



Heartland of America Chapter

-- We Never Stop Serving --
-- We Are One Powerful Voice --
--- for Every Officer at Every Stage of Life and Career ---

******* August 2019 *******



NOTE !! Our Special Guest !!
Nebraska 2nd District Congressman
Don Bacon BGen USAF (Ret) will be our August speaker

-- Our Next Official Dinner Meeting is Wednesday, 21st August --

(see inside back cover for details)

Check out our website at

www.heartlandMOAA.us

or call (402)339-7888

The Bulletin Board

Is the Newsletter of the Heartland of America Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. Content is from members, MOAA's [Take Action, Legislative Action Center](#), and other military-oriented sources. Material used is public domain or attributed as to source and copyright. Our editorial policy is the same [non-partisan policy as MOAA](#).

Lt Colonel Patrick L. Jones, USAF(Ret) Editor & Webmaster - (402)650-4457

Volume XXXIII

Number 8

August 2019

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



When your Chapter Board decided to not have dinner meetings in January and July last year, the reasons were the cold January weather and the large number of members who are on vacation in July. As I write this, we are in an “excessive heat warning” and our normal meeting date would have been in the middle of this four-day weather warning. If we had our normal dinner meeting at Anthony’s, I believe our attendance would have been at an all-time low.

We have an open position on our chapter board as Lou Zuccarello, our current Membership Chairman, is obligated to perform some additional functions in his civilian job. Lou has been a superb membership chair as MOAA has transitioned to the more streamlined Committee Module format. Lou has agreed to provide the materials/instructions on the Membership Chair position to his selected replacement. Meanwhile, your Chapter Board is in a planning mode.

Our Legislative Chair, Jeff Mikesell has been tracking both the Senate and House versions of the FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The Senate version contained most of requirements requested by the Department of Defense. The House version passed on a party-line vote with no Republicans voting for it. The House version included some controversial issues such as no new nuclear weapons and delivery systems. Our MOAA priorities include: do not cap military pay or benefits, support the 3.1% Active duty pay raise, no raise in TRICARE fees, and end the widow’s tax, and the DIC offset to SBP. A conference committee from the Senate and House will have to resolve these differences beginning in September. The August recess (district work period) will begin on Thursday, July 25th.

Board planning continues for the important dinner meetings coming up. The first will be our August 21st meeting when our speaker will be our Chapter Chaplain and US Representative/General Don Bacon. We expect a large crowd for that

meeting so please signup and come early for the social hour beginning at 6pm. Our September 18th meeting will include Admiral Walt Doran, USN (Ret), the Chairman of our National MOAA Board. MOAA National will be sending letters to non-chapter members inviting them to attend this meeting (and encouraging them to join the Chapter). The sequence of important speakers will continue in October with Tim Burke. Besides being the CEO of OPPD, he is deeply involved with civilian-military relations at Offutt and Headquarters, Air Force.

Dan Donovan d.donovan1@cox.net 402-339-7888

Programs

Aug – 21 - Special guest, Congressman Don Bacon

Sep – 18 – MOAA Chairman, Admiral Walt Doran

Oct – 16 – Tim Burke, OPPD board and member of Offutt Advisory Council

Nov – 20 - ROTC Cadets, AF, Navy, Army, Marines from UNL, UNO, and Creighton

Dec – 11 – Christmas & Holiday celebration, election of officers, and Sarpy Serenaders music program (starts at 6:30pm)

Widows Tax Repeal, 3.1% Pay Raise, and More Passes House Defense Bill

(MOAA Internet Newsletter update 12 July)

The House of Representatives passed its version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), sending the measure – which includes many MOAA-supported initiatives — into negotiations with the Senate to produce a final bill.

