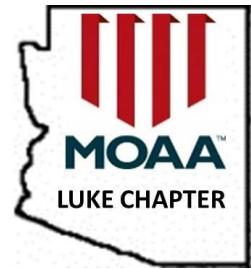


The Luke Chapter

NewsGram



Volume 34 Issue 6

Visit www.lukemoaa.org

Mar 2026

President's Message

by David Ciesielski

Greetings from your new President! I'm David, a proud Peoria resident and fellow veteran, thrilled to step into this role and continue our shared mission of "Never Stop Serving." With my background in service and community work, I'm eager to lead us forward while honoring the dedication that's defined our chapter for years.



Before diving into our priorities, I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to Gene Wikle, our previous president, for his exceptional leadership in continuing the chapter's 5-star MOAA status. His commitment and vision have set a strong foundation for us to build upon -- thank you, Gene!

As we look ahead, a few priorities stand out in my mind. Our membership is rich with experience, but we're facing the natural challenge of an aging base. To keep our chapter vibrant, we need to welcome younger veterans and officers—their fresh ideas will strengthen our programs and ensure MOAA's impact lasts for generations. If you know a Commissioned or Warrant Officer, encourage them to join!

We're also seeking enthusiastic members to fill key board positions! For years, the chapter leadership team was supported by a core of rock stars. For some, those years turned into decades of support. Now we are experiencing an acceleration of vacancies. Needless to say, board positions are essential to our success,

Coming Events

++++++

12 Mar 26

1st Lt Chris Loo

My Experience in the F-22

++++++

9 Apr 26

Paula Pedene, APR, Fellow PRSA
A Sacred Trust: Courage, Accountability, and the Duty to Speak

++++++

Board Meetings are on the 1st Thursday of each month, September through May. *All members are welcome to attend.*

The Mar Board Meeting will be held on ZOOM on 5 Mar at 1 PM.

**Non-Board Members:
Contact Mike Kramer for a ZOOM invite.**

Inside

pgs 3 -- 4: Programs

pg 5: Donors

pg 6: Chaplain

pgs 7 – 8: Surviving Spouses

pg 9: Legislative

pgs 10 -- 11: Board Briefs

pg 12: Vets

pg 14: Mbrshp

pg 15: Dinner Res

This NewsGram is available by email or USPS mail.

and we'll provide all the guidance needed to get you started. If you're ready to contribute your skills, please reach out—let's build a strong team together.

Finally, fundraising will be a focus to support scholarships, outreach, and advocacy. I'll be driving efforts for both personal donations from our members and partnerships with local businesses. Every bit helps amplify our support for military families, surviving spouses and veterans. Watch for upcoming campaigns, and consider how you or your personal or professional network can get involved.

I also have some truly exciting news about our scholarship program. A generous donor has gifted \$100,000 to our program in honor of her late husband. At our May dinner, we will proudly honor **Ms. Rose Mary Miller** for her extraordinary generosity and celebrate her husband's legacy and military service by renaming our scholarship program the **Richard L. Miller Memorial Scholarship Program**.

This wonderful contribution is a powerful reminder of the difference we can make. I strongly encourage all of you to consider donating to the Community Fund so we can continue and expand the Chapter's vital initiatives.

In closing, I'm grateful for this opportunity and look forward to connecting at our next meeting. Together, we'll make the Luke Chapter even stronger. Feel free to contact me with ideas or questions—let's stay in touch!

NEVER STOP SERVING!

David "Mudd" Ciesielski, Brig Gen (Retired), USAF
703-447-0307 / david.ciesielski@gmail.com”



F-22

LUKE CHAPTER MOAA 2025-2026 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	BG David Ciesielski, ANG (Ret)	703-447-0307
1 st VICE PRESIDENT	VACANT	
2 nd VICE PRES/SURVIVING SPOUSES PGM	SS Linda Wolverton	623-505-7244
SECRETARY/Compliance Director	COL Mike Kramer, USAFR (Ret)	720-563-9953
TREASURER	Jack Coate	916-960-6820

