



Heartland of America Chapter

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

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

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

***** ***July 2023*** *****



ATTENTION OUT THERE !

There is NO dinner meeting in July !

BUT, we have a SPECIAL GUEST,

Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret)

The President and Chief Executive Officer of MOAA,

Coming in August, so make plans to attend !

Next SCHEDULED Dinner Meeting??

Next Dinner Meeting – **AUGUST 16th** -Johnny's Cafe, 4702 S. 27th St. Omaha

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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Number 7

JULY 2023

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Our June speaker was Nebraska State Senator John Arch. A native of Sioux City Iowa, he received his bachelor degree from Grace University and his Masters of Business Administration from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He worked for 34 years in health care administration including 27 years as executive vice president and director of the health care division of Boys Town. He was elected to the Nebraska Legislature in 2018 and re-elected in 2022. In his first term, he served as Chairman of the Health and Human Services

Committee and served on two other committees. On January 4, starting his second term, he was unanimously selected to be the Speaker of the Legislature. Senator Arch lives in LaVista with his wife Brenda and their two children.

As the headline in the Sarpy County Times reads, "Tumultuous session ends." It has indeed been a tumultuous and a tough session. Senator Arch wanted every bill that was introduced to have a committee hearing. Early on, he was confronted with the "time sucking" filibusters of Senators Michaela Cavanaugh and Megan Hunt. He developed a creative way to get bills passed. Instead of debating individual bills, multiple bills (up to 30) were packaged together and debated by the Unicameral. By the end of the session, 72 bills were passed that actually contained 291 separate bills. While there were several late-night sessions, there might have been more if not for more productive timemade available by changes he made. Speaker Arch reduced the lunch breaks from 1½ hours to one hour and dinner from 1 hour to 30 minutes. Despite the perception that the filibusters were not allowing the Unicameral to get anything done, Senator Arch maintains the changes he made allowed the legislature to do what they were sent to Lincoln to do.





Our speaker, Senator John Arch receiving our chapter challenge coin in appreciation of his excellent presentation.

Senator Arch reviewed the key bills that were passed and then opened it up for questions. The one that several of us had was about combining a ban on gender-affirming care under age 19 with an abortion ban after about 12 weeks into LB-574. The question is whether these are two separate issues or are they related. The official title of LB574 is "Adopt the Let Them Grow Act and the Preborn Child Protection Act." Both are related and both are medical issues. Senator Arch believes that rationale will prevail.

Senator Arch gave us a superior presentation. He possesses a very likeable demeanor and was well-received by those in attendance.

While we will not have a July dinner meeting, we will have our July Board Meeting at The Special, 303 Fort Crook Rd N, Bellevue, on July 13th at 1145. One important issue we will discuss is replacing Ron and Lidiya Glinka, our Hospitality team. They have done an excellent job for several years but now have travel plans later this year. This important position works with the restaurant on menus and dinner selections of attendees for dinner meetings, accepts reservations, and greets dinner meeting attendees. It is a good way to learn more about those who attend our dinner meetings. If any member can help and is interested, please call me.

Our next dinner meeting will be August 16th at Johnny's.

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

Heartland of America ROTC Scholarships are Much Appreciated

(By: Doug Pikop – Chapter ROTC Chairman)

Your Heartland of America Chapter awarded five \$600 scholarships to ROTC cadets at UNL, UNO, and Creighton University. We were able to do this because of generous donations from more than 80 members who contributed to the Chapter scholarship fund. Additional financial support comes from businesses that advertise every month in our newsletter. Here are some notes of thanks and appreciation we've received since the April awards ceremonies.

"Thank you again for the generous award! It is thanks to contributions like these that we cadets are able to focus so much effort into ROTC and our future service. This award will help me to continue with flight training as well as to help fund school fees. Best regards, Cadet Eddie Berger, Air Force ROTC UNO."