MOAA and other veterans groups pushed for the passage of the House bill so that a number of key issues for the military community would reach the conference stage – now it will be up to the conferees to resolve differences. Here are some issues the House addressed that were not included in Senate legislation they passed in late June:

- The elimination of the “widows tax,” an unfair offset that costs more than 65,000 military survivors and their families about \$12,000 a year in much-deserved benefits. In the days leading up to the House vote, MOAA aggressively advocated on behalf of military widows, and many of our members and supporters sent letters to their members of Congress. We'll continue to fight for a full repeal as the Senate and House begin the next stage of discussions.
- Language that would force the Defense Department to fully explain and study the effects of plans that would eliminate 18,000 – about 1 in 5 – military medical billets. This language is a critical path to congressional oversight on a process that could reduce the quality and availability of medical care for military retirees and military families throughout the nation. Learn more about the cuts [here](#).

- **The end of the so-called “Feres Doctrine,” meaning servicemembers would be allowed to sue in the event of alleged malpractice by military medical personnel. Learn more about MOAA’s support for the measure [here](#).**

Like the Senate version, the bill also includes a MOAA-supported 3.1% pay raise for servicemembers, making this the largest raise since 2010.

“We are grateful the House of Representatives passed HR 2500, the National Defense Authorization Act, setting up a conference with the Senate where the two houses will resolve differences and produce a defense bill for the President’s signature,” said MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret).

“We acknowledge there are differences between the two bills requiring earnest discussions and compromise. MOAA asserts the priority of this legislation must remain focused on our nation’s commitment to those men and women who serve in uniform, those who have already served their careers, and their families and survivors. We look forward in the weeks ahead to share our position on the many matters impacting these selfless individuals.”

“To the Conferees yet to be named, we welcome the opportunity in the coming weeks to serve as a resource should you have any questions about any level of detail regarding matters being resolved between the two bills.”

The Senate bill includes \$750 billion in defense funding compared with \$733 billion in the House version. President Donald Trump has threatened to veto the NDAA if it clears both chambers without the top-line funding he requested to improve our military.

Disabled Veterans Eligible for Free Access to National Parks

(MOAA Newsletter Update 20 May-staff writer By: Amanda Dolasinski)

Veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 10 percent or higher can get free access to the Grand Canyon, Hawaii volcanoes, and hundreds of other national parks across the country – a benefit also available to active duty servicemembers.

Disabled veterans can apply for their pass in person at a participating federal recreation site (PDF) by presenting a photo identification card and documentation proving permanent disability, such as a VA Benefit Summary Letter (also known as an award letter), VA identification with service-connected disability annotation, VA summary of benefits, or receipt of Social Security disability income.

Disabled veterans may also apply by mail by sending documentation and \$10 processing fee to the United States Geological Survey, Attn: Access Pass, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225. Documents to include are the Access Pass application form (PDF), proof of residency and one of the following: VA disability award letter, VA summary of benefits, or proof of SSDI income. Passes sent by mail could take 10 to 12 weeks.

The pass for disabled veterans also includes discounts on amenity fees, such as camping, swimming, boat launching, and guided tours.

The VA highlighted the program in a [recent blog post](#).

Active duty members can obtain a free pass for a year, while disabled veterans can apply for a Lifetime National Parks Access Pass through the Department of Interior that gives them access to more than 400 national parks and 2,000 recreation sites.

Active duty servicemembers may apply for a pass at a federal recreation site (PDF) by showing a Common Access Card or Military ID.

Status of LB 153 concerning Military Tax Relief

(from Neb. Legislative Website and Jeff Mikesell, chapter Legislative Chair)

(Ed. Note: this article reprinted so readers can take action to support the tax bill, LB-153)

(The Property Tax bill passed at the last moment and the Governor has signed it. However, there was not time left for LB153 to be passed. It is on General File and is tabled for discussion in the months leading up to the January re-convening of the Legislation. A favorable sign is that it has near unanimous Revenue Committee support but there are still some property tax issues unresolved.)