DIRECTORS/COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

PGMS & COMM CMTE	RDML Craig Quigley, USN (Ret)	757-419-1164
RESERVATIONS CMTE	SS Ellie Daly	480-326-2021
SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR	BG David Ciesielski, ANG (Ret)	703-447-0307
LEGISLATION (Acting)	LTGEN John Regni, USAF (Ret)	623-935-6433
COMPLIANCE/VETERAN SUPPORT	COL Mike Kramer, USAFR (Ret)	623-234-4785
HOSPITALITY	VAC	
JROTC LIAISON	CPT Buz Isban, USN (Ret)	623-512-0765
MEMBERSHIP	1LT Ben Hayes, USA (Fmr)	323-791-2755
NEWSGRAM EDITOR	LTC Scott Phillips, USAF (Ret)	623-340-9158
LUKE AFB LIAISON	COL Beth Johnson, USA (Ret)	703-405-0347
CHAPLAIN	MAJ Fannalou Guggisberg, USAF (Ret)	623-975-2362
WEBMASTER	LTC Bob Nelson, USMC (Ret)	719-322-4130
LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION/TRANSITION	COL Stephen Pohl, USAFR (Ret)	425-290-2471
DIRECTORS AT LARGE	COL Jerry Wojtas, USA (Ret)	623-544-4477
	Mrs Pam Wojtas	623-544-4477
	MAJ Robert Kosmal, USAR (Ret)	623-850-1219
	LTGEN John Regni, USAF (Ret)	623-935-6433
PRESIDENT, COMMUNITY FUND BOARD	MG Shanna Woyak, ANG (Ret)	623-640-1705
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	MAJ Gene Wikle, USAF (Ret)	480-352-4575
PRESIDENT, AZ COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS	CAPT Charles Vaughn, USN (Ret)	505-553-4364

The **NewsGram** is published monthly from October through May by and for the members of Luke Chapter, MOAA. The Chapter is affiliated with the Military Officers Association of America and the Arizona Council of Chapters. ***The Chapter provides non-partisan support for active-duty military and veterans, and their families.***



Programs by Craig Quigley

12 Mar 26

1st Lt Chris Loo

My Experience in the F-22

Join us to hear a first-hand account of what it's like to fly the **F-22 Raptor**. Lt Loo has extensive experience in the aircraft. Highlights of his experience include:

- 2018: Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering from ASU
- 2019: Distinguished Graduate undergraduate pilot training (T-6, T-38)
- 2020: Basic Course F-22A Raptor
- 2021: 2-Ship Flight lead F-22
- 2022: 4-Ship Flight lead F-22
- 2022: Mission Commander F-22
- 2023: Air and Space Commendation Medal



Lt Loo

In Operation IRON STORM, Lt Loo flew with 95 joint assets for two seven-hour missions, conducting nine intercepts against foreign military aircraft to ensure a free and open INDOPACIFIC.



F-22 Raptor

LUKE CHAPTER COMMUNITY FUND 2025-2026 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT/CHAIRMAN	MG Shanna Woyak, ANG (Ret)	623-640-1705
VICE PRESIDENT	VACANT	
SECRETARY (Acting)	COL Mike Kramer, USAFR (Ret)	720-563-9953
TREASURER/DIRECTOR	Jack Coate	916-960-6820
COMPLIANCE/DIRECTOR	COL Mike Kramer, USAFR (Ret)	720-563-9953
SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR	BG David Ciesielski, ANG (Ret)	703-447-0307
CHAPLAIN	Rev MAJ Fannalou Guggisberg, USAF (Ret)	623-975-2362
DIRECTORS	COL Beth Johnson, USA (Ret)	703-405-0347
	COL Lou Tronzo, USAF (Ret)	623-208-8899
	CWO2 Ron Walk, USA (Fmr)	856-418-8325
	Mrs Pam Wojtas	623-544-4477
	MAJ Mike Byers, USAF (Ret)	623-606-5288
	LTC Wyck Furcron, USAF (Ret)	703-615-0973
	Mrs Val Kuhn	623-556-1295
	MAJ Robert Kosmal, USAR (Ret)	623-850-1219



He earned 15th Operations Group Flight Lead of the Quarter recognition after his performance in three high-visibility deployments to Japan and Australia.

9 Apr 26

Paula Pedene, APR, Fellow PRSA

A Sacred Trust: Courage, Accountability, and the Duty to Speak

Woman of faith, wife, mother, public relations counselor, and veterans advocate.



