

Soundings



Silver Strand Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America



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President's Message

Greetings ALL Silver Strand Chapter MOAA Members!!!

We had another GREAT joint dinner meeting with CCNL in April with our own Silver Strand Chapter of MOAA hosting, and heard an excellent presentation by CAPT Bill Byrne, USN, departing Chief of Staff for Commander, Third Fleet, and prospective Commandant of Midshipmen at the US Naval Academy. At the meeting we honored high school seniors (and their parents) living in the Coronado area who received appointments to the service academies, and who were selected to receive ROTC or MOAA scholarships to attend college. In attendance were Kyle Schaff (USNA), Ryan Herrmann (NROTC Marquette), John Hill (NROTC UCLA) and Maude Hoffmann (NROTC Rice). We congratulate them ALL for their accomplishments and selection, and wish them "fair winds and following seas." THANKS VERY MUCH to ALL who attended! Information on our joint, CCNL hosted June 18th din-

ner meeting appears on pages 4 & 5 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. Our Guest of Honor/Speaker will be Mr. Maurice Wilson, President/Executive Director of National Veterans Transition Services, Inc. (REBOOT). RSVPs are due NLT June 14th. PLEASE join us!!!

SS MOAA recently had the pleasure of attending the annual awards ceremonies for both of our supported NJROTC units at Coronado and Mar Vista High Schools. MOAA medals and certificates for outstanding performance were presented to Kyle Schaff at CHS and Alfie Miranda at MVHS. CONGRATULATIONS to all of the SS MOAA members who continue to contribute to the support of these two outstanding units throughout the year – it's GREATLY APPRECIATED!!!

And a final MAXIMUM THANKS to all who attended and participated in our annual Memorial Day service at Star

Park, which we hold in conjunction with VFW Post 2422 and CCNL. As always, it was a GREAT event, with SPECTACULAR Coronado weather, and a most fitting tribute to all who have given their ALL in defense of this great country and its many, many freedoms! We will NEVER forget them!!!

For your future planning we are going to hold our next SS MOAA hosted joint dinner meeting in August at the Coronado Yacht Club on Monday (vice Tuesday), August 19th, and our confirmed guest speaker will be Mayor Casey Tanaka of our fine city of Coronado. We're also looking into having a less formal social event this summer, perhaps a gathering at a Concert in the Park, where we can hopefully get to know each other and especially our new members a little better – details TBD!!!

MAXIMUM THANKS, have a GREAT summer, and I hope to see you all on June 18th!!!

V/r,
Tom

National Legislative Affairs

Federal

- VA Work-Study at State Veterans Homes. The current legislation authorizing this federal program for veterans working part-time at state Veterans Homes like ours in Chula Vista expires on 6/30/13. Also applies to all state veterans' cemeteries. An extension of this VA program is being worked by both the U.S. House and Senate now. In the U.S. House, HR-1453 was introduced on 4/9/13 to extend this program, and locally Rep. Duncan Hunter (R, 50th, El Cajon) is the only co-sponsor from our San Diego County delegation. The HVAC now has HR-1453 for action. In the Senate, SVAC Chair Sen. Bernie Sanders (I, VT) introduced S-894 on 5/8/13 to reauthorize this VA Work-Study program. CA Sen. Barbara Boxer is supportive of S-894. Currently, 65 local veterans who are in college work part-time at the Chula Vista Veterans Home under this VA program. Our San Diego U-T is running a story in this weekend's newspaper about this VA Work-Study program at our Veterans Home in Chula Vista.
- H.R. 32. Rep. Joe Wilson introduced the new "Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act" 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 125 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.
- H.R. 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 66 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). Others from CA are: Rep. Janice Hahn (D, 44th, San Pedro), Rep. Julia Brownley (D, 26th, Oak Park), Rep. David Valadao (R, 21st, Hanford), Rep. Ken Calvert (R, 42, Corona), and Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D, 19th, San Jose). 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.

- H.R. 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 88 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 88 cosponsors.
- H.R. 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 48 co-sponsors, and Rep. Duncan Hunter (R, 50th, El Cajon) and Rep. Scott

Peters (D, 52nd) are among the 7 from CA. HVAC's Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing on 4/10/13 for HR-357. For more info, go to the VFW's web site at: <http://thevfw.blogspot.com>.

