

ALBUMOAA'S MAIL CALL



The Newsletter of The Military Officers Association of America Albuquerque, New Mexico Chapter

March—April 2021, Volume XLI, No. 2

President's Message

Albuquerque MOAA Vision:

"Recognized as the leading Military Service Organization in central New Mexico, supporting and giving a voice to military retirees, surviving spouse, and veterans of all services."



Dear Albuquerque MOAA Chapter member:

Greetings!

I hope this edition of "Mail Call" finds you, your family, and loved ones healthy, safe, and prosperous!
Unfortunately, all Chapter activities remain on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please do not forget to renew your membership for 2021 if you have not already done so! While renewing your membership, please consider making a generous donation to our giving fund. Your generosity over the years has enabled the Chapter to contribute to the support of many local veterans' related charitable organizations.

As always, please continue to monitor our chapter website and your email for important information from MOAA National, New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services, Kirtland AFB Retiree Activities Office, and our Chapter.

Sincerely,

Michael Cochrane

Commander, U.S. Navy (Retired)
President, Albuquerque Chapter MOAA





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Surviving Spouses Rep & Liaison

Mary Kay Olson



MOAA and its affiliated Albuquerque Chapter are independent,

nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organizations.

Ski Club Rep

BrigGen Regner C Rider, USAF (Ret)

Breakfast Club

Lt Col Marsha L Thole, USAFR (Ret)

Golf Club Rep

VACANT

Tours Club Reps

Karen Brown

Judy Keppler

Chaplain

VACANT

Historian

VACANT



In 2012, our Chapter established the Albuquerque Chapter of MOAA Endowment at the Albuquerque Community Foundation (ACF) to enhance our current, and especially our future, ability to contribute to worthy charitable organizations that help military personnel, veterans and dependents. The endowment was initiated in late January of 2012 and has grown as a result of contributions and the growth in the investments. The Board has adopted a policy of using the annual Endowment distribution to increase our giving each year. For those who are so inclined, gifts can be made to the Chapter Endowment as a part of a member's estate or as part of a yearly donation. More information about the annual performance and use of the distribution will be published in a future ALBUMOAA. For questions, the Chapter point of contact is the Treasurer, Clint Whisonant.



ROTC/Awards

VACANT

Finance

Lt Col Clint Whisonant, USAF (Ret)

Legislative Affairs

Col Marvin Schott, USAF (Ret)

Membership Directory

Karen Brown

Mary Kay Olson

Nominating

VACANT

Consumer Advisory Board

VACANT

Veterans' Memorial Rep

Lt Col Clint Whisonant, USAF (Ret)

Membership Recruitment

VACANT

Personal Affairs

VACANT

United Veterans Council

CDR Michael J Cochrane, USN (Ret)

Web Site

Karen Brown

Newsletter, ALBUMOAA

CAPT Nina F Dozoretz, USPHS (Ret)



The Albuquerque Chapter of MOAA is not associated with the Department of **Defense.** This Newsletter is published bi-monthly. Views

expressed in articles or editorials in this Newsletter are not necessarily the views of the Chapter nor do they reflect its policies. Publication of advertisements or mention of any commercial businesses does not constitute Chapter endorsement.

Please email suggestions for newsletter format and content to CAPT Nina Dozoretz, USPHS (Ret) at president@albumoaa.org

CHARITABLE GIVING

Reported by Karen Brown

The Albuquerque Chapter has been approved by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) public charity. Our Chapter's "Charitable Giving" program has grown as the Ski Club, Tours, special projects and individual donors contribute sizable amounts. Many members donate in conjunction with their dues' payment. Donors may contribute to the overall Charitable Giving program, or they may specify their donation to one of the causes listed below.

Charitable Giving (Unspecified)
Blue Star Mothers (Rio Grande & Valencia Chapters)
Gold Star Mothers, Albuquerque Chapter
Albuquerque Fisher House
KAFB Quarterly Awards
NM VA Medical Center
NM Veterans Memorial
ROTC/JROTC Awards
Veterans Integration Center (VIC)

Chapter's Endowment Fund (ACF) and more



Since the last edition, the "Charitable Giving" Program received another \$2,508 in donations in conjunction with their dues payments from the following 57 members:

A big THANK YOU for all your generous contributions!

Please send donations to Albuquerque Chapter, MOAA, PO Box 5071, Albuquerque, 87185-5071.