"Thank you very much for considering me for the MOAA award. It is an honor to receive this award; I greatly appreciate it. I am currently a MS3 in the UNL Army ROTC program. I am also a junior agricultural engineering student from Kearney, NE. This award will help me further my career as a future lieutenant in the Nebraska Army National Guard. Thank you again for your support. Sincerely, CDT Christian Jacobsen, Army ROTC, UNL."

"I am writing to express my sincerest gratitude for the award that I recently received. I was thrilled and honored to be chosen as a recipient of this award and it has meant so much to me. This recognition from you is great encouragement for me to continue to strive for excellence in all that I do. It is a reminder that my efforts and hard work do not go unnoticed. Once again, thank you for this award and for your support of the ROTC program. Respectfully, Gunnery Sergeant Johnson, Navy ROTC, UNL."



Dick and Lorraine Purdum always have a good time at our dinners and fun to share a table with.

"Your continued support for the Naval ROTC program through your generous award is greatly appreciated. Your gift directly contributes to the success and motivation of our midshipmen as they work towards earning their commissions as officers in the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. On behalf of the staff and students in the NROTC program at the U. of Nebraska - Lincoln, I offer my heartfelt thanks. Sincerely, Orlando S. Bowman, CAPTAIN, USN, Professor of Naval Science."

Reading program aims to unite military, Vet families through shared experiences
(By Jessica Hall – VA News, June 27, 2023)

United Through Reading has announced “Book for the Military Child” for 2023 as part of Operation Storytime, its three-year initiative to connect the next one million military and Veteran family members through the read aloud experience. The Book for the Military Child unites and celebrates military children across the globe through their shared experiences.

This year’s selection is Audrey Penn’s “The Kissing Hand.” In this story, Penn shares a message that it’s normal and common for children to express their feelings and that they can move forward with bravery.

The Kissing Hand captures something military-connected kids can relate to—the need to stay connected to a loved one, even when you can’t be with them. United Through Reading’s goal is to bring the military community together with one

shared book for every military child. As part of this program, it will distribute 13,000 copies around the world in 2023.

The Kissing Hand “is a story about a young raccoon named Chester who was anxious about leaving home and going to school. So his mother decided to share a ‘family secret’ with him: the ‘kissing hand.’ She gave him a kiss on his paw and told him to press the kiss to his cheek whenever he missed her,” according to StoryOnline.

Like Chester the Raccoon, children of military service members may face anxious moments that their civilian counterparts do not. When a parent leaves home for a training exercise or deployment, young children may be unable to articulate their fears and worries, but know just the same that there is something in the air at home. When children relocate for frequent moves, being the new student at a new preschool or school can feel overwhelming.



Nikki and Paul Nader are relatively new members and look forward to our informational dinner meetings.



Mark Olson met Jeff Kresha, a guest of Ron Russell. We hope he will come again.

The Kissing Hand offers a tangible way to recenter anxious emotions by remembering a parent’s small but meaningful gesture in order to recall the love and support of a parent during tough times.

In much the same way, United Through Reading offers a “kissing hand” of its own through its Story Stations and [free app](#). United Through Reading’s free program is available to all branches of the military, regardless of duty status, including Veterans.

Service members or Veterans will read a book while being video recorded and then send the video and book back home to the child. The child at home watches the video and follows along with the book. When a child may be especially missing a parent who is away for military service, hearing the parent’s voice and seeing their face serves as a calming, loving reminder of the parent’s presence.

To get started saving your story time moments, visit utr.org/app to sign up and request your free copy today.

Deadline Looms for Veterans to Get Retroactive Toxic Exposure Benefits

(by Leo Shane III [originally appeared on Military Times], 30 June MOAA NL)

Veterans Affairs officials plan a public awareness blitz over the next five weeks to get as many individuals as possible to sign up for new military toxic exposure benefits ahead of an August deadline for retroactive payouts.



Stephen Bartelt and Leslie Pahre were having a nice conversation before the photographer asked for a picture.

The Summer VetFest is part of a year-old, \$11.4 million effort connected to the [Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act](#) (better known as the PACT Act), sweeping benefits legislation approved by lawmakers last summer. As many as one in five veterans living in America today could receive new health care or disability payouts as a result of the measure.

