



January - March 2024, Volume XLIV, No. 1

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 (ALBUMOAA) Chapter members:

The Albuquerque Chapter is focused on continuing our mission to provide resources to our military. However, our membership has declined over the past year which has limited forward progress. As a result, we are considering a few cost control measures, such as generating your newsletter on a quarterly vs bi-monthly basis to reduce mailing and printing costs.

In an effort to remedy this, the Board is currently focused on membership recruitment through social media, collaboration with other local military groups, marketing brochures, branding (updated Chapter Challenge Coins and lapel pins), social events and activities (i.e., ski club, lunch club, tours, plays, and social quarterlies), and community engagement. To be successful in these methods, we must have more engagement from our existing membership such as new Board members to take on leadership roles including secretary, recruitment, and branch representatives and donations towards Board identified military organizations.

In the spirit of new year resolutions, I challenge each of you to identify one way you can contribute to ALBUMOAA's mission this year.

Together, we can do so much!

CPT Stacey Goldstein-Dwyer, MA, PsyD, USA (Ret) President, ALBUMOAA Chapter 2200 Grande Blvd. SE, Ste B Rio Rancho, NM 87124







President CPT Stacey Goldstein-Dwyer, PsyD., USA (Ret) president@albumoaa.org

**1st VP-Programs, Communications** Brig Gen Regner Rider, USAF (Ret)

2nd VP—Programs LTC Michael Houck, USA (Ret) 2ndvice@albumoaa.org

> Secretary VACANT

Treasurer Major Allen Tate, USAF (Ret) treasurer@albumoaa.org

**President Ex-Officio** LTC Walter Paul, USA (Ret ) pastpresident@albumoaa.org

Navy Rep LCDR Meredith Beaton, USN (Ret)

Marine Corps Rep Maj Robert E Rider, USMC (Ret)

Army Rep CPT Stacey Goldstein-Dwyer, USA (Ret)

Air Force Rep Brig Gen Reg Rider, USAF (Ret)

US Coast Guard Rep CWO3 Edward Williams, USCG (Ret)

**NM National Guard Rep** LTC Max Johnson, NMNGUS (Ret)

**US Public Health Service Rep** CAPT Nina F Dozoretz, USPHS (Ret)

Surviving Spouses Rep & Liaison VACANT



MOAA and its affiliated Albuquerque Chapter are independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organizations.



**Ski Club Rep** Brig Gen Reg C Rider, USAF (Ret)

Lunch Club CPT Tom Dawe, USA (FMR)

Golf Club Rep VACANT

Tours/Events Club Rep Karen Brown

Chaplain *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, Allen Tate.



ROTC/Awards LTC Erik Sevigny, USA (Ret)

**Finance** Major Allen Tate, USAF (Ret)

Legislative Affairs LTC Walter Paul, USA (Ret) INTERIM (VACANT)

Membership Records Major Allen Tate, USAF (Ret) Karen Brown

**Nominating** LTC Walter Paul, USA (Ret)

Consumer Advisory Board VACANT

Veterans' Memorial Rep VACANT

Membership Recruitment LTC Erik Sevigny, USA (Ret)

Personal Affairs VACANT

**United Veterans Council of Greater Albuquerque (UVCGA)** LTC Michael Houck, USA (Ret) Chapter Member

Web Site Major Allen Tate, USAF (Ret) 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 <u>president@albumoaa.org</u>

To learn about national MOAA advocacy efforts, go to MOAA Legislative Take Action at: <u>MOAA | Legislative Action Center (quorum.us)</u>

# ANNOUNCING NEWSLETTER CHANGES

Your Board of Directors has decided to produce your MailCall newsletter quarterly rather than continue a bi-monthly edition. Thus, the first quarter edition of our newsletter will cover January - March, 2024. However, as a result of our newsletter editor's medical leave, this first quarter of the newsletter will be published in February, 2024. We regret any inconvenience.

The decision to generate a quarterly newsletter was primarily to reduce annual printing and mailing costs.

