changes-You-Should-Know--7-Eliminated-Deductions.aspx>), doubling of the child tax credit, increase in standard deductions, and reduced tax rates, among other changes will result in substantial reductions in overall federal taxes. You can read about the many other changes that were enacted at <http://test.moaa.org/Content/Publications-and-Media/News-Articles/2019-News-Articles/Tax-Code-Changes-Could-Mean-Bigger>Returns-for-Servicemembers.-Families.aspx>. While Scott AFB Legal Office is listed as a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) office, we learned at our January meeting which featured two professional paralegals from Scott AFB, they will only handle E-1 through E-4 who only need to complete a 1040A. But if you have questions you can still call the office at 618-256-3542 or visit them at 375 AMW/JA, 101 Heritage Drive, Suite 210, Scott AFB, IL. More VITA information is available at <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/vita-location-lookup>.

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Welcome!

The SW IL Chapter would like to welcome Bradley Flinders, Lt Col, USAF (ret) to the chapter.

Treasurer's Report for February 2019

Checking Account Balance ...	\$1,185
Savings Account Balance	\$6,435
Certificates of Deposit	\$15,130
Total	\$22,750

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Visit us on Facebook! (click logo on left)

* The views of our Chapter President are not necessarily the views of the local groundhogs, who may have seen their shadow.

This Month's Program



For our March meeting, we're having lunch at Silver Creek Saloon and Grill in Belleville. We'll meet at 11 am for lunch.

After lunch, we'll hear from Lt Col Scott Wadle, USMC-Ret, the Program Director of Council and Chapter Affairs.

Hope to see you there!

7 March 2019

Lunch/Meeting

Silver Creek Saloon and Grill

2520 Mascoutah Ave, Belleville IL

(east of Green Mount)

Meeting Start at 11:00 am

Cost: Individuals pay Server

Attire: Business Casual

Order from the Menu

Please note, individuals who make event reservations and must cancel them need to do so before we commit our attendance to the caterer. The final date is noted on the invitation and is generally 4 days prior to the event. Cancellation after that date will require full event payment.

Dick Glogowski, Treasurer

Upcoming Programs

Date	Venue	Topic
13 Apr 2019	Cardinal Creek Golf Course	Dinner Meeting
18 April 2019	Global Brew Tap House (O'Fallon)	Quarterly Happy Hour Meeting
18 May 2019	Ann Morey's Home	Annual Business Meeting
Jun 2019	TBD	TBD

SAVE THE DATE! Please join us for our Quarterly Happy Hour Meeting in April. It's casual with no agenda or guest speaker. Just good conversation. See you there!

President's Input (continued)

Our March meeting details are in the Programs section of the newsletter, but please pay attention here. Our guest speaker at this lunchtime meeting will be Lt Col Scott Wadle, USMC (ret), Program Director for Council and Chapter Affairs, MOAA National. Please try to come to hear about what is going on at the National level. I have several opportunities throughout each year working with the Council and also attending other venues facilitated National. If you'd like to hear the unabashed truth of MOAA's future, make your reservation to attend!

Please support our donation drive for USO of Missouri and St Louis Fisher House. Both of these organizations do not receive any government funding and exist only with donations from outside sources. You can help reach our goal of \$5,000 in monetary contributions! Give today...even \$5 would help, more if you afford it. The drive ends at our March meeting.

Spring forward on March 10! So we'll lose an hour...until November 3. With that time change and the change in seasons, thoughts will turn to spending time outdoors. Our February guest speaker, Sarah Lambaria, former President of the O'Fallon Garden Club, provided some interesting information about the Club, the largest Garden Club in this region. If you'd like to learn more about flora in the local area, please attend their monthly meeting, first Tuesday of each month, 6 PM, currently at Katy Cavins Center, usually lasting 90 minutes. Lots of snacks available! The next meeting is Tuesday, March 5.

Congressman Bost just released the list of his nominees to the US Service Academies—18 students received the nod from the Congressman. See the entire list and commentary at: <https://bost.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/bost-announces-service-academy-nominees>. I find it encouraging that despite several years of fighting, there are still young people who respond to the call to serve. Congratulate them if you come across any of those named.

As always, thank you for your service to the Chapter, the local community, our military community, the state and the nation! God bless you and God bless America!

