

**Oct 2020**

## President's Input

The US Navy celebrates 245 years of service on October 13, 2020. Thank a Navy veteran for their service!!

Sad news again this month. Colonel (retired) Jack H. Smith, USAF, passed from this world on September 9, 2020. Jack was a great supporter of MOAA and our Chapter. He served as the Secretary for the Chapter Board. He will be missed.

Our General Election is coming up on November 3. Everyone of age and ability needs to participate in this process that has sustained our government and way of life for over 200 years. In case you wanted to avoid the crowds voting on Election Day, there are other avenues to take. One is early voting in person, which starts 40 days preceding the election and extends through the end of the day before Election Day. This year early voting starts on September 24 at Election Authority Offices and October 19 at Permanent Polling Places. For St Clair

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As I pen this article, Congress is once again wrestling with the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). It appears that we will have—more often than not—a Continuing Resolution (CR) that will allow the government to avoid a shutdown due to lack of a budget. While this stop-gap measure has been a staple of the Congress for the longest time, this year being an election year, brings this critical legislation to the fore again. All seats in the House of Representatives and one-third of the seats in the Senate are up for election. With all that churn going on, the ability to get a comprehensive budget passed before the end of Fiscal Year 2020 (September 30) will indeed be

*Continued on page 3*

### Treasurer's Report for Aug 2020

Checking Account Balance ...	\$538
Savings Account Balance .....	\$4,948
Certificates of Deposit .....	\$15,459
Total .....	\$20,945



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Visit our website: [www.moaa-swil.org](http://www.moaa-swil.org)

Send your comments to [moaa.swil@gmail.com](mailto:moaa.swil@gmail.com)

**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](mailto:moaa.swil@gmail.com).**

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## This Month's Program

**DUE TO THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS ON GATHERINGS,  
OUR OCTOBER PROGRAM IS CANCELLED.**

**WE DON'T BELIEVE THAT RESTRICTIONS WILL BE LIFTED  
THIS YEAR, SO ALL IN-PERSON MEETINGS UNTIL JAN 2021  
ARE CANCELED.**

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

### MENU

No Menu

### Upcoming Programs (all are tentative due to pandemic restrictions)

Date	Venue	Topic
14 Nov 2020	Canceled	None
12 Dec 2020	Canceled	<b>Please Donate to our Chapter Scholarship Fund</b>
Jan 2021	Canceled	None
Feb 2021	TBD	TBD
Mar 2021	TBD	TBD
Apr 2021	TBD	TBD
May 2021	TBD	Annual Business Meeting
Jun 2021	TBD	TBD

## President's Input (continued)

County, the Election Authority Office is in the St Clair County Clerk Office located at 10 Public Square, 2nd Floor, Belleville. Permanent Polling Places (open October 19 to November 2 at various times during the week and on weekends) are The Rec Complex, 9950 Bunkum Road, Fairview Heights; O'Fallon Township Building, 801 E. State Street, O'Fallon. Temporary Polling Places (open October 17 only, 10 AM to 4 PM) are Whiteside Middle School, 111 Warrior Way, Belleville; and Cahokia High School Gym, 800 Range Lane, Cahokia.

As we continue to wend our way through this COVID pandemic, changes continue to mark our lives and livelihoods. For those needing new ID cards, there is good news from DoD. DEERS policy has granted an extension DoD wide to honor all expired Retired/Dependent IDs that have expired as of **January 1, 2020** through **June 30, 2021** (expired cards prior to January 1, 2020 must be processed new).

**New Dependent/Retiree ID Cards** will only be scheduled under these circumstances:

Dependents: When the sponsor's status has changed (ie: AD/ANG/AFRES retirement, Commissioning...etc.). Full-time college students age 21 or 23 need to schedule a DEERS update with information from the college of their full-time enrollment (only a DEERS update is required – the card can be expired – we DO generate first time cards). Finally, those members age 23 applying for TRICARE young adult (coverage must be paid for prior to generating an ID card).