Senator Tom Brewer's bill gained sponsors. It has strong endorsement by Governor Pete Ricketts. Military service organizations as well as the Omaha Chamber of Commerce back it. Our own MOAA Chapter President, Col Dan Donovan also spoke on behalf of the legislation. Senator Lowe made it his priority bill. But, the property tax debate was hot and no one focused on LB 153. Act now to send the Nebraska legislature a note that passing LB 153 is a Win-Win for Nebraska. For example, all states surrounding Nebraska provide military retiree tax relief because they recognize the great asset military retirees are, highly educated, well-trained, proven leadership, trustworthy, no medical or welfare costs to the state, and skill sets needed for the state's economic growth. [Contact your Senator and the Speaker of the Legislature](#) - Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained... You just might make the difference!

VA Announces Yellow Ribbon Schools for 2019-2020 Academic Year

(MOAA Newsletter 15 July)

The Yellow Ribbon Program is a provision of the Post-9/11 GI Bill that allows veterans to attend a private school for little or no out-of-pocket money. Normally, Post-9/11 GI Bill payments at private schools are limited by law to a national maximum amount. Although that amount changes every year, it seldom covers the full tuition and fees that private schools charge for enrollment.

[See the list of schools here.](#) (Creighton, Bellevue University, and many more)

Normally, private schools are more expensive than public schools, but schools that participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program agree to waive a portion of their tuition. The VA then matches the waived amount, which allows a veteran to attend a private school at little or no personal cost.

For example: You attend a private university with a tuition of \$45,000 a year. The school is participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program and agrees to waive \$10,000 in tuition costs for veterans. The VA matches that \$10,000 waiver, making the total tuition waived \$20,000. Your Post-9/11 GI Bill will pay the legally mandated maximum of \$24,476.79, and the Yellow Ribbon Program will waive \$20,000. You will be responsible for tuition of \$523.21 that you must pay with financial aid or out-of-pocket.

[\[RELATED: MOAA's GI Bill Page\]](#)

The program is voluntary for schools, and many have limits on which degree programs they allow and may limit the number of participants in the program.

There are certain restrictions on who is eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program as well: Active-duty members cannot use it, but dependents can. [More details.](#)

Starbucks Hires 25,000 Vets and Spouses

(MOAA Newsletter Update 23 July by **Amanda Dolasinski**)

Starbucks has reached its goal to hire 25,000 veterans and military spouses – six years ahead of schedule. The company announced its gains in veteran hiring this week and also unveiled plans to hire at least 5,000 veterans and military spouses each year moving forward.

The Seattle-based coffee company initially planned to hire 25,000 veterans by 2025. In 2018, MOAA recognized Starbucks CEO Kevin Johnson with its Distinguished Service Award, for his work to hire veterans and spouses.

“This is a diverse community, and we need to make sure these men and women feel welcomed with a culture of warmth, understanding, and appreciation,” Johnson told MOAA in 2018. “Most transitioning veterans are on a journey, and we want to be part of that.”

Here’s How 3 Million More People Will Get Military Shopping Benefits

(MOAA Newsletter Update 23 July)

Starting Jan. 1, all service-connected disabled veterans, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war and primary veteran caregivers will be eligible to shop at commissaries and exchanges. The newly eligible customers will also be able to use certain morale, welfare and recreation activities.

It’s the largest patronage expansion in more than 60 years. The departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security have been planning for the expansion for more than six months. They have decided how the new customers will get access to military installations and stores; assessed the impact on the stores, and have been making plans to ensure enough products get to the shelves in the right assortment.

The law also included Medal of Honor recipients, but they already had shopping privileges. Previously, veterans with 100 percent service-connected disabilities were able to shop; now all with service-connected disabilities can shop. The benefit extends to MWR programs that are “revenue-generating facilities.”

The expansion is about a 50 percent increase in customers. Currently, about 6 million total households are eligible for the benefit; this adds 3 million. Officials have been mapping out the areas, using VA statistics, where there may be more of an impact on the stores. The impact assessments generally show there will be a low to moderate impact on military stores overall. States with a higher population density of disabled veterans are Florida, Texas and California. High cost areas were identified as Hawaii; Alaska, California; the Washington metropolitan area; New York; New Jersey and Washington state.