Paula Pedene

Paula Pedene is a nationally recognized advocate and speaker on leadership ethics. A pioneering whistleblower at the Phoenix VA, she played a key role in exposing the national wait time scandal, inspiring a wave of whistleblowers across the Department of Veterans Affairs. Her story is detailed in her award-winning book, *A Sacred Duty: How a Whistleblower Took on the VA and Won*, underscoring the power of perseverance on moral grounds.

Pedene served in the United States Navy during both the Cold War and Gulf War as a broadcast journalist. After her second enlistment, she transitioned from broadcasting to public relations in the federal government where she had a stellar career. She earned five prestigious Public Relations Society of America Silver Anvils, Public Relations Professional of the Year honors, the John McCain Leadership Award, induction into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame, the Defense Information School Hall of Fame, and more than 50 other awards of distinction.

Despite a hereditary eye condition, Pedene remains dedicated to advocacy. She now serves as the Executive Director of the nonprofit Honoring America's Veterans, which plans events to honor veterans throughout the year.

Paula and her husband, Navy Commander Bill Pedene, reside in Scottsdale, Arizona. They are blessed with two beautiful sons, Robert and Steven.

New Members

John Burr, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

John "Doc" Menter, COL, USA (Ret), and his wife, Jeanette

Scott Stirewalt, COL, USA (Ret), and his wife, Carrie

Welcome!

EDITOR'S NOTE

I am having to resign as NewsGram Editor for health reasons. I'm going to try to complete this program year – in other words, the April and May issues. I cannot continue in the Fall.

I will, of course, assist my replacement in transition.

This is my 13th year as Editor. I've done it for so long because it allowed me to be Carol's caregiver while contributing to the Chapter.

I'll continue to stay involved in the Chapter to the extent that I am able.

Scott

A backward poet writes inverse.



Oline Shaw wins the Crown Royal!

**LUKE CHAPTER COMMUNITY FUND
SCHOLARSHIP & VETERANS SUPPORT
DONATIONS 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2025**

MEMBER DONORS

Gold - \$2,500+

Major Michael Byers
Col Michael Kramer

Silver - \$1,000+

1LT Ben & Terry Hayes
Anonymous
Col Marty & Barb Chambliss
Col Jerry & Pam Wojtas
CDR Charlie & Susan Kice
Captain Bob & Judy Cowan
COL Beth Johnson
LTC Dennis DeFrain
Major Robert Kosmel

Bronze - \$500+

CDR Robert & Margaret Archibald
LCDR David & Lillian Fauver
COL Catherine & Christopher Lassiter
Lt Col Wyck & Jeanne Furcron

Benefactors - \$250+

Elinor Daly

Friends - \$100+

Lt Gen John Regni
Major Gene & Susan Wikle
LDCR Neal Harris
Lt Col Philip & Carole Korzilius
Col Roger & Arlys Withee
COL & Mrs. Robert Coutchie
Linda Wolverton
Captain Terry Muse
Jane Chadwick
CPT Harry & Mary Alice Quinn
RDML Craig & Jacalyn Quigley

NON-MEMBER DONORS

Platinum - \$10,000+

Scott & Jane Wine

Gold - \$2,500+

PebbleCreek Men's 9 Hole Golf Assn

Silver - \$1,000+

James Greenwald
Andrew Distribution, Inc.
Ray & Jan Landskroner
G&W Electric Co. - John Mueller
The Colonnade
Helix International - Drew Naismith
Liberty Automotive Group
West Valley National Bank
LaNelle B. Robson Foundation

Bronze - \$500+

Clifford Enterprises - Craig Clifford

Friends - \$100+

Jeffrey & Marea Kahn
Barbara Maier
Randy & Deborah Knutzon
Dr. Leslie Davis & Mrs. Hazel Davis
Bryan Newman
BMD Printing & Business Services
Legacy Advisors - Raymond James
Bonita Popejoy
Susan Powell
CJ Neumann

Chaplain's Corner

by Rev. Fannalou Guggisberg

Loving Acts

Give a listening ear. "The first act of love is the giving of attention." (Dallas Willard) Turn from what you're doing toward your spouse with your full focus to hear what is said.



Give understanding. Reflect back what is heard to check and clarify the message. Put the sentence in your own words and listen to the response. Ask probing questions if you sense a deeper concern may underlie the communication. "Being heard is so close to being loved as to be almost indistinguishable."

