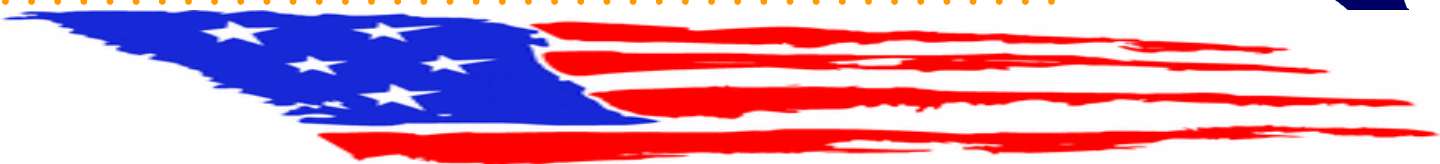




Soundings, April 2014



President's Message

Greetings ALL Silver Strand Chapter MOAA Members!!!

Our last joint CCNL hosted February 17th (Presidents' Day) dinner meeting at the Coronado Yacht Club with Dr. Mike Sise as our Guest of Honor/ Speaker was a GREAT event – MANY THANKS to ALL who attended!!!

Information on our upcoming joint SS MOAA hosted April 14th dinner meeting appears on pages 3 & 4 of this newsletter, with a reservation (RSVP) form that can be printed out and sent in with a check to make a reservation for the meeting. Please note that this dinner/meeting will be held on a Monday evening (vice Tuesday) at the Coronado Yacht Club (vice at the Golf Course). Our Guest of Honor/Speaker will be RADM Garry Bonelli, USN (Ret.), a retired Navy SEAL and currently a Commissioner at the San Diego Unified Port District speaking on whatever he wants. We are also attempting to identify and invite high school seniors (and their parents) living in the Coronado area who have received appointments to the service academies, or who have been selected to attend an ROTC program or have received ROTC or MOAA scholarships to attend college. We want to honor and congratulate them for their accomplishments and selection, and "Connect the

Generations" of military leadership in Coronado – the future military leadership with those currently serving and those who did it "just a little while" ago. RSVPs are due NLT Friday, April 11th. PLEASE come out and join us for dinner and a GOOD time!!!

In case you are not aware, the USS CORONADO (LCS-4) Commissioning will take place at NAS North Island on Saturday, April 5th, 2014 at 10:00 AM. The following are the Guest Procedures for those who would like to attend:

PLEASE NOTE: FOR SECURITY REASONS ALL ATTENDEES MUST HAVE TICKETS.

Tickets at no charge are available by request at the commissioning committee website:

<http://www.coronadocommissioning.net>

Donors will automatically receive their tickets in the mail but will need to RSVP. In addition to tickets, personal identification documentation is required.

Guests are requested to arrive by 8:30 AM. High-level security procedures will be in effect.

Enter the base at the VADM Stockdale Gate via Third Avenue. Follow signs to the park-

ing area near Pier Juliet.

THE COMMISSIONING CEREMONY WILL BEGIN AT 10:00 A.M.

A reception on the pier will follow with refreshments, exhibits, and tours of the ship available.

MAXIMUM THANKS ALL - hope to see you on April 14th!!!

V/r,
Tom

White House: Raise Fees, Cut Pay, Housing, and Commissary

The administration unveiled its FY 2015 defense budget request on March 4. The proposal calls for a \$495.6 billion budget, a top line that is virtually unchanged from the past two years.

Faced with a somewhat fixed topline and the full impact of sequestration still looming for 2016, the Pentagon's budget is looking at all accounts, and includes shifting personnel costs onto the backs of servicemembers to free up funding for other programs.

The budget includes cuts to military compensation and healthcare benefits, a 20 percent cut in headquarters operating budgets, a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round in FY 2017, and \$159.3 billion in modernization and recapitalization of equipment and facilities.

- See more at: http://www.moaa.org/Main_Menu/Take_Action/Top_Issues/Serving_in_Uniform/Compensation/White_House_Raise_Fees,_Cut_Pay,_Housing,_and_Commissary.html#sthash.yjg6rVwc.dpuf

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
White House Report	1
Legislative News	2
Auxiliary Liaison News	3
Speaker Biography	3
CA Legislative News	3
Registration/Dues	4
Who's Who	4

Have you renewed your membership?

