

Mozark Moaagram January 2014

President's Message

Happy New Year! Kathy and I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and wish all the best for you and yours in the coming year. In particular, I look forward to the remainder of my term as president and wish to thank all of you who have helped make our organization a success thus far. We have some interesting programs scheduled and we are always open to suggestions.

I know that many were disappointed when the Christmas meeting was cancelled. The weather was uncertain at best and it was an evening event. I could not risk the chance of an accident or injury happening to anyone so I made the decision to cancel.

Anyone still wishing to contribute to Major Don's Army is encouraged to do so. Bring your check to the meeting.

We will be meeting in a different venue the month of February and I am told that we will be very welcome. See the details in the next Moaagram.

Legislative Report by Major (retired) Don Bishop

Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday period. With the December meeting being canceled there might have been a bit of confusion on the "gift" to Major Don's Army. I want to thank the couple of people that sent us a check in the mail. If you are planning on bringing something to the January meeting that will work as well. More than happy to receive any support anytime of the year 😊

This is going to be a short update for a couple of reasons. One, not too (quantity only) much has happened since my last writing, but TWO I want you to focus in like a laser on one important issue. Before we get to this important item, also keep your eye on our state legislature on the funding for the VA Veterans Homes.

Over the Christmas break you probably saw where Congress passed a two year budget deal (well I guess okay). BUT in this "deal" called the Bipartisan Budget Act 2013, it states in section 403 that military retirees should have their annual COLA REDUCED by ONE PERCENT until age 62! This initially got a swell of media attention on the TV news and in the social media worlds. Several folks in Congress acted shocked that the language was in the bill and vowed they would enact a bill to repeal this section once back from the holidays.

In the last **national** MOAA email they said that there were some in DC that even thought "the provision to be "a little" reform. Others characterized the provision as "teensy weensy," or a "small tweak. Well it is NOT, it is THOUSANDS of dollars taken from many of our young retirees. And this "little deal" is ONLY on the back of the military retiree. THIS IS SO WRONG, it is time we draw the "line in the sand" and shout from the rooftops.

AGAIN, to my knowledge, I haven't heard that they have passed a new bill. SO, until they do, IT IS IMPERATIVE that we write, call, email, twitter Congressman Long, and Senators Blunt and McCaskill to GET IT DONE!! Continue to "bug" them until it is changed, please.

Winsor and I look forward to seeing you at the meeting we are hosting this month at the College of the Ozarks!

Financial Report-Alan Catron
Bank Balance
\$706.97

2014 Dues of \$20. Is now due

Our suggested individual Christmas donation to Major Don's Army is still solicited. Please donate whatever you feel like to Major Don and it will be gratefully accepted and put to good use in benefitting kids with cancer. For more information google *major don's army, inc.com*

Future Events

Date: Saturday (noon) January 18, 2014
Place: Keeter Center, College of the Ozarks
Time: Social: 1100
Lunch Buffet: 1200
Price: \$20.
Program: CDR Aryl Clason "Blind Man's Bluff"—Cold War Submarine Operations
(CDR Clason was a nuclear submarine commander)
Hosts: Winsor Morrison and Don Bishop

February 15, 2014 Meeting will be at a new venue at Stormy Point. The program will be on "Investment Scams" presented by a representative from the Missouri Secretary of State's office. More details in the next Moaagram.

**Pictures- Thanks to Susan & Dennis Oldacres for taking these pictures of the
November meeting**