

Military Officers Association of America

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Heartland of America Chapter

******** April 2014 ********



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-See inside of back cover for details-



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The Bulletin Board

Is the Newsletter of the Heartland of America Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. Content is from members, MOAA internet mail, MOAA's Affiliate, and other military-oriented sources. Material used is public domain or attributed as to source and copyright.

Lt Colonel Patrick Jones, USAF (Ret) Editor & Webmaster

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our March dinner meeting was a wonderful evening. The CEO and Chairman of MOAA, Vice Admiral Norb Ryan, USN (Ret), was with us for this event. A 1967 graduate of the Naval Academy, the Admiral is a naval aviator who has commanded naval aviation units at all levels. His positions as a flag officer included directing the Navy's Legislative Liaison office and being Director of Naval Personnel (BUPERS). Following his retirement from the Navy in 2002, he took over the senior position in MOAA. This was his first visit to Omaha and to our Heartland of America Chapter.



Admiral Ryan discussed his concern with the FY 2015 defense budget and the proposals to cut pay and benefits and to shift costs to active service members, retirees, and military families. Every segment of the military and retirees would feel the impacts of these proposals. They include capping the active duty pay increases to 1% again and continuing to 2019, reducing commissary savings for all members by 66%, reducing housing allowances for our active service members, and establishing TRICARE enrollment fees, increasing co-pays, and increasing deductibles. The admiral noted the importance of contacting senator and congressmen on such issues when he described the overwhelming response that followed the December budget "deal"

between Senator Murray and Congressman Paul Ryan that would reduce retirement increases by "only" 1% for currently serving members and retired members under age 62. The Admiral noted that Congress was flooded with 395,000 emails once the details of the deal had finally been announced. (That weekend, many Chapter members were invited to a Saturday meeting with Congressman Terry who assured us that a bill to repeal the Murray/Ryan bill would be introduced after the Christmas break.)

The admiral possesses superb communication skills and has that rare ability to "connect" with people. He included some poignant human interest details in visiting wounded warriors recovering from injuries that occurred in Iraq and Afghanistan, and to the funerals he has attended. What was most obvious was the commitment the Admiral has to our MOAA mission and his innate credibility

that has resulted in his very successful approach in dealing with Congress and the Washington bureaucracy. He reiterated that all of us all play an important role in supporting a strong national defense by keeping our elected officials informed of our priorities.



Just prior to the diner meeting, Admiral Ryan spent an hour with the Chapter Board that I truly believe was particularly valuable. The admiral explained his concerns and his priorities. Every member took the opportunity to speak to him and he answered all questions and concerns. We all left that room with an appreciation of his candor and remarkable credibility. We understood why he is so effective in articulating

MOAA's priorities with Congress and the Washington bureaucracy.

Prior to his presentation, General Paul Cohen presented the admiral with a proclamation from Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert that Wednesday was "Admiral Ryan Day" and Lt Col Rene Dreiling presented a Certificate of Appointment signed by Governor Heineman that Vice Admiral Ryan had been appointed a 4-star Admiral in the Nebraska Navy.

Following his presentation, Admiral Ryan presented MOAA certificates for "outstanding dedication, diligence, and performance as Board member(s) of the Heartland of America Chapter." Recipients included: Lt Col Pat Jones, USAF (Ret), Major Larry Bradley, USA (Ret), Lt Col Frank Hartranft, USAF (Ret), Lt Col Dick Doolittle, USAF (Ret), Marty Didamo, Auxiliary, Paula Muth, (Auxiliary), Lt Col Ron Russell, USAF (Ret), Terri Lehigh, Auxiliary, Col Bill Fitzpatrick, USAF (Ret), and Lt Cmdr. Brook Stafford, USN (Ret).



During his introductory remarks, Admiral Ryan noted the success of our Chapter and the ensuing recognition in being awarded eight consecutive 5-star levels of Excellence. He also stated that this was the largest number of certificates he had ever given to a chapter. Our success is due to the efforts of all our Board members and I feel honored to work with them.