Reported by Karen Brown

We are optimistically planning the following "Come from Away" event and Scotland tour for 2021, although it is still possible that they might have to be rescheduled. Hope you all are staying well and getting your COVID vaccinations!

*Changed to July 21, 2021 (Wednesday): 7:30 p.m., Popejoy Hall – COME FROM AWAY



(Musical): "...the **remarkable true story** of 7,000 stranded passengers and the small town in Newfoundland that welcomed them." "It takes you to a place you never want to leave!" Group cost for **2**nd **PRICE** seats is **\$67/person** (middle Orchestra seats in Row N); **PREMIUM** seats cost **\$84/person** (middle

Orchestra, rows D, F, G) – non-members please add \$2/person guest fee, unless family or house-guest. Payment is due ASAP or NLT June 15, 2021. To date, there are 11 participants. For seat selection, contact Karen at kmbrown8@comcast.net or 856-1927. Note: if you prefer Friday or Sunday, there are a few seats available on our group link (see below).

* Mail above payment (made out to <u>ABQ MOAA Tours</u> to Karen Brown at 962 Antelope NE, 87122.

MOAA MEMBERS CAN ALSO BUY THEIR OWN MOAA GROUP-PRICED POPEJOY



TICKETS ONLINE FOR CERTAIN PERFORMANCES & DATES (Broadway & Ovation Series): Here is the group link for our Albuquerque Chapter, MOAA, that you can click on to order your own seats for these specified Broadway performances or other Ovations performances at the group price. Click on http://unmtickets.com/ MOAA. You can then pay for your tickets by credit card & they will be mailed to you.

MOAA 2021 TRIP PLANNED BY SUN TOURS FOR MOAA: All payments go to SUN TOURS,



1700 Louisiana Blvd, Suite 100, Albuquerque, NM 87110. For reservations and information, call Jenn Martinez at 889-8888 or email her at imartinez@suntoursus.com. Cancellation insurance recommended.

August 18-28, 2021 (11 days) – Scotland with Military Tattoo by Globus— Cost is \$5175/

Scotland Scotland

person (double occupancy) and \$5975 (single) with \$350 savings if deposit received by April 16, 2021 (all payments by cash or check).

Deposit of \$250/person is required - refundable until April 27,2021.

Here is the brochure for this adventure: Scotland with Tattoo

To date, we have ~17 MOAA participants (members/relatives/friends).

As this is a shared coach tour with Globus, space is on an "as available" basis. If interested, contact Jenn Martinez at <u>imartinez@suntoursus.com</u> or (505)582-2355 and she can quickly confirm availability.



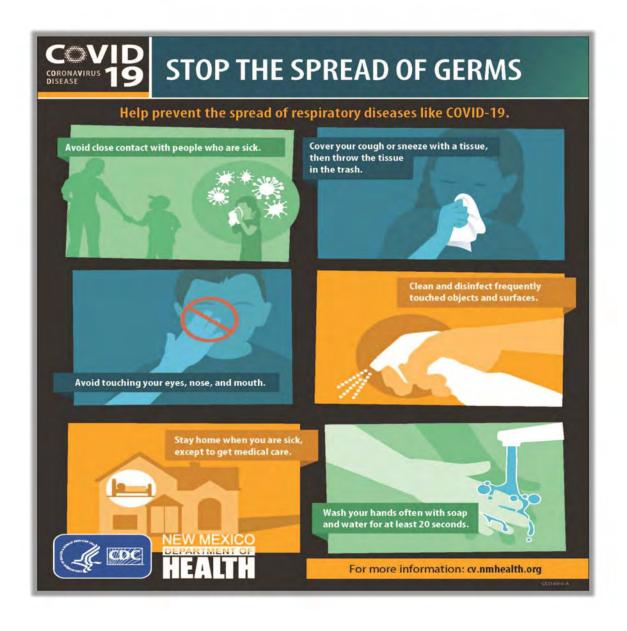
Reported By Mary Kay Olson

My way of connecting with the Surviving Spouse community is to use a direct hands-on approach. I usually call two or more people per week where we share our experiences and help each other if we can.

Thank you all for continuing to be so open and welcoming.

We have several people in our membership who do not use email or do not have access to the Internet. Please keep me informed of new addresses, telephone numbers and emails.

Please contact me at 505-917-6163 or <u>makatie5@msn.com</u> with your updated contact information. I can also connect anyone who is interested with the National MOAA Surviving Spouses on the Internet.





