



Heartland of America Chapter

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

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

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

***** **MAY 2023** *****

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of Omaha's
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PARK
1948 2023

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION & REDEDICATION OF OMAHA'S
WWII MEMORIAL PARK

Please Join Us
SUNDAY JUNE 4, 2023

1:30pm	★ Live Music	★
1:45pm	★ Skydivers	
2:00pm	★ Program with <i>Diggers</i>	★
3:00pm	★ Celebration	★

Military displays, tributes, live music, and more!

New plans and "Embracing Peace" statue by Seward Johnson on exhibition May-November 2023.

For more information visit:
OmahaParksFoundation.org/Memorial-Park-75

MERLE BAMBO PLAZA LEAD Omaha Parks Foundation

Next SCHEDULED Dinner Meeting??

Next Dinner Meeting - MAY 17th -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

Volume XXXVII

Number 5

MAY 2023

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Our speaker for our April dinner meeting was Jerome (JR) Richardson. He is a Board Member of the Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation (NVVMF). He had previously served as the founding director of the Bellevue University Military Veterans Service Center (MVSC). He joined the Air Force in 1982 and served as an airframe structural mechanic and then he maintained C-141B cargo transport aircraft. From 1989 until his retirement in 2007, JR served as a recruiter in Iowa. He was hired by Bellevue University to start the MVSC and he has made it the largest in the United States. His wife Elizabeth accompanied JR; she is a Veterans Services Offer (VSO) in Iowa. Chapter member George Abbott, also a NVVMF Board member, attended.

The NVVMF mission is to memorialize and commemorate the Vietnam War and its veterans and their sacrifices. This includes educating future generations through the programs offered through NVVMF partner Bellevue University and the stories of veterans themselves. JR's presentation focused on "stories." He noted that there were over 44,000 Nebraska veterans and that by 2022, 10 per cent had passed away. Nebraska lost 346 lives in Vietnam. JR and his team want to interview as many Vietnam veterans for their stories. So far, JR and his team have interviewed 75 Nebraska veterans who have told their stories. JR is passionate about his mission. His purpose in speaking to us was to encourage the Vietnam veterans among us at the dinner and those reading about it in our chapter newsletter to



contact him at 402-953-7427 to schedule an appointment to tell their story. It was an excellent presentation.



Leslie Pahre was feeling good... she drank the whole thing, wish I had one...



Rick Croasdale, Ginny McBlain and David smile for missing editor.

Congratulations to Pat Jones, our superior newsletter editor, for being awarded the Harris Communication Award for his newsletter. His creativity is amazing and it is at least the 8th year that he has won this award.



Shirley & Gary Lee were ready to have a good time... and did!

I participated in a roundtable meeting with Governor Pillen and 20 leaders of Nebraska veterans' organizations on April 13th. I told him about the 100% State tax exemption for military members was not including spouses and children receiving the Survivors Benefit Plan (SBP). He expressed his support for changing this situation. When I mentioned this at our April 19th dinner meeting, Leslie Pahre said that the SBP policy had been reversed. I called Pam Clark at the Offutt Tax Center and she provided me with the information showing the change. Since all of us should have filed their 2022 taxes, Pam stated "Any surviving spouse or child who did not get this exclusion will need to amend their NE return."

I am leaving Monday. April 24th, for our “Advocating in Action” where I will go to the Nebraska Breakfast and then to the offices of our two senators and three congressmen.

On Saturday, April 29th, Dick Doolittle, Doug Pikop and I will be going to Roca, NE (South of Lincoln) for the National Guard Association meeting.

Our speaker for our May 17th dinner meeting is Sarpy County Commissioner Don Kelly. Don is a retired colonel from the 55th Wing and a former Group Commander.

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

Heartland of America Chapter Awards Five \$600 Scholarships

_(By: Doug Pikop – Chapter ROTC Chairman)



Board Member & ROTC Chair Doug Pikop awarded our MOAA Medal, Certificate & \$600 Scholarship to Air Force ROTC Cadet Eddie Berger



Board Member & ROTC Chair Doug Pikop awarded our MOAA Medal, Certificate, & \$600 Scholarship to Army ROTC Cadet Austin Roeder

This year, your Board approved the award of five \$600 scholarships to ROTC cadets at UNL, UNO, and Creighton University. We were able to provide these scholarships because of the generosity of over 80 Heartland of America Chapter members who donated to our local scholarship program in addition to paying their

dues for 2023. Thanks to all who gave to fund this priority Chapter project. All scholarships were presented at in-person ceremonies at UNL, UNO, and Creighton University. Here are this year's selectees:

- 1) Army Cadet Christian Jacobsen, UNL, a junior agricultural engineering major from Kearney, NE.**
- 2) Air Force Cadet Taylor Ziepke, UNL, a junior mathematics major from Omaha, NE.**
- 3) GySgt Scott Johnson, USMC, a junior construction management major from Tecumseh, NE (earning his commission through the Navy ROTC at UNL).**
- 4) Air Force Cadet Eddie Berger, UNO, a junior professional aviation major from Callaway, NE.**
- 5) Army Cadet Austin Roeder, Creighton University, a junior para-medicine major from Lafayette, CO.**

In addition to the college level scholarships, our Chapter also provided MOAA medals and certificates to individuals in 18 high school JROTC programs in the Omaha Metro Area, Lincoln, and Grand Island.

Thank you once again to every Chapter member who donated additional dollars to make our Heartland of America Chapter scholarships awards a reality; it's a very worthy cause!



JROTC Cadet Allison Bateman received MOAA's Medal & Certificate from Doug Pikop, our ROTC Chair.

Join MOAA's Fight to Fully Fund Schools Serving Large Military Populations
(By: By: Jen Goodale, MOAA Newsletter, APRIL 25, 2023)

Each school year, military-family students attending public schools across the nation bring home a Federal Survey Card. Unlike flyers for upcoming PTA events or the school play, school administrators and teachers don't want this card getting lost in your child's backpack, because the information collected on these cards translates directly into dollars.

Public school districts typically rely on local taxes and fees for funding; districts or near tax-exempt federal lands have significantly less tax revenue to meet the needs of the schools and students. In 1950, Congress developed the Impact Aid Program to recognize the federal government's responsibility to help finance public education in areas where it holds land. More



Ginny McBlain was the "Lone Ranger" taking on the check-in duties of absent Ron & Lidiya, thanks Ginny!

than 1,100 school districts and over 10 million students are supported by Impact Aid each year, but Congress has not fully funded the program since 1969.



Member George Abbott with our speaker JR Richardson and wife

Bipartisan, bicameral legislation was recently reintroduced to work toward the full funding of Impact Aid. In mid-March, Reps. Mike Levin (D-Calif.) and Tom Cole (R-Okla.) and Sens. Ben Ray Lujan (D-N.M.), Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), Markwayne Mullin (R-Okla.), Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and John Cornyn (R-TX) introduced the Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act ([H.R. 1591](#) | [S. 871](#)).

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Congress to Pass the Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act](#)]

The legislation introduces a five-year plan to fully fund Impact Aid and provide necessary funding for disadvantaged schools. Funding from Impact Aid is direct, locally controlled, and flexible, allowing school district leaders to target funds supporting all students to wherever the needs are the greatest.

Each year, the Defense Department Impact Aid Program – through the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) – supplements the Federal Impact Aid Program and provides assistance to local education agencies (LEA) with specific concentrations of military-dependent children. Additional funds are allocated through the program to provide financial assistance to LEAs with at least two military-connected children with severe disabilities that meet certain special education cost criteria. In the FY 2023 NDAA, DoD authorized \$50 million for Impact Aid and \$20 million for Impact Aid for military children with severe disabilities.

DoD Impact Aid supplements help increase support for our military-connected students, but with more than 50 years of underfunding, the Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act will help ensure the schools and communities affected by a federal presence can provide high-quality educational opportunities.



The Nelsons, Linda and Jack are lots of fun to share a table with

[FIND OUT MORE: Visit the [National Association of Federally Impacted Schools](#)]

How can you help? If you have a military-connected student, take the time to fill out the Federal Survey Card each school year.