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New year, new Congress, same old rhetoric? As we move forward in this era of adhering to political lines, there continues to be talk of "Bipartisan" approach to the governing of the country. In his State of the Union address, President Trump called for unity as Congress works for what is best for the country, not to just stick to party lines. Many things brought up during that address drew great applause by both sides – Democrat and Republican—such as the recognition of several WWII veterans, first responders, and other physical and personal overcomers. At other times, the issues brought a divisive reaction. For the next two years, voting along party lines may become more entrenched. However, as issues affecting the military community at all phases come up, we need to make sure that our voice is heard to effect the changes that are necessary to keep our armed forces strong and ensure that our men and women who have served, are serving, or will serve, are provided the assurance that the nation – Republican, Democrat, Independent, whomever – has their back.



Did you realize that government shutdowns are not good, even partial government shutdowns? While the recent partial shutdown directly affected only a few agencies—Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration), US Coast Guard, Internal Revenue Service, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency, US Public Health Service, among others—the impact reached far beyond just those few. For example, we may expect to see a Continuing Resolution (CR) for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and Appropriations Act. The Pentagon will release its FY 2020 budget

Legislative News (continued)

on March 12 as opposed to the first Monday in February, which is six weeks later than expected, leaving less time for Congress to deliberate and approve considering all the other work that must go on. If a new budget deal is not struck by the end of FY 2019 (September 30), we may find the DoD facing sequester under the levels established by the 2011 deficit reduction law, and automatic cuts of almost \$54 billion in 2020. See more at:

<http://www.moaa.org/Content/Publications-and-Media/News-Articles/2019-News-Articles/Advocacy/Pentagon-Postpones-Budget-Rollout-to-March.aspx>

Another impact is the actual cost of the shutdown—\$11 billion of which \$3 billion will likely never be recovered. The calculation is a result of the economic projection of the gross domestic product in first quarter of 2019, which is 0.2 percent less than expected. You can see the full report by the Congressional Budget Office at <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files?file=2019-01/54937-PartialShutdownEffects.pdf>. Tax implications and spending habits could change the landscape for those who were not allowed to work. The IRS was not able to enforce tax compliance, possibly losing revenues of \$2 billion. This reduction means Congress will have money to appropriate, which could translate to issues to improve or fix TRICARE or VA benefits. Some other impacts that could come along as a result of the shutdown and attempts to regain lost revenues are:

- Cap increases in basic military pay for military service members
- Reduce the Basic Allowance for Housing to 80 percent of average housing costs
- Introduce enrollment fees under TRICARE For Life
- Introduce minimum out-of-pocket requirement under TRICARE For Life
- Increase premiums for Medicare Part B
- Modify TRICARE enrollment fees and cost sharing for working-age military retirees
- End VA's Individual Unemployability payments to disabled veterans at the full retirement age for Social Security

Read more about these impacts at:

<http://www.moaa.org/Content/Publications-and-Media/News-Articles/2019-News-Articles/Advocacy/Tell-Congress-Not-to-Shrink-the-Deficit-by-Shorting-Troops-and-Veterans.aspx>

MOAA recently posted the organization's 10 goals for 2019. (<http://www.moaa.org/2019Goals/>) Many of these are the same goals from previous years which will continue until appropriately resolved. One of the main issues that plagues resolution is currently just over 17 percent of Congress has uniform experience, down significantly from previous years. Additionally, the split of political power between the two houses of Congress will be another significant challenge. MOAA plans to work with the legislators to reintroduce legislation that was not passed in previous sessions.

- 1) Ensure any TRICARE reform sustains access to top quality care
- 2) Prevent disproportionate TRICARE fee increases
- 3) Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector
- 4) Stop erosion of compensation and non-pay quality-of-life benefits
- 5) End financial penalties for military survivors
- 6) End concurrent receipt penalties for military retirees
- 7) Achieve equity of benefits for Guard and Reserve members with their active duty counterparts
- 8) Strengthen DoD-VA collaboration and services to support wounded warriors and an expanding population of women veterans
- 9) Ensure timely access to service-earned VA benefits
- 10) Protect military and veteran family support programs and policies

Legislative News (continued)

The Widows Tax will be one of the issues that MOAA members will bring to Congress during the annual Storming the Hill in April. While legislation to remove this inequity has received strong support in the past four congressional sessions (that's 8 years!), no bill has gone forward to vote by other legislators or even to committee. MOAA's website featured a letter from a Navy surviving spouse whose pleas for resolving this issue for many desperate spouses were very moving and worthy of reading. You can see the letter at: <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Publications-and-Media/News-Articles/2018-News-Articles/Surviving-spouse-pens-powerful-message-to-eliminate--Widows-Tax-.aspx>.

