

Sep 2020

## President's Input

Welcome back, campers. I hope you were able to enjoy some of the summer in spite of the health restrictions. Over five months now and the situation seems to have changed very little. Hopefully we'll figure out what normal is one of these days.

On a sad note, we lost some very dear and noteworthy Chapter members over the past three months. Iris Soule, wife of Col (ret) Co Soule on May 30; Col (ret) Dick Glogowski on June 28; and Col (ret) Len Butler on July 23. Our condolences to the families of each of these genuine patriots and supporters of the Chapter, the local area, and the nation.

On a brighter note, Southwest was awarded a Five-Star Level of Excellence from MOAA National, one of 115 Councils and Chapters receiving the award. All the efforts put forth by the entire Chapter membership to support our selected military charities—Wilt Scholarship, National Scholarship, Chapter Scholarships, USO, Fisher House, and

*Continued on page 3*

### Treasurer's Report for Aug 2020

Checking Account Balance ...	\$641
Savings Account Balance .....	\$8,012
Certificates of Deposit .....	\$15,283
Total .....	\$23,936



Visit us on Facebook! (click logo on left)

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



Good grief! We are nearly 6 months into the health crisis and still looking forward to an uncertain future! In the meantime, while we've been sequestered and quarantined trying to spare ourselves from any human interactions—except if you go to WalMart—to avoid contracting anything that could debilitate or even worse, kill us, Congress has been at work. Well, most of Congress has been at work. The House was excused for a while but the Senate was still trying to make headway with some major issues. Even some government departments were able to continue to conduct business and get through some major issues, like the VA. I hope that everyone was able to

*Continued on page 3*

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

### Featured in this Issue

- President's Input 1
- Treasurer's Report 1
- Legislative Issues 1
- Programs 2
- COLA Watch 4

- Chapter Officers 5
- Editorial Policy 5
- Chapter News 8
- Meeting Info 10

### ... and also in this Issue

- Final Farewells 8

## This Month's Program

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

**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
10 Oct 2020	Cardinal Creek Golf Course Clubhouse	Aging Successfully (Tentative)
14 Nov 2020	Cardinal Creek Golf Course Clubhouse	O'Fallon Fire Chief (Tentative)
12 Dec 2020	Cardinal Creek Golf Course Clubhouse	Scholarship Auction
Jan 2021	TBD	TBD
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)

others—have been a strong part of our excellence. I appreciate everyone's contributions of time, goods, and money. Let's stay strong!

I have no idea what the future will bring for our Chapter meetings. One of these days, we're bound to break free from this stranglehold, but for now, we'll continue to provide information for everyone to remotely participate in MOAA events and calls to action. Thank you, again, for your support of the Chapter, the town, the state, the nation, and our men and women who stand guard. God bless you.

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## Legislative News (continued)

stay well over the past few months and I pray that you'll continue to do well amidst all the insanity and disease that seems to have become a part of our lives now. But, onto more mundane things. Health and healthcare issues seem to be on the rise, as you'll see in this newsletter. Get ready for more bills!

## Take Action!

*(Note: for more details about issues you can carry to our legislators, see the Take Action article in Council and Chapter News on page 8.)*

### 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.

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

Act now to urge your elected officials to support FY21 NDAA legislation that will halt Military Treatment Facility restructuring as well as cuts to uniformed medical personnel billets.

### Commit to Full Government Funding for FY 2021 ([link](#))

The ongoing pandemic makes the annual budgeting process even more likely to result in harmful continuing resolutions. Urge your lawmaker to pass yearlong funding measures that will eliminate uncertainty for servicemembers past and present, and their families, who too often bear unfair burdens as these negotiations stretch out.

### Repeal the '180-Day Rule' for Military Retirees Seeking GS-13 and Below DoD Positions ([link](#))

Military members seeking to continue national service through DoD civilian positions must wait 180 days before taking those jobs – a substantial barrier both to their employment prospects and to DoD's efforts to grow its civilian talent pool. Ask your lawmaker to remove this provision for General Schedule (GS) positions GS-13 and below as part of the annual National Defense Authorization Act.

### VA Grants \$583.8 Million in Retroactive Payments for Blue Water Navy Claims

On Jan. 1, 2020, the VA began processing disability compensation and dependency and indemnity (DIC) claims for Vietnam-era Navy veterans and their survivors exposed to the defoliating toxin commonly known as Agent Orange, or AO.