[MORE RESOURCES: [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT) | [MOAA.org/PactResources](https://moaa.org/PactResources)]

The PACT ACT provides presumptive benefit status for 12 types of cancer and 12 other respiratory illnesses linked to burn pit exposure in the Gulf War, the War in Afghanistan and the War in Iraq; hypertension and monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS) for veterans who served in Vietnam; and radiation-related illnesses for veterans who served in several new locations in the 1960s and early 1970s.

“There are millions of veterans and survivors across America who are eligible for new health care and benefits, and we will not rest until every one of them gets what they’ve earned,” [VA Secretary Denis McDonough](#) said in a statement. “That’s what this Summer VetFest is all about: educating veterans, their families, and survivors — and encouraging them to apply today.”

Since the PACT Act was signed into law on Aug. 10, 2022, more than 660,000 veterans have applied for benefits, and the department has paid out more than \$1.4 billion.

[GET INVOLVED: [Sign Up at MOAA’s Legislative Action Center](#)]

Under federal law, veterans who apply for the PACT Act payouts within a year of the bill signing are potentially eligible for retroactive benefits back to that date.

But veterans who enroll after Aug. 9, 2023, will only receive payouts back to their date of filing.



Veteran Affairs officials said that's the impetus for the July outreach push. By filing ahead of the Aug. 9 deadline instead of after it, veterans who are awarded toxic exposure disability benefits could get tens of thousands of dollars more in payouts.

Department staff have held similar outreach efforts throughout the past 12 months, including a [“PACT Act Week of Action”](#) in December, when VA hosted dozens of local information events across the nation.

Along with new online ads and public service announcements, the new outreach push will include events in all 50 states (plus Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico) where veterans can apply for PACT Act-related benefits, enroll in VA health care, get

screened for toxic exposures injuries, or learn more about VA services.

Veterans or their family members can also get information about PACT Act benefits by visiting the department's web site or by calling 1-800-MYVA411 (1-800-698-2411).

Report: Military Community at Higher Risk of Payment App Scams

(By: Kevin Lilley – MOAA NL July 05)

Frequent moves, and the financial hurdles that come along for the ride, make military members and their families more likely targets for scams involving payment apps, according to a June report from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).

More than 1,118 members of the military community – servicemembers, veterans, and military families – filed payment app-related complaints with the CFPB in 2022, up from 790 the previous year and nearly double the 2020 reports (636). More than half the complaints involved some type of fraud or scam.

[RELATED: [Don't Let Summer Cyber-Travel Scams Spoil Your Vacation](#)]

The report puts much of the blame on PCS-connected issues, such as:

- Increased use of the apps to cover rental or automobile deposits, advance child care payments, or other sight-unseen transactions that could leave the buyer ripe for scammers.
- Fraudulent home or apartment listings that request the use of payment apps for deposits or other payments.
- A greater risk of identity theft brought on by the frequent need to share personal information as part of the moving process. Scammers who obtain personal data may use it to access payment apps and impersonate the servicemember.

One service member described losing nearly \$34,000 in an identity theft scam, with \$9,500 of that lost via a payment app service. Others discussed the aftershocks of dealing with such fraud – being locked out of apps and bank accounts, sometimes for indefinite periods, while disputing a charge. Another service member described paying off a fraudulent charge simply to avoid debt collection and the possibility of a negative credit report.

[RELATED: [How to Protect Yourself and Your Family From Medical Identity Theft](#)]

Stopping the Scams:

The report suggests the app providers should invest more in anti-fraud technology, improve customer service when it comes to fraud complaints, and “take a comprehensive approach to reimbursement” for service members. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) offers advice on the consumer side of the app:

- Do not share app credentials.
- Think before you send – if you’ve been asked to send a payment to collect a prize, for example, it’s likely a scam.
- If you receive an unexpected request for money, even if it’s from a name or an email account you recognize, reach out and confirm before sending any funds.

The FTC link also includes instructions to report potential scams to some of the more popular payment apps, including Cash App, PayPal, and Venmo.