Retirees: Sponsor's (and their dependents) turning age 65 (may need MEDICARE updated if the feed from SSA fails). When MEDICARE information is updated in DEERS, TRICARE will accept the claims regardless of the expiration date on the card. TRICARE coverage will remain intact as it is not associated with ID card expiration dates. **THERE SHOULD BE NO LAPSE IN COVERAGE OR BENEFITS!**

Lastly, important information about TRICARE Select (formerly Standard) is in the mail to those who are covered under that policy. A fee is being charged starting January 1, 2021, but everyone needs to sign up during the Open Season, November 9 to December 14. Those currently covered who do not sign up during that time will lose TRICARE coverage as of January 1, 2021, and will only be allowed to get care at a military hospital or clinic on a space available basis. Read more about this in the Legislative Update.

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## Legislative News (continued)

challenging. And add to the top of that pile the COVID pandemic and associated economic situation created by the necessary rules to keep the population healthy. There are still things going on in Congress that require our attention, so don't be complacent. The most important thing, though, for everyone who is qualified and capable to exercise their civil requirement to vote in the upcoming election. Please make sure that you are registered and take the opportunity to vote in-person or absentee. If you're a resident of Illinois, you can either call the Clerk of the County in which you live or search on-line for Illinois Voting 2020 and you'll be able to see the Voter Guide, inquire about your polling place and the schedule for in-person early and day of the election voting. Early voting in-person at the County Clerks office has started 40 days prior to the general election (September 24). Early voting at Permanent Polling Places will begin on October 19. All early voting will end on November 2. Election Day is November 3.

### 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>)*

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## Legislative News (continued)

### Urge Congress to Improve Support for Military Special Needs Families ([link](#))

TRICARE's Extended Health Care Option (ECHO) program falls short compared with state Medicaid services for individuals who would otherwise require care in an institutional setting. Please act now to urge your elected officials to support Section 706 - Expansion of Benefits Available Under TRICARE Extended Care Health Option Program - in the House version of the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This provision improves ECHO coverage to better align with state Medicaid programs.

### UPDATED LETTER: Urge Elected Officials: Support Legislation to Stop Cuts to Military Medicine ([link](#))

Urge your elected officials in the House and Senate to support FY21 NDAA legislation that will halt MTF restructuring as well as cuts to uniformed medical personnel billets. Please contact all three of your legislators.

### Pass a Budget, on Time, to Avoid Damage Caused by Continuing Resolutions ([link](#))

Continuing resolutions stall plans to modernize DoD and improve the lives of servicemembers, military families, retirees, and veterans. New programs receive no funds while outdated ones limp forward. Looming shutdowns put some servicemembers' pay at risk. Ask your lawmakers to pass a budget on time this year.

### Ask Lawmaker: Help Expand Benefits for Tens of Thousands of Vietnam Veterans ([link](#))

The Senate version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) would expand VA benefits available to Vietnam veterans exposed to herbicides such as Agent Orange, adding conditions scientifically linked to such exposure.

Show your support for this NDAA provision (S. 4049 Section 1090B), by signing the conferee letter to add life-threatening bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinson's-like symptoms to the list of veterans' diseases associated with Agent Orange.

### FY 22 NDAA ([link](#))

As of July 2020, prior to the NDAA going to the House and Senate committees to resolve differences and issues, these major provisions are advocated by MOAA to remain in the NDAA:

#### ***Military Pay***

A provision to increase military pay by 3% tied to the Employment Cost Index is included in both the House and Senate versions of the NDAA.