This veteran group, familiarly known as Blue Water Navy (BWN) veterans, had long contended that their ships, having steamed within 12 nautical miles of the coast of Vietnam, had ingested the toxic AO runoff into their watering producing systems. Drinking and bathing from the water produced on those vessels thus exposed those veterans to Agent Orange.

## Legislative News (continued)

The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, signed into law June 25, 2019, gave the VA the remainder of 2019 to prepare for the implementation of BWN veterans' claims into the Agent Orange presumptive program.

Over the summer of 2020, the VA received deck logs from every surface vessel active during the Vietnam era and used a geographic locator tool to determine when each vessel "crossed the line." The VA then cross-referenced each claimant's DD-214 or personnel record to determine presumption – in other words, to find out whether the veteran was assigned to that vessel on a day it operated within the 12-nautical-mile zone.

To date, BWN submariners from the Vietnam era are excluded from presumption, as their sensitive deck logs were not included in the original grouping from the archives. There is no official estimate of when, or if, this last group will be included.

The Senate draft version of the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) would add three long-awaited conditions to the AO presumptive list: bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinson's-like symptoms. A fourth condition, hypertension, was removed pending a study expected in late 2020. The House's draft NDAA does not include language adding these conditions to the list.

### Ask Your Lawmakers to Support House NDAA Reforms to TRICARE ECHO Program ([link](#))

By: Karen Ruedisueli

House passage of the TRICARE ECHO Improvement Act as part of the chamber's FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) marks the next step in a long effort to secure better benefits for the most severely impacted military special needs families.

Reps. Tom Cole (R-Okla.) and Elaine Luria (D-Va.) secured House passage of the bill, which is now Section 706 – Expansion of Benefits Available Under TRICARE Extended Care Health Option Program – in the House-engrossed version of the NDAA. MOAA needs your support to ensure lawmakers maintain the language in the final NDAA as the legislation moves through the conference process.

MOAA has been fighting for improvements to the TRICARE Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) program since the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission highlighted ECHO shortcomings in its 2015 report. ([Link](#) for full report.). Most recently, MOAA included ECHO improvement recommendations in testimony (download the full report at this [link](#)) at the House Armed Services Personnel subcommittee hearing in February. (Read more about this hearing at this [link](#).)

ECHO serves a relatively small population of military special needs families, including individuals with intellectual disabilities, serious physical disabilities, and autism spectrum disorder.

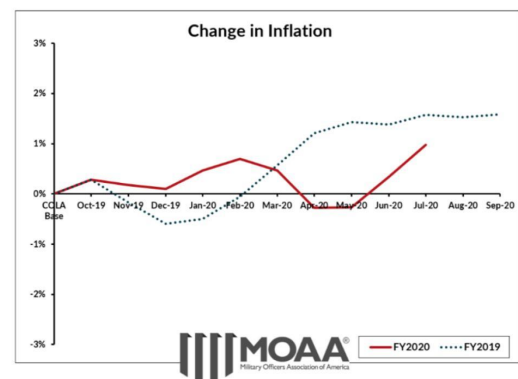
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## COLA Watch

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

The July 2020 CPI is 252.636, 1.0 percent above the FY 2020 COLA baseline.

The Consumer Price Index for August is scheduled to be released Sept. 11. The CPI baseline for FY 2020 is 250.200.



## Legislative News (continued)

Congress established ECHO as a substitute for Medicaid Waiver services that are often unavailable to mobile military families. Medicaid Waiver programs provide in-home services and supports to those who would otherwise require care in an institutional setting. Many states have lengthy waitlists for their Medicaid Waiver programs, leaving military families unable to access services when they PCS from one state to another, moving from waitlist to waitlist.

Section 706 of the House NDAA version would align ECHO coverage with Medicaid, including increased respite care levels as well as coverage for vehicle and residence adaptations – services covered by most state Medicaid programs.

Because the Senate did not include a provision to improve ECHO in its NDAA version, it is important to generate support for House Section 706 as the NDAA moves into conference, where differences between the House and Senate versions will be resolved.

## TRICARE Select Enrollment Fees: What You Need to Know, and What You'll Need to Do

New TRICARE Select enrollment fees take effect in 2021 – 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.

