

Mozark Moaagram

December 2015

President's Message

To all our MOAA members, spouses, and surviving spouses:

Please at this time, hold a prayerful thought for Laverne Baker, Don & Kay Johnston, and Larry & Marguerite Steffen.

Also, at this time, I feel it would be wise to pray for God's protection of our beloved country. With the insidious terrorism, that is rampant around the world, we need to be vigilant, and that can include prayer.

Our Christmas Party will be at the Stonebridge Golf Clubhouse (downstairs in Lake Room) on Dec. 12 in the evening from 1700 to 2000 hrs. Check-in, socialize: 1700 to 1800 hrs. Buffet: 1800 hrs. Gift exchange & Jeopardy game: 1900 hrs. Gift price range: \$10-\$15, Women to women, man to man. Meal is \$25 per person (food costs have risen)

We look forward to having you all there. For those who imbibe: Bar available

Just a reminder from the Treasurer, Jeff Long (who is doing an outstanding job); we will be accepting dues for 2016, at the check-in table. Dues are actually due, January 2016, and you can save the postage. If you prefer to mail, his address is: 215 W. College St. Branson 65616

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you.

Dave Porter,

Pres. MOZARK/MOAA

Other Ills

Sheila Frederick is still recovering from knee replacement surgery.

Winsor Morrison has recovered from hernia surgery.

Don Johnston is still undergoing treatment as necessary.

LaVerne Baker improving but still limiting her activity.

Taps

To all MOZARK/MOAA members:

Larry Steffen, 92, passed on recently. He was a past Pres. of MOAA, and a retired Lt. Naval pilot, serving in WWII.

The viewing will be, Thurs. Dec. 3 5-7 P.M. at the Greenlaw Funeral home on Hwy. 248 Branson. Services will be on Fri. Dec. 4 at 1:00 P.M. at the Methodist Church, Hwy. 76 in Branson. I hope that some of you can make it. Dave Porter, Pres

True American Hero Award

Was presented to Ralph Phillips, a WWII submariner, colleague of CDR. Alan Clason. His service was printed in both Branson Newspapers, a copy from The Branson Daily Independent is shown below.

Mozark MOAA was represented in the Veterans Day Parade by Ron Boldman driving his Thunderbird with all service flags flying.

CHANGE OF DESIGNATION

The National MOAA Headquarters has recommended changing the designation of AUXILIARY members to SURVIVING SPOUSE. Our local Board voted to do that but wanted it brought to the full membership before enacting.

January 2016 Meeting

The speaker at the January meeting will be the Branson's Titanic Captain.

Christmas Party

We hope to see as many as possible at the Christmas Part at Stonegate's Ledgestone Grill Saturday evening December 12, 2015. (See Presidents Message above)

World War II Veteran Ralph Phillips to be honored with "True American Hero" award

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) will present the "True American Hero" award to World War II Veteran Ralph Phillips at College of the Ozarks Thursday, Nov. 12.

The presentation will take place prior to the afternoon performance of "Railway to Heaven: A True Story of an Ozarks P.O.W." at 1:45 p.m. in the Royal Oak Forum of The Keeter Center.

David Porter, president of MOAA, will present the award to Phillips.

Phillips is a WWII Veteran who served as a torpedo man in the Navy aboard a submarine. Phillips completed at least two war patrols on the U.S.S. Bluegill. The Bluegill Battle flag, from his submarine, is on display at the Ralph Foster Museum on College of the Ozarks' campus.

Phillips has sacrificed his time to help other Veterans by driving them to medical appointments, and even in his nineties, volunteers his time at Branson's Cox Medical Center, Branson Travel Office, Meals on Wheels, and the Branson Community Center.

Phillips and his wife, Rusty, are continuously volunteering their time to their community and to Veterans.

Porter served as a First Lieutenant in the Army at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. He is now the president of MOAA, which is a non-profit organization that supports military officers and their families, brings Veterans' interests before Congress, and assists active-duty service men through their careers and retirement.

The "True American Hero"

award criteria include the following: 1) service in any branch of the U.S. military forces, 2) current resident of the Branson area, 3) contributes time to Veterans and their families, 4) recognizes Branson as home of the American Veteran, and 5) aids in the furtherance of benefits and recognition of those who are serving or have served this country.

"Railway to Heaven: A True Story of an Ozarks P.O.W." is a play based on the story of Pfc. Roy Hopper, a young man who was drafted into WWII in 1943 while attending School of the Ozarks. This story is found in the book, "Miracle in the Ozarks," written by College of the Ozarks President Jerry C. Davis.

For more information, call 417-690-2212.