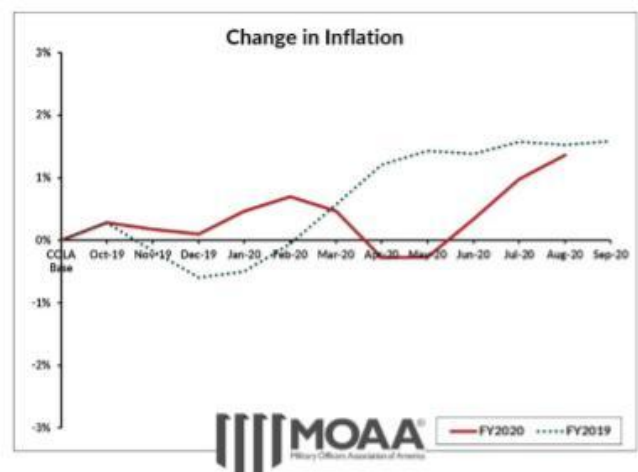
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#### **COLA Watch**

([moaa.org/content/take-action/cola-watch](https://moaa.org/content/take-action/cola-watch))

The August 2020 CPI is 253.597, 1.4 percent above the FY 2020 COLA baseline.

The Consumer Price Index for September is scheduled to be released Oct 13. The CPI baseline for FY 2020 is 250.200.



## Legislative News (continued)

### *Military Health Care*

Despite the success of MOAA's Virtual Storming the Hill, efforts to include a halt to military medical end strength cuts and the realignment of military treatment facilities (MTFs) in the NDAA remain at risk. While the House version has language supporting these provisions, the Senate version does not.

### *Military Family Readiness*

The Senate NDAA version includes provisions to consider family discounts at child development centers (CDCs) for families with two or more children at a center. The House version includes provisions to reassess fee assistance for families with consideration of cost fluctuations by location, as well as an assessment of the priority system and waitlist at CDCs.

Both the House and Senate also recommend substantial increases to the authorized amount of spending on military privatized housing support to better facilitate hiring of housing staff and to support needs for maintenance and repair work.

### *Commissary-Exchange Merger*

The House version of the NDAA seeks an updated business case analysis for the Defense Resale Enterprise's proposal to consolidate the commissaries and exchanges after the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found significant problems (click [here](#) for story) in the proposed merger. Unfortunately, the Senate version stayed silent on this issue.

### *National Guard and Reserve Components*

The Senate version includes language that would redesignate the DD-214 form as the Certificate of Military Service, making it a standard total-force record of military service for all members of the armed forces, including the reserve components.

The House version includes a section that would standardize payment of hazardous duty incentive pay for members of the Guard and Reserve, and the Senate version includes a mandate for hazardous duty pay at

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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](mailto: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.



## Legislative News (continued)

the rate of no less than \$150 a month. While the language is different for these hazardous duty pay sections, they do show a positive step that reflects Congress's understanding of the essential role the National Guard and reserve components play.

### ***Toxic Exposure and Access to VA Benefits***

The Senate version includes an amendment, put forward by Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and passed Wednesday afternoon, which would add bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinson's-like symptoms to the list of veterans' diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange. Unfortunately, the House NDAA does not include a similar amendment.

While this will make the fight for this much-needed expansion of Agent Orange presumptives more challenging, MOAA is working to ensure the Senate amendment survives the NDAA conference process.

### ***Sexual Harassment and Assault***

Both House and Senate NDAA versions include language to establish the "Safe to Report" program across all the branches of the armed services. This and other sexual trauma-related provisions would encourage reporting by victims without fear of punishment for minor collateral misconduct, such as underage drinking.

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## And in Other NEWS...

### **Troops, DoD Civilians Won't be able to Opt Out of Payroll Tax Deferral Plan ([link](#))**

by: Richard Sisk, Military.com, September 8 2020

The Trump administration's controversial payroll tax deferral plan will be mandatory for military members and Defense Department civilians, officials announced over the weekend, although businesses can choose whether to participate.

The result will be that, starting with the September mid-month pay period through the end of the year, most service members will see paychecks increase by about 6.2%, but will have to pay back all of that money through larger withholdings from Jan. 1 through April 2021. Late payments will be subject to penalties, yet to be named. Military retirees will not be affected.