The visit by the admiral brought out a large crowd. Between the mailing of letters from national MOAA to non-Chapter members, our excellent chapter communications, and word of mouth, attendance was nearly doubled. Several new members attended including Life Member and State Senator Tommy

Garrett, Colonel, USAF (Ret), the President of the Bellevue Chamber, Jim Ristow, AF Reserve Lt Col Tracy Monahan, two active duty majors, Brian Yates and Mike Viggiano, and our first National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration attendee, Cmdr. Burl Westcott, NOAA (Ret).

I want to thank everyone who attended this important meeting. I believe Admiral Ryan's message was on the mark and I hope everyone enjoyed the evening. I encourage those of you who may not yet be chapter members to join us and please return to future meetings and activities. -- Col Dan Donovan
d.donovan1@cox.net 402-339-7888

Legislative Update
(B/Gen Paul Cohen USAF(Ret))

As the current session of the Nebraska Unicameral winds down, we are pleased to report that Senator Crawford's LB 740 granting in-state tuition to military veterans who are not Nebraska residents will become law. The bill passed without dissent on March 24, 2014, and is on its way to the Governor for signature. Its passage and the signing of it by the governor will be a significant boost to Nebraska's image as "military friendly," and should encourage those intending to use the G. I. Bill to enroll in a Nebraska state college or university rather than use that benefit elsewhere.



LB 902 granting income tax exemption for military retired pay appears to be permanently stalled in committee. However, Senator Janssen's LB 75, held over from last session, was amended and reported out of committee. It has yet to come up for first round debate. The amendment, AM 2392, provides an option that exclude 40% of retired pay for seven consecutive years beginning in the first year of retirement, or the individual may opt to exclude 15% of retired pay indefinitely beginning in the year the annuitant reaches age 67. The Chapter has taken a neutral position on this measure since it excludes all current retirees and does not, in our opinion, provide the economic benefit to the state that is an integral part of Senator Crawford's LB 902. We will not oppose LB 75, in spite of its shortcomings, since its passage, absent another alternative, is a starting point that can be revisited in subsequent sessions. While the bill had committee support, it is still unclear if it will be scheduled for floor action before adjournment.

Senator Crawford's LB 769 that would enable judges to temporarily change custodial arrangements for children of military members on deployed duty is also stalled in committee. It is unlikely to be acted upon during this session.

Senator Tommy Garrett introduced LB 1083. It would expand customized job training programs by offering additional incentives to grant applications that

hire recently separated military veterans. The Business and Labor Committee has not acted upon the bill at this writing.

All legislative bills not passed in this session will have to be reintroduced and go through committee review beginning in January 2015. The Chapter will continue working with our local Legislators, notably Senators Crawford, Smith, Krist and Garrett, along with our Department of Defense Liaison, Mr. Martin Dempsey, on issues of interest to our membership.

Storming the Hill April 9th
(MOAA Legislative Update – 21 Mar)

MOAA Council and Chapter Presidents from all 50 states, together with members of the national Board of Directors and headquarters staff, plus members of MOAA's active duty, Guard, Reserve, spouse and auxiliary advisory committees will "storm" Capitol Hill on April 9, and visit nearly all 535 representatives and senators in support of key legislative priorities.

This year, the "Hill-stormers" will meet with their legislators, discuss the issues, provide fact sheets and brochures, and ask them to:

- Sustain military pay and benefits and avoid repeating past mistakes that destabilized the all-volunteer force;
- Reject disproportional TRICARE fee increases which shift costs onto beneficiaries while reducing access;
- Eliminate catastrophic sequestration cuts which threaten national security;
- And address remaining inequities for disabled retirees, survivors, and guard and reserve personnel.

Learn more about this year's Storming the Hill event, and help our efforts by sending your legislators a MOAA-suggested message on these critical issues.

TRICARE For Life Mandatory Mail Order Rx in Effect March 15th
(MOAA Legislative Update – 21 Feb)

Beginning March 15, TRICARE For Life (TFL) beneficiaries were required to fill maintenance medication prescriptions refills through the TRICARE Home Delivery (mail-order) pharmacy system.

