



Heartland of America Chapter

-- **We Never Stop Serving** --

-- **We Are One Powerful Voice** --

--- **for Every Officer at Every Stage of Life and Career** ---

***** **APRIL 2023** *****



April 10th 1942 - During World War II, the Bataan Death March began. Wounded, starved, sick, American & Filipino prisoners were forced on a six-day march from an airfield on Bataan to a POW camp near Cabanatuan. Some 76,000 Allied POWs including 12,000 Americans were forced to endure atrocities walking 60 miles under a blazing sun without food or water to the POW camp, resulting in over 5,000 American deaths.- (note: the editor's uncle was captured at Corregidor Island, survived the Death March, survived the Maru Hell Ship transport to Japan and spent the rest of the war as slave labor in a Yokohama steel mill.)

Next SCHEDULED Dinner Meeting??

Next Dinner Meeting - **APRIL 19th -Johnny's Cafe, 4702 S. 27th St. Omaha**

Check out our website at www.heartlandMOAA.us or call (402)339-7888

The Bulletin Board

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

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



The speaker for our March Dinner Meeting was Tamara Denton, the Vice President of Patient Care Services at CHI Health Midlands Hospital in Papillion. Tami has 39 years as a practicing nurse. Starting out in intensive care, most of her career has been in cardiac and emergency departments. Besides nursing, she has another avocation in music and vocal studies. She possesses a bachelor, masters, and a doctorate degree in vocal studies. After several years as an adjunct professor of music, she returned to part-time nursing. After her boys were of school age, she returned to full-time nursing. In 2016, she was selected to be the Vice President/Chief nursing Officer.

In early 2018, the VA approached senior CHI officials with an idea of creating a Community Life Center (CLC) within Midlands Hospital; it is a hospital within a hospital. The VA wanted to expand its presence in Sarpy County and had a need for skilled beds for veterans from Nebraska and Western Iowa. The expanding usage of surgery or treatments that permit patients to go home the same day led to a number of Midlands beds to be available. The acute care is on the 5th floor with 22 beds and the memory care on the 6th floor has four beds. Both floors are staffed with VA personnel. In addition, the VA patients will use the clinical services already at Midlands. For the 10-year lease, the funding was \$4,000,000 From CHI and \$12,000,000 from the VA. As a Vice President, Tami was deeply involved in the negotiations. She was surprised that the lease required her to have nuns approve the lease because CHI Midland sits on "hallowed (holy) ground." A Catholic order of nuns had formerly owned the hospital. The necessary construction and installation went on despite the COVID pandemic and finished



in late 2022. Patients for acute care began to arrive this year. As of March 15th, there were 8 patients on the 5th floor.

Tami's presentation included before and after slides as the project evolved. She noted that the planned outdoor area continued to expand as more organizations sought to be involved in the project. Tami is a wonderful speaker and easily held the attention of the audience.

The annual Level of Excellence (LOE) submission will be due on May 1st. Our involvement and support of military and civilian activities has been a factor in our success. If you are volunteering in such activities, please email that information to me.



Our speaker, Tamara Denton receiving our chapter Challenge Coin from president Dan Donovan.

Our speaker on April 19th will be J.R. Richardson, talking about the Nebraska Vietnam Veterans project.

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

We Need Your Help!

(By: Doug Pikop – Chapter ROTC Chairman)

(ed. Note: The Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps is a federal program sponsored by the U.S. Armed Forces in high schools and some middle schools. The purpose of JROTC is to instill in students the values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility and a sense of accomplishment. Many participants go on to participate in the collegiate programs. ROTC graduates constitute 58 percent of U.S. Army, 16 percent of U.S. Marine Corps, 22 percent of U.S. Navy, and 42 percent of U.S. Air Force officers. We recognize that importance by two events, our November dinner with cadets and their military cadre and the spring awards ceremonies.)