"Effective for the September mid-month pay, DFAS will temporarily defer the withholding of your 6.2% Social Security tax if your monthly rate of basic pay is less than \$8,666.66," the DFAS said in guidance for service members issued September 4.

"If your monthly rate of basic pay is at or above this threshold, your Social Security tax withholding will not be affected by the temporary deferral," it added.

Service members and DoD civilians "are not eligible to opt-out of the deferral if their Social Security wages fall within the stated limits. The deferral will happen automatically."

In addition, "collection of the deferred taxes will be taken from your wages between January 1 and April 30, 2021, for both military members and civilian employees," it said.

In a similar announcement the Internal Revenue Service stated that the deferral plan is mandatory for the entire federal workforce, without the opportunity to opt out that is afforded to private employers, who have shown a marked lack of enthusiasm for the program.

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### **Payroll Tax Deferral Opt-Out (continued)**

The deferral "applies to all civilians at or below \$4,000 per pay period" and "to all military members at or below \$8,666 of basic pay only per month," he said.

The White House and Republicans have argued that the deferral plan will boost an economy hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, while Democrats charge that it is an election-year ploy to give workers the illusion of a pay raise while downplaying that they will be hit with pay cuts starting January 1.

"Many of our members consider it unfair to employees to make a decision that would force a big tax bill on them next year," the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and more than 30 trade associations wrote in an August 18 letter to Congress and the Treasury Department.

"It would also be unworkable to implement a system where employees make this decision," the groups said, adding that many of their members would likely decline to participate.

The subject began with an August 8 executive order from President Donald Trump to the Treasury Department on "deferring payroll tax obligations in light of the ongoing COVID-19 disaster."

In the order, Trump said, "It is clear that further temporary relief is necessary to support working Americans during these challenging times. ... This modest, targeted action will put money directly in the pockets of American workers and generate additional incentives for work and employment, right when the money is needed most."

The tax, which goes to support Social Security and Medicare trust funds, currently amounts to 15.3% -- half paid by the employer and half by the employee.

For employees, 7.65% of wages are withheld from each paycheck -- 6.2% for Social Security and 1.45% for Medicare.

Rep. Don Beyer, D-Va., has charged that the deferral plan will result in a 12% cut in pay for the military, federal workers and private employees after Jan. 1, as standard tax withholding resumes and deferred taxes come due on top of that.

"Nearly a month after the President's memorandum on deferring payroll tax obligations, the administration's conflicting and changing statements have left employers and employees confused," Beyer and 17 other Democrats on the Ways and Means Committee wrote in a September 2 letter to the White House. "What steps are you taking or advising other agencies to take to inform federal workers of their lower take-home pay in 2021?"

The rollout of the deferral plan has also caused confusion in the federal workforce and the unions that represent them.

In a letter to Russell Vought, director of the Office of Management and Budget, Everett Kelley, national president of the American Federation of Government Employees, which represents most workers at the Department of Veterans Affairs, asked that federal employees have the ability to opt out.

"While some federal employees may wish to defer their payroll tax obligations, many others do not," he said. "I have heard from many of our members. Most have been unaware that they would be required to re-pay the taxes starting in January 2021 and, when they learn this, they are strongly opposed to having their tax deferred involuntarily."

Under the deferral plan, "Essentially, employees will see a temporary increase in their take home paychecks, but will see smaller paychecks in early 2021," the emails said. "There is no opt-out or opt-in option" for federal employees on the deferrals.

## Other News (continued)

### **TRICARE's Uncertain Future: How MOAA is Working to Protect Your Benefits** ([link](#))

by: Karen Ruedisueli, 2 Sep 2020

Military Health System (MHS) reform, directed by Congress via the FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), touches almost every element of the system. While MOAA has most recently been fighting for increased reporting requirements and congressional oversight of military treatment facility (MTF) restructuring and medical billet cuts, we have also been monitoring potential changes to TRICARE since discussions on the next generation of TRICARE contracts, known as T-5, began last year.