## We appreciate your continued patronage of our newsletter!



## It's 2024! Have you paid your ALBUMOAA Annual Dues?

Allen Tate, Major, USAF (Ret), ALBUMOAA Treasurer

For all MOAA National members, go to the MOAA Website (<u>https://www.moaa.org</u>) and click on "About MOAA". In the dropdown menu you'll find a link to "Councils and Chapters". Click on this link and on the right-hand side of the page under "Fast Access" you'll find the "Pay dues online" link. Follow the instructions to pay your annual dues and/or donate (look for "Albuquerque Chapter of MOAA").

Annual dues remain the same: Regular member - \$24; Surviving Spouse - \$12, and Associate Member - \$15.

You can also donate to the Albuquerque Chapter Giving Fund through PayPal. Just go to the PayPal Fundraiser Hub (<u>https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/hub</u>) and search for "MOAA Albuquerque Chapter". Do not use this method to pay Annual Dues, only donations.

As always, you can join, renew, and/or donate using the last page of this newsletter and mail it with your check payable to MOAA Albuquerque Chapter. Our mailing address is:

MOAA Albuquerque Chapter PO Box 5071 Albuquerque, NM 87185

Please check your address on this newsletter to determine if our chapter records show you late in paying your 2024 dues. If there is a double asterisk (\*\*) after your name, we have not received your payment. If you think this is in error, please email me at <u>albumoaatreasurer@gmail.com</u>.



**Reported by Karen Brown** 

#### MOAA has group discounted tickets available online. Click on this link: https://



www.unmtickets.com/MOAA for the following performances: The Ten Tenors, The Pirates of Penzance and more. This is the only way to get MOAA's group discounted tickets this year, but please contact Karen at <u>kmbrown8@comcast.net</u> or 505-856-1927, if you need help or have questions. Note: You will have to create an account to purchase these tickets.

### MOAA 2024 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 Sun Tours Sun Tours at 505-889-8888. Cancellation insurance recommended.

June 10-23, 2024 (14 Days): Tanzania: Serengeti Adventure: Lush savannahs full of fauna and wildlife are ready to be explored in the Serengeti. Cost is **\$9,275/person (double occupancy)**. A deposit of \$250 per person NOW holds your place. Final Payment due February 6, 2024. Detailed information: https://www.suntoursus.com/copy-of-tanzania-serengeti-adventure. SERENGETI Contact Sun Tours to see if there is still availability. To date, we have 6 of us going from MOAA.

MOAA Tours/Events Website Link: https://albumoaa.org/tours-events/



PRESIDENT: Reg Rider, regrider49@gmail.com VICE-PRESIDENT: Ron Salley, jrsalley@me.com TREASURER: Tony Strati, casatrat@msn.com MEMBERSHIP: Karen Brown, kmbrown8@comcast.net

Reported by Brig Gen Regner Rider, USAF (Ret)

The Club is in the midst of the 2024 Ski Season with two trips completed. The first was Wolf Creek, brought back after several years to the delight of our members. The second was Telluride, a yearly favorite. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our Purgatory trip due to low signups, but have made the hotel discount available to those who wish to drive themselves. Our last trip of the season is Crested Butte which has a full roster. This trip is in late February and is an absolute favorite for the club.

So far, so good is the quote of the season. We have had good snow and only minor injuries!

We are starting to plan for the 2025 season with trips to Wolf Creek, Telluride, Breckenridge and Crested Butte for sure.

Steamboat is a possible but we are not committed to it yet. Below are a few photos from our Ski Trip to Telluride and Wolf Creek below. More exciting photos from our ski trips are found on our website.