Beneficiaries can opt out of this requirement after using the mail-order refill system for one year.

The new requirement stems from the FY 2013 defense authorization bill. In a bipartisan compromise to avoid large, across-the-board TRICARE pharmacy copay increases, Congress included a mandatory mail-order pilot program for TFL beneficiaries to offset the cost.

Mail-order pharmacy delivery lowers costs for both beneficiaries and DoD. A 90-day refill of generic medication is free through the mail-order pharmacy, but

costs \$5 per 30 day refill at a retail drug store. For brand name medications the cost is \$13 for a 90 day refill through mail-order versus \$17 for a 30 day refill at a retail store.

The mandate applies to a group of brand name maintenance medications. *Generic medications are exempt from the mail order requirement.* If the beneficiary has not switched to home delivery or to a military treatment facility, starting with the third fill of that same medication after March 14, the beneficiary will be responsible for the entire cost of the medications if obtained from a retail pharmacy.

All initial prescriptions can still be filled at a retail store, and beneficiaries can receive up to two 30 day refills at a retail store during the transition.

Beneficiaries living near a military hospital or clinic may continue to fill their prescriptions on base and do not need to enroll in the mail order program. Additionally, those with other prescription coverage and those living overseas also are exempt.

Nursing home patients are also eligible for exemption from the mail order requirement. Caregivers can call the number below with prescription information to opt out, and Express Scripts will also be reaching out to nursing homes to assist with the process.

TRICARE will begin reaching out to affected beneficiaries over the next month. You can enroll online or over the phone at 1-877-882-3335.

Individual waivers to opt out of the requirement may be granted on a case-by-case basis due to personal need or hardship, emergency, or other special circumstance.

Have more questions about this new policy? View our mail order pharmacy frequently asked questions.

- See more at:

http://www.moaa.org/Main_Menu/Take_Action/Top_Issues/Enjoying_Retirement/Health_Care/TFL_Rx_Changes_in_March.html#sthash.tu7PmcEv.dpuf

Programs for April through October 2014

(from Larry Bradley Maj USA (Ret))

April 26th, a Saturday night, we will be going to the Omaha Community Playhouse. If you've never been to one of our Omaha Community Playhouse outings, then I want to strongly encourage you to do so. This is a terrific experience. The meal has always been outstanding and we get two entrees with dessert included! Beyond getting to see the play, you get a backstage tour. In addition, this is one of two programs we have on a night



other than Wednesday night. We will be going to the Omaha Community Playhouse on Saturday night, April 26. We will be seeing the really funny *Boeing, Boeing*. Look for the flyer elsewhere in the newsletter. See a description of the play at:
<http://www.omahaplayhouse.com/Post/sections/4/Files/web%20brochure.pdf>.

May 21st, we will hear about the experiences of a man who joined the 101st Airborne at age 15, parachuted into Normandy on D-Day, fought across Europe, earned a battlefield commission from General George S. Patton, liberated a concentration camp, crash landed in a B29 in Korea, captured by North Koreans, escaped, recaptured, put into a Chinese POW camp in Manchuria, escaped, recaptured, repatriated, hospitalized for a year in recovery, and was on the first C141 to Hanoi to bring our Vietnam POWs home.

June 18th, I am happy to announce our June speaker will be Clete Blakeman. Don't know who that is? Think back to January's AFC Playoff game between the Denver Broncos and Sand Diego Chargers. This is the game where Peyton Manning got all the attention for his "Omaha" audible calls. Blakeman was the referee for that game. Blakeman will talk to us about what it's like to be an NFL referee.

For July 16th, Ron Russell has gotten the Commander of the 55th Wing at Offutt to consent to be our speaker.

Mark down August 28th for attending an Omaha Storm Chasers game. Details will be forthcoming soon.