There is still time to influence T-5. The draft request for proposal (RFP) was just released, and T-5 requirements are still being shaped. The current TRICARE T-2017 contracts run through Dec. 31, 2022.

The key takeaway: While we appreciate congressionally-directed TRICARE reforms are intended to improve access and quality of care, as well as the Defense Health Agency's ability to address contractor performance issues, they must be carefully coordinated with other MHS reforms and consider the impact on TRICARE program costs. Otherwise, beneficiaries could face inadequate TRICARE network availability in some areas, pressures for higher out-of-pocket costs, and a rocky transition to the new contractors.

The Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) has expressed concerns that the T-5 acquisition strategy will continue the East/West two-region approach and may not incorporate reforms directed by the FY17 NDAA. In its report for S. 4049, the Senate version of the FY 2021 NDAA, the SASC noted the existing contract structure "limits the [Defense Health Agency] and does not comport with the reforms directed by this committee."

The SASC report directed DoD to "review the legislative reforms enacted over the past several years and report to the committee on how the acquisition strategy for the next set of TRICARE managed care support contracts incorporates those reforms in a manner that increases competition and beneficiary choice." The committee went on to say that keeping a two-region setup "will neither provide the DHA with options to swiftly address contractor performance issues or shortfalls nor will it incentivize contractors to comport with the most high quality, innovative, and cost-effective industry best practices to improve quality of care for TRICARE beneficiaries and to maximize returns on DHA investment."

In response to the SASC report request, DoD released the Report to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate: TRICARE Managed Care Support Contract Structure earlier this month.

In the report to the SASC, DoD recommended maintaining the two-region construct in T-5 but incorporating phased demonstration projects to test and evaluate multiple contract/network offerings, as well as other health care innovations.

The first phase will require the two managed care support contractors (MCSCs) to conduct demonstrations, similar to the Kaiser Permanente pilot in Atlanta, designed to increase beneficiary choice and test health plan innovations.

In later demonstrations, DHA would award limited local or market-based contracts in each region directly to health care organizations, including plans or providers. First, DHA will need to compete a separate contract to satisfy TRICARE's unique administrative needs related to eligibility, enrollment, and encounter data.

#### **MOAA's Position**

MOAA's top priority is protecting beneficiary access to high quality care and the value of the military health care benefit. We support congressionally directed TRICARE reforms aimed at better serving

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## TRICARE's Uncertain Future (continued)

beneficiary needs, improving integration with MTF leadership, and facilitating a more agile, cost-effective approach. Reforms that provide DHA with options to swiftly address contractor performance issues are particularly important.

However, since the FY 2017 NDAA was passed, MOAA has had concerns about simultaneously increasing demand for TRICARE network care (via MTF restructuring and rightsizing) while also changing the TRICARE supply of network care (via a transformed TRICARE construct).

We also suspect the new approach may result in higher TRICARE program costs that will create pressure for higher beneficiary out-of-pocket costs. In its report to Congress, DoD cites possible cost increases related to potential reductions in provider discounts and the cost of a back-end administrative contract to handle eligibility/enrollment/encounters.

MOAA believes the approach outlined in DoD's report to the SASC has merit. It is important to test and evaluate TRICARE changes before rolling them out program-wide. It is also critical to allow time to integrate TRICARE reforms with MTF restructuring and rightsizing efforts that could dramatically increase demand for TRICARE network care. Instability in the civilian medical system resulting from COVID-19 is also likely to impact TRICARE reform efforts and must be considered.

All TRICARE changes being discussed as part of T-5 are still just under consideration – nothing is definite. Regardless of eventual T-5 specifics, we urge DoD and Congress to ensure any TRICARE changes and pilots/demonstrations are monitored closely using robust metrics to assess impact on beneficiary access to care, the quality of that care, and the cost to beneficiaries and DoD.