MOAA Can Help:

Check out the following MOAA.org resources for facing down frauds of all types:

- From our financial and benefits expert: [Protect Yourself From These 5 Common Fraud Schemes](#)
- Three-part series: [Don’t Be Scammed](#)
- Recorded webinars (available to Premium and Life members): [An Overview of Scams and Frauds | Outsmart the Scammers: How to Spot and Avoid Financial Fraud | Protecting Yourself From Cybercrime and Scams](#)

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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 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 - every voice counts.</p> <p>Three membership levels to meet the needs of all Officers.</p>	 <p>BASIC</p>	 <p>PREMIUM</p>	 <p>LIFE</p>
<p>Features of each Membership level</p> <p>https://www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa or call (800) 234-6622</p>	<p>Free electronic access to MOAA ecommunication about news and efforts to protect your military benefits</p>	<p>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 such as college scholarships for dependents.</p>	<p>Receive all benefits that PREMIUM membership has plus exclusive privileges and benefits on the dedicated MOAA LIFE Member Hotline</p>
Membership Dues	Free	1 year - \$59, 2 years - \$100 3 years - \$132	Varies by age. Call (800) 234-6622
Legislative News Updates and Advocacy Efforts	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
MOAA Newsletters	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Chapter & Council Membership & Involvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Exclusive Product & Travel Discounts	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Access to Member Books & Guides		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Financial Education & Consumer Advice		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Scholarships, Interest-free Loans & Grants for MOAA member's children seeking undergraduate degrees.		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Expert Advice on Military Pay & Benefits with MOAA's one-on-one counseling.		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Career Transition Resources - MOAA helps by hosting career fairs, résumé critiques, training sessions.		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Subscription to Military Officer Magazine & Exclusive Publications		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Spouse Protection - Member benefits go to your spouse if anything happens to you.			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Fee Significantly Reduced at Army and Navy Club of Washington D.C.			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Surviving Spouse National MOAA Membership dues	One year - \$53, Two years - \$90 (save 15%) Three years - \$120 (saves 25%)		
MOAA Contact Info	Military Officers Association of America 201 N Washington St Alexandria, VA 22314	Phone: (800) 234-6622 https://www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa	

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 _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____

Nickname _____ e-mail _____

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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, 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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Merrill proudly supports and thanks our military men and women for their courageous and patriotic service to the United States of America.



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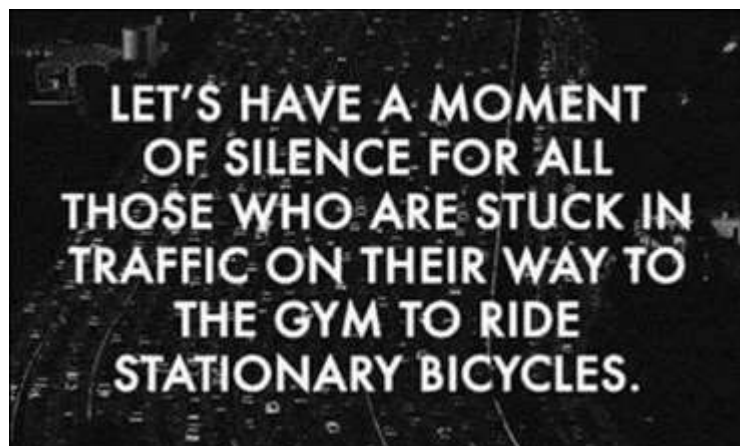
May They Not Be Forgotten:

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 were or are.



Soo-o-o, LIFE IS GOOD

**"GOOD FRIENDS ARE THE RARE JEWELS OF LIFE,
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SO ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS." And SMILE.... IT'S CONTAGIOUS !!!**



August 16th Dinner_Reservations for Members & invited guests

Social Hour starts at 6 PM – dinner at 7 PM

Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret)

**The President and Chief Executive Officer of MOAA
will be our speaker after dinner,**

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:

**THE MENU CHOICES WILL BE INCLUDED
IN THE AUGUST NEWSLETTER**

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