Legislative News

HR-3469 “Support Earned Recognition For Veterans (SERV) Act.” Rep Darrell Issa (R, 49th) introduced this bipartisan bill on 11/18/13 to eliminate abuses in the veterans benefit system and ensure only individuals who have actually served in the military can qualify to receive government contracting preferences and similar benefits. This bill has **111 co-sponsors** already, including Rep Juan Vargas (D, 51st) and Rep Duncan Hunter (R, 50th). The HVAC’s Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs has this bill for action now.

HR-3507 “21st Century Care For Military & Veterans Act.” On 11/15/13 Rep Scott Peters (D, 52nd) introduced this bipartisan bill that would expand coverage of telehealth services to active duty military, their dependents, military retirees and all veterans. This would expand reimbursement policies covering telehealth services including mental health monitoring under both Tricare and the VA. This bill now has 4 co-sponsors, none from CA. Both the HASC & HVAC’s Subcommittee on Health have this for action.

HR-813 “Putting Veterans Funding First Act.” Due to the success of the biennial 2 year funding of the VA’s healthcare budget, this bill was introduced 2/25/13 to expand advance appropriations for certain VA discretionary accounts, to include Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and the National Cemetery Administration (NCA). The effective date of this legislation would be fiscal year 2016, if enacted. Right now there’s only one member of the U.S. House from CA who’s among the 22 co-sponsors, and that’s Rep Julia Brownley (D, 26th, Westlake Village in Ventura County). Companion bill in the U.S. Senate is **S-932**, with only **7 co-sponsors**, none of whom are from CA. The VFW and other VSO’s are urging Congress to enact HR-813 to cover the VA’s entire discretionary budget one year ahead of schedule, to protect veterans’ benefits in

case of a government shutdown. Advanced appropriations also saves the US-DVA money, by allowing extended contracts with predictable funding assured.

HR-32 & S-734. Rep Joe Wilson introduced the new “Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act,” HR-32 to address the SBP offset to DIC payments. This effort began over 12 years ago, and is called the “widow’s tax.” Rep Susan Davis (D, 53rd, San Diego), Rep Juan Vargas (D, 51st, Chula Vista), Rep Scott Peters (D, 51st, San Diego) and Rep Duncan Hunter (R, 50th, El Cajon) are among the **196 co-sponsors** for this HR-32 legislation. The HASC’s Subcommittee On Military Personnel now has HR-32 for action. This legislation affects over 55,000 military widows, and would finally repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan to offset the receipt of survivors’ Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. S-734 was introduced as a companion bill to HR-32 on 4/16/13. Sen Barbara Boxer and Sen Feinstein from CA are among the **32 co-sponsors on S-734**. The SASC has S-734 for action now.

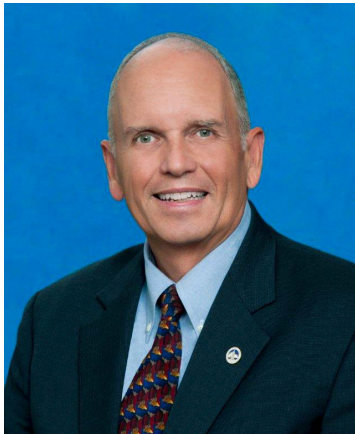
HR-303. Same number as last Congress, now called the “**Retired Pay Restoration Act**” and again this new bill for the 113th Congress authorizes the full concurrent receipt of retired military pay and veterans’ disability compensation for retirees regardless of disability rating. Laws have been changed over the years to give concurrent receipt to military retirees with VA disability ratings of over 50%, but not for the majority of veterans with less disability ratings. Rep Gus Bilirakis (R, FL) introduced the new HR-303 on 1/15/13. Only 7 members of the U.S. House from CA are among the **84 co-sponsors** for this bill, and that includes two from our County, Rep Duncan Hunter (R, 50th, El Cajon) and Rep Scott Peters (D, 52nd, San Diego). HR-303 has been assigned to both the HASC’s Subcommittee on Military Personnel, and to the

HVAC’s Subcommittee on Disability Assistance & Memorial Affairs.