In the meantime, you can still make your voice heard by taking action on the issues being espoused by MOAA. Here are a few that deserve your attention now.

- End the Widows Tax: <http://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/app/write-a-letter?0&engagementId=495393>
- Protect Survivors During a Shutdown: <http://takeaction.moaa.org/app/write-a-letter?0&engagementId=496048>
- End Pay Reduction for Medical Retirees: <http://takeaction.moaa.org/app/write-a-letter?5&engagementId=494302>
- Do Not Raise TRICARE Fees: <http://takeaction.moaa.org/app/write-a-letter?3&engagementId=494195>
- Find a Long-Term Fix for the Shutdown: <http://takeaction.moaa.org/app/write-a-letter?7&engagementId=493837>

MOAA Chapter/Legislative News

- [Fiscal Year 2019 National Defense Authorization Act Chairman's Mark Summary](#)
- [5 Key Takeaways from the State of the Union Address](#)
- [2019 MOAA Stakeholder's Report](#)
- [VA Wants Input: How to Implement Free Urgent Care Benefit \(Deadline is 4 March\)](#)
- [How to Get the Most From Resume Reviews](#)

2019 ROTC/JROTC MOAA Awards -- If you are interested in presenting the MOAA ROTC/JROTC Award at one of the local high school JROTC Award Ceremonies this spring contact Tim Grout at grouttj@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
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.



The 2019 USO/FISHER HOUSE DONATIONS DRIVE

By Nick Wartonick

It's Your Campaign

Our chapter decided to start supporting the very active USO of Missouri based at Lambert Field in 2009. With the advent of a Fisher House at Jefferson Barracks in 2010, we then choose to include it in our support efforts in 2011. In those early days, we concentrated on procuring and collecting Wish List items for both organizations, with some nominal money contributions added. Today, we concentrate on money contributions almost exclusively to both make our collections efforts simpler and to allow the organizations to shop for their most needed items with the money we raise. The question is, "How well is our chapter really doing in our year after year financial support of these two noble organizations?"

In last month's newsletter, our whole campaign was outlined. It included the three goals we -- every member individually and then collectively -- must strive to achieve. Let's examine those goals in reverse order.

"The **third goal is to have** as many **chapter members** as possible **reach out** to others outside the chapter...." Our overall goal is to exceed \$5,000 of combined contributions. Yet, the expectation, based on recent past performance, for contributions from chapter members per se is approximately \$3,000. The remaining minimum of \$2,000 must therefore come from outside the chapter.

For the past eleven years, contributions from outside the chapter have supplemented the internal contributions to a great extent. But the bulk of those outside contributions, sometimes exceeding the \$2,000 mentioned above, has come from only one place, St. Michael's Episcopal Church. That single outside source has augmented our chapter's total donations by approximately \$17,000 in those eleven years. This fact is introduced to serve as an illustration. If some chapter members, as many as can make the commitment, would solicit from whatever sources are available to them, like family, friends, neighborhood, place of worship, place of employment, private or social club, bridge or poker group, bowling group or golf league, and so on, imagine the tremendous growth of our collections. You accept the challenge; you decide what you can do; you set up your campaign; you collect. Imagine finally your personal and the chapter's collective satisfaction with our new-found successes.

As other illustrations and food for thought, think about how other organizations and fundraising efforts succeed. The United Way does not make its huge annual goal by collecting from only from the members of committee responsible for managing the campaign. Rather, it's the job of the committee to get hundreds, even thousands of companies, businesses, various organizations and individuals to contribute the millions of dollars collected. We are the committee. A ladies club bake sale does not make their fundraising goal by selling to each other. We are the ladies. And, like the ladies selling to customers, we are selling to all comers the services provided by the two organizations we desire to support. Many more illustrations could be given, but the point is clear. Every member who can do so must become a proactive worker in and for our campaign, not just an individual donator.