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## TRICARE's Select Enrollment Fees: What you Need to Know, What you Need to Do ([link](#)) by: Kevin Lilley, 15 July 2020

New TRICARE Select enrollment fees take effect in 2021 (click [here](#) for related article) – a first for retirees who joined the military prior to 2018 and their families. Here's what you should know about the new fees, and how you can ensure your medical benefit continues without interruption.

### **Q. Does this apply to TRICARE for Life or TRICARE Prime beneficiaries?**

**A.** No. Only TRICARE Select retiree beneficiaries in Group A – those whose sponsor entered service before Jan. 1, 2018 – must pay the new fees beginning Jan. 1, 2021.

### **Q. How much are the fees?**

**A.** Annual enrollment fees are \$150 for an individual or \$300 for a family. The Select enrollment fee will be billed monthly at \$12.50/month for individual and \$25/month for family coverage.

### **Q. Are any TRICARE Select Group A beneficiaries exempt from the fees?**

**A.** Yes. Members of following groups won't pay the new fees:

- Active duty family members
- Survivors
- Medically retired beneficiaries, or their family members

### **Q. Is anything else changing about TRICARE Select?**

**A.** Yes. As of Jan. 1, 2021, the catastrophic cap for TRICARE Select retiree Group A beneficiaries will increase from \$3,000 to \$3,500. Learn more about how TRICARE catastrophic caps work at [tricare.mil](#) ([full link](#)).

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## Tricare Select Enrollment (continued)

**Q. I don't remember any debate or legislation regarding new fees. Why are these fees being charged now?**

**A.** The debate took place in 2016, with MOAA and other groups successfully fighting proposals during the FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) process that would've resulted in massive upticks in fees and beneficiary cost shares. Plans called for enrollment fees up to \$900 for some beneficiaries, and even an annual TRICARE for Life enrollment fee of up to \$632.

Instead, the NDAA included the more modest fees that are now being implemented. MOAA has continued to fight further fee increases, proposals for which began in rapid fashion after the 2017 NDAA took effect.

**Q. How do I pay the fees?**

**A.** If you receive retirement or other pay from a military pay center, you'll have the fees taken out of that payment. If not, you'll be asked to set up a recurring payment from a credit or debit card, or via an electronic funds transfer (EFT) from your U.S. bank account. You should receive notification regarding the fees from TRICARE later this summer, per the TRICARE website. ([Link](#))

**Q. What if I don't pay the fees?**

**A.** You'll be disenrolled from TRICARE, and you'll have 90 days from your paid-through date to contact your regional contractor and request reinstatement. Any care you receive would have to come at a military treatment facility on a space-available basis.

**Q. What is MOAA doing to help beneficiaries?**

**A.** Along with getting the word out on the new fee structure, MOAA is pushing Congress and DoD to establish a longer grace period so that no beneficiary will lose coverage in 2021 because they don't pay their fees.

**Q. What about TRICARE Select Group B members?**

**A.** Group B sponsors entered service on or after Jan. 1, 2018. Group B retirees are currently a small group of medical retirees (and their family members). These beneficiaries will continue to pay annual enrollment fees – for 2020, Group B retiree enrollment fees for Select are \$471 for an individual or \$942 for a family. Group B enrollment fees are increased every year by the military retirement cost of living adjustment. Unlike Group A, Group B medical retirees and their families are not exempt from enrollment fees.

**Q. Where can I get more information?**

**A.** TRICARE's TRICARE Select Enrollment Fees website includes a breakdown of the new fee structure, as well as links to other plan features and ways you can reach out for further guidance. ()

**Q. How can I keep up with updates to this issue, or other TRICARE benefits?**

**A.** Bookmark MOAA's health care news page () for the latest information.

**Please Note:** the Mobile DMV has canceled their monthly Scott AFB activity for the rest of the year.

Follow this [link](#) for MOAA's Guidance on Partisan Political Activities.