On September 17th, LtCol Mike DeBolt and a cadet from the Benson High School Army ROTC will report to us on their trip to Normandy. This year will be the 70th Anniversary of D-Day and the Benson High Cadets will represent the State of Nebraska in the parade for the Normandy Veterans. We are helping the cadets go to Normandy for the commemoration. If anyone has any particular memorabilia or special expertise about D-Day or other battles (Operation Market Garden, Battle of the Bulge, Battle of Saipan, for example) to share, please contact me. We could use it either in May or September.

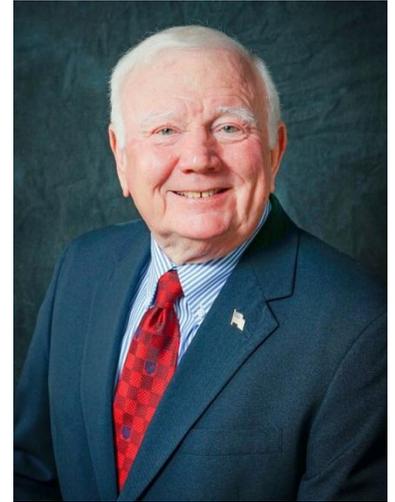
The majority of the programs for 2013 came from your excellent suggestions. Please keep them coming for 2014. Call or email Larry Bradley at 402.321.4851 or email Bradlar1@aol.com.

Finally, I want to announce this is the last year I will be doing programs due to some forthcoming pleasant changes for my wife and me. I would like to have someone understudy me for the rest of the year so I can show you some of my contacts and methods. Please call at 402.321.4851 or email Bradlar1@aol.com, if you would be interested helping the chapter this way.

In the Lime Light
(MOAA Affiliate – 4 March)

Our chapter president, Dan Donovan, was recognized by MOAA in its March issue:

When it comes to advocating for state and national legislation that benefits military families, nobody works harder than MOAA Life Member Col. Dan Donovan, USAF (Ret). Donovan is president of the Heartland of America (Neb.) Chapter, and his passion for politics is contagious. Once he tells you what's happening in the statehouse or on Capitol Hill, you're fired up and ready to email your legislators.



Donovan joined the association in 1985, but he didn't join a chapter. Several years later, he encountered Col. Joe DeCarlo, USAF (Ret), one of his former instructors at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. DeCarlo convinced him the best way to make a difference was to join the Heartland of America Chapter.

"I joined the chapter because I wanted to give back to the association, which then was TROA," says Donovan. "While stationed in the Pentagon in the late 1970s, I attended TROA's career-transition presentations. My daughter, Kelly, also received an interest-free student loan through the association when at Creighton University."

Donovan works closely with Legislative Chair Brig. Gen. Paul Cohen, USAF (Ret), to identify state issues chapter members should address. When the state legislature is in session, Donovan often can be found in the statehouse providing testimony on a bill or educating legislators from agricultural areas about military and veterans' issues.

Chapter members' advocacy efforts paid off in 2011 when Nebraska joined the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, which addresses common obstacles military kids face when they transfer schools. Thanks to Donovan's leadership, members will tackle more state issues this year, ranging from exempting military retired pay from state income tax to expediting the transfer of professional licenses held by military spouses who move into the state.

Donovan also tracks and supports national MOAA's legislative issues. Because the Heartland of American Chapter is the only MOAA affiliate in the Nebraska, Donovan performs tasks normally undertaken by a state council president. In April, he'll travel to Alexandria, Va., for the annual Council Presidents' Seminar and meet with his congressional legislators during MOAA's annual Storming the Hill lobbying blitz.

Donovan has held several chapter leadership positions, including legislative chair and second vice president. He also serves as the chapter's career-transition liaison, a job that allows him to use the counseling and mentoring skills he acquired during his second career at TD Ameritrade in Omaha, Neb. The former chair of Omaha's Service Corps of Retired Executives Chapter, he still mentors promising entrepreneurs and former service members.

A true team player, Donovan doesn't like to talk about himself. He'd rather tell you what other chapter leaders are doing to strengthen the Heartland of America Chapter, which has earned the affiliate eight consecutive five-star Levels of Excellence Awards from national MOAA.

