

Mozark Moaagram September 2016

Chapter Presidents Message for MOZARK Chapter, MOAAGram, September 2016

I consider it an honor and a privilege to step forward and assume the responsibility as President of the MOZARK Chapter of MOAA. It is regrettable that John Rousselot's family emergency situation contributed to his resignation, but he is correct that family must come first, and we laud him for that. 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.

My goals are to maintain our chapter as a community leader in supporting military and veterans' issues; create public awareness; enable our leadership to reach out to new and younger membership to continue our chapter legacy; provide opportunities for our members and spouses to participate in community events and chapter monthly programs; to maintain our level of camaraderie to its high levels; and to maintain effective communications among all our members. We have a tremendously experienced and dedicated board whom I will rely on heavily. And I am always open to all comments and suggestions for the benefit of the chapter.

I sincerely appreciate Dave Porter stepping up to the plate to assume the Vice Presidency for the remainder of this year's term.

To keep you informed, here are a few things we have been working on and put into place:

- The True American Hero Award Committee is working diligently to identify this year's recipient. (November 12th Ceremony)
- The Missouri Council of Chapters received a \$800 USAA grant to support the USO Missouri. The Council of Chapters has a goal to raise over \$1,000 for the USO. Our chapter contributed \$75 toward this effort.
- MOZARK Chapter joined Veterans and Military Coalition of the Ozarks (VMCO). Representatives are: Primary – Dave Porter Alternate – Frank Baker
VMCO is a coalition of veterans and military organizations within a 40-mile radius of Branson. They will be supporting legislative issues, providing assistance to veterans and military and promoting various projects. VMCO is very similar, on the local level, as the "The Military Coalition" supported by MOAA at the national level.
- Since last spring, the board has been pursuing getting back in on board with the MOAA "Gold Bar" program (CofO ROTC) and MOAA award recognitions with the local Senior ROTC and Junior ROTC programs. We will plan ahead so we are ready to participate with our local colleges and High Schools.
- 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.
- Please note that MOAA has changed "Auxiliary" membership to "Surviving Spouses"
- We will be taking special voluntary contributions at our meeting on September 17th to provide any assistance to the Michael Rousselot Family.

We are getting to the time of year for elections, I hope everyone is planning to vote in the General Election in November. Further, I hope that each of you is planning to vote for candidates who support military and veterans' issues. But we should all pray that whoever is elected will support our military and veterans, and always do what is best for all of America. Let us all work for a better America!!

While our Congressional leaders are back in their home districts, it is my understanding that many of their Washington staff will still be working on pending legislative proposals. Therefore, it is still important to let our voices be heard on military and veterans' issues that we and MOAA national care about. It is also a good time to communicate with our Congressional leaders locally. Since fewer than 20 percent of our elected officials have actually served in the military, our input takes on an even greater importance. If our actual elected official is not available to talk with you in person, then ask to talk with the local staff member in charge of military affairs. I have found that most staff members appreciate our input and experience, because they realize that MOAA members offer solutions to problems rather than just calling or visiting to complain about something.

The Missouri Veto Session is September 14th. Any vetoed bills you have interest in should be addressed to state representatives and senators.

Please continue your prayers for: Don Johnston, Laverne Baker, and Don Bishop.

Respectfully,
John Hathcock, President

Upcoming Events:

September 2 – 4, Commemorative Air Force, Air Power History Tour, Branson Airport

September 11, 0900 Hrs., 9/11 Memorial Ceremony, Big Cedar Lodge

September 12, 0900 Hrs., 9/11 Memorial Ceremony, College of the Ozarks

September 17th, 1130 Hrs., MOZARK Chapter, Golden Corral, Guest Speaker is Chief Preston Schmidt, Hollister Chief of Police

October 15th, 1130 Hrs., MOZARK Chapter, Stormy Point, Guest Speaker is Bryan Cizek, Director of Patriotic Activities, College of the Ozarks

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

1345 Hrs., Royal Oak Forum for presentation of TAH award.

1400 Hrs., “Railway to Heaven” stage play

Officers 2016 -2017, MOZARK Chapter, MOAA

President	COL John Hathcock, U.S. Army (Ret.)	john@linegroup.com
Vice President	1LT David Porter, U.S. Army (Sep.)	dporter006@suddenlink.net
Secretary	COL Paul Vicalvi, U.S. Army (Ret.)	pvicalvi@aol.com
Treasurer	1LT Jeffery Long, ARNG (Sep.)	jeff@jefflongcpa.com

Board Members:

LTC Frank Baker, U.S. Army (Ret.), U.S. Army Representative [417-739-4300](tel:417-739-4300)

CAPT Paul Goodspeed, USPHS (Ret.), Member-at-Large paulart913@gmail.com

CDR Aryl Clason, U.S. Navy (Ret.), Past President akclason@suddenlink.net

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Col Don Johnston, U.S. Air Force (Ret.), U.S. Air Force Representative
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LT Dennis Oldacres, U.S. Coast Guard (Ret.), U.S. Coast Guard Representative
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Kay Johnston, (Surviving Spouse), Personal Affairs Representative donkayjohn@aol.com

US Marine Corps (no members)

Treasurer's Report-Jeff Long, CPA
Bank Balance---\$980.76

Other News (by Winsor)

New President

Those of you who have email addresses probably received the resignation letter from our president LTC John R. Rousselot who regretfully resigned due to overwhelming family health and work problems. Our Vice President COL. John Hathcock stepped up to fill the President position. At the last Board Meeting former President 1LT Dave Porter agreed to accept the Vice President slot. I'm sure we all appreciate these gentlemen's willingness to serve.

Picnic

Our annual picnic at Stonegate's Recreational and Pavilion was well attended.

Illnesses

Don Johnston is suffering through a severe illness. He and wife Kay can certainly use encouragement and prayers at his time.

Don Bishop-I talked with Elise, his wife, and Don has been in Cox South hospital since June 6th. He had surgeries heart attacks, bypass surgery and carotid artery surgery, all complicated by recurring seizures which have been difficult to medically control. He is alert and would enjoy visitors. Visiting hours in the Neuro Trauma ICU are 8 AM-5 PM. Elise said he was on the ground floor of Cox South Hospital, Springfield.

LaVerne Baker is still having back pain and difficult with home chores which limits her participation in our MOAA activities.

Cards, calls and prayers for these folks would be appreciated.

Meeting September 17, 2016 at 1130 Hrs., at Golden Corral.

Speaker: Chief Preston Schmidt, Hollister Chief of Police

Cost per person is \$17 (includes gratuity)

Winsor Morrison, editor