

Chapter Presidents Message for MOZARK Chapter, MOAAgram, November 2016

Greetings Chapter Members:

Our big event this month is the presentation of the True American Hero Award. Following are the details for this event:

You are cordially invited to attend the 19th Annual True American Hero Award Ceremony on Saturday, November 12th, at the Keeter Center, College of the Ozarks. Schedule of events:

- 11:30 a.m. – Pre-Lunch Social
- 12:00 p.m. – Lunch Buffet – Herold Room
- 1:40 p.m. – Presentation of the True American Hero Award,
Royal Oak Forum
- 2:00 p.m. – Stage Play, “Railway to Heaven”
Royal Oak Forum

The True American Hero Award was established in 1997 by the MOZARK Chapter, Military Officers Association of America, Branson, MO. The purpose of this award is to recognize veteran volunteers who have made significant contributions in the community to support veterans.

Our True American Hero Award Committee has selected Ben Kinel, a USMC Korean war veteran. Ben has personally developed and maintains the Veterans Memorial Garden in Branson. He spends countless hours keeping the Garden in pristine condition as a major landmark in the city.

Cost for the lunch is \$22 per person. Please RSVP when you are called by our call team, or to Dave Porter, (417) 335-5708 or email dporter006@suddenlink.net, by November 6th.

Look forward to seeing everyone at this ceremony.

At the MOZARK Chapter Board meeting on October 26th, the Board decided to reduce our number of annual meetings by eliminating meetings in January and February. So, this means we will continue monthly meetings except in January, February, July and August. Following is information on the member poll conducted by Dave Porter:

“We recently took an opinion poll of our members, regarding how often we have our monthly meetings, and 93% of you responded. Of that number, 75% voted choice number two, to eliminate the Jan. & Feb. monthly meetings. At our recent board meeting on Oct. 26, the board voted to omit the Jan. & Feb. luncheon meetings. We wanted you to know, that your opinion does matter. For those new members; we now meet every month except: Jan., Feb., July, and August.”

Also at our Board meeting, Lt Col Pat Frederick was confirmed as our Air Force representative on the Board of Directors, replacing Col Don Johnston.

This is a critical election year for our country, so I am repeating this message. On the legislative side, I'm sure everyone is watching the presidential race, as well as our state elections and ballot initiatives. I would encourage everyone to get out and exercise our constitutional right to vote. Please educate yourselves on all the candidates and issues. There are also many legislative issues at the national level that have been “left on the table” while our elected officials have taken time off until after the elections. One in particular is the “Veterans First Act” (S. 2921). This bill has received full bipartisan support from the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, but has languished without being brought to the floor for a vote. This bill would allow the VA to provide better service to more veterans, and no one is taking any action to get this bill adopted.

If you have not already, I would encourage all our members to sign up for the MOAA Weekly Legislative Updates. You can do this at www.MOAA.org After you have signed-up, there is also a section where you can “Take Action” and send messages to our legislators on key issues. We are at the grassroots level, and have the capability to positively influence key legislation that affects, our active military, retirees, veterans and their families. There are currently many negative proposals that are being proposed by the pentagon bureaucratic bean-counters and congressional staffers who have no idea about our military and the effects that will be detrimental to our national security.

Following are some items of information for you:

- Time Change, November 6th.
- The board does want to create awareness, that when we have visitors and guests (particularly potential new members), we should make everyone feel welcome and part of our family. Please make sure you circulate and get to know everyone.

On Veterans Day, November 11th, our Chapter will be participating in the Veterans Day Parade in Branson. Formation will begin at 0900 Hrs. behind the Branson Convention Center. The parade will start at 1100 Hrs. For additional information or to volunteer, contact Aryl Clason, (417) 336-1629.

It is with great sadness that we announce the following members who have recently passed away:

Lt Col Alphonse "Al" H. Campbell, U.S. Air Force (Ret.). Died on October 20, 2016 at the age of 99 years and 353 days. He is survived by daughter Kathleen "Kathy" Campbell.

Our hearts and prayers are with the families of our departed members. And the Surviving Spouses are forever continued as part of our Chapter and MOAA.

Please continue your prayers for: Laverne Baker. We all should keep John, Susan and especially Michael Rousselot, and his family, in our prayers. We look forward Michael's speedy recovery and health.

Respectfully,
John Hathcock, President

Upcoming Events:

November 11, 1100 Hrs., Branson Veterans Day Parade

November 12, Saturday, Membership Meeting and True American Hero Award at College of the Ozarks.

1130 Hrs., Luncheon, Herold Room

1340 Hrs., Royal Oak Forum for presentation of TAH award.

1400 Hrs., “Railway to Heaven” stage play

November 23, 0900 Hrs, Board Meeting, Donnie’s, Branson West

December 17, 1130 Hrs, Christmas Luncheon, Keeter Center