"I think the thing I'm proudest of is seeing all of the good work being done by the members of this chapter, our board of directors, and our auxiliary members," says Donovan. "They're out there recruiting, supporting ROTC, and really making a difference here in our community."

MOAA's New Membership Model

Effective Jan. 1, 2013, MOAA launched a new three-tier model of membership. The new membership model provides a new connection with currently serving officers; a better bundled package of services for those nearing military retirement and those in their second careers; and a renewed emphasis to be all we can be to LIFE members.

BASIC Membership

This model expands MOAA's reach to younger officers currently in uniform by offering a relevant and compelling electronic experience (at no fee), and emphasizes that no one advocates more strongly for them than MOAA.

Features include:

- **Promoting a strong national defense. MOAA will continue to advocate for a strong, top quality career force with compensation and benefits for military members, retirees, veterans, and their families and survivors that is commensurate with the extraordinary demands and sacrifices imposed upon them.**
- **BASIC members will receive tailored communications about the legislative issues that impact them and their families.**
- **BASIC members will have access to limited product, transition, and financial information services. MOAA will offer BASIC members additional value to move them to PREMIUM Memberships.**
- **Includes information on the importance of chapter membership and how to locate the nearest chapter.**
- **Anyone can join as a BASIC member, but members over age 35 are limited to three years. BASIC members either lapse to a Prospect or upgrade to a PREMIUM or LIFE membership.**

PREMIUM Membership

As BASIC members decide to remain in the career force or think about transition, our message to them will be to upgrade their membership to PREMIUM We will offer a better package of transition and other services to help these members navigate a significant decision point in their lives by:

- Providing life coaching with their second career search.
- Providing valuable advice on financial and insurance needs.
- Becoming their new unit of assignment in retirement. We wore their same uniforms and now work to protect what they've earned through a career of service and sacrifice.
- Building trust and confidence for further advice on life's transitions.
- Building on the idea of chapter membership as part of their MOAA membership experience. Premium members joining after Feb. 1, 2013, receive a voucher good for a one-year membership in their local chapter.
- Note: PREMIUM members must choose a one-, two-, or three-year membership term. Starting January 2013, one year is \$37, two years is \$72, and three years is \$95. The only other PREMIUM category is for Auxiliary members. One year is \$34, two years is \$65, and three years is \$85. Any age member can be a PREMIUM member as long as their dues are paid. Lapsed PREMIUM members downgrade to a BASIC Membership, which has age/time limitations.

LIFE Membership

LIFE members are the regular commissioned component of the MOA. MOAA will capitalize on the activism of LIFE members by encouraging them to continue to serve in their communities by:

- Further connecting them to our council and chapter network by offering them opportunities to make a difference. LIFE members joining after Feb. 1, 2013, receive a voucher for a two-year local membership.
- Offers LIFE Membership benefits & privileges transferable to spouse.
- Note: Anyone can be a Life member at any time. You can access the LIFE rate schedule through MOAA's Member Service Center by calling (800)

2014 FAC "HOMECOMING" REUNION

Ramada Plaza Beach Resort, Ft Walton Beach, FL Oct 21- 26, 2014

The following link has a detailed schedule for the 2014 reunion in FWB as well as some more information on hotel reservations.

http://www.fac-assoc.org/newsletter/January_2014.pdf

If you have any questions, contact Claude Newland 1 - 850 - 654 - 2955 or rustic19@cox.net.

Photo Gallery



Ed Burchfield & Jim Ristow



Ron Russell & Sen. Tommy Garrett



Thomas & Tessa Turner



Burl Westcott & Rita Saluchi



Brian Yates & Mike Viggiano



Grace Overby, Linda Ernst, Carol Moore, Judy Thompson



Tracy Monahan & Bruce Peters



Adm. Ryan & Paula Muth's award



Sonny & Olivia Ashford



Jim & Mary Sweetman



Michael & Michelle Matthews



Grace & Ronald Overby

Wandering Mind of an Old Retired Guy

Is it me -- or do buffalo wings taste like chicken?