Lawmaker revives plan to ensure troops make at least minimum wage

(by Lewo Shane III - AF Times – 14 April)

A California congressman is reintroducing plans to guarantee that all service members are paid at least minimum wage for their work, insisting the move is needed to help junior troops avoid financial troubles. The plan went nowhere last session under a Democratic controlled House, but might have more luck with the GOP in charge.

The proposal from Republican Rep. Mike Garcia would set the minimum pay for any member of the military at \$31,200 a year, the equivalent of \$15 an hour for a 40-hour work week. The Pentagon objected to Garcia's similar proposals in the past, citing the expense of paying for higher salaries and noting that the plan does not factor in additional compensation that troops already receive.



Karen and Owen Saunders are ready for dinner!



Candace Swenson and Steve Callicut were obviously having a good time and are ready to have dinner served.

Under current military pay scales, the most junior troops make about \$21,000 in salary. Individuals with ranks E-4 and above and those who have served for at least three years can earn more than \$31,200 in basic pay. About 63,000 current service members make less than that mark, according to Defense Department records.

All troops received a 4.6% pay raise in January as part of the annual defense budget process. The White House has asked for an additional 5.2% pay raise next



Dick and Lorraine Purdum are great to be with... and they don't mind if you hold hands too!

January as part of its fiscal 2024 budget request. Even with that boost, the lowest junior enlisted pay would only rise to around \$22,000 annually. But those pay totals don't factor in other military stipends such as housing allowances, specialty pays, enlistment bonuses and food assistance. Depending on where troops are stationed, the housing and food payouts combined can effectively double younger troops' total military compensation.



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 _____

Rank/Branch of Service _____

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

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Date of birth _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

To ensure deliverability of MOAA communications, please provide a personal email without a ".mil" domain if available. We value your privacy. MOAA does not rent or sell its members' emails to third parties. If you include your email address, you will receive e-communications from MOAA as a member benefit. Visit www.moaa.org/email for details.

Spouse Name _____

Spouse email _____

Your spouse has access to all of your MOAA member benefits.

Local Chapter Name _____

For LIFE or PREMIUM options, choose one of the following payment methods:

Method of payment

☐ Check (please make payable to MOAA) ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX ☐ Discover

Charge my card the full amount due \$ _____

Card number _____ Expiration date _____

Signature _____

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☐ Enclosed is my check payable to MOAA for \$ _____

(1/10th of my dues; invoices will be sent monthly for remaining dues)

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(1/10th of my dues; invoices will be sent monthly for remaining dues)

☐ Check here to have your credit card automatically charged monthly for the remaining installment payments.

Dues to MOAA are not deductible as a charitable contribution for federal tax purposes.

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

Send To: MOAA, PO Box 1488 • Merrifield, VA 22116-9820

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



LIFE

Membership Dues

Dues are based on your current age.

50 and under	\$851
Age 51-55	\$801
Age 56-60	\$757
Age 61-65	\$692
Age 66-70	\$615
Age 71-75	\$529
Age 76-80	\$434
Age 81-85	\$332
Age 86-90	\$234
Age 91-95	\$145
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

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

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____

Nickname _____ e-mail _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone(H) _____ W _____ Cell _____

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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We salute bravery in action

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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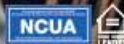
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May They Not Be Forgotten:

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.

"When I turned 75, I started telling people I was 85 just so they would tell me how great I look for my age."

"Always be nice to your children because they are the ones who will choose your retirement home."- Phyllis Diller

**"At age 20, we worry about what others think of us ...
at age 40, we don't care what they think of us ...**

at age 60, we discover they haven't been thinking of us at all." - Ann Landers

"Old age is when you resent the swimsuit issue of Sports Illustrated because there are fewer articles to read." –George Burns

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 !!!**



17 MAY Dinner_Reservations for Members & invited guests

Social Hour starts at 6 PM – dinner at 7 PM

After dinner, our speaker will be Sarpy County Commissioner Don Kelly. Don is a retired colonel from the 55th Wing and a former Group Commander .

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

Chicken Parmesan w/ Mashed Potatoes	\$27.50
Fresh Salmon w/ Mashed Potatoes	\$30.00
House Salad w/ Steak bites	\$27.00
Chocolate 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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