Your Heartland of America Chapter supports 18 JROTC programs in Omaha metro area high schools as well as programs in Lincoln and Grand Island. We do this by presenting a MOAA medal and certificate to a deserving cadet in each JROTC unit. That's a big task and we are asking for your help to make an in-person presentation at a JROTC awards and recognition ceremony. This year, these ceremonies are scheduled throughout April into mid-May. The medals and certificates will be distributed beforehand so it will be an easy task for you. All you will need to do is show up at your assigned high school to attend the awards ceremony and make the presentation when called upon - no speeches or remarks are needed other than congratulating the recipient in a 'shake and take' moment between you and the cadet receiving our award. It is a special moment for them.

If you'd like to help or get more information about what's involved, please give Chapter ROTC Chair, Doug Pikop, a call at cell # 402-690-4338. He'd like to hear

from you! These Cadets are deserving of the award and it means even more when they receive it from a “real officer” veteran.

Here’s Why the TRICARE Pharmacy Cuts Could Threaten All Beneficiaries (By: Karen Ruedisueli, MOAA Newsletter March 23)

MOAA continues efforts to restore the TRICARE pharmacy network by including the issue as part of our spring **Advocacy in Action (AiA) event**, where more than 200 MOAA members will visit congressional offices to generate support for MOAA’s legislative priorities.

With the new TPharm5 contract, the TRICARE pharmacy network has been reduced by nearly 25% – from about 55,000 locations last year to 42,000 locations as of February 2023. The cut was driven by reduced network requirements within the contract – a cost-savings measure.

Many independent pharmacies report contract terms that would not even cover their costs to procure medications, forcing them to choose between leaving the network or serving TRICARE beneficiaries at a financial loss.

Most beneficiaries won’t be immediately impacted by this cut – healthy families in metro areas still have plenty of options for occasional medication needs and common maintenance medications, including the TRICARE Home Delivery program. However, the narrowed pharmacy network diminishes TRICARE protections in the event of serious illness or injury or more complex needs due to aging – in this way, it presents a threat to all beneficiaries.

There are approximately 66,000 retail pharmacies in the U.S. Less than a year ago, there was an 83% chance a beneficiary’s pharmacy would be in the network. Now, that sits at 64%, and it could drop to 53% based on minimum contract requirements.

Network cuts also disproportionately impact rural communities, which tend to have a lower presence of large chain drug stores and are more often served by independent pharmacies and Walmart, which left the network in December 2021. Many rural residents must drive past Walmart and their community pharmacies to get to a network pharmacy for acute medication needs.



Our newest member Corey Milner converses with Hank Prokop who joined last year. Corey is an active duty Army Captain and Hank is a retired Marine LtCol.



Gary and Shirley Lee were ready to enjoy dinner and hear our speaker.

TRICARE's narrowed network also falls short of a key benchmark – FEP Blue, the Blue Cross Blue Shield plan that covers two-thirds of Federal Employee Health Benefit Program (FEHBP) participants. FEP Blue boasts more than 55,000 pharmacies in its national network, and TRICARE benefits should be on par with the benchmark set for civilians who serve in the federal government.

Advocacy in Action messaging will present the pharmacy network reduction in the context of a series of TRICARE cuts that have eroded the benefit in recent years, including an unprecedented TRICARE Select enrollment fee, a higher catastrophic cap, medical encounter copays that have doubled in many instances, and a new pharmacy formulary Tier 4 that eliminates coverage for certain drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The military health care benefit is an obligation our nation has incurred to sustain the all-volunteer force. Fulfilling this obligation is particularly important during the current recruiting crisis when our nation needs key influencers, including current and former service members and their families, to endorse military service. Cutting the TRICARE benefit for those who have served for decades not only betrays uniformed services retirees, it also risks reducing their likelihood of recommending service to the next generation.

