



Heartland of America Chapter

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

*******February 2022*******



(NOTE: this is one of those days you just have to remember !!)

.....

Next *SCHEDULED* Dinner Meeting??

February 16th 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



While we had no meeting scheduled in January, there was some surprising news from Anthony's Steakhouse. The current owner is placing the restaurant for sale, dining for individuals will end in February, and the Ozone bar will also close in February. The announcement also said groups such as ours will be supported through May in the group dining rooms that we have used. Ron Russell, Pat Jones, and I had previously looked at places where we could meet and Board members have suggested some other possibilities. We will have a place to meet after May.

State Senator Rita Sanders will be our speaker on February 16th. She was elected in 2020 to represent District 45 in Bellevue. She had previously served as mayor of Bellevue from 2010 to 2018. A member of both the Offutt Advisory Council and the US STRATCOM Consultation Committee, she is recognized as a long-time supporter of Offutt AFB and military families in the Bellevue-Offutt community.

On January 5th, our Nebraska unicameral had its first meeting of 2022 and several bills were introduced. On, Friday, January 14th, the Sarpy Chamber of Commerce hosted a legislative update with the Sarpy senators discussing their priorities. Senators John Arch, Carol Blood, and Rita Sanders were there. Each was given 10 minutes to describe their priorities and the legislative bills they had introduced. One of Senator Sanders bills (LB389) clarifies procedures for administrating the Homestead Exemption for veteran with 100% VA disability rating. Another (LB1080) would expedite teaching certificates to military spouses. Senator John Arch sees a priority to improve procurement services by state agencies as seen in the "low ball" bid by St Francis for social services. Another major issue will be to determine whether or not the State should build a new prison. Senator Carol Blood introduced several bills. One (LB693) will change how Nebraska defines disabled veterans matching the federal definition and provides certain exemptions:

- 1. A mobile home that is owned and occupied by a disabled veteran would be exempt from taxation. A motor vehicle owned and used by a disabled**

veteran for transportation would be exempt from the motor vehicle tax and motor vehicle fee.

- 2. For motor vehicles, 4 tiers of exemption would be provided, based on the individual's disability rating;**
 - a. at least 10% but not more than 25% provides for a 25% reduction**
 - b. more than 25% but not more than 50% provides for a 50% reduction**
 - c. more than 50% but not more than 75% provides for a 75% reduction**
 - d. more than 75% provides for a 100% reduction.**

The speaker for our Wednesday, March 16th meeting will be the President of the University of Nebraska System, Ted Carter, Vice Admiral, USN (Ret). He just completed two years at Nebraska. Prior to coming to Lincoln, he served as Superintendent of the US Naval Academy for three years. He has logged more than 6,300 flying hours and holds the American record for carrier-arrested landings.

Dan Donovan

d.donovan1@cox.net

402-339-7888

Here Are Your New TRICARE Pharmacy Drug Prices

(MOAA NL 18 November)

By: Karen Ruedisueli

As of Jan. 1, TRICARE copays for prescription drugs will increase as follows:

TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery (Up to a 90-Day Supply)

- Generic formulary drugs: from \$10 to \$12**
- Brand-name formulary drugs: from \$29 to \$34**
- Non-formulary drugs: from \$60 to \$68**

TRICARE Retail Network Pharmacies (Up to a 30-Day Supply)

- Generic formulary drugs: from \$13 to \$14**
- Brand-name formulary drugs: from \$33 to \$38**
- Non-formulary drugs: from \$60 to \$68**

Prescriptions obtained at military treatment facility (MTF) pharmacies still have zero out-of-pocket cost.

MOAA opposes disproportionate TRICARE fee increases and will continue work to stop programmed pharmacy copay hikes that are many times larger than the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) and diminish the value of military retirement.

The changes came as part of the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act and “are part of a larger effort to help fund improvements in military readiness and modernize the TRICARE health care benefit,” said Cmdr. Teisha Robertson, USPHS,

a pharmacist with the Defense Health Agency's Pharmacy Operations Division, in a TRICARE.mil article providing background on the fee increases.

MOAA appreciates the importance of military readiness but opposes funding readiness improvements on the backs of military retirees.

The TRICARE retail and mail order pharmacy programs were extended to Medicare-eligible retirees in 2001 with the legislation that created TRICARE For Life (TFL). Until then, the only prescription drug benefit available to military retirees ages 65 and up was zero-out-of-pocket-cost prescriptions at MTF pharmacies. Since the establishment of TFL, MOAA has worked to defeat numerous proposals for disproportionate TRICARE fee increases.

As Congress shaped MHS reforms, MOAA successfully blocked dozens of proposals that would have increased beneficiary cost sharing, including a TRICARE For Life enrollment fee, multiple plans for means testing that would have led to significant cost increases for MOAA members, catastrophic cap increases up to \$5,000, and a plan to index TRICARE copays to the National Health Expenditure Index, which typically grows at a much higher rate than COLA.

MOAA also objected to fee increases for survivors and medically retired servicemembers and their families. As a result, protections for these populations were included in the FY 2018 NDAA.

Survivors of active duty, medical retirees, and their families will not see pharmacy copay increases. There will also be no change for active duty service members – covered medications will have no out-of-pocket cost whether obtained at the MTF, a retail pharmacy, or via mail order.

SPACE COMMAND IS HERE TO STAY

(based on article by: Stephen Ruiz, Military.com 4 Nov 2021)

You know the changes are becoming permanent when they are “growing” their own recruits and not just taking them from other sources. Our Heartland Chapter has an excellent Junior ROTC program covering Air Force, Navy, and Army. Ah ha, the Space Command is not going to be left behind.

- DoD officials announced that nationally 10 JROTC units have agree to change their affiliation from Air Force to Space Force. In November, Durango High School in Las Vegas became the first unit to make the switch official. Space Coast Junior/Senior High School in Cocoa, Florida 's changeover ceremony is scheduled for January. The other eight JROTC**

programs moving over to the Space Force are: Arlington Career Center, Virginia

- **Del Norte High School, New Mexico**
- **Falcon High School, Colorado**
- **Huntsville High School, Alabama**
- **Klein High School, Texas**
- **Shadow Mountain High School, Arizona**
- **The Academy for Academic Excellence, California**
- **Warren County High School, North Carolina**

About 1,200 cadets are spread across the 10 units that converted.

Three primary criteria were used to select the units to switch, Col. Johnny R. McGonigal, director of Air Force Junior ROTC, said in an email. All units had to volunteer for the conversion, be dispersed regionally and reside close to space-related agencies, he said. Space Coast Junior/Senior High is about 40 miles east of Orlando and 15 miles southwest of Kennedy Space Center, where the space shuttle missions were launched.

Retired Lt. Col. Joseph Stevens and retired Senior Master Sgt. John Werner lead Space Coast's JROTC program, which began during the 2008-2009 school year. Stevens said coming under the auspices of the Space Force, which was created in December 2019, has been a smooth transition for the program's 123 students.

"The principles are basically identical," Stevens said. "We wear different uniforms, but what this program is about is making better people, better citizens for our country and nation. That is the common theme, common denominator for all programs, so whether it's Air Force, Space Force, any of the other branches, we're all going to have the same mission of making better students, better citizens."

Besides coursework, cadets are required to participate in community service projects.

Space Coast's JROTC currently is collecting canned goods to donate to a local food bank. Cadets participate in drills and ceremonies, are subject to uniform inspections, and undergo fitness training. They study military history and customs.

"The core curriculum, in general, for the day-to-day operations right now is still the same Air Force JROTC curriculum, which incorporated space concepts within it," Werner said. "Our headquarters, in coordination with Space Force Delta 13 [at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama] and the Space Force leadership team, is in the process of looking at our overall curriculum, and we'll make the adjustments when we get to that point as it continues to evolve down the road."

The Air Force JROTC curriculum currently consists of about 40% instruction on leadership, 40% aerospace science and 20% on fitness and wellness, McGonigal said. "Both Air and Space Force concepts will continue to be integral content in the new curricula," he said.

McGonigal said transitioning more Air Force JROTC units to the Space Force remains in the discussion stage, but this initial class has created a buzz.

It's one of the more notable changes since 20 JROTC units moved under the auspices of the Air Force in 1966. The first Army JROTC unit was formed at Fort Leavenworth High School, Kansas, in 1917, and the 1964 Reserve Officer Training Corps Vitalization Act expanded JROTC to all military branches.

A Year Without a Budget Would Cost DoD \$24 Billion & Troops Would Suffer Most

(By: Mark Belinsky, MOAA NL JANUARY 19, 2022)

DoD's top financial official joined top officers from each service Jan. 12 to reiterate to Congress what MOAA has been stressing for several years – reliance on continuing resolutions (CRs) to fund the nation's defense remains a wasteful strategy that unfairly disrupts the lives of service members and their families.

When it comes to the true cost of a yearlong CR, Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) Mike McCord put the figure close to \$24 billion – triple the expected \$8 billion shortfall between the DoD budget request and what the CR would provide. He offered multiple reasons why:

- Misaligned funds, such as \$3 billion earmarked for Afghanistan operations that would be unavailable for other uses.**
- More than 100 "new start" military construction projects, costing a combined \$5 billion, that can't be undertaken under a CR.**
- Procurement and research projects stalled by costs not covered by the CR, or new programs unable to be launched under a CR.**

Of special interest to MOAA was this statement in McCord's prepared testimony to the House Armed Services Committee: "Our military personnel accounts would be funded \$5.0 billion below our requested level" in a yearlong CR, he wrote, "yet inside those flat funding levels we would have to absorb the cost of a well-deserved pay raise and statutory housing and subsistence increases for the troops."

This means cutting corners to make the math work, McCord said, with delayed accessions and suspended PCS moves, among other budgetary maneuvers damaging to both morale and readiness.

The current CR will expire Feb. 18, and if appropriators cannot come to an agreement, a year-long CR could be their misguided solution.

