

## Mozark Moaagram

May 2013

### President's Message

*Greetings to all MOAA members, spouses and Auxiliary members:*

*This is my last message to you as President of Mozark Chapter of MOAA. I have mixed feelings, because I have enjoyed very much serving as President. I feel we are all like family, and Barb does too. In all of my work experiences; military, teacher, principal, and owner of three small businesses; I have always tried to leave things, as good, or possibly better than when I arrived.*

*We have the possibility of getting four new members, as a result of our postcard mailing that Keith Oxby designed. I am grateful that Winsor Morrison, Keith, and I decided two months ago to take some action with the approximately 400 names of officers living in a three county area that MOAA National sent us.*

*We had a very good program April 20th. on the Civil Air Patrol. Most of us learned a lot about the vital services they provide.*

*From now on; when you check in to pay for your meal; we will have a list of those members who have not paid their dues for the current year. If you would like to save a stamp, you could pay then, at the sign in table.*

*Our next meeting will be May 18th. at College of the Ozarks, in the Silver Dollar City room in the back of the Keeter Center. Check in at 11:00 hrs to 11:45 hrs. Our speaker; Ret. Cmdr Rene' Campos, from D.C. needs to leave for the Branson Airport at a certain time (Barb and I are taking her).*

*So I am working backwards on time, that is why I would like to start our pledge, toasts etc. at 11:45 hrs.*

*We also have the installation of officers before our speaker. So I would suggest that as many as can, get there fifteen minutes earlier than usual.*

*Thanks again for letting me serve you as President; I consider it a privilege, and an honor.*

*A final quote from John Wooden; who most people agree, is the greatest college basketball coach of all time, having won ten NCAA titles.*

*"Be more concerned with character than reputation. Character is what you are; reputation is what people think you are".*

*"What you are as a person is far more important than what you are as a basketball player."*

*"Sincerity may not help us make friends, but it will help us keep them."*

*I hope you can all make our luncheon on May 18th.*

*Best regards to all,*

*Dave Porter, 1st LT US Army Artillery*

*Pres. MOZARK/MOAA.*

### Legislative Update by Major (retired) Don Bishop

We have now entered the busy time of the year hosting families with our Foundation, Major Don's Army. Thank you to the MOAA members who have supported us over the years. And if I didn't thank Colonel (retired) Don Johnston and his wife Kay's assistance with our great fundraiser. Don

was responsible with his church, Peace Lutheran for the outstanding results. So where are we legislatively this month at the Federal level.....

First you may have noticed on TV the recent stories about the Army wanting to cut 80,000 folks from active duty. These impacts are also affecting us close to home just down the road at Ft. Leonard Wood potentially. Along with thinking the world is at peace with Iraq being over and Afghanistan soon to follow, Congress and their “studies” are always looking for ways to save money and readiness is always the big factor to our National Defense to be affected. Along with people cuts they are also looking for new ways to cap our pay by using a different formula than was adopted in Congress in 2003. Should they get that passed; it will mean the smallest raise in history to our all volunteer force.

Leaders also met with Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki on the continued backlog of processing claims. Currently there are at least 600,000 waiting. I know firsthand that it took ONE and a HALF YEARS for them to process my simple one last year. The same thing was being discussed on “how to fix” when I was retiring in 2002. I don’t have much hope, while they continue to process them and DoD doesn’t seem to be able to talk to VA; however the Secretary has promised to eliminate the backlog by 2015. Any bets?

Of course after the above two topics, the next target for cuts are those darn medical benefits we were told about as part of our service to our nation. I will probably agree that TRICARE costs have increased dramatically over the years, but they seem to always compare what civilians get versus the military. Again I will agree EXCEPT what we ask of our young people to do and risk their very lives for their country’s defense. A bit more danger than being a checker at Wal\*Mart, UPS driver, or working construction for example. SO the military health insurance is a great deal? Okay, it should be. However I did learn something that maybe it is only me that didn’t understand, but have you been told that when you hit Tricare for Life (TFL) and also then become Medicare eligible that – Medicare then becomes your primary and TFL secondary? TFL secondary doesn’t mean sqadooch. If Medicare doesn’t cover it neither does TFL. Perhaps this only affects odd cases like mine who was required to join Medicare, when Social Security continued to consider me disabled after two years. The plethora of doctors I know say they just continue scratch their heads trying to understand the Affordable Care Act (Obama Care).

Always try to find some happy news that comes out of the East coast and within the last month I have found one that at least I think is good news. The new Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel has decided to scrap the new Defense Warfare Medal, as written, to be above in precedence, the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. For once I think the “troops” disgust rose rapidly and the ranks were listened to. Sorry, just don’t think someone flying a drone overseas from a comfortable chair in Orlando is quite the same as being shot at IN theater.

Hope everyone has a great summer!!

## Treasurer's Report-LTC Alan Catron

**Bank Balance \$1252.77**

### Installation of Officers

**The following Newly Elected Officers will be installed at the May meeting:**

**President: COL.Garry Scharberg**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: CDR. Aryl Clason**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: COL. Buff Ness**

**Secretary: COL. Paul Vicalvi**

**Treasurer: LTC. Alan Catron**

**Member-at-Large: CAPT. Paul Goodspeed**

### Dues Remarks

Most present members have paid their annual dues while a few don't remember whether they paid or not; therefore, a list of paid/not paid will be available at the check in table at each meeting so if in doubt, you can check.

### Reported by CDR Mike Jones:

This is Cadet Lt. Lean who received the MOAA medal. She received several awards during the evening's festivities that reflects well on her leadership abilities. An interesting image of an old Marine with a future Marine (picture shown)..

Cadet Lt. Lean received the MOAA medal. She received several awards during the evening's festivities reflecting well on her leadership abilities. (Our thanks to CDR Jones for attending and presenting the award. Mike is not only a former Marine but also a Navy Officer veteran).



### Recruitment Efforts-

MOAA Headquarters supplied President Dave Porter with a list of Service Retires in the immediate and surrounding area. Membership Chairman W/O Keith Oxby designed an invitation/recruitment card and mailed to these members. Dave says we have received five responses so far. Thanks, Keith and Dave!

## **Future Meetings**

**Date: Saturday Noon, May 18, 2013**

**Place: Keeter Center, College of the Ozarks**

**Time: Social 11:00**

**Lunch: 11:45 (early time necessary to allow visiting speaker time to catch flight at 1400)**

**Menu: Buffet**

**Cost: \$20.**

**Program: CDR Rene' A. Campos, USN (ret.), Deputy Director, Government Relations  
Department, MOAA National Headquarters**

**Hosts: Dave and Barbara Porter**

**Paul and Pam Vicalvi**

**Next Meeting: Saturday, June 15, 2013, 12:00, Picnic at Tablerock State Park Pavilion.**