# 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 [Take Action Center](#) or [News](#) webpages.

- [Should I Invest in Precious Metals and Cryptocurrencies?](#)
- [On the Move? Here Are Some Employment Resources for Military Spouses](#)
- [VA, DoD Resources Can Help Find a 'New Normal' During Trying Times](#)
- [Reminder: Servicemembers Can Carry Over More Leave Until 2023](#)
- [Military Shipwrecks: How High-Tech Explorers Find History Beneath the Waves](#)
- [September Is Life Insurance Awareness Month](#)
- [TRICARE's Uncertain Future: How MOAA Is Working to Protect Your Benefit](#)
- [Budget Delays Cost Billions and Threaten Readiness. Make Your Voice Heard](#)
- [Past Meets Present: MOAA's Post-WWII Advocacy Efforts Ring Familiar](#)

## SW IL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

The [VSO](#) 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.

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

- [Department of Veterans' Affairs Launches 'Operation Rising Spirit'](#)
- [Illinois Veterans' Home Notifications](#)
- [Send a message to an individual or to the home staff at our Illinois Veterans' Homes!](#)
- [Veteran Driver's License](#)
- [VBA, SDVA, and NASDVA Partnership Tele-Townhall Event](#)
- [Latest Illinois Veterans' Newsletter \(Mar 2020\)](#)
- [Latest US Department of Veterans Affairs Newsletter Links](#)
- [National Resource Directory \(support programs for service members, veterans, families, caregivers\)](#)

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## DoD ID Card Extension *(excerpt from 375th Public Affairs)*

DEERS policy has granted an extension DoD wide to honor all expired Retired/Dependent ID's that have expired as of Jan 1, 2020 through 30 June 2021 (expired cards prior to Jan 1, 2020 must be processed new). New Dependent/Retiree ID Cards will only be scheduled under these circumstances:

**Dependents:** When the sponsor's status has changed (ie: AD/ANG/AFRES retirement, Commissioning...etc.). Full-time college students age 21 or 23 need to schedule a DEERS update with information from the college of their full-time enrollment (only a DEERS update is required – the card can be expired – we DO generate first time cards). Finally, those members age 23 applying for TRICARE young adult (coverage must be paid for prior to generating an ID card).

**Retirees:** Sponsor's (and their dependents) turning age 65 (may need MEDICARE updated if the feed from SSA fails). When MEDICARE information is updated in DEERS, TRICARE will accept the claims regardless of the expiration date on the card. TRICARE coverage will remain intact as it is not associated with ID card expiration dates. THERE SHOULD BE NO LAPSE IN COVERAGE OR BENEFITS!

For more information regarding ID Cards and all MPF functions – please visit <https://375FSS.com/MPF.php>

**MOAA asked, and the candidates answered.** President Donald Trump, Democratic nominee Joe Biden, and Libertarian candidate Jo Jorgensen — all competing in the 2020 presidential election — responded when MOAA asked for their outlook on uniformed services issues in the weeks leading up to Election Day. Check this [link](#) for the full article.

## Jack Humphrey Smith



Jack H. Smith, Colonel, USAF (retired), age 84, of O'Fallon Ill., born July 3, 1936 in Wilmington, N.C., passed away Wednesday evening, September 9, 2020 at Memorial Hospital, Belleville, Ill. Jack grew up the big brother of two younger sisters,



and the son of a master electrician. During WWII, his dad moved to where the work was; therefore, Jack and his family moved often throughout Jack's childhood. He graduated from Miami Sr. High School, Miami, Fla., where he was President of the Exchange Club. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the US Army and served 2 years before enrolling at the University of Miami where he served as Cadet Commanding Officer of his AFROTC Unit and graduated cum laude. After college graduation, Jack's long and distinguished Air Force career began with his Undergraduate Pilot Training in 1961-62 at Moody AFB, Ga. He was a C-130 Pilot, Instructor Pilot, and Forward Air Controller, and served in various leadership positions in Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, and at the Air Force Academy. Col. Smith served as the Air Attaché to Austria from 1984-88, where, as a Knight of Lazarus, he assisted in charity and support to the sick and homeless. His many awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal, and Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross.