Celebrating Military Milestones and Anniversaries in 2021

Reported By LTC Michael Houck, USA (Ret)

Let's dispense with the first anniversary. The COVID-19 pandemic virus and lock downs, closures, quarantines, and sequestering that is one year old. This is not much to celebrate. Begrudgingly, we will persist, although it is hard to find a patriotic ribbon to tie around it.

Second. 2021 marks the 100th anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. The centennial commemoration, directed by the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, will feature a series of events leading up to a ceremony at the tomb on Nov. 11. On Nov. 11, Veterans Day, there will be a full honors procession and a wreath-laying ceremony. Members of the public will be able to experience and participate in events at the cemetery and virtually.

Congress approved the burial of an unidentified American soldier from World War I in the plaza of Arlington National Cemetery on March 4, 1921. The tomb, which stands atop a hill overlooking Washington D.C., has since come to symbolize the sacrifices of all U.S. service members. "It is hoped that the grave of this unidentified warrior will become a shrine of patriotism for all the ages to come, which will be a source of inspiration, reverence and love of country for future generations" - Congressman Hamilton Fish III (NY), March 9, 1921.

Its white marble sarcophagus, which stands above the grave of the Unknown Soldier of World War I, depicts three carved Greek figures representing peace, victory and valor. Inscribed on the back of the tomb are the words: "Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God."

To the west of the sarcophagus are the crypts for an Unknown Soldier from World War II and the Korean War. A crypt designated for the Vietnam Unknown was dedicated on Sept. 17, 1999.

In 1926, Congress established a military guard to protect the tomb, and since July 2, 1937, the Army has maintained a 24-hour guard over the tomb. Sentinels from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) assumed those duties on April 6, 1948, and they have maintained a constant vigil ever since.

Third. On Its 80th Anniversary, the USO Looks Back on Eight Decades of Standing by the U.S. Military.

Starting in 1941 and in the eight decades since, the USO has remained committed to always standing by the military's side, no matter where their service takes them.

The USO During World War II

A few months before the United States' official entry into World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was already creating a support system for the nation's Armed Forces. Bringing together the Salvation Army, the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), the National Catholic Community Service, the National Travelers Aid Association and the National Jewish Welfare Board, these six organizations formed the United Service Organizations (USO) on February 4, 1941. The USO was created specifically to provide morale and recreation services to the troops. USO created a network of centers and lounges across the United States for their recreational use. Churches, stores, museums and even locations such as barns and railroad cars were quickly transformed into welcoming spaces for service members.

For the wives following their soldier from camp to camp within the U.S., the USO created programs and services for them as well. The USO provided them with resources for financial budgeting, childcare, education and social events to meet other spouses.

On the front lines in the Europe and Pacific Theatres, the mission of delivering a piece of home to military members was even more crucial. To alleviate the strain of being far from home and loved ones, as well as ease the intensity of fighting a war, the USO stepped up to help.

It was during World War II that the USO created and established its legacy of entertainment through USO Camp Shows. Roughly one month after Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, 26 USO entertainers arrived on Utah Beach to perform for the troops.

From there, a number of USO Camp Shows troupes traveled across Europe. These USO Camp Shows traveled through North Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific, where morale boosts were especially needed. In 1947, two years after the end of World War II, the organization was "honorably discharged" by President Truman,

In 1950, the Korean War broke out; just five years after that, the Vietnam War began. Just one year before the Korean War, in 1949, President Truman reactivated the USO and in the following years the doors opened to the first USO centers in combat zones.

At the peak of the Viet Nam war, the USO had 17 centers in Vietnam and 6 in Thailand. And after 1964, holidays on the front lines would never be the same. This was the year Bob Hope brought his first-ever Bob Hope USO Christmas Show to Vietnam ready to entertain service members just when they needed it most. The show became a yearly tradition and it continued until 1990.

As the world moved into the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st, the United States engaged in a series of conflicts and peacekeeping missions. Most notable of these, which the USO provided support for, were the Gulf War, Operation Joint Endeavour and Operation Restore Hope.

At home, USO airports throughout the country became known not only as a lounge for service members, but a place for all members of the military community to rely upon when struggling with travel delays, flight cancellations or simply needing a refuge after long hours of traveling. At home or abroad, when service members or military spouses saw that familiar red, white and blue logo, they knew they could finally relax.

September 11, 2001, changed everything. The United States entered the Global War on Terror and the military community was suddenly faced with new challenges and missions overseas. Since 2001, more than 2.77 million service members have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan on 5.4 million deployments.