These new shoppers generally don’t have access to military bases. Officials have decided that the best form of identification for these groups:

- **Disabled and other eligible veterans: For access into the installation, and for access to the stores, they’ll use the veterans health ID card. Officials are working to enable technology at the front gate to scan those veteran cards, and will start in October. Commissary officials are working on adjusting their technology to enable systems to read the veterans health ID card.**
- **Caregivers: The process will be different, since they’re not directly affiliated with DoD or VA other than through their annual appointment to be a**

caregiver. The benefit applies to the primary caregiver of wounded/injured veterans who are registered in the Department of Veterans Affairs caregiver program. Beginning in October, the VA will post a memo to VA.gov for caregivers, to be used for access at the front gate, along with driver's license or other authorized form of ID. The VA process will later transition to a caregiver-type ID card, which will have scanning swipe capability. Currently there are about 30,000 VA caregivers who will qualify for this benefit, but the number could potentially grow to about 250,000.

These new customers will pay a fee for using a credit card at commissaries, except for the Military Star card. The amount of the fee has not yet been determined. By law, this expansion can't include extra costs associated with using credit cards in commissaries; the cost must be passed on to the customer. Except for the Military Star card, credit card companies charge transaction fees to retailers when customers use their credit cards. The fee applies only to new patrons using credit cards in commissaries. New customers can avoid the fees by paying by cash, check or using the Military Star card. It only applies at the commissary.



MOAA's and Heartland Chapter's Missions are the Same

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, working to support military and their families at every stage of life. It actively petitions Congress on behalf of the military community on issues affecting the career force, the retired community, and veterans of the uniformed services. MOAA offers a wide range of personal and financial services exclusive to MOAA members. Whatever the stage of a career, MOAA membership delivers benefits geared specifically to you – and your family. You become part of the strongest advocate for our military and their families. Those with prior officer service in any of the seven uniformed services can become members. Consider joining today because every voice counts! You will be protecting not only your earned benefits but for all serving today. Our Heartland Chapter also focuses on state and local issues, interfacing with the Legislature and the Governor. We provide a really great environment for camaraderie and mutual support with our meetings, speakers, newsletters, website, and community involvement. You will feel like family.

**As MOAA does, WE NEVER STOP SERVING....
We are One Powerful Voice –
For every officer at every stage of life and career...
Join Us !! You will be glad you did!**

Selection of Membership

<p>When you join MOAA, you become part of the strongest advocate for our military's personnel and their families. The stronger our membership is, the stronger our voice becomes. Consider joining today because every voice counts. Three membership levels to meet the needs of all Officers.</p>	 BASIC	 PREMIUM	 LIFE
Features of each Membership level	No-cost electronic Membership designed for today's junior officers.	Full access to MOAA's career resources, countless discounts on products and travel, & access to all of MOAA-exclusive pubs & news updates. Full access to a wide variety of member benefits for today's career officer.	Receive all the benefits that PREMIUM membership has plus exclusive privileges and benefits.
Membership Dues	Free	1 year - \$48, 2 years - \$82 3 years - \$108	Dues are based on your current age
Support of critical advocacy efforts to protect the benefits of the entire military community.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Electronic access to several of MOAA's news updates.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Discounts on products and travel.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Career transition resources MOAA helps transition efforts by hosting career fairs, resume critiques, training sessions & much more.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Expert advice on your military pay & benefits MOAA's team of highly trained professionals can help you receive the military benefits you've earned through one-on-one counseling.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Financial planning and investment advice		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Military Office magazine		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Access to all MOAA-exclusive publications		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scholarships, interest-free loans, & grants		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MOAA Chapters - Take advantage of the opportunity to get involved & meet fellow offices in your community. A PREMIUM or LIFE membership makes it easy.	Dues vary by Chapter. (Heartland Chapter of Ne is \$20 per yr)	New chapter members receive a voucher good for one year of chapter dues.	New chapter members receive a voucher good for two years of chapter dues.
Bonus travel rewards and discounts			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Initiation fee waived at the Army and Navy Club of Washington, D. C.			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Spouse Protection -membership benefits transfers if something happen to you.		Auxillary Annual DUES 1 Yr - \$43 2 Yr - \$73 3 Yr - \$97	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

National Membership Form

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military service-members and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers and their surviving spouses. MOAA members proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country: Never Stop Serving.

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Send To: MOAA, PO Box 1488 • Merrifield, VA 22116-9820
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Age 96-99	\$88
Age 100+	FREE

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Two-Year PREMIUM
\$82 (Surviving Spouse - \$73)



Three-Year PREMIUM
\$108 (Surviving Spouse - \$97)



BASIC
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Local Membership Form



Heartland of America Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 1756
Bellevue, NE 68005-1756

LOCAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Heartland Chapter members must also be a National MOAA Member)

Membership: Initial or Renewal

Annual local dues \$20.00 \$10.00(new ones after 1 July) Aux. \$5.00

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Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____

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Rank _____ Service _____ Retired NOAA USPHS

Active Duty Regular Reserve Nat'l Guard Former Officer

Spouse's Name _____

National MOAA Membership # _____ Life Member? Yes No

Brief Bio: (entered service: branch: assignment summary: Interesting career anecdotes:

Signature _____ Date _____

Contact Chapter Officers for more info: President Dan Donovan - 402-339-7888,
Membership: Lou Zuccarello - 402-739-3521, **Surviving Spouse Affairs:** Martha Didamo -
402-291-2194, **Legislation:** Jeff Mikesell - 402-990-2713, **Treasurer:** Rene Dreiling 402-
740-3127, **ROTC:** Brook Stafford - 402-916-9759, **Personal Affairs:** Teri LeHigh - 402-291-
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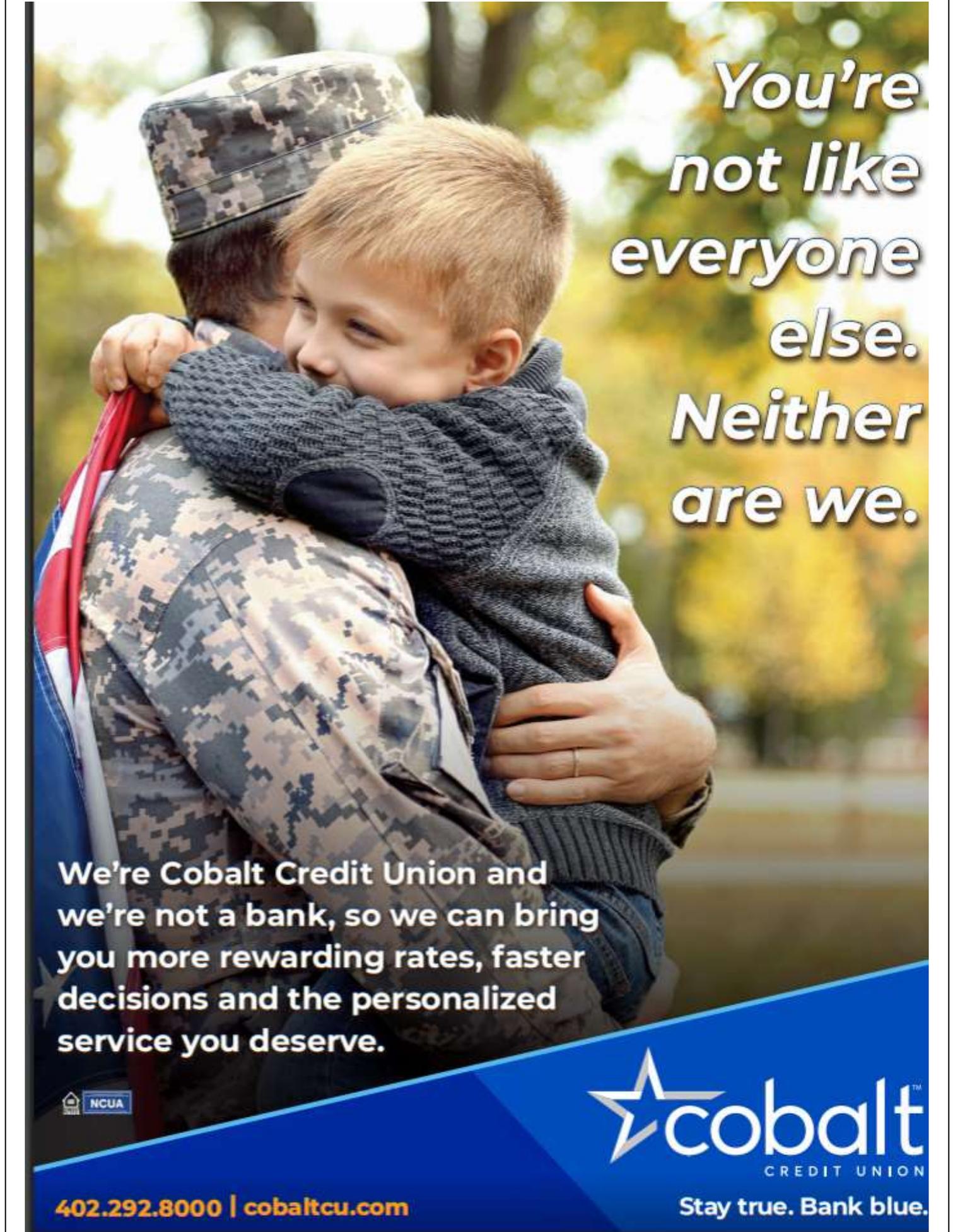
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A photograph of a soldier in a digital camouflage uniform and cap, seen from the side, hugging a young child with light brown hair. The child is wearing a grey sweater and has their arms around the soldier's neck. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with trees and sunlight.