"The **second goal is to have all chapter members make individual contributions.**" Granted, there may be a few reasons why this goal cannot be achieved. But for the most part, as a member of an organization pledged to support two worthy endeavors, it is incumbent on those who can to make a suitable/reasonable/proper/generous (whatever the word) contribution to the organization of your choice or split between both. Think about this. If every member gave a \$20 donation, we would easily exceed the \$3,000 goal. Think next about the great success of the campaign if that \$20 were at least doubled. That's why your individual contributions as a member are so important.

"The **first goal is to exceed** the nearly **\$5,000** of combined contributions achieved last year." Enough has been said about achieving this 2019 goal in the discussions above of goals three and two. The goal is very

2019 USO/Fisher House (continued)

doable, because, at this writing, we are at 44 percent of goal achievement with five weeks remaining. All that is needed is your continuing participation. If you have not already participated to the maximum extent you can, both donating and collecting, please step up and be counted.

And now the big caveat. We, Ann and I, realize that it is a little late in this year's campaign to make it the full-blown success that was possible. That is, not all of you who could have organized your own effective collection efforts from sources outside the chapter have sufficient time to realize the full potential of doing so. So, we ask you to do the best you can in the time remaining. Also, we ask you to start now planning what you will do different next year to bring about the fullest membership participation possible in the 2020 drive as both campaign workers for the cause and as donators to the cause. Think about the eventual outcome -- being able to set a combined goal vastly exceeding the \$5,000 mentioned above of, say, \$10,000 or \$12,000 or more!

In last month's newsletter also, we decided to retain the theme **"DO MORE, DO BETTER!"** The opportunity to do better still exists for this year. The more we do, as discussed above, the better the outcome. And, applying the same theme, the potential for the future is even greater. Lastly, to help incentivize yourself, pause and think about those we are serving and supporting.

Please make out checks to the **USO of Missouri** or to **St. Louis Fisher House** and give or send them to Ann Morey (811 North Lincoln Drive, O'Fallon, IL 62269) or to Nick Wartonick (7342 Timberpoint Court, Fairview Heights, IL 62208).

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

Nick Wartonick (618-628-0858, wartonick-59@charter.net)

Notices that dues are delinquent were sent out in December. Those not receiving a notice are current through 2019 or later. If you did, please make arrangements to pay. The next dues notice will be sent out in December 2019.

Col (ret) Lee Pitzer Obituary

Lee Pitzer, Colonel, USAF (ret), age 85, of O'Fallon IL, former Air Force officer and corporate financial executive, passed away Saturday, 26 Jan 2019 at his home. Lee was 85 years old and had been blessed with a full and complete life. He hitch-hiked to California at age 15 to see the world and again the following summer, to Phoenix, Ariz., where he joined the National Guard. Lee graduated from the University of Missouri June 1955, then married his high school sweetheart Peggy Aug 1955, in Affton, Mo. Colonel Pitzer left the Air Force in 1958, but chose to return to active duty in the Air Force, as there was a navigator shortage. In 1962, after being the navigator on Air Force missions all over the world, Lee went to the US Army's parachute training school at Ft. Benning, Ga., prior to his reassignment requiring parachute duty at McChord AFB, Wash. His last assignment was at Scott AFB as Assistant Deputy for Air Transportation, before retiring April 1982. In civilian life, after 2 years with First Bank in O'Fallon, Lee joined Merrill Lynch & Co. in St. Louis as an investment broker and financial consultant. Fifteen years later, he retired as Assistant Vice President. In the following years, he played golf, Texas Hold 'em poker, and bridge. For many years, he raised thoroughbred race horses for sale and to race. Since 1979, the Pitzers have lived in east O'Fallon on five acres with a barn and several horses. Surviving are his wife Peggy Pitzer; son Rahn (Vickie) Pitzer and their children Cody, Courtney (Bryan) Hutches, and Amanda Pitzer; son Kurt Pitzer; daughter Pamela (Michael) McCarthy, and their children Meghan and Matthew.

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 Thursday, 7 March 2019 at the Silver Creek Saloon and Grill in Belleville. (See Program News for details.) We will order from the menu and pay individually.

RESERVATION FORM FOR SWIL MOAA CHAPTER MEETING

Reservation deadline (mail, e-mail, or phone call received by): 4 Mar 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: _____