



Heartland of America Chapter

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

***** **May 2021** *****

CHARGE !!



Col (USA Ret) Tom Brewer Leads the way !

Next *SCHEDULED* Dinner Meeting??
May 19th at Anthony's Steak House, 72nd & F St.

(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

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Well, we did it! We had our first dinner meeting in 14 months, and it felt good. The crowd was congenial and the speaker was very good. The speaker was Chapter member Mick Wagoner, Lt Col, USMC (Ret) and his topic was the new Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Memorial that will be located in Papillion, just south of the SumTur Amphitheater. Mick was accompanied by two other committee members of the Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation: George Abbot, a Navy veteran (and new Chapter member), and JR Richardson, an Air Force veteran who also runs the Bellevue Military Veterans Service Center. They provided additional insights.

Mick Wagoner was born in Grand Island, moved in with Omaha relatives, graduated from Creighton Prep and attended the University of Texas. He completed Navy ROTC there, chose the Marine option, and was commissioned in 1989. He participated in Desert Shield/Storm, and later deployed to Afghanistan and Somalia. His assignments included duty at Parris Island and Camp Pendleton. He left active service in 1993 to attend Creighton University Law School. He returned to active duty and was assigned to the US Army Judge Advocate General's Legal Center in Charlottesville, Virginia. After graduating with an LLM (Master of Laws), he stayed at the school for three years and taught International and Operational Law. He then was assigned to US Special Operations Command as Chief of Operational Law. His last assignment was to Iwakuni, Japan, retiring there in 2013. He returned to Omaha and started Veterans Legal Support Network (VLSN), a non-profit, to assist



veterans and their families working through the civil and criminal justice systems. In 2016, he helped establish the Douglas County Veterans Treatment Court. Mick is married to Susan and they have four daughters. Besides his volunteer work, Mick is a compliance manager at National Indemnity Insurance. With so many Vietnam veterans in our chapter, Mick's superb presentation was particularly relevant.

The purpose of the Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation is to develop, construct, and maintain the memorial dedicated to the memories and sacrifices of all Nebraska Vietnam veterans, and provide an historical account for future generations. Some distinguished members of the Committee include Senators Hagel and Kerry, Mayor David Black of Papillion, and Dr. Mary B. Hawkins, President of Bellevue University. The estimated cost is \$3.6 million and approximately one-half of that amount has already been raised. The monument is a community partnership, a private memorial on government land, with a fifty-year lease at a cost of \$1.00 per year payable to Papillion. Eleven obelisks representing each year of the war, will feature a summary of significant events and a listing of Nebraskans who died in that year. A highlight will be a

restored Vietnam-era UH-1 Huey helicopter.

For his year's MOAA's Advocacy in Action (formerly known as Storming the Hill), Jeff Mikesell, Dean Kenkel, and I will be virtually meeting with our two senators and three congressmen. The issues are:

- 1. Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform**
- 2. Parity for TRICARE Young Adults,**
- 3. A Basic Needs Allowance for Military Families Facing Food Insecurity**

On the state legislative front, (as of April 23rd), we are waiting for LB387, the bill to exempt 100% of military retired pay for its 3rd and final reading by the entire Unicameral. Assuming it passes, it then will go to Governor Ricketts for his signature. Bellevue Senators Rita Sanders and Carol Blood both had bills passed that will help military families moving to Nebraska. Senator Sanders' LB389 will



Before the dinner, our speaker, LtCol Mick Wagoner socialized with attendees like LtCol Rick Croasdale.

speed up the issuing of teaching certificates to military spouses. Senator Blood's LB14 authorized Nebraska to join the interstate compact for audiologists and speech-language pathologists to practice in any other member state without having to obtain a separate license. Senator Blood also sponsored LB5, the Purple Star Schools Program that gives schools the option of assigning a teacher to assist military students transferring into the district.

May 19, 2021: our speaker is the sponsor of LB387, Senator Tom Brewer, Col, USA (Ret)

June 16, 2021: our speaker is Craig Jacobs, Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo

I just received two emails from MOAA National. Pat Jones did it again. In the Harris Communications Awards, he received a 5-star award for our newsletter and another 5-star award for our website. Congratulations Pat!

Dan Donovan

d.donovan1@cox.net

402-339-7888

Could "Chained CPI COLA be re-implemented?

(MOAA newsletter)



LtCol Dick Doolittle, LtGen Leo Smith, and CAPT Mark Olson all have big smiles... surely proof they were happy to have our first chapter dinner meeting in 14 months!

Every two years, just before a new Congress is sworn in, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) releases a report offering ways the incoming legislators could tackle the nation's growing budget deficit. But while the Dec 17th version calculates potential savings over five- and 10-year windows from 2021 to 2030, it does little to nothing to calculate what these options would mean for the bottom line of those in the crosshairs. When it comes to service members, retirees, and veterans, MOAA attempts to fill in those gaps.

The CBO report suggests an expansion in the use of "chained CPI" in these pay calculations. Chained CPI calculates user spending patterns differently than the traditional model and – not surprisingly, given the goal of the CBO report – traditionally results in a lower growth rate leading to smaller COLA increases. One chained CPI variant tracked about 0.25 percentage points below the traditional calculation each year since 2001, per the report.

MOAA has taken action on previous chained-CPI recommendations, calling them out for what they are: A benefit cut that unfairly targets many members of the uniformed services community, particularly retirees and disabled veterans. These individuals access inflation-adjusted benefits at an earlier age than most, meaning any reductions in their benefit would have a longer lasting, more devastating effect on their bottom line.



These ladies were happy to see each other after such a long time, Mary Jo Smith, Ginny McBlain, Lidiya Glinka, Linda Olson, Dorris Heaston, and Loretta Doolittle.... a great rekindling of friendships.