If swimming is so good for your figure, how do you explain whales?

My weight is perfect for my height -- which varies.

One nice thing about egotists: they don't talk about other people.

Experience is the thing you have left when everything else is gone.

If the world were a logical place, men would be the ones who ride horses sidesaddle.

All I ask is a chance to prove that money can't make me happy.

Protons have mass? I didn't even know they were Catholic.

I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.

TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN, YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE, SO ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS.



234-6622. LIFE Membership has a separate Dual Military Spouse rate.

Add your own voice to the fight!

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LOCAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership: _____ Initial or _____ Renewal

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_____ **Optional Scholarship Donation:** \$50, \$100 or more _____

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Signature _____ Date _____

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May they not be forgotten:

The men and women who have answered the call and paid the ultimate price so that we and future generations could have the freedoms so cherished by human beings. We must ever be vigilant and prepared to defend our way of life against those who would deny it. Callous politicians, power hungry egoists, corrupt individuals, adversarial religions, and even our latest self-oriented generations pose grave threat to the preservation of what many take for granted. Every citizen should take a few moments from time to time and reflect on the benefits we have in our country. They should give thanks to those who have served and preserved our way of life.



Hopefully, they will also pledge to do their part to keep it so. -- pj

SAVE THE DATE

UNL ROTC
2014 Joint Service
Chancellor's Review
and Spring Banquet



Save the date for the 2014 ROTC Joint Service Chancellor's Review & Spring Banquet in honor of the commissioning class of 2014

Date: Thursday, 17 April 2014
Location: University of Nebraska – Lincoln, City Campus

All friends of the ROTC program are welcomed and encouraged to attend these events. Registration opens 3 February 2014 for the evening banquet. For more information, please visit our webpage.

 ROTC & Military <https://huskeralum.org/web/rotc>

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Dinner Meeting

Come See *Boeing, Boeing* with us!!

The Heartland of America Chapter of MOAA is having our annual night out at the Omaha Community Playhouse, April 26, 2014

Backstage tour begins at 5:30 p.m. Buffet Dinner 6:30 p.m. (Menu below) Play begins at 7:30 p.m. Directions and other info at www.OmahaPlayhouse.com (See also info about this terrific farcical comedy in the MOAA Newsletter.)

Play Tickets \$23.00 each (with group discount, normally \$40.00).
Tickets for Two Entre' Buffet are \$25.00 each, cash bar available.

Make your reservation (meal and play*) by calling the Playhouse at 402.553.4890 ext 147 with a Visa or MasterCard. Identify yourself as a member of the MOAA group. Our hostess is Jana Roberts, the Playhouse Director of Sales.

Reservations began March 6, 2014
Reservations must be in by April 11

Buffet catered with servers by Main Event: Menu— Chicken Cordon Bleu & Spicy rubbed crusted Salmon, Caesar Salad, Au-Gratin potatoes, Tuscan Mixed Blend, dinner rolls and butter, iced tea, water and coffee—and assorted desserts!

***Omaha Playhouse Season Ticket holders should identify themselves when they call in order to exchange tickets for vouchers. Tickets purchased are not exchangeable or refundable.**

Boeing-Boeing is a classic farce written by the French playwright Marc Camoletti. The English language adaptation, translated by Beverley Cross, was first staged in London at the Apollo Theatre in 1962 and transferred to the Duchess Theatre in 1965, running for a total of seven years. In 1991, the play was listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the most performed French play throughout the world.

**Nonprofit Org
Heartland of America Chapter, MOAA
P.O. Box 1756
Bellevue NE 68005**

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Notice to Addressee

Our April event will be on Saturday, the 26th for dinner and a play at the Omaha Community Play House. Reservations began March 6, 2014. **Reservations *must* be in by April 11.** Make reservation (meal and play*) by calling the Playhouse at 402.553.4890 ext 147 with a Visa or MasterCard. Identify yourself as a member of the MOAA group. *Omaha Playhouse Season Ticket holders should identify themselves when they call in order to exchange tickets for vouchers.