#### Joanne and Cindy

Shelly & Brandon

**Wolf Creek** 



Telluride's Ski Tree

Jack, Karen, & Sally

5

Reported by Karen Brown



#### Membership Stats (as of January 26, 2024) Regular: 166 Surviving Spouse: 36 Associate: 40 Total: 244

A warm welcome to the following new member and spouse:

#### **Regular**

LCDR Kathryn McNamara, USPHS (Neil Mittal)

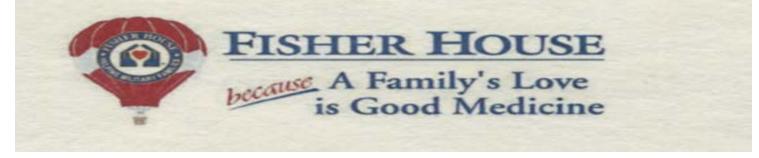
Be sure to check out our website at <u>https://albumoaa.org/</u> – see links on top of the Home page. You do not have to log in to see **Chapter Information**, **NM Legislative Info**, **Photo Gallery**, **Newsletters**, and **Clubs** (Lunch, Ski, Tours), etc.



# **ALBUQUERQUE FISHER HOUSE**



Volunteers like you are special and few. Your generous gift of time and energy as a volunteer is deeply appreciated.





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) Albuquerque Fisher House KAFB Quarterly Awards NM VA Medical Center NM Veterans Memorial ROTC/JROTC Awards Veterans Integration Center (VIC) Honor Flight Northern NM Paws and Stripes, Inc. Chapter's Endowment Fund (ACF) and more



In the last couple months, the **"Charitable Giving"** Program received another **\$385.00** in donations in conjunction with their dues payments from the following 7 members:

Dale R Balmer Karen M Brown Anna May Conarty Clarice Jenkins Philip J Messuri Hanson L Scott Cynthia Tobyas

A big THANK YOU for all your generous contributions!



## 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS, QUARTERLY SOCIALS, MEETINGS AND EVENTS

## **2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- March 17 1st Quarterly Social (3rd QTR thru 4th QTR Dates TBD)
- May 27 Memorial Day propose to have our ALBUMOAA booth at the event
- June 16 Quarterly Social
- July 4th Propose to have our ALBUMOAA booth at the event
- September 11th Propose to have our ALBUMOAA booth at this event
- October 20th Albuquerque Chapter Annual Meeting
- November 11th City of Albuquerque Veterans Day Memorial propose to have our ALBUMOAA booth
- December 8th ALBUMOAA Christmas Holiday Party

## **LOCATION OF EVENTS**

- All **Board of Directors** meetings convene the first Thursday of every month and start at **11:30 AM MST at 2200 Grande Blvd SE, Suite B, Rio Rancho, NM 87124**, unless otherwise noted. Access to meetings via ZOOM will continue. Changes to the above meeting dates and times will be announced in the newsletter and mass email distributions to the membership.
- Quarterly Socials will be held at the NM Veterans Memorial offering pot luck between Noon and 2PM
- Memorial Day activities to be held at the NM Veterans Memorial
- July 4th Independence Day to bed held at the NM Veterans Memorial
- September 11th Military and Veterans Day to be held at the NM State Fair
- October Annual Meeting will be held at the Veterans Memorial on Louisiana Blvd. SE from 12:00PM 3PM where we present donations and enjoy fine food and camaraderie with members and families.
- Albuquerque Veterans Day Memorial activities to commence at the NM Veterans Memorial, start of parade to be determined
- ALBUMOAA Christmas Holiday Party to be held at the NM Veterans Memorial serving potluck



Reported by CPT Tom Dawe, USA (FMR)

You do not want to miss our Lunch Club the last Tuesday of the month. We continue to present interesting and informative speakers. Please click on <u>https://albumoaa.org/lunch-club/</u> for additional information. We have an exciting line up of speakers in 2024!

Our speaker on February 27th will be Nathan Jaramillo who is with the County Clerk's office and will discuss how voting is conducted in Bernalillo County and all of the safeguards that are in place.

Our speaker on March 26 will be Walter Paul discussing what impact the legislature's session will have had on military pay and benefits.

Place: Weck's at 3913 Louisiana Blvd NE - Just south of Montgomery
Cost: Separate checks, please add a tip; 10% Senior discount; pay at the conclusion of the program
When: Last Tuesday of each month
Time: 12 - 2PM. Please arrive by 12PM to order your meal before the speaker has begun.
Reservations not required
Contact: Tom Dawe with any questions

If you have a recommendation for a speaker, please contact Tom at <a href="mailto:rtdawe@comcast.net">rtdawe@comcast.net</a>.