Give time. If busy schedules keep you apart, compare calendars and schedule times for sharing, catching up, relaxing together at home, or going out for a meal or entertainment.

Give service. Do something extra or unasked that pleases the other person. Besides the usual division of tasks, offer to assist with something else that is needed.

Give truth. Be honest with each other and also yourself.

Give prayer. Pray for your spouse. Have prayer times together.

Give encouragement. Recognize the effort put forth in dedication or struggle to accomplish a goal or task. "Attaboy" or "Attagirl" adds the honey of affirmation to every achievement.

These acts can also adapt to interactions between two persons, close friends, a parent to a child, child to parent, or between siblings.

Peace and blessings.

Never Stop Serving – As a Chapter Recruiter

Feb Raffle Winners



Ferrero Rocher Chocolate
Sharon Becker

Crown Royal
Oline Shaw

Spanish XVOO
John Menter

Daou Cabernet Sauvignon
Mike Jordan

Dubai Style Chocolates
Karen Byers

Valentine Chocolates 2 Sets
Bonita Vermulen

Congrats!



Valentine's Day came two days early for Sharon Becker!

Surviving Spouses

*By Linda Wolverton, Rosemary Eaton,
Marilu Trainor, & Pat Stafflin*



LEGISLATION AFFECTING CAREGIVERS AND SURVIVING SPOUSES LEGISLATION

No changes this month in pending Legislation

Caring for Survivors Act of 2025

Summary: H.R.680 — 119th Congress (2025-2027) Introduced in House (01/23/2005) It has since passed Veterans Affairs Committee.

It would increase Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) pay from the current 43% to 55% for those with 100% disability. Also, it would reduce the number of years of disability to qualify from 10 to 5 years.

Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, And Retirement Act.

Summary: S. 879 - 119th Congress (2025-2027)
A bill to expand medical, employment, and other benefits for individuals serving as family caregivers for certain veterans, and for other purposes.

Latest Senate Action: Committee Veterans Affairs is discussion. 07-30-25

HR2138 is a related bill in the House.

STATE OF ARIZONA Property Tax Exemptions:

Remember in the State of Arizona Unmarried Surviving Spouses - If the veteran had a 100% service-connected disability rating, the

surviving spouse may be eligible for a full property tax exemption on their primary residence.



OUTREACH -- WHAT'S NEW?

On Friday, 6 February, our Surviving Spouses journeyed to the past. Their trip was to Falcon Field in Mesa, AZ. [Falcon Field](#) served as the No. 4 British Flying Training School (BFTS) during World War II. It was founded in 1941. The field was chosen for its ideal flying weather to train British pilots, as training in the UK was deemed too dangerous due to German attacks. 2,300 British cadets completed their training here between 1941 and 1945.

The field was originally intended to be "Thunderbird Field III" and construction was developed with financial backing from stars like Jimmy Stewart, Cary Grant, and Ginger Rogers.

Commemorative Air Force (CAF) - Since 1978, the airport has been home to a world-renowned museum that maintains flying WWII aircraft like the B-17G "Sentimental Journey".



YOU AND I

MEET MEMBER Rose Mary Miller

Rose Mary is from Milwaukee, WI. Her parents spoke Polish in their youth, but became bilingual by necessity working on their farm. Her father finished 2nd grade, and mother went thru eighth grade.

Rose Mary did her part on their Milwaukee farm. When WWII began, her father was not drafted

because he was the support to the family. After the war, Dad and Mom moved to the farm.



She wanted more out of life. Her choices at that time were to marry and be a mother, a secretary, or a nurse. Well, that was not for Rose Mary. After high school, she went to work in a transistor factory in the summers during WWII. Since her home was not close to her work, she lived with a cousin. While she did the same work as her male counterparts, she was paid a "woman's wage." She still wanted more. During a conversation with a co-worker, he advised her to 'get out now' before she became invested in her job.

College was not supported by her family. But she went on her own, working summers at the factory for extra money as long as she was in school. Rose Mary attended the University of Wisconsin majoring in English. Afterward, she taught at Pulaski High School in South Milwaukee. She had a second job as a waitress. Her school administrator received a telegram with a message for her to work in another school, Custer High School. She maintained a summer job at a bar. Little did she know this one was owned by the Mafia. One afternoon, the restaurant's owner's son told her to go home early and gave her a ride home. After she left, there was a 'happening' in the restaurant alley with negative results.