Lawmakers must be made to realize the individual impacts of these proposals – going beyond the bottom line to see what damage could be done.

MOAA will work to ensure elected officials understand the wider impact of proposals such as using chained CPI, especially as it applies to the benefits earned by MOAA members and others through their service. MOAA members can stay engaged with these and other advocacy issues by visiting MOAA's [advocacy](#) news page; should any proposals advance beyond the CBO-report stages, we will be ready to mobilize any necessary resources.

Bipartisan Bill Would Repeal TRICARE Select Enrollment Fee for Some Retirees

(By: Karen Ruedisueli, MOAA NL MARCH 17, 2021)

(ed. Note: This is being reprinted due to the impact it has on certain retirees, the approaching deadline for lost insurance renewal, and the need for your support to pass the bill into law)

The [TRICARE Select Restoration Act \(S.625\)](#), introduced by Sens. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), protects the military retiree health care benefit by eliminating the TRICARE Select enrollment fee for those who retired prior to 2018 and their dependents.

MOAA appreciates the efforts of both senators and supports this partial fix for the TRICARE Select enrollment fee. It has been referred to the Armed Forces Committee.

[\[TAKE ACTION: Ask Your Senators to Support S. 625\]](#)

“MOAA fought the new TRICARE Select enrollment fee years ago when it was proposed as part of military health system reform, because it fundamentally devalues the benefit and reduces health care protections for military retirees,” said MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret). “We appreciate Sen. Tester and Sen. Murkowski’s efforts to eliminate the enrollment fee and reinstate full health care protections for those who retired before 2018. We thank Sen. Tester and Sen. Murkowski for taking this step to reverse the unacceptable move of cutting TRICARE benefits after service members have fulfilled the obligations of a full career.”



LtCol Mike DeBolt and LCMDR Brook Stafford were happy to be meeting again and comparing Army and Navy notes. Hm-m-m-m, they seem to be modeling a new uniform combo. The editor has the exact combo too... good choice.

The new TRICARE Select enrollment fee was passed into law with the FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) as part of a package of military health system (MHS) reforms. It went into effect Jan. 1, 2021, and has led to a significant number of retirees and their families being disenrolled from TRICARE coverage for failure to pay the fee. **Disenrolled families have until the end of June to request reinstatement of TRICARE coverage.**

During the FY 2017 NDAA process, MOAA opposed the Select enrollment fee and successfully fought for current service members and retirees to be grandfathered into lower fees -- \$150 individual/\$300 family for grandfathered retirees, instead of \$450 individual/\$900 family for retirees who enter service on or after Jan 1, 2018.

The S.625 bill language repeals the Select enrollment fee only for those who retired before 2018 – a partial fix. MOAA still advocates for a full fix repealing the fee for all Group A beneficiaries (whose sponsors entered service before 2018), but this partial fix has a lower cost associated with it and a high likelihood of passage.

[\[RELATED: MOAA’s 2020-21 TRICARE Guide\]](#)

In a press release, the bill’s sponsors explained the importance of this legislation.

"No military retiree should ever be at risk of losing their health care coverage -- especially during a global pandemic," said Tester. "Our bipartisan bill will ensure that retired veterans aren't burdened by costly enrollment fees that put themselves and their family's health care in jeopardy. This legislation is a critical step in supporting more folks during these tough times, and I'll keep fighting until every man and woman who has selflessly served our nation has access to affordable, high-quality care."

Murkowski said the fees came as a surprise to many of her constituents, and she was "glad to join Senator Tester in support of legislation to eliminate unnecessary annual enrollment fees for certain retired veterans and reduce those fees for individuals and families."

"COVID-19 has had significant impacts on America's veterans and their families," Murkowski added. "We must guarantee their hard-earned medical benefits are protected throughout this public health crisis, and beyond."

Please contact your senators and ask them to cosponsor this important bill.

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(MOAA NL 11 March)

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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. We are 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.
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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"/>
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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"/>
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Financial planning and investment advice		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Military Office magazine		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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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.
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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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Age 100+	FREE

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**Two-Year
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\$82 (Surviving
Spouse – \$73)



**Three-Year
PREMIUM**

\$108 (Surviving
Spouse – \$97)



BASIC
Membership Dues

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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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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: Michael DeBolt 402-980-0554, **Surviving Spouse Affairs:** Martha Didamo -
402-291-2194, **Legislation:** Jeff Mikesell - 402-990-2713, **Treasurer:** Rene Dreiling 402-
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Pete Zekauskas

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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



Mark Olson will make it to Old Retired Guy Status.... he remembered his and Linda's anniversary with flowers and dinner !!



So-o-o-o, LIFE IS GOOD

**"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." And SMILE.... It'S CONTAGIOUS !!!**

Dinner Reservations for May 19th

Social Hour starts at 6 PM – dinner at 7 PM

After dinner, our speaker will be retired Col, now Senator Tom Brewer

Remember the expression, “The more, the merrier”?

We ask you to make our meetings better, with your presence.

**NOTE: IF YOUR RESERVATION HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED
BY RON OR LIDIYA, PLEASE CALL THEM**



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.**

Meal selections are as follows:

**Pork Tenderloin Medallions w/Smashed Potatoes & Steamed Broccoli - \$31.50
(\$34.50 w/ Chocolate ice cream)**

**Chicken Marsala w/Smashed Potatoes & Steamed Broccoli - \$25.00
(\$28.00 w/ Chocolate ice cream)**

**Thunderbird Salad with Shrimp (3) -- \$22.50
(\$25.50 w/ Chocolate ice cream)**

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