

**Mozark Moaagram
January 2015**

President's Message

As I write this, it is New Year's Day which brings many reflections. What a joyous Christmas season Karen and I have had with family during Christmas and friends on New Year's Eve. Memories are those that will last indefinitely within us. One of which I want to share—My son gave his first family Christmas dinner blessing which for years was mine to do. His was so wonderfully done that it brought much pride and tears to my eyes.

Now as we look forward to 2015, it is cold and the thermometer says it is 32. The weather man is not promising any relief very soon. When I stepped outside, a Carolina Wren sat all puffed up on the railing and scolding me for being near his birdhouse nest. But, then I think that in about ninety days (April Fool's Day), we can expect to see the first returning Hummingbirds in Southwest Missouri and I am immediately warmed.

As a reminder, today marks the first day that MOZARK MOAA chapter dues are applicable for 2015 in accordance with the bylaws. I know that many have already paid theirs.

I trust and hope that you will move into 2015 by attending the MOAA meetings for friendships, camaraderie and hearing the many speakers that Dave Porter has so responsibly arranged for us to enjoy and learn. Looking forward to seeing you next meeting at Keeter Center College of the Ozarks.

Happy New Year!

Aryl Clason, Commander, US Navy Retired

Legislative Report

Legislative report by Major (retired) Don Bishop

Well by the time you received this update, we will have sworn in a new group into Congress. What the GOP has passed and the President has signed or vetoed I am not even going to try and guess in the next two weeks.

Hope everyone enjoyed the holidays. I want to thank everyone that donated to Major Don's Army. It is folks like you that have allowed us to continue on with our very important mission/ministry. I am convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that the service provided is key to making the world for a child with cancer better, not only for that fun weekend but the memories the family will have forever. With now 150 families we have hosted I hear it over and over. Thank you again for your support!!

Well I have a feeling we better enjoy our 1.7% "raise" we got for this year. With gas prices going lower and the overall CPI driving the COLA to go into serious negative numbers, I doubt that we will be receiving any increase next year.

Good news – When I read about the Pentagon wanting to take the TRICARE Prime, Standard, Extra I knew that wasn't good as well as wanting to do a means test for those of us on Tricare for Life which most of us are on. Thankfully Congress stepped up to the plate and blocked those actions thanks to many of the groups like ours at the National level lobby to not let the Pentagon's request to go through. This type of actions by the Pentagon is even causing our active duty forces to feel no one has their back. They are probably correct, why it is so important we speak for them.

So far it appears we have done okay regarding the Defense Authorization Bill they passed last December. Although there are some very modest increases to the prescription cost that we will have to pay but by in large could have been much worse. HOWEVER let me finish that before we get too excited. My favorite word "Sequestration" is scheduled to come back again next year. That will prove to not be a good thing for us so save up energy to write/contact your Congressmen/women and Senators if they try and do too much on our backs. Sometime look at the Federal budget and which departments are currently the largest share to cut. It is *not* the DoD.

Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance----- \$1479.16

The Christmas Party at Ledgestone was well attended and fun and good food was enjoyed by all. Major Don's Army collected \$310. for Major Don's charitable work with children with cancer.

Illnesses

Col. Jim Walker is suffering with cancer with metastasis to the lungs, liver and brain. He was scheduled to start radiation treatments December 17th according to his wife Barbara in her report of December 16th. He has recently been in the hospital and is being discharged today 1/8/2015.

Lou Doden fell, striking his head against a door frame and required six stitches to close the wound. His accident occurred Monday December 22nd according to Lou.

Lou asked that we place a “for sale” notice in this news letter about the 1988 Lincoln Town car that he bought from John Koutrakos estate. It has 160 K miles and is in excellent shape. The price is negotiable.

Updated addresses

**Betty Bergmann
118 Trailview Lane
Weatherford, TX 76088-7852**

**CAPT. Richard & Ruth Wight
2553 Orchard Court
Richland, WA 99354
(509) 371-1649**

mozarkmoaa.com

Be sure and look at this web page for member names, photographs, newsletters, by-laws, etc.

I.D. Cards

Call Springfield 417-869-5721 for instructions.

Pictures of the December 2014 Christmas Party meeting will be sent to addresses in a separate email.

**Next MOAA Meeting
Date: January 17, 2015
Time: Social—1100
Lunch: 1200 Buffet, cost \$20.**

Place: Keeter Center, Herold room

Speaker: Retiring Athletic Director and ex basketball coach Al Waller who has been at C of O for the past 30 years. Hosts: Winsor Morrison and Don Bishop