She remained close to her cousin and friend from college. Together, they decided to take a ride 'out west' where they would all get jobs. So, they all resigned from their jobs and took off, sleeping in the car and sleeping bags along the way. The weary wanderers eventually got jobs. Hers was in Ontario, CA. She lived in Riverside and taught at a high school in Rialto.

One of her apartment acquaintances introduced her to Clifford, who was in the Army. Cliff was from Montana and had studied Economics in school. Their marriage lasted 20 years, but they were unhappy, so they decided to go their separate ways.

Following this, she moved back to Wisconsin where she remained single for 8 years. She wanted to move to start a fresh life and took off to work in Idaho. Her girlfriends took her out for a drink over the 4th of July, and a good-looking police officer was sitting at the bar. He waived at them and bought them drinks. She thanked him and gave him her business card. He sent one back and had jokingly written on the back of the card "picked up for solicitation." They asked him over, he came and they chatted for a while. He invited Rose Mary to dinner. That Christmas she had a ring. She was not sure, but he said, 'you keep the ring' when you are sure 'put it on.' It took her 6 months, but she did. Rose Mary and Richard were married June 24, 1967, and were happily married for 30 years before her Richard was deployed to a higher level in 2024.

WE ARE AVAILABLE

Having walked the walk, we understand that many questions may be raised in your mind at a time when thinking completely through things may be difficult. We are here to listen and discuss possible answers or directions, should you have a need.

Your SS Leaders:

Linda Wolverton

623-505-7244

ltcolphillip@gmail.com

Rosemary Eaton

303-521-7956

eatonrosemary@gmail.com

Pat Staflin

623.826.2669

patstaflin@gmail.com

Marilu Trainor – Editor

303-907-6627

marilu01@msn.com

Legislative Liaison

by John Regni, Director

1. Annually in April, MOAA National conducts the **Advocacy in Action (AiA)** campaign where Board, Council and Chapter members fan out across Capitol Hill and meet with all 535 members of Congress—to secure their support for key legislation supporting our veterans and protecting our earned benefits. This year will focus on three items:



The Advocacy in Action Team

The Shutdown Fairness Act (S. 3168) ensures members of the armed services, to include the reserve component, receive their pay during any future lapse in appropriations. As written, the bill does not explicitly include members of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps or the NOAA Commissioned Corps, who should be added before the bill moves to a vote.

The Military Care, Access, Reporting, and Evaluation (Military CARE) Act (H.R. 6796): Requires a standardized, user-friendly digital platform for beneficiaries to file and track Military Treatment Facility access-to-care complaints. The bill requires real-time transmission of complaints to patient advocates for resolution. Mandates quarterly aggregation of data to the Defense Health Agency (DHA) and annual reports to Congress. And creates transparency into systemic access issues such as specialty care delays, pediatric shortages, and administrative burdens.

Protections from Predatory Claims Agents. Federal law requires only accredited representative - attorneys, claims agents, or Veteran Service Organizations/Officers (VSOs) - assist veterans in filing, presenting, or appealing

VA disability claims. For-profit, unaccredited individuals and companies using misleading promises and pressure tactics to "prepare, coach or consult" on VA claims and charge veterans contingency-style fees tied to their disability rating determination. The VA's enforcement mechanism to prevent these unaccredited agents from charging unauthorized fees was eliminated in 2006 allowing the predatory business model to flourish. The growth of these predatory claims companies has been dramatic. Congress must pass legislation to reinstate criminal penalties for unaccredited agents charging veterans to access their earned disability benefits.

Our Luke Chapter had a head start on AiA with a Jan 20th meeting with Senator Mark Kelly in his Phoenix office, and reviewed the basis for our three requested actions. He is fully supportive of our uniformed services men and women and families.



2. The **Arizona Legislature** is up and running, with over 1,400 Bills already submitted. First on our list and our top priority are seven Bills to waive property taxes for 100% permanently disabled veterans, and maybe widows/widowers too. The Veterans Caucus has been reviewing and in time they'll likely settle on one Bill...and if it gets passed, this item may be added to the 2026 election proposition list for voter consideration. We will keep our Chapter members advised when it is time to engage with our State representatives and Senators urging their support on this potential tax break for our veterans who are 100% medically disabled.