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May They Not Be Forgotten:

I mean 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 egotists, 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. – PLJ

Wandering Mind of An Old Retired Guy



Getting old can sometimes bring physical problems, but they are easier to deal with, if you keep a sense of humor....

(Both Barbara and I are dealing with this one...)

As many of you know, probably due to strong antibiotics last March, I lost all hearing in my left ear. After flying jets for thousands of hours, my right ear hearing is not so hot. So, I am "hearing" that maybe getting a hearing aid has advantages.



**"GOOD FRIENDS ARE THE RARE JEWELS OF LIFE,
DIFFICULT TO FIND AND IMPOSSIBLE TO REPLACE!"**

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

Dinner Reservations for August

(for Members and invited Guests)

Note the Date: Wednesday, AUGUST 21st, 2019

CONGRESSMAN DON BACON, RETIRED B/GENERAL, WILL BE OUR SPEAKER.

Remember the expression, “The more, the merrier”? We ask you to make our meetings better, with your presence. We strive to provide a good meal, a stimulating program, and camaraderie. We’ll do our best to provide the first two, but only you can increase the camaraderie we share. Please attend.

Time: Social Hour – 6PM
Dining Hour – 7:00PM

Place: Anthony’s Steakhouse
7220 F Street – Omaha



Meal selections are as follows:

**Apple Thyme Pork Loin w/ Smashed Potatoes and Steamed Broccoli
\$29.00 (\$32.00 w/ Chocolate Ice Cream)**

**Breaded Shrimp w/ Rice Pilaf and Asparagus w/ Hollandaise Sauce
\$29.60 (\$32.60 w/ Chocolate Ice Cream)**

**Thunderbird Salad w/ Grilled Chicken
\$21.00 (\$24.00 w/ Chocolate Ice Cream)**

Note: these meal choices are for August 21st

RSVP: Lt Col Ron & Lidiya Glinka - Tel: 402-672-2020 - heartlandmoaa@hotmail.com

Please specify names of attendees, meal choices and include a phone number in case we need to contact you.

Reservations should be in by Monday night before the dinner! If you must cancel your reservation, please call Ron or Lidiya at (402) 672-2020 prior to 4:00 pm on the day of the event; otherwise the chapter will be charged if you are a NO-SHOW and we will have to send you a bill for the cost.

New check writing procedures:

Make your check out to Heartland Chapter MOAA

OR....

use our stamp which will be provided at sign-in

Dress: Business attire or as appropriate

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