### MOAA Meal Train Team Prepared Thanksgiving Meal for Veterans' Family Members Staying at the Fisher House, Thursday, November 23, 2023

#### Reported by LTC Michael Houck, USA (Ret), 2nd VP

The Albuquerque MOAA "Meal Train *Sous Chefs*" (Michael Houck, Darcy Houck, Nancy Loisel, Claude Valles, and Rita West) prepared Thanksgiving Day dinner for the families of hospitalized veteran grandfathers at the VA Medical Center.

The dinner service on Thanksgiving Day was derailed early morning on Thanksgiving Day when the two hospitalized veterans passed away. The families' priorities changed dramatically at that point from visitation to mourning the loss, helping start funeral arrangements, and beginning the process of assembling estate records for closure and transfer. The third family from the Tacoma, Washington area, the parents of a National Guard Soldier in New Mexico for training and was injured and hospitalized. These parents chose to spend the day at the hospital until the end of visiting hours.

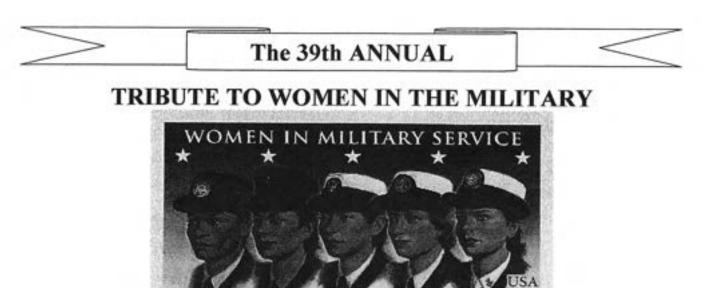
Undeterred, the "Meal Train *Sous Chefs*" prepare the dinner for serving just in case a family would show up for dinner. At the end of the cooking day the "Meal Train *Sous Chefs*" enjoyed the company of each other. "*Sous Chefs*" relaxed, first, with appetizers and Wassail and then dined on the Gringo Tamales, pinto beans, Mexican corn, and kale-apple salad, and dessert. Forward looking into the Thanksgiving weekend, we then packed a complete Thanksgiving meal serving into meal storage containers for the families to reheat and consume at the Fisher House as their time and schedules permitted. The packaged dinners were divided into the remainder of the appetizers, wassail, 5 dozen tamales, vegetables, and salad after the "*sous chefs*" completed dinner. The Fisher House manager reported that the families consumed all the appetizers, wassail, and packed dinners the day following Thanksgiving. Consuming the desserts took two days.

The families staying at the Fisher House were very personable and appreciative of the time and effort that the "Meal Train *Sous Chefs*" took to schedule and prepare the Thanksgiving Day meal for them. They also were apologetic as they left on Thanksgiving Day for likely having to be absent to be with grandmas and their families in Albuquerque.

The Albuquerque MOAA "Meal Train *Sous Chefs*" lessons learned is that preparing and cooking for visitorsguests staying at the village inn is a demanding time and organizational task. Key to the successful completion of the meal was that each member of the "*Sous Chefs*" knew what mission accomplished entailed, enjoyed cooking, and followed the recipes working individually and side-by-side with team members to concurrently and sequentially prepare and complete on time ten (10) separate dishes on the menu.

The same can be said for the meal packing, KP duties, dish washing, and facility cleaning at the end of a nine-hour day.

Thank you, "chefs", for participating and providing appreciated assistance and service to three out-of-town families facing sorrow, emotional distress, and travel-weariness. Also, kudos to you from the VA Medical Center, Fisher House Manager and staff, and most importantly from the veteran's visiting granddaughters and families, and the parents of the National Guard airman.



ARMY \* MARINES \* NAVY \* AIR FORCE \* COAST GUAR

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"Celebrating & Honoring Military Women in all Branches of Service" Past~Present~Future

> This year we are: COMMEMORATING THE "FUTURE" MILITARY

Friday, 1 March 2024 At the AMERICAN LEGION POST 13 1201 Legion Rd NE • Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

0800 hrs - Registration Opens, Exhibits, Refreshments, Networking

0900 hrs - Opening Ceremonies

0930 hrs - Morning Entertainment

1200 hrs - Luncheon

#### Keynote Speaker

#### ALLISON M. WILLIAMS, C/Major AFROTC

Tribute XXXIX Chair: Diana Wong, USAF (Ret) (575) 640-3042 Registration Info: Ms. Mary Cox (505) 492-6412

www.TributeToWomenInTheMilitary.org

## Santa Fe National Cemetery Visitation Project Pilot Program

Posted on November 15, 2023 at 12:00 AM by Riann Martinez

Rio Metro and the New Mexico Rail Runner Express are proud to honor veterans and active duty military year-round with the Freedom to Ride Program. Over the past year, Rio Metro also found a way to recognize the families and loved ones of those who served with a pilot program transporting seniors from Albuquerque-area senior centers to the National Cemetery and back.

The Santa Fe National Cemetery Visitation Pilot Program stemmed from the suggestion of an individual attending a presentation by Marie Morra, Rio Metro Marketing Specialist. The individual pointed out the lack of convenient and affordable transportation options for people, especially seniors, residing in Albuquerque to access the cemetery to visit their loved ones interred there.

"I had not been able to visit my spouse's resting place for two and a half years because as I get older I'm not able to navigate the fast-paced interstate highway anymore," said the individual, who preferred not to be named.

#### Setting the Wheels in Motion

Morra took on the challenge of finding a way to address this issue. Setting the wheels in motion, she collaborated with Rail Runner Operations, the City of Albuquerque's Department of Senior Affairs, the City of Santa Fe's Senior Services Division, and the Santa Fe National Cemetery to develop a pilot program.

The pilot program consisted of three trips from Albuquerque area Senior Centers to the National Cemetery and back using the New Mexico Rail Runner Express as the primary mode of transportation. The trips took place on April 19, May 17, and June 14, 2023, and were limited to 50 people per trip.

Each collaborating entity was responsible for a different leg of the journey. The City of Albuquerque handled registration through their senior centers, bussed participants to the Rail Runner station, and provided sack lunches. Rio Metro provided transportation on the Rail Runner from Albuquerque to Santa Fe, informational posters, and lanyards for participants. The City of Santa Fe provided transportation from the Santa Fe Depot to the National Cemetery and back. The Santa Fe National Cemetery provided an informative presentation and shuttled participants to the grave sites they wanted to visit.

"We were able to bring together all of these groups that are involved with the seniors," said Morra. "They opened their doors to us, and we couldn't have done it without them. Each one of them provided a necessary component."

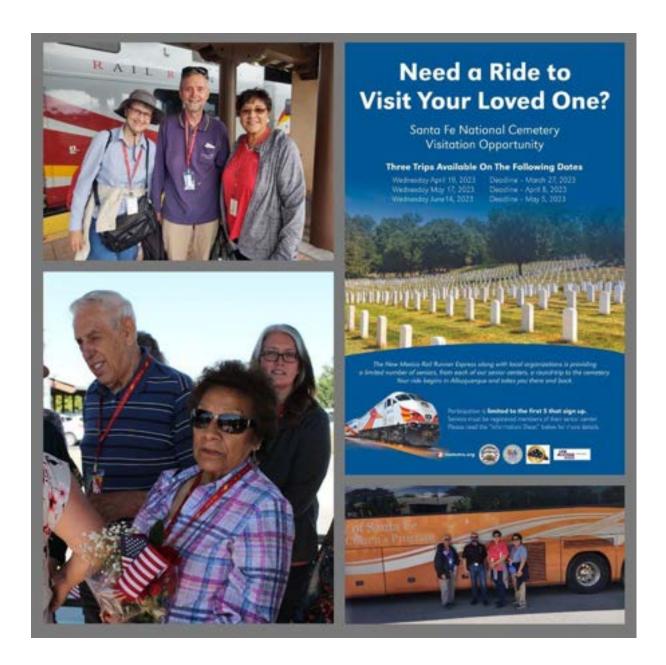
There was no cost to any of the seniors participating in this program.