HR-333. Disabled Veterans Tax Elimination Act. This legislation is almost identical to HR-303, as this bipartisan bill would permit retired members of the armed forces with a service-connected disability rating of less than 50% to receive both retirement pay and VA disability compensation, known as “concurrent receipt.” HR-333 has **114 co-sponsors** after being introduced by Rep Sanford Bishop (D, GA 2nd) on 1/22/13. Rep Bishop is the ranking member of the U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veteran Affairs. Locally, Rep Scott Peters, Rep Duncan Hunter, Rep Susan Davis, and Rep Juan Vargas are among the **114 co-sponsors**. The HVAC’s Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs has it.

HR-357. GI Bill Tuition Fairness Act of 2013. This bipartisan bill would allow veterans using the Post 9/11 GI Bill to pay in-state tuition rates at public colleges and universities even if they don’t meet a state’s residency requirements. Bill has 50 co-sponsors, and Rep Duncan Hunter (R, 50th, El Cajon) and Rep Scott Peters (D, 52nd) are among the 7 from CA. HR-357 passed the House unanimously with a 390-0 vote on 2/3/14. **The Senate’s VA Committee has HR-357 for action as of 2/4/14.**

HR-1714. Shelter Our Servicemembers Act. Introduced by Rep Scott Peters (D, 52nd, San Diego) on 4/24/13 establishes a grant pilot program, administered through HUD and the VA, that would provide senior veterans permanent, non-transitional housing. Locally, Rep Susan Davis (D, 53rd) and Rep Juan Vargas (D, 51st) are among the **17 co-sponsors** for this bill. The HVAC’s Subcommittee on Health has this for action.

Auxiliary Liaison News	Guest Speaker: April 14th Dinner Meeting	
<p>I will attend the MOAA Board meeting at National MOAA in April and Storm the hill with the CA teams. We will bring on 3 new AMAC members in April. We would like to invite all of our Auxiliary members to attend the Memorial Day festivities at Star Park on May 26th.</p>		<p>RADM Garry Bonelli, USN (Ret.) Commissioner, San Diego Unified Port District</p> <p>RADM Bonelli is your basic street urchin from the Bronx, NY. He was raised by a large Irish/Italian family, and the Sisters of Charity and Marist Brothers. He was honed as an enlisted Navy SEAL here in Coronado during the late 1960's, and educated way beyond his intelligence using the Vietnam era G.I. Bill. His wife Marti is a former deputy marshal and Coronado High School Varsity softball coach – they reside in Coronado and have two sons who live in downtown San Diego: one a computer technician and one a doctoral candidate. Following a seven-year recall to active duty in 2006, he retired in March 2013 as a Rear Admiral culminating 45 years of active and reserve military service. He is the former Vice President for Policy, Communications, and Military Affairs at the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, where he worked the Super Bowl and the America's Cup in 1988. He is also a former public policy and communications director for SANDAG (San Diego Association of Governments), and was appointed by the Coronado City Council as a newly minted Port Commissioner in January.</p>
<p>Special points of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSVPs for the February combined meeting are due NLT Friday, April 11th. • Special membership rates in effect! See the President's Message for more information. 		

CA Legislative News

AB-1557. This bill would increase the number of voting members on the Board of Governors of the California Community College system to 18 by adding a voting student member who is a member of the military, and a veteran who has demonstrated leadership in the field of veterans' affairs. Was introduced 1/27/14, and the Assembly's Committee on Higher Education has AB-1557 for action.

AB-2201. ASM Rocky Chavez introduced this bill to automatically sign up young men to the Selective Service System when applying for a new or renewed CA drivers license.

SB-1113. Sen Knight's bill would enhance tax benefits for CA's disabled veterans, as it would allow 100% disabled veterans property tax refunds going back 8 years when they have to wait for their VA disability.

AB-2311. This would allow veterans to stay on general assistance while awaiting their VA benefits.

Our UVC Legislative Forum was held at the VMMC on 3/8/14. Participants recommended that the UVC support ASM Rocky Chavez's **AB-13** which would exempt veterans from having to pay the higher out-of-state tuition at state universities and colleges. Participants also recommended the UVC support **AB-1637** which would allow the word "Veteran" to be imprinted on California drivers licenses. Forum attendees also unanimously agreed to support **AB-2703** which would give the CVSO's assured funding. **SB-1440** was also discussed at the Forum, which would change how the state charges fees for residents at our CA Veterans Homes. Senator Ben Hueso will chair the hearing set for 4/8/14 on the merits of SB-1440, which had been introduced previously as AB-488 on 2/15/11. AB-488 was rejected then by the Appropriations Committee, due to cost, as Veterans Home residents who are spouses of disabled veterans would be able to pay less.

Dinner Meeting Reservation/ Donation/Dues Form

Where: Coronado Yacht Club,
1631 Strand Way

When: April 14, 2014
1800: Social Time
1845: Dinner – **BUFFET @ \$30.00**
1930: Program

Gourmet Buffet
Caesar Salad, Grilled Flank Steak,
Chicken Monterey,
Dessert, Coffee & Tea

Make checks payable and mail to:

Silver Strand Chapter MOAA
P.O. Box 180043
Coronado, CA 92178-0043

Name _____

Phone _____

Number attending dinner _____ **x \$30 =** _____

Donations to:

NJROTC (Coronado and Mar Vista High Schools) \$ _____

Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Coronado Battalion \$ _____

MOAA Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Dues:

\$10/year for Regular members, \$40 for 5 years \$ _____

\$5/year for Auxiliary members, \$20 for 5 years \$ _____

\$50 for "Renewal 2020" (dues paid through 2020) \$ _____ (\$25.00 for Auxiliaries)

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Check here if you need an official Silver Strand Chapter MOAA name tag: _____

**Reservations must reach
our PO Box by NOON,
Friday, 11 April (Firm)**

If you are unable to RSVP by Friday, 11 April and would still like to attend the dinner meeting, please call Tom Bauer at (619) 313-2228 (days) or (619) 437-6689 (evenings), or e-mail bauertg@yahoo.com.

SS MOAA 2014 Officers/Board of Directors

President	Tom Bauer, CAPT, USNR (Ret) 437-6689 bauertg@yahoo.com	USMC Rep.	John Downey, LtCol, USMC (Ret) 435-6877 downeyjdmud@yahoo.com
First Vice	John Donahue, CAPT, USN (Ret) 894-4765 allnavyjcd@aol.com	USN Rep.	John Donahue, CAPT, USN (Ret) 894-4765 allnavyjcd@aol.com
Second Vice	Al Herrmann, CDR, USN (Ret) 437-6210 aherrmann@pacship.com	Legislative	Tom Bauer, CAPT, USNR (Ret) 437-6689 bauertg@yahoo.com
Secretary	Tom Bauer, CAPT, USNR (Ret) 437-6689 bauertg@yahoo.com	Editor	Tom Bauer, CAPT, USNR (Ret) 437-6689 bauertg@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Bob Sheridan, CAPT, USN (Ret) 435-1938 bsheridan9@gmail.com	Personal Affairs	Sparks Moeller 319-5994 RSKL04@yahoo.com
USAF Rep.	Richard Hayward, LtCol, USAF (Ret) 435-4852 rhayward1@san.rr.com	Chaplain	Richard Hayward, LtCol, USAR (Ret) 435-4852 rhayward1@san.rr.com
USA Rep.	Don Mayhue, BG, ARNG (Ret) 948-1393 dmayhue298@aol.com	TOPS	Tom Bauer, CAPT, USNR (Ret) 437-6689 bauertg@yahoo.com
USCG Rep.	Jeff Lee, CAPT, USCG (Ret) 435-1985 JSLee77@aol.com	Auxiliary Liaison	Kathleen Prout 435-6623 kmprout@aol.com
		Past President	Kathy Bruyere, CAPT, USN (Ret) 409-9505 kmbruyere@gmail.com