*Continued on page 6*

Chapter Officers	
President	Col (ret) Bob Norman
2nd VP/Communications	Maj (ret) Rick Sunner
Secretary	Lt Col (ret) Ann Morey
Treasurer	Col (ret) Phil Yavorsky
Membership	Maj (ret) Sabrina Luttrell
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)

**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 this [link](#).

**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, according to the TRICARE website at this [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.

### Why can you do?

- Join MOAA's virtual storm by visiting [this link](#) for details on contacting your legislators.
- Share MOAA's message on social media by reaching out to your legislators, local media members, and others, and using the hashtag #MOAASstorms to spread the word.
- Keep yourself safe by following all health guidance, and keep up with the latest COVID-19 news, updates, and resources at [this link](#).

Even apart, we are all in this together. And even from our homes, we will Never Stop Serving.



## Legislative News (continued)

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

**A.** TRICARE's TRICARE Select Enrollment Fees website, which 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. (<https://tricare.mil/Plans/Enroll/Select/EnrollmentFees>)

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

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

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## Top VA Medical Officer Reminds Veterans, Staff to Get Flu Shot ([link](#))

By: René Campos

The top medical official in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) used a recent message to warn veterans and VA health care employees of the impending influenza (flu) season and urging individuals to get their annual flu vaccination before November 30.

The move comes as VA continues battling the coronavirus pandemic, and as talk of the development of COVID-19 vaccines may lead to concern or confusion about the annual flu shot.

"Vaccination of both Veterans and health care personnel is the cornerstone of our efforts to prevent flu transmission," noted Dr. Richard Stone in his message to veterans and VHA staff. "This will be especially important this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. Vaccination of health care personnel reduces their risk of becoming infected with the flu and transmitting it to susceptible patients and coworkers."

The message also included a policy and guidance directive requiring flu vaccinations for all health care workers in VA, calling for few exceptions to the policy. This is a departure from earlier directives strongly recommending, but not mandating, flu shots for health care personnel.

### Flu Shot Details

Veterans enrolled in the VA health care system should contact their primary care provider about vaccine availability. As of Aug. 12, VA had not updated its online influenza materials to reflect the 2020-21 flu season.

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, "Getting vaccinated in July or August is too early, especially for older people, because of the likelihood of reduced protection against flu infection later in the flu season. September and October are good times to get vaccinated. However, as long as flu viruses are circulating, vaccination should continue, even in January or later."

TRICARE beneficiaries are covered for the flu shot; they can learn more at the TRICARE website ([link](#)). More information on the vaccine via Health.mil is available at this [link](#).

### Why Get the Shot?

More than 490,000 people nationwide were hospitalized with influenza during the 2018-2019 flu season, according to CDC estimates. More than 4,600 veterans were hospitalized last year, per the VA, with more than 600 requiring intensive care. Another 27,000 veterans sought outpatient care related to the flu, and VA triaged more than 13,000 calls for similar conditions.

Stone wants to prevent a repeat of these same numbers, especially during the pandemic.

"From both a human and an operation perspective, we need you to get your flu vaccine," he said in his message.

## Legislative News (continued)

The pandemic crisis certainly complicates communication, especially when the nation is still battling COVID-19 and fear surrounding it. Veterans are concerned about how to access health care in general, and being asked to get a flu shot, amid all this chaos and recent reports of a potential COVID-19 vaccine that might be available by year's end, adds additional stress and uncertainty.

Vulnerable veterans need trusted and reliable information. MOAA has reached out to the VA to share veterans' concerns, asking the department to work with MOAA and other veterans groups to convey important information (like details on getting a flu vaccination).

MOAA also has asked for details on VA's plans to combat likely misinformation and fear as COVID-19 vaccinations become available, so veterans can make informed decisions. Stay tuned for future information as it becomes available.

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## COUNCIL AND CHAPTER NEWS

### TAKE ACTION!

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](#) webpage.

- [Senate Votes 94-0 to Recommend Repeal of Widows Tax in Final NDAA](#)
- [MOAA's Message to All Those Up and Down the Ballot in 2020](#)
- [TRICARE Pharmacy Fees Set to Increase in 2020](#)

### 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.

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

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## Richard Glogowski ([link for full obituary](#))

Richard "Dick" Martin Glogowski, Colonel, USAF (retired), age 89, of O'Fallon, Ill., passed away suddenly on Sunday evening, June 28, 2020 at his home in O'Fallon. Dick was born December 1, 1930 in Chicago, Ill. In August 1951, at 21 years old, Dick began his long and distinguished military career as a cryptologist. Dick transitioned to become an officer through the Aviation Cadet program as a Navigator. His leadership and drive led him to become a Command Pilot, primarily flying B-47 and C-141 aircraft. He served in Vietnam and was awarded two Legion of Merit medals, two Meritorious Service Medals, and two Air Medals before his retirement in 1983 at Travis AFB, CA.