A consistent theme from DoD officials is that a prolonged CR will hurt retention and break trust with military families. A reduction in retention bonuses, a halt to PCS moves that impact spousal employment and housing, and predictability for training schedules would all be impacted.

What was clear from the testimony from McCord and the five service chiefs is the endless stop-and-start to the budgetary cycle is a waste of taxpayers' dollars, and that predictability is badly needed.

Uniformed leaders of each service provided perspective on the need for a full budget in written and oral testimony, stressing many of the points brought forward by McChord as well as issues identified by MOAA in past advocacy efforts:

- A yearlong CR “would jeopardize the Army’s ability to meet emerging national and defense policy imperatives,” Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Joseph Martin wrote, adding the lack of a budget would “cause severe impacts to the Army’s ability to take care of our Soldiers and their families. ...” Martin testified as Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville attended the interment of Gen. Raymond Odierno, former Army Chief of Staff, at Arlington National Cemetery.**
- Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger told the committee retention would suffer without a budget. A CR would lead not only to a loss of trust among Marines and their families, but a loss of confidence among allies and partners, who may see multinational training exercises canceled.**
- Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Michael Gilday said the Navy would reduce accessions by 75%, delay 50% of PCS moves, disrupt spousal employment, and withhold retention bonuses as a result of the CR. The move also would put a hold on shipbuilding and infrastructure improvements, leading to lost investments.**
- Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles “CQ” Brown Jr. discussed the devastating impact on airmen and modernization, widening the gap between the U.S. and pacing threats on hypersonic technology. A yearlong CR would mean a \$1 billion loss in personnel funds, Brown said, crippling already weak recruiting prospects.**

- **Chief of Space Operations Gen. Jay Raymond testified how Space Force Guardians would be damaged by a CR as the service stands up. He noted space is contested and pointed to recent Chinese hypersonic tests and Russian anti-satellite missile tests. A yearlong CR would result in a \$2 billion reduction for the Space Force, Raymond said.**

Keep Your Nebraska State Senator Informed

Contact your Senator and the Speaker of the Legislature

- Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained... You just might make the difference!



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.
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"/>
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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.

THE LARGER OUR NUMBERS, THE GREATER YOUR VOICE.

Why MOAA membership matters.



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Annual membership dues include a \$12 subscription to Military Officer magazine.

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For faster service, call (800) 234-MOAA (6622) or visit www.moaa.org/join.

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Age 96-99	\$88
Age 100+	FREE

PREMIUM Membership Dues

One-Year PREMIUM

\$48 (Surviving Spouse – \$43)

Two-Year PREMIUM

\$82 (Surviving Spouse – \$73)



Three-Year PREMIUM

\$108 (Surviving Spouse – \$97)



BASIC Membership Dues

FREE

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

Signature _____ Date _____

Contact Chapter Officers for more info: President Dan Donovan - 402-339-7888,
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The advertisement for The Special Restaurant, Inc. features a green banner at the top with the text "The best in American food" in white. Below the banner is a photo of a sandwich and fries. To the left of the photo is a badge that says "2018 SARPY COUNTY PEOPLE'S CHOICE Awards WINNER". To the right of the photo is the restaurant's logo, which is a yellow oval with "THE Special" in red and black script, a sunflower icon, and "RESTAURANT, INC" below it. Below the logo is the text "Open: Tuesday - Friday 11am - 8pm Saturday & Sunday 8am - 2pm Closed Mondays". At the bottom, there is a red banner with the website "Thespecialrestaurantinc.com" in white. The address "303 Fort Crook Rd. N. Bellevue | 402-884-0441" is also present above the red banner.

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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



Is Valentines Day a good idea? Hm-m-m-m, I still remember the pretty blonde girl in the third grade that crushed my heart.... I didn't get a pretty home-made card from her, like my friend Terry did.... Jeezz, was it that long ago? I CAN BE a good day.... If you remember it.... And tell those you love how much they mean to you. BUT.... Did you know that stats show that 53% of relationships break up if you keep forgetting it? Of course, if you are extra good at KISS AND MAKE UP those stats probably are wrong.... But it is better not to gamble. In case you do, there is a website with a survival guide

at <https://www.thrillist.com/sex-dating/nation/you-forgot-valentines-day>

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 !!!**

February Reservations for Members & invited guests

Social Hour starts at 6 PM – dinner at 7 PM

After dinner, our speaker will be **Senator Rita Sanders,**

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:

**8oz Top Sirloin w/ Baked Potato and Steamed Broccoli -- \$40.00
(\$45.50 w/ Vanilla ice cream)**

**Chicken Piccata w/ Baked Potato and Steamed Broccoli -- \$36.00
(\$41.50 w/ Vanilla ice cream)**

**Chopped Salad with Grilled Salmon -- \$30.00
(\$35.50 w/ Vanilla ice cream)**

(Ice Cream has increased in cost)

New check writing procedures:

Make your check out to Heartland Chapter MOAA

OR....

use our stamp which will be provided at sign-in

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