Colonel Smith's 35-year military career afforded many opportunities for his wife and children to travel to the Far East and Europe; for these opportunities, they are grateful. Jack was a member of the Kiwanis of O'Fallon, Ill., and he enjoyed snow skiing and spending time with his grandsons.

Surviving are his wife Jo-Anne "Jo," nee Bargdill Smith, whom he married June 6, 1958 in Miami, Fla.; his son Steven Smith of O'Fallon, Ill.; daughter Laura (Victor) Stipes of Godfrey, Ill.; his two grandsons Gregory Stipes of Monterey, Calif. and Brandon Stipes of Alton, Ill.; and his sister Nancy C. Smith of Pembroke Pines, Fla.

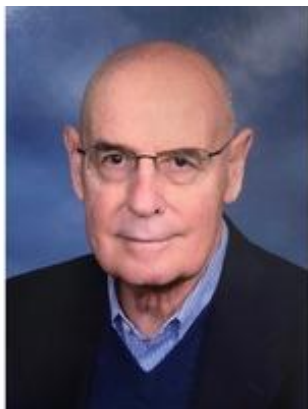
He was preceded in death by his parents Woodrow H. and Mary Alice, nee McCurdy, Smith; and his sister Jill Klump.

Memorial donations are suggested to either Alzheimer's Association or to the Kiwanis Club of O'Fallon, Ill.

The Visitation Service was on Thursday, September 17, 2020 at Wolfersberger Funeral Home. The Funeral Procession departed the funeral home Graveside Service, with military honors, at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, Mo.

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## Bob Parrish



Robert James Parrish, age 82, of Glen Carbon, Ill., died September 7, 2020 at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, St. Louis, Mo., from complications due to Parkinson's disease.

Born and raised in Manhattan, Kans., Bob was a graduate of Manhattan High School and Kansas State University. He earned his Master's degree from the Air War College in Montgomery, Ala.

*Continued next page*

## Bob Parrish Obit (continued)

At the age of 17, he enlisted in the Kansas Army National Guard, served 7 years, and discharged as a sergeant first class to serve in the Air Force. Bob proudly served 30 years as an officer in the Air Force in the fields of command, control, communications, and computer systems and retired as a Colonel at his last command at Scott Air Force Base near O'Fallon, Ill.

Bob always loved watching the Kansas City Royals major league baseball team and after retiring in Illinois, became an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan. A patron of the arts, Bob loved bluegrass music and performances at The Hett (Russel E. and Fern M. Hettenhausen) Center for the Arts. Bob was a man of faith and member of the New Bethel United Methodist Church in Glen Carbon, Ill.

Bob is preceded in death by his parents, Donald B. Parrish and Hazel A. Parrish, and brother Roger A. Parrish.

Surviving are his wife of 59 years, Dorothy "Anne" Parrish of Glen Carbon, Ill., and two children, Steven J. Parrish of Boulder, Colo., and Susan D. Parrish of Chesapeake, Va.

A patriot and highly decorated veteran of the Vietnam War and Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Bob will be laid to rest at the Kansas Veterans' Cemetery at Ft. Riley, Manhattan, Kans.

Memorial contributions in memory of Bob may be made to the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation for the Donald & Hazel Parrish Fund or the Roger Alan Parrish Scholarship Fund. Contributions may be left in the care of Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66502 or Wolfersberger Funeral Home, 102 W. Washington St., O'Fallon, IL 62269.

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## Your Article Here!

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 [moaa.swil@gmail.com](mailto:moaa.swil@gmail.com).
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!

Best wishes,

**Rick Sunner**

**2d Vice President & Newsletter Editor**

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 in an abundance of caution.