Take part in MOAA's Advocacy in Action campaign by contacting your lawmakers today -- even if you've already contacted them on this issue using previous links to our Legislative Action Center, you can still [click to add your voice again](#) as part of AiA efforts. Keep up with new details on this and other legislative efforts at [MOAA's Advocacy News page](#).

From Pay Raise to PACT Act, What You Need to Know About the Biden Budget

(By Dan Merry and René Campos– MOAA – March 15)



Loretta and Dick Doolittle were glad to be back after missing meetings due to medical issues.

The president's budget request for FY 2024 comes in at \$6.8 trillion — can such a hefty request survive this Congress?

Our focus now is to break down key provisions for the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security, Health and Human Services, and Commerce. These departments represent all eight of our uniformed services.

Defense:

The budget requests \$880 billion for defense programs (an increase of 3.3% over last year). From those programs, DoD garners \$842 billion (\$26 billion more than FY 2023) and nearly \$100 billion more than FY 2022. The remaining portion of that overall budget includes \$38 billion to DoD to maintain a strong nuclear deterrent.

This budget includes a 5.2% pay raise for uniformed service members – consistent with the statutory requirement to keep pace with the Employment Cost Index. Although some news outlets are reporting this increase as "**the largest military pay raise in 20 years**," our service members' pay is still 2.6% behind ECI after falling short of the index from 2014 to 2016. The budget also includes a 5.2% pay increase for federal civilians, an area where competition for talent has struggled with the private sector.

Per budget documents, one of the administration's focus points is to ensure the budget "Fulfills America's Commitment to Military Families." Noted is the continued support for families, which are key to readiness and the well-being of the all-volunteer force. The proposed budget acknowledges program increases for things like expansion of community-based child care fee assistance, and efforts to address the challenges of child care capacity. MOAA will follow this closely to understand the actual amounts committed and the effectiveness of these concerted efforts.

Overall military end strength, both the active and reserve components, increases by 12,355. This includes a reduction in the Army Reserve by 2,200, and plus-ups for the Marines (683), Navy (6,247) and Air and Space Force (7,625).

The budget includes \$1.45 billion to subsidize commissary operations, \$27 million more than last year.

Under the Department of Labor, impacting military spouses, is a provision to expand anti-discrimination and reemployment protections to spouses of all active duty and reserve members.

Veteran:

The budget requests \$325 billion for the VA, a 5% increase over the previous year. The proposal includes over \$142 billion in discretionary funding, much of which goes toward veterans' health care, and over \$182 billion in mandatory funding to cover compensation and pensions, readjustment benefits, and insurance and indemnities accounts.



"Anchors Aweigh", three of our Navy members, Dale Andersen, Jack Nelson, and Mark Olson were almost ready to sing it!

A few key priorities in VA's budget proposal:

- **Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022** focuses on implementing the historic measure signed into law last year to provide more than 5 million eligible veterans health care and disability compensation benefits.
- **Medical Care:** Fully funds inpatient, outpatient, mental health, and long-term care services and enhancements to improve health care quality and delivery. The proposal once again includes the administration's desire to establish a third budget category for veterans' medical care. Currently, discretionary funding in the federal budget is categorized as either defense or non-defense or domestic spending. The proposed third category would prevent growing VA medical care costs from competing with other non-defense federal program spending.
- **Veteran Suicide:** Expands suicide prevention and mental health programs and services to include free emergency health care to veterans in crisis and grant funding to local communities to provide suicide prevention services to eligible veterans and their families.
- **Women Veterans Health Care:** Prioritizes support to the more than 627,000 women veterans using VA services. The budget expands health care to include reproductive services, gender-specific care, support for full-time women veteran program managers at 172 VA medical centers, and expanded child care programs.
- **Homeless Veterans:** Provides more than 40,000 homeless and at-risk veterans with permanent housing and access to health care and support services.
- **Medical Facilities.** Invests in construction and expansion of critical medical infrastructure and facilities including non-recurring maintenance and construction grants for state extended care facilities to deliver health care and benefit services for veterans. The median age of a VA hospital is nearly 60 years old compared to 13 years in the private sector.