He was a devoted member of the St. Nicholas Catholic Church faithfully with his wife Donna. Dick was a genuinely friendly man, who embraced life, loved his family, and was loyal to his country. Dick will always be remembered for his love of family, and his energetic and larger-than-life heart. He was preceded in death by his parents Frank and Agatha "Sally," nee Krygowski, Glogowski; and his daughter Dayna Silva. Surviving are his wife, Donna, nee Mauk, Glogowski, whom he married September 7, 1957; his son David (wife Jeanne) Glogowski of Lithia, Fla.; grandchildren Kristen Glogowski, Megan Glogowski, Anastasia, née Glogowski, Carraway, Mariah Alexander, and Daniel Silva; cousins, nieces, and a host of friends.



## Iris Soulé

[Link for Full Obituary](#)

Iris Jean Altrogge Soulé, of O'Fallon, Illinois, passed from this life to the next on May 30, 2020. Iris was born to Emmett Carl and Florence Azile Altrogge on April 22, 1934 in Audrain County, Missouri with the



assistance of a midwife. Growing up in Mexico, Missouri, Iris graduated as Salutatorian of the Mexico High School Class of 1952. Following high school, she attended Lindenwood College for Women in St. Charles, Missouri for two years, and graduated from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1956 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Music Education.

While teaching music education for two elementary schools in Houston, Texas, she met and married Covert Aiken Soulé, Jr. on April 6, 1957. At the time of their marriage, Covert was a 2nd Lieutenant in the Air Force stationed at Ellington AFB, Houston. Iris and Covert raised three children and enjoyed being stationed in different states across the United States. During their assignments, Iris volunteered for a number of organizations over the years.

Iris leaves behind her husband, Colonel Covert Soulé, Jr., son, Chip (Christina) Soulé, two daughters, Cathy (Rick) Combs, and Carolyn (Tim) Monson, seven grandchildren, Caitlin (Luke) Hasse, Kyle Combs, Callie Combs, Cass Soulé, Mary Kate Soulé, Grant Monson, Kevin Monson, and one great-grandchild, Everett Hasse. She is also survived by her sister, Phyllis Dean Altrogge Murphy of Lake Frederick, VA. She is also survived by her sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Nancy (nee Soulé) and Wayne Harvey of St. Francisville, LA, as well as numerous cousins.

## Len Butler

[Link for Full Obituary](#)

Leonard "Len" Anthony Butler, Colonel, USAF (ret.), resident of O'Fallon, Ill., passed away peacefully at Sycamore Village Assisted Living in Swansea IL, on July 23, 2020.



Born July 23, 1940, in Baltimore City, Md., Len was the youngest of three boys. He attended high school at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, and then was accepted to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, entering in 1958. He went to West Point to play lacrosse, which he loved, and he and his team were 1961 national co-champions.

Len entered the Air Force in 1962 and went straight to pilot training, beginning his career as a C-130 pilot. In 1965, he was stationed at Ernest Harmon AFB in Stephenville, Newfoundland and Labrador. He married Marina Bennett of Seal Rocks within months of meeting her. Together they raised two kids while moving from place to place across North America. Len's Air Force service included a tour in Vietnam, a masters in nuclear engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology, promotion to Squadron Commander of the 62nd Tactical Air Squadron at Little Rock AFB, Ark., and Wing Commander of the 1st Special Operations Wing at Hurlburt Field, Fla. He retired in 1992 from Kirtland AFB, N.M., in the rank of Colonel.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Marina; parents Jim and Mary Butler; parents-in-law Hayward and Blanche Bennett; and stepmother-in-law Marion Bennett.

Len is survived by his children, Kelly and Mark; sisters- and brother-in-law Sr. Gertrude Bennett and Anne and Fintan Alexander; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and special friends.

Southwest Illinois Chapter  
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### **Meeting Announcement**

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