S. 234. Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2013. This Senate bill is very similar to both H.R. 303 and H.R. 333, addressing the concurrent receipt issue. Sen. Harry Reid's S.234 has 16 cosponsors, including Sen. Barbara Boxer from CA. This bill was introduced on 2/7/13.

S.734. Senate companion bill to HR 32. It was dropped April 16th by Sen. Bill Nelson, FL. to eliminate the SBP -DIC offset. So far Sen. Boxer has cosponsored this bill and Sen. Feinstein has not.

To track both U.S. House and U.S. Senate bills, go to: <http://Thomas.loc.gov>. At the center top of the web page, go to the "Legislation In Current Congress" box and simply type in the bill number or key word.

State

- CALVET Budget for 2013-14. CALVET Secretary Peter Gravett hosted a stakeholders' conference call on 5/14/13 to explain the Governor's "May Revise" budget that he's submitted to the Legislature. Sec. Gravett explained that the proposed budget fully funds CALVET's priorities, and would allow the state to hire employees to open the two new Veterans Homes in Fresno and Redding later this year. He also explained the budget calls for changing 84 beds at the skilled nursing facility in West LA to house homeless veterans.
- A.B. 614. ASM Rocky Chavez (R, 76th, Carlsbad) and ASM Toni Atkins (D, 78th, San Diego) originally authored this bill to give homeless veterans priority for admission to California Veterans Homes. The bill was then amended to "investigate" a veteran's financial status prior to being admitted to a state Veterans Home. Later, the bill was amended (Cont. pg 3)

State Legislative Affairs

again to say "review" vice "investigate." The intent of the amended bill is unknown, as a veteran's financial and lodging situations are already part of the state's admission screening process. The amended bill was approved by the Assembly with a 76-0 vote on 4/25/13. Senate's hearing on this bill that was set for 5/14/13 was cancelled.

- **A.B. 13.** ASM Rocky Chavez (R, 76th, Oceanside) (past Acting CALVET/CDVA Secretary) introduced AB-13 to give non-resident tuition exemption to military veterans. Existing law exempts a student who was a member of the military stationed in CA on active duty for more than 1 year prior to being discharged from paying the higher non-resident tuition at state universities and colleges. AB-13 would eliminate this requirement that a student be stationed in CA to receive that exemption, and would require the student to be discharged immediately prior year in order to receive the exemption. AB-13 passed the Assembly's Committee on Higher

Education with a 13-0 vote on 3/20/13. The VA committee passed AB-13 with a 10-0 vote on 4/16/13. This bill ended up in the Appropriations Committee's "suspense file" on 5/1/13.

- **S.B. 296.** As amended, Sen. Lou Correa's (D, 34th, Santa Ana) bill allocates a total of \$9 million from the state's General Fund conduct outreach and assist veterans by the county veteran service offices statewide and VSO's. \$7.6 M of the \$9M would go to the CVSO's, and \$1.4M to VSO's. That would be a significant increase over the \$2.6M that Governor Brown had proposed in his budget for 2013-14. SB-296 hopes "to increase the staffing at CVSO offices to increase VA claim initiation and development and draw down significant federal dollars annually," according to Sen. Correa's press release of 2/15/13. Senate's VA Committee voted 5-0 on 4/10/13, and sent the bill to the Appropriations Committee. Their hearing for SB-196 set for 4/22/13 was cancelled. It's now in the Appropriation

Committee's "suspense file" as of 5/6/13. A hearing on this bill is set for 5/23/13.

- Over 60 Veterans Bills. The state Assembly and Senate are now considering many dozens of veteran related bills. The Appropriations Committees have until 5/24/13 to complete their actions. Then the bills must pass in the house of origin by 5/31/13. Any of these bills that fail to meet those deadlines are supposedly dead for this year. Some of the veterans related bills, in addition to the ones described above, are: SB-290, SB-420, AB-150, AB-315, AB-171, AB-213, AB-555, AB-287, AB-372, AB-409, AB-531, AB-639, SB-119, SB-237, AB-287, AB-213, AB-269, AB-704, AB-705, AB-1094, AB-1268, SB-272. To obtain updates on all California legislation, go to: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html>. You can sign up at this web site to get e-mail updates whenever action is taken on bills that are of interest to you.

Auxiliary Liaison News

At the October 2012 Annual Meeting, MOAA supported the AMAC "Storm the Hill: the SBP/DIC Offset" on July 16 and July 17 in Washington, DC. While this decision was made before the offset was defeated for inclusion in the NDAA 2013, it is now even more important that we educate current Congressmen, Senators, and their Legislative and Military Assistants on the SBP/DIC offset issue.

MOAA will sponsor a Congressional Breakfast for Legislative Assistants and Military Legislative Assistants, on July 17th. Following the breakfast, we will go on "The Hill" to visit individual congressional and senatorial offices regarding the SBP/DIC Offset issue. MOAA has blocked hotel rooms close to restaurants, Old Town Alexandria, and public transportation for us and will provide our transportation from the hotel to the Hill. However, we will be responsible for our own travel, lodging, meals not included in registration, and local transportation expenses. **MOAA has invited members of other military related organization to join us for this MOAA sponsored event too. We need all surviving spouses, family members, retired service members who participated in SBP and their spouses impacted by the offset to join us for success in reaching all 535 of our Congress and Senate!**

Please share this invitation with family and friends. The webpage can be viewed and registration made online using the following links:

http://www.moaa.org/Main_Menu/Chapters_and_Councils/Chapter_Management/Auxiliary_Liaisons/AMAC_Storming_the_Hill_Event_2013.html
(https://fs20.formsite.com/moaaaweb/AMACStorming/secure_index.html)

Note: There will be a confirmation email sent to the email account from which the registration was received. Therefore, you can register anyone who does not have or use a computer, but their confirmation will come to your computer.

Also note: The chapter will assist any chapter member who is able to attend this event, but needs financial help to do so. Please call or email Kathy if you have any questions about the July event, or have questions or a problem related to survivor issues at 619-435-6623 or prout.kathy@gmail.com.

Silver Strand Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America

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Maurice D. Wilson, BBA, MSTS



Born 1953 in Chicago Illinois, he joined the U.S. Navy in 1973, which began his career in government service. Af-

ter 26 years of service, Maurice retired at the top of the enlisted ranks as a Master Chief Petty Officer. Prior to his retirement, he held the position of Command Master Chief for the USNS Mercy and was the Training and Communications Division Officer for the MIS Department at Naval Medical Center Balboa responsible for the implementation and planning for the Command-wide medical information system: Composite Health-Care System (CHCS). In 1996 he began his volunteer work for the San Diego Urban League and in 1998 after his retirement joined the League's executive management team as the agency's first MIS Director and developed the agency's first network. In 1999

he assumed the responsibility of Director of Employment and Training, in 2003 he was appointed as the Vice President for Business and Workforce Development and in 2006 was appointed as the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the League. He is now retired from the League and is co-founder of a new non-profit aimed at helping veterans transition back to civilian life.

Maurice is currently the President/ Executive Director of the National Veterans Transition Services, Inc., a non-profit organization he co-founded with retired Rear Admiral Ronne Froman after serving as an advisory member for the Call of Duty Endowment (CODE) where he got his inspiration to design REBOOT. Troubled with the high unemployment, homelessness, high drug abuse and other issues associated with military-to-civilian reintegration, Wilson designed REBOOT, a three-week behavior-based transition program designed to help returning service members/veterans successfully reintegrate back into civilian life after years of military service. Since its inception RE-

BOOT has achieved a significantly high success rate resulting in Wilson being recognized by the White House as a "Champion of Change" for the innovative design and impact REBOOT has on service members, veterans and spouses. To date REBOOT has successfully transitioned over 450 veterans and is recognized as the only service of its kind in the country by the White House's Performance Improvement Council.

He holds a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration and a Masters Degree in Telecommunication Systems Management through National University.



Dinner Meeting Reservation/Donation/Dues Form

Silver Strand MOAA Chapter Dinner Meeting, Tuesday, June 18, 2013

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

Guest of Honor/Speaker

Maurice D. Wilson, BBA, MST

President/Executive Director of National Veterans Transition Services, Inc.

(REBOOT)

Where: Coronado Golf Club Clubhouse **When:** 1800 (Social Hour)
 2000 Visalia Row 1845 (Dinner—***BUFFET @ \$30.00***)
 1930 (Program)

“ITALIAN DINNER”

**Antipasto Salad, Chicken Parmesan, Fettuccini Carbonara,
Bow Tie Pasta with Pesto, Eggplant and Vegetable Ratatouille, Cheesy Garlic Bread
Salad, 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 = _____

Reservations must reach our PO Box by NOON, Friday, 14 June (Firm)

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 \$_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$_____

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

If you are unable to RSVP by Friday, 14 June 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.