What a neat photo, Mom & Daughter. Heather Carroll, Military Veteran Service Center at Bellevue University and her daughter Madisen Burkholder, a Bellevue East student.

Homeland Security (United States Coast Guard):

"The President's budget provides \$12.1 billion in net discretionary funding for modernizing the Coast Guard to shape their capability and presence in the Arctic region, supported by \$579 million for the Offshore Patrol Cutter program, \$55

million to advance the Great Lakes Icebreaker acquisition, \$170 million for a third new Polar Security Cutter, and another \$150 million for commercial polar icebreakers to augment Coast Guard operations.

Health and Human Services (U.S. Public Health Service):

As a uniformed service, the USPHS falls under the DoD pay tables for pay raises and other compensation matters. As such, officers and civilian employees would both get the 5.2% pay raise proposed in the budget.

Commerce (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration):

NOAA officers also fall under the DoD pay tables so they, and their federal civilian counterparts, would get the 5.2% pay raise.



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 eight 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"/>
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.		Auxiliary 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.

THE LARGER OUR NUMBERS, THE GREATER YOUR VOICE.

Why MOAA
membership matters.



Select YOUR Membership:



LIFE



PREMIUM



BASIC

Name _____

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☐ Active ☐ Retired ☐ Former ☐ Reserve ☐ National Guard ☐ Surviving Spouse

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Age 86-90	\$234
Age 91-95	\$145
Age 96-99	\$88
Age 100+	FREE



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Membership Dues

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\$48 (Surviving Spouse - \$43)

Two-Year PREMIUM

\$82 (Surviving

Spouse - \$73)

15%
Savings

Three-Year PREMIUM

\$108 (Surviving

Spouse - \$97)

25%
Savings



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

☐ Benefactor Donor: \$50, \$100 or more _____

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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, Vice President Ron Russell - 402-297-4244, **Membership:** Michael DeBolt 402-980-0554, **Surviving Spouse Affairs - Mary Sweetman-** 402-880-1444, **Legislation:** Jeff Mikesell - 402-990-2713, **Treasurer:** Rene Dreiling 402-740-3127, **ROTC:** Doug Pikop - 402-690-4338, **Personal Affairs:** Teri LeHigh - 402-291-2713, **Hospitality & Reservations:** Ron & Lidiya Glinka, 402-672-2020, **Webmaster & Newsletter:** Pat Jones - 402-650-4457, **Advertising & Recruiting:** Dick Doolittle 402-871-8409, **Transition Liason:** Jack Nelson - 402-679-3725

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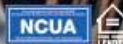
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May They Not Be Forgotten:

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



When you are retired, you have lots of time to ponder the way things are.

I was filling out all those forms at my new doctor's office and made them mad at me.... When asked who was to be called in case of an emergency, I replied..... "An ambulance"

The older I get, the harder it is to lose weight... I guess it is because my body and fat have gotten to be really good long-time friends.

Did you ever notice, when you put the two words, "The" and "IRS" together, It spells "Theirs" ?

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so knows when he is really in trouble.

Soo-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 !!!**



19 APRIL Dinner_Reservations for Members & invited guests

Social Hour starts at 6 PM – dinner at 7 PM

After dinner, our speaker will be J.R. Richardson

With information about the Nebraska Vietnam Veterans project.

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.**

(THE DINNER RESERVATION PROCESS HAS CHANGED)

Reservations should be in by SUNDAY NIGHT before the dinner!

If you must cancel your reservation, please call Ron or Lidiya at (402) 672-2020

CANCEL NO LATER THAN MONDAY - 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

9 oz Prime Rib w/ Baked Potato	\$40.00
Tortellini w/ Shrimp	\$27.50
House Salad w/ Ginger Chicken	\$26.00
Caramel Sundae	\$4.00

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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Bellevue NE 68005**

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