### **Gratitude All Around**

"Everything was covered and it ran without a hitch," said Michael Montroy, another participant. "I really appreciated the trip to Santa Fe since I don't drive and I don't have a way to travel to the Veterans Cemetery. It made us all feel special and important. This is going to be a moment I will cherish for a long, long time."

"Having the opportunity to get this pilot project off the ground so that the families can visit loved ones has been a wonderful opportunity," said Morra.

Rio Metro is planning to continue this collaboration, with the goal of coordinating three more trips in the spring and summer of 2024.



#### Albuquerque Chapter MOAA Annual Memorial Service for our Members who passed away in 2022 and 2023 Mark your 2024 calendars and circle Saturday, May 4, 2024

Reported by LTC Michael Houck, USA (Ret), 2nd VP

The MOAA Memorial Service and social gathering will be held at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park Visitor Center Museum, Conference Center, and Patio at 1100 Louisiana Blvd. SE.

**This year to date**, those members that we will honor for their military service and advocacy contributions leadership during retirement are:

COL Joseph E Loisel, USA (Ret) – May 13, 2023 (husband of Nancy Loisel) Col Clark E. Aamodt, USAF (Ret) – October 5, 2023 (husband of Vicki Aamodt) Maj Gen Peter D Robinson, USAF (Ret) -- December 1, 2023 (husband of Pat Robinson)

Paul R Souder, USN – August 17, 2023

Worth "Dee" Lea – July 28, 2022

Marian "Lani" Young (wife of deceased Maj Gen James A. Young, USAF (Ret) – May 28, 2022



We hope to see you there.



#### CPT Stacey Goldstein-Dwyer, Psy.D. USA (Ret) President and Owner

GD Psych Services, LLC is dedicated to providing the greater Albuquerque, and Rio Rancho, NM region with supportive, solution-based psychological services provided by the most professional licensed clinical social workers, mental health counselors, and psychologists in the community. Our organization is fully committed to helping you maintain your mental health and happiness and providing you with the best solutions to overcome your greatest psychological challenges.

GD Psych Services is a woman-owned and service disabled veteran-owned small business.

2200 Grande Blvd., Suite B, Rio Rancho, NM. 87124 • (505) 218 - 6383 •Website: <u>https://gdpsychservices.com</u>



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 Clark E Aamodt, USAF (Ret) – October 5, 2023 (husband of Vicki Aamodt) Maj Gen Peter D Robinson, USAF (Ret) - December 1, 2023 (husband of Pat Robinson) 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 and US Space Force 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.

First Name	Middle Initial	Last Na	me	Rank		Service		Spouse's Name			
Street		Apt City		State	ZIP+4		Telephone Numbers				
E-Mail Address:				Nation	al Members	ship Number:					
(Active Duty	,Retired,	_Former Officer	,Surviving Spo	ouse) (Reg	ular,R	eserve,	National G	Guard (	_Male _	_Female)	
Would you be w	villing to assist in	the operation of	of the Albuquerque	Chapter of MC	DAA? If so	, what would	d be your n	nain area	of intere	est?	
Legislativ	e Affairs,Pub	olic Relations, _	Membership,	_Scholarship &	& Award, _	Personal	Affairs,	_Legal C	Counsel		
Newslette	er,Chaplain, _	Finance,	_Programs & Activ	vities, <u>Data</u>	Processin	g Other					
Do you have ar	n interest in any o	of the following	clubs:Breakf	ast Club,	Ski Club, _	Tours/I	Events,	Golf			
Please make ch	eck payable to:	Albuquerque	e Chapter, MOAA		Mail to:		hip, Albuq	uerque (	Chapter,	, MOAA	
Applicant's Signature:			Date:			P.O. Box 5071 Albuquerque, NM 87185-5071					
			MOAA Membership Application Form 1-2017			Visit us on the web at <u>www.albumoaa.org</u>					

MOAA Membership Application Form 1-2017