Aside from the strain of deployment on the service member, military spouses and children must also weather the storm of military life and all its uncertainties. Because of this, over the past 20 years the USO has particularly focused its efforts on supporting not only service members, but their spouses and children as well, throughout their entire military journey.

As the USO enters its 80th year, over eight decades, no matter the conflict or period of peace, the USO has always stood by the military service members' side. The USO's programs and support have always centered around its mission to strengthen America's service members by keeping them connected to family, home and country, throughout their service to the nation.

Remember and respectively salute, both, the volunteers and services provided by the USO that were – and continue to be – funded and staffed by charitable donations and those volunteers.



Reported by Brig Gen Regner Rider, USAF (Ret)

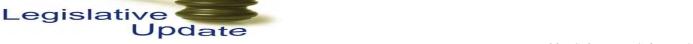
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We will start planning for the 2021-2022 ski season in a couple of months. I hope that life will be back to something more normal and that there will be enough interest to launch some great trips. Bev and I spend the past week at Keystone and had a wonderful time. The snow was good and the mountain was not crowded. We got a little fresh snow while we were there and got out before the deep freeze hit Colorado.

Bev and I are planning a trip to Crested Butte the last week of the month. I guess we have to get our annual fix of February skiing at our favorite locations.

GOOD NEWS! We have decided not to collect dues for the coming year for the Ski Club.

I look forward to seeing all of you this fall!



Reported by Col Marvin Schott, USAF (Ret)

New Mexico 2021 Legislative Session

As of the writing for this edition of "Mail Call', the New Mexico Legislative Session is nearing the midpoint. This will be a session to be remembered and my humble opinion, not fondly. The Capitol is closed to the public, thus preventing the citizens of New Mexico to observe committee and floor hearings. More importantly, it is difficult to voice your concerns to the legislature that impacts military members, veterans, military retirees and surviving spouses. There is a way to be heard in committee meetings, which I will describe at the end of the newsletter.

The list of legislation for 2021 that affects military members, veterans, retirees and surviving spouses is fairly extensive.

<u>House Joint Resolution 2</u> sponsored by Rep. Alcon, District 6, proposes to allow veterans to claim an exemption to their property tax equal to the percentage of their disability rating. Currently, only a veteran who is 100% disabled can claim a 100% exemption. This exemption applies to the veteran's widow or widower. The resolution has been recommended by two committees to "Do Pass' and is scheduled to be debated on the House Floor.

<u>House Joint Resolution 3</u> sponsored by Rep. Alcon proposes to increase the property tax exemption of honorably discharged veterans from \$4,000 to \$10,000 beginning in 2023. The resolution has been recommended by two committee to "do Pass and is scheduled to be debated on the House Floor.

<u>Senate Bill 259</u> sponsored by Sen Burt, District 33, proposes a deduction from net income of military retirement income in four graduated phase beginning in tax year 2022 and culminating in tax year 2025 with a 100% deduction not to exceed \$25,000.

<u>Senate Bill 277</u> sponsored by Sen. Polk, District 23, proposes a \$30,000 exemption to military retirement pay beginning in tax year 2021. Sen. Pope is a retired Air Force officer

Income Tax Exemption Discussion The two bills introduced in this legislative session are similar to bills introduced over the last 10 years. New Mexico is one of five states that fully tax military retirement pay. The Fiscal Impact Report published by the New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee has not been favorable for the exemptions. In fact, the report is very negative. I have posted some talking points on the Albuquerque MOAA website that you can use when discussing these two bills with your legislators. The Military/Veterans Legislative Council (MVLC) continues support this imitative and is in contact with appropriate legislators this session. The Albuquerque MOAA Chapter is a member of the MVLC with representatives on the executive and legislative council.

<u>House Bill 260</u> sponsored by several representatives proposes one day-use pass into state parks and recreation areas to veterans and gold star families. The bill has been recommended a "Do Pass" and is scheduled to be debated on the House Floor.

<u>House Bill 49</u> sponsored by sixteen Republican representatives proposes to exempt Social Security Income from New Mexico Personal Income Tax. The bill is awaiting hearing by the House Tax and Revenue Committee.

<u>House Bill 113</u> sponsored by Rep Harry Garcia, District 69, prohibits discrimination based on military or veteran status. The bill passed the House unanimously and is awaiting hearing by the appropriate Senate committee.