Board Briefs

by *Mike Kramer, Secretary & Compliance Director*

Luke Chapter (LC)-5 February 2026 Board Meeting

- Interim President BG David Ciesielski assumed office of Luke Chapter MOAA, with the resignation of former President Gene Wikle.
- Treasurer Jack Coate reported that the current asset balance of Luke Chapter on 31 January 2026 is \$39,746 of which \$27,745 is unrestricted equity.
- Lt Gen Regni submitted his extensive report on legislative liaison activities at MOAA, AZCOC and for Luke Chapter (available as requested). The Arizona Legislature is considering bills which would grant property tax exemption in Arizona for permanently disabled veterans, subject to an income limitation. Luke Chapter and the AZ Council of Chapters are actively lobbying in support of these bills, and other potential bills of consequence for the military community, active and retired. Gen Regni and others met with Senator Mark Kelly and staff in January apprising him of MOAA Advocacy in Action and Arizona legislative priorities, and in turn hearing Senator Kelly's legislative priorities.
- RDML Craig Quigley, director of Communications, Programs and Venues, reviewed plans for lunch and dinner meetings at the Chianti Room, PebbleCreek, in Goodyear, for February through May 2026. RDML Quigley will be the featured speaker at the February 12 luncheon.
- Buz Isban will represent Luke Chapter and participate on February 10 with the Chapter flag in the annual Massing of the Colors supporting United States military members, active and former, at the Palm Ridge Recreation Center in Sun City West.



- Steve Pohl, Nominating Director, urgently requests candidates for office in FY 2026-27 for President, Secretary of Community Fund, Editor of NewsGram, and other offices. He stressed that the Chapter cannot function without active, engaged leaders.
- Mike Kramer reported that the corporate Annual Report to the Arizona Corporation Commission for Luke Chapter is due in mid-April. Also, Mike filed the required Form 1099-NEC reports with the Internal Revenue Service as required in January.
- Mike submitted the annual Levels of Excellence nomination for Luke Chapter to MOAA in January. We fully anticipate a Five-Star rating for calendar year 2025, keeping an unbroken top rating alive for more than 20 years.
- Mike briefed the Board on IRS required membership percentages to continue qualifying for income tax-exempt status as a Section 501(c)(19) veterans' organization. Unless our chapter membership grows its membership, the Chapter may be in jeopardy of losing that status.
- The Veterans' Relief Grant program has granted about \$15,400 since October to seven financially needy veterans and their families for housing, utilities, car repair, and related expenses. Approximately \$10,000 remains available this year for grants to needy veterans.
- Luke Chapter currently has 146 Members on our roster, including 112 Regular Members and 34 Surviving Spouses, with 3 "Honorary" members. Ben is finishing canvassing of dues-delinquent members, who will be dropped soon from the Chapter roster. Ben will lead the chapter's recruitment efforts of the Membership Recruitment Committee to about 1300 MOAA members in the West Valley who are not currently Arizona chapter members.
- Beth Johnson, Luke Chapter Liaison, advised that the RAO Retiree Appreciation

Day has been re-scheduled for 26 September 2026. She reported on the upcoming Luke AFB Days and air demonstration shows set for 21-22 March.

- Linda Wolverton, SS Liaison, said her group is looking forward to visiting the Arizona Flying Museum in Mesa, Arizona, on February 6. Also, our SS's have signed and mailed over 140 messages of appreciation to mostly elderly, former military members in poor health. Linda submitted a written report to the Board (available as requested).

- NewsGram Editor Scott Phillips announced his retirement as NewsGram editor as of the end of this program year. The Chapter is grateful beyond measure for the dedicated service Scott has given to the Chapter for more than 20 years as Editor, Board Director, Past President for two years, photographer, and in many other capacities. Thank you, Scott!

Luke Chapter Community Fund- February 11, 2026 Board Meeting

- Total assets of Community Fund on 31 January 2026 are about \$193,341, with unrestricted equity of \$40,400.
- **Mrs. Rose Mary Miller**, Surviving Spouse of Captain Richard L. Miller, **donated \$100,000 to the Community Fund** in honor and memory of her beloved husband, Richard. These funds are held as 'restricted' assets of Community Fund, to be invested, administered and distributed in accordance with agreed conditