



June 2016

SOUNDINGS

SILVER STRAND CHAPTER of the MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
CDR Alan Herrmann, USN (Ret)

Greetings ALL Silver Strand Chapter MOAA Members!!!

I hope everyone had a nice couple weekends in Coronado and throughout the surrounding area. My apologies up front that this letter is running about 4 days late this time around. With the recent Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day weekends, it's been a busy yet memorable period for all our partnering veterans' and service organizations. The work done by our local VFW, Coronado Council of Navy League, NJROTC, MCRD Honor Detail, local Boy Scout troops, and even our Silver Strand Chapter of MOAA really made this past Memorial Day a very special event. RADM Beebe's remarks during the Memorial Day service at Star Park appropriately focused on the roles and sacrifices of military families, and our community of veterans and their families is a shining example of what that's all about. Clearly, the Memorial Day service is a very important part of our Silver Strand Chapter's involvement and purpose within our community, and the attendance at last Monday's event demonstrated those bonds we share.

For those that did not have an opportunity to attend the April 18th dinner meeting, Frank Kostenko and Lee Reynolds of Pacific Rim Media really did an outstanding job giving us a behind-the-scenes view of the filming of *We Were Soldiers*, a movie starring Mel Gibson and based on a best-selling book written by LTG Hal Moore and Joseph Galloway chronicling the 1965 battle of I Drang Valley. In addition to this presentation, the graduating seniors from Mar Vista and Coronado high schools classes of 2016 who have received service academy appointments and ROTC scholarships for the upcoming college year were also recognized. This was the fourth year that MOAA has taken the lead in spotlighting our next generation of prospective armed forces officer corps leaders through a program we call "Connecting the Generations," and we want to continue that effort. In order to do so, we need the help of our general Chapter membership. On the attached dinner reservation form, you will note a new category for monetary donations specifically for the annual April dinner meeting. Contributions received for this recognition dinner will be used to sponsor attendance of deserving young students who are making the commitment to follow in our footsteps. I want to thank those who have already contributed to this worthwhile goal, and I sincerely hope everyone will consider making this a part of a lasting Silver Strand Chapter MOAA legacy in a community filled with military heritage!

This past Tuesday, our Legislative Chairman, VADM Brent Bennitt USN (Ret), presented the National MOAA JROTC medal to Cadet Alaina Christie of Coronado High School's NJROTC unit during their annual NJROTC awards night. Cadet Christie was selected by CAPT Pat Rabun and his staff as the cadet who best exemplified the attributes of high academic standing, loyalty to the unit, moral character, and potential for military service. Mar Vista High School's NJROTC unit will award a MOAA JROTC medal next fall.

Here's a snapshot of a few upcoming events --- MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW:

Tuesday, June 14 --- RSVPs due for June 20 joint dinner meeting.

Monday, June 20 @ 1800 @Coronado Yacht Club: Joint MOAA-CCNL Dinner Meeting (CCNL hosting); Featuring a presentation by VADM Charlie Martoglio titled "*America and China: The Geo-Strategic Competition of the 21st Century.*" Please note: The Sand Dollar gift store will be present during the social hour prior to dinner --- they will have an abundance of patriotic gifts/collectables for purchase. Come early while the selection is good!

RSVPs are due NLT Tuesday, 14 June

Sunday, July 17 @ 1800: Silver Strand MOAA informal get-together at Spreckels Park Concert-in-the-Park. Bring an appetizer-type food (for a dozen or so) and socialize with fellow members. The Chapter will provide beverages. Featured band is Hotel California, which reproduces the songs of the Eagles studio recordings in their classic sound, transcending the boundaries of Rock, R&B, and Country. The band's modern, action-packed performance brings the Eagles timeless 1970s-era music into the new millennium. Please join us, and don't forget a lawn chair!

Chapter Dues Renewals: A special thanks to our 2nd VP/Membership Chairman, CDR Sean McKamey, USN (Ret) who has effectively closed the gap on delinquent dues. We're now turning our attention toward members whose dues expire at the end of 2016. Sean is also working to make it easier to renew electronically (online), and we're hoping to roll out some information soon regarding easier payment options for all members. In the meantime, if you have any questions about when your dues expire, you can contact Sean at sean.mckamey@icloud.com. As a reminder, dues are \$10/year or 5 years for \$40, and half these amounts for Surviving Spouses. THANKS VERY MUCH in advance for your continued support and commitment to our Silver Strand Chapter – *it's your membership that makes us strong!* When renewing, please send checks to Silver Strand MOAA, P.O. Box 180043, Coronado, CA 92178-0043, and please annotate with a note regarding Chapter Membership Renewal. You can also use the dinner reservation form included in this newsletter to renew, and/or to make your dinner reservation(s) for June 20th!

Membership News: As I hinted in the section above regarding membership renewals, one of the more interesting initiatives being pursued this year by the Chapter Board of Directors is making it easier to join AND renew memberships with our local chapter. Among the options being considered are: (1) Electronic transactions via both our local chapter website (www.cal-moaa-silverstrand.org/) and the National MOAA website (www.moaa.org). While the capability to electronically renew does not yet exist for our chapter, we are very optimistic that it will become a reality in late 2016. However, one of the challenges we face is that National MOAA membership does not imply Chapter membership nor does Chapter membership imply National membership. Confused yet? The bottom line is that we're seeking to make membership at the local Chapter level much easier on everyone, so please stay tuned to forthcoming announcements as we look to bring electronic payment options online in the near future!

One of our other aims is to reach a broader network of veterans in our local area. Our chapter benefits from a robust membership, and in order to enhance that base, I am asking all members to become part of our Chapter membership recruitment effort. Near the end of this newsletter, I have included a membership form along with the "*Six Good Reasons...*". I encourage each of our 156 members to print these 2 documents and share them with your closest friends and neighbors who have been affiliated with any qualifying branch of service. It is through the active involvement of our current members that we can maintain the strength of this Chapter. Think about the possibilities --- if each member brought in one new member, our ranks would double overnight! With increased membership comes additional opportunity for broadening our community outreach. Again, if you have specific questions about your Chapter membership status, please contact Sean McKamey at sean.mckamey@icloud.com.

That's about it for now from my end, but please reach out to one of us listed on the last page if there is anything specific you would like to see in our newsletter. Hope to see you on June 20th!

Sincerely,
Alan

Websites of Interest

<http://www.moaa.org/> - access to National MOAA affairs

<http://calmoaa.org/> - access to state MOAA affairs and chapters

<http://www.cal-moaa-silverstrand.org/> - access to local chapter MOAA information

<http://www.vfwpost2422.org/index.html> - local VFW Post 2422 events

<http://www.mynavyleague.org/> - Navy League of the United States website

<https://www.veteranmuseum.org> – information on local museum in Balboa Park

(Please submit recommendations for links you believe other members may have interest)



SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

Surviving Spouse Liaison
Kathy Prout
June, 2016

MOAA has been working hard for us so that 63,000 military surviving spouses will not lose \$3700 per year in survivor benefits starting in November of 2017. MOAA supports eliminating the offset of DIC, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, paid by the VA, to SBP, the Survivor Benefit Plan, paid by the Dept. of Defense.

The status of SSIA, the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance in the NDAA17 so far is that the House of Representatives have included an SSIA at \$310 per month extension until Oct of 2018. The Senate's version extends SSIA at \$310 per month indefinitely. MOAA's position is that SSIA should be not only extended but it should be increased. \$310 is only a small proportion of the \$1254 owed to surviving spouses who are impacted by the SBP-DIC Offset.

The bills that would eliminate the SBP-DIC Offset are HR 1594 and S 979. HR 1594 now has 201 co-sponsors and S 979 has 21 co-sponsors. More co-sponsors are needed to demonstrate support for this issue. All of our local Congressmen except Rep Issa are co-sponsors and both CA Senators are co-sponsors. We are seeking more numbers. Please encourage your friends and family members to contact their Congressmen and Senators to garner more support and co-sponsors. You may go to www.moaa.org and send a message to your representatives via *Take Action* or call their DC office and leave a message.

If your spouse retired and purchased the Survivor Benefit Plan for you, and if he/she died of one of the VA presumptive conditions, then you would be eligible for DIC, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation paid by the VA and would be subject to the SBP-DIC offset. DIC is a monthly stipend of \$1254.19 that should be paid in addition to, not subtracted from SBP. The military surviving spouse is the only category of survivor to incur this offset in the entire federal government.

If a veteran's death is caused by service to our country, your spouse is eligible for DIC. You do not have to have a VA disability rating to qualify. One of the following conditions must have contributed to your death. If you have one of these conditions, do make sure your doctor knows that this has to be on the death certificate or else your spouse will not be eligible for DIC.

To find out if you may qualify, go to www.va.gov.

Below is a list of illnesses related to Agent Orange. The VA has recognized certain cancers and other health problems as presumptive diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service. Veterans and their survivors may be eligible for benefits for these diseases.

AL Amyloidosis

A rare disease caused when an abnormal protein, amyloid, enters tissues or organs

Chronic B-cell Leukemias

A type of cancer which affects white blood cells

Chloracne (or similar acneform disease)

A skin condition that occurs soon after exposure to chemicals and looks like common forms of acne seen in teenagers. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.

Diabetes Mellitus Type 2

A disease characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body's inability to respond properly to the hormone insulin

Hodgkin's Disease

A malignant lymphoma (cancer) characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen, and by progressive anemia

Ischemic Heart Disease

A disease characterized by a reduced supply of blood to the heart, that leads to chest pain

Multiple Myeloma

A cancer of plasma cells, a type of white blood cell in bone marrow

Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue

Parkinson's Disease

A progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects muscle movement

Peripheral Neuropathy, Early-Onset

A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and motor weakness. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of herbicide exposure.

Porphyria Cutanea Tarda

A disorder characterized by liver dysfunction and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.

Prostate Cancer

Cancer of the prostate; one of the most common cancers among men

Respiratory Cancers (includes lung cancer)

Cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus

Soft Tissue Sarcomas (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma)

A group of different types of cancers in body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels, and connective tissues

- See more at:

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/index.asp#sthash.xpY72XSG.dpuf>

If you are on Facebook, there is a Surviving Spouses of MOAA group. Please join. Also consider joining the SBP-DIC Offset 2016 Facebook group.

If anyone needs assistance understanding your benefits or wants somebody who is familiar with survivor benefits to sit in on your benefits meeting with the VA, let me know. I can be contacted at 619-435-6623 or prout.kathy@gmail.com.

I am interested in having regular meetings. If you would like to participate, do let me know by email or phone.



June 20th Dinner Meeting Preview

"America and China: The Geo-Strategic Competition of the 21st Century"



Charles W. Martoglio, Vice Admiral, US Navy (ret)

Vice Admiral (VADM) Martoglio is an advisor, speaker, lecturer, and mentor to a wide variety of activities including academic, healthcare, and civic organizations, as well as the US Government. Drawing on his extensive background leading large elements of our US military, VADM Martoglio's focus is on national security affairs and leadership.

VADM Martoglio spent half of his military career in the US Navy at sea in cruisers, destroyers, and aircraft carriers. While at sea, he commanded USS FITZGERALD (an Aegis destroyer), Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Three (during the onset of Operation Iraqi Freedom), and the RONALD REAGAN Aircraft Carrier Strike Group.

VADM Martoglio spent the other half of his career developing strategy and policy, building international relationships, and leading military operations, initially for the US Navy then for all US military forces. In addition to five tours of duty at the Pentagon, he has served in Asia, the Middle East, and, most recently, in Europe as the Deputy Commander of all US military forces in Europe, Eurasia, and Israel. Previously, he had served as the Director for Operations (J3) at U.S. Pacific Command. In various capacities he has developed the US Navy's Strategic Plan, led security-related organizations through significant change, headed the planning effort for some of our nation's most complex contingency plans, and has overseen the integration of the US Government Interagency into Defense Department operations in both Asia and Europe.

VADM Martoglio is a 1978 graduate of the US Naval Academy. He also served as the senior Mahan Scholar at the US Naval War College, graduating with highest distinction and earning a master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. VADM Martoglio retired from the US Navy in 2014, and is currently a Senior Research Fellow at UC San Diego and an advisor to the US Department of Defense. He and his wife, Darlene, a multi-award-winning commercial banking executive, are active in the San Diego community and live in Coronado, California.

Dinner Meeting Reservation/Donation/Dues Form

Silver Strand MOAA Chapter Dinner Meeting Monday, June 20, 2016

(Joint Meeting with Coronado Council Navy League – CCNL Hosting)

Guest of Honor/Speaker

Vice Admiral Charlie Martoglio, USN (Ret)

Where: Coronado Yacht Club, 1631 Strand Way

When: 1800: Social Time

1845: Dinner – *BUFFET @ \$30.00*

1930: Program

Menu

Pot Roast with boiled parsley potatoes and carrots, Salmon with lemon caper sauce, Green salad
Mashed potatoes and Rice pilaf, Chef selection of deserts
Coffee and Tea

Make checks payable and mail to:

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

Name _____

Phone _____

Check here if you
need an official
Silver Strand
Chapter MOAA
name tag: _____
(Only valid for multi-year
memberships not expiring
in current calendar year)

Reservations must reach our PO Box by Noon, Tuesday, 14 June (Firm)

Number attending dinner ____ X \$30 = \$ _____

Donations to:

Annual ROTC Scholarship & Service Academy Appointee
Recognition Dinner \$ _____

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 Surviving Spouse members, \$20 for 5 years \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

**If you are unable to RSVP by Tuesday, 14 June and would still like to attend the dinner meeting, please contact Wendy
McGuire by email at wendy@ganoshgourmet.com**



SILVER STRAND CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- Join:** Silver Strand Chapter of Military Officers Association of America Today!
Dinners: Bimonthly dinner meetings with fellow officers, spouses and guest speakers discussing topics of current interest
Network: For employment and social connections
Friends: Expand friendships - Share common interests - Sea/Air/Land war stories
News: Bimonthly newsletter providing information affecting you and/or your family; Current state and national legislation, medical benefits, and events
Join: A patriotic group sharing many similar interests and support for community service, such as Memorial Day and 4th of July observances, National MOAA affairs, and local NJROTC events

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

SILVER STRAND CHAPTER of MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA (MOAA)

NAME _____ RANK _____ SERVICE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ DOB _____ SPOUSE'S NAME _____

MOAA MEMBERSHIP # _____ E MAIL _____

Dues are \$10 a year or \$40 for five years, or \$5 a year or \$20 for five years for Surviving Spouse members, payable to Silver Strand MOAA, P.O. Box 180043, Coronado, Ca. 92178-0043

IF YOU SERVED AT LEAST 90 DAYS AS AN OFFICER IN ONE OF THE MOAA SERVICES AND HAVE NEVER BEEN A MEMBER, JOIN OUR CHAPTER AND BECOME A PART OF SOMETHING UNIQUELY SPECIAL WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY!

****IMPORTANT ***

In order for our local Silver Strand Chapter to receive recognition of new Chapter members, our Chapter members must also possess some level of National MOAA membership. Therefore, we strongly encourage our new Chapter members to visit the National MOAA website at <http://www.moaa.org/Join/> and consider signing-on for at least a Basic (no-fee) membership with National MOAA.

If you have any questions regarding this application or our chapter, please contact our Membership Chairman, Sean McKamey, at sean.mckamey@icloud.com

Welcome Aboard!



Six Good Reasons to Join Your Local MOAA Chapter

You know the value of belonging to MOAA and your chapter. But when you're talking to a potential new chapter member, it's important to remember that many officers may have only limited knowledge of MOAA's chapter system. **Now is the time for them to join their local chapter** to add their voice to the thousands of other MOAA members making a difference on the legislative front and in their community.

Here are six good reasons for any officer—active duty, Guard, Reserve, former, or retired, or their surviving spouse—to join a MOAA chapter today:

- 1. Make yourself heard.** MOAA's chapters provide critical grassroots support for MOAA's national legislative agenda. Our benefits are under attack and MOAA is in the fight to preserve them. Chapter members let their legislators know what's on their minds and open doors for MOAA's legislative team in Washington, D.C. In these difficult times, MOAA members need to stick together and our chapters are the best way we know to do that.
- 2. Giving back to the community.** Chapter members are MOAA's ambassadors in their communities, supporting countless programs that make a difference in the lives of others. These members have gone the extra step to give back in the truest sense of servant leadership.
- 3. Value added to chapter member lives.** MOAA chapters sponsor interesting programs and opportunities to interact with civic, political, military, and business leaders on issues important to members.
- 4. Networking with fellow officers.** Chapters include second career members in the work force or retired service members who have contacts in the community that can be valuable to transitioning officers.
- 5. Stay informed.** Chapter newsletters, websites, and meetings provide you the latest information on local, state, and national issues and changes to military benefits.
- 6. Influencing state legislation.** Most states have a council of chapters that unites every MOAA chapter in the state. These councils often lobby for and pass state-level legislation that affects military members and their families, such as exempting military retired pay from state income tax or increasing funding for state-run VA programs.

Learn more at the websites listed below:

National MOAA website: <http://www.moaa.org>

California Council of Chapters (CALMOAA) website: <http://www.calmoaa.org>

Silver Strand Chapter MOAA website: <http://www.cal-moaa-silverstrand.org>



Silver Strand Chapter MOAA

2016 Board of Directors/Officers

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<http://www.cal-moaa-silverstrand.org/>