Stay in contact with your legislator before, during and after session

There are a relatively large number of new legislators for the 2021 session. Ten new representatives and seven new senators amounting to a 25% turnover. The list of legislators has been published on the legislature website. Remember there are tutorials on the Legislature Website. On the Home page, open Quick Links and click Website Video Tutorials. Videos are available on Finding Legislation and Finding Your Legislators and MyRoundhouse. If you have a Zoom app on your computer, tablet or phone, you can "attend "committee meetings. At the Legislature website, Home-New Mexico Legislature (nmlegis.gov) open the "What's Happening" menu and open either the PDF version of the House or Senate Committee Schedules. The schedule will either list a link to join the Zoom meeting or provide instruction on how to join.



Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the families of those who have passed to their eternal rest. May all those who grieve be comforted.



Col C Thomas Haroz, USAF (Ret) - August 22, 2020 (spouse of Judith Haroz)

LTC Norman Douglass Melvin, USA (Ret) - February 23, 2020 (spouse of Mary Lou Melvin)

MG H Tom Taylor, Jr., USA (Ret) - September 23, 2020 (spouse of Inge Taylor)

Col James P White, USAF (Ret) - January 15, 2021 (spouse of deceased Jacquie White)



Reported by Karen Brown

Membership Stats (as of February 15, 2021)

Regular: 199

Surviving Spouse: 51

Associate: 47 Total: 297 (-2)

A warm welcome to the following new members:

Regular

1LT Jacklyn L Jablonski, USA/NG (Act)

Surviving Spouse

Judith Haroz Mary Lou Melvin Inge Taylor

THANK YOU to all those who have recently paid your 2021 Chapter dues, along with all the generous donations! If you have not already done so, please send in your 2021 dues. Please click on and fill out this Renewal Form:

Albuquerque Chapter

Dues Renewal 2021 or use the application form on last page of this newsletter, paying by check.

You can also fill out our online Renew Membership form: https://albumoaa.org/renew-membership/ and pay by either check or PayPal. You will need to log in to access this renewal form. Please let Karen know if you have problems logging in – kmbrown8@comcast.net or 856-1927.

We hope you have checked out our website www.albumoaa.org – see links on top of Home page. You do not have to log in to see Chapter Information, NM Legislative Info, Photo Gallery, Newsletters, Clubs (Breakfast, Tours & Ski), etc. Login is only necessary to access the online Member Directory (under Members Only) and to Renew Membership.

The Albuquerque Chapter
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
P. O. Box 5071
Albuquerque, NM 87185

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Albuquerque Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America

Eligible for membership: Commissioned or Warrant Officers, or their Surviving Spouses
Army—Marine Corps—Navy—Air Force—Coast Guard—Public Health Service—
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
Regular-Reserve-National Guard-Active Duty-Retired-Former Officers
Please Print Clearly or Apply Online at www.albumoaa.org



Enroll me as a REGULAR MEMBER at \$24.00 for one year. Enroll me as a SURVIVING SPOUSE MEMBER (as the surviving spouse of a deceased officer) at \$12.00 for one year. Enroll me as an ASSOCIATE MEMBER (non-military & enlisted) at \$15.00 for one year.

Enroll me for NEW Membership as REGULAR or SURVIVING SPOUSE applicant, receiving first 2 calendar years' membership for cost of one year. I wish to donate \$ to the Chapter's Giving Program, and my check includes this amount. I realize that the donation is Federal and State tax-free. Middle Initial Last Name First Name Rank Service Spouse's Name State ZIP+4 Street Telephone Numbers E-Mail Address: National Membership Number: _Active Duty, ___Retired, ___Former Officer, ___Surviving Spouse ___Regular, ___Reserve, ___National Guard Would you be willing to assist in the operation of the Albuquerque Chapter of MOAA? If so, what would be your main area of interest? Legislative Affairs, Public Relations, Membership, Scholarship & Award, Personal Affairs, Legal Counsel Newsletter, Chaplain, Finance, Programs & Activities, Data Processing Other Do you have an interest in any of the following clubs: ____Breakfast Club, ____Ski Club, ____Tours/Events, ____Golf Please make check payable to: Albuquerque Chapter, MOAA Mail to: Membership, Albuquerque Chapter, MOAA P.O. Box 5071 ____ Date: ___ Applicant Signature: _____ **Albuquerque, NM 87185-5071** MOAA Membership Application Form 1-2017 Visit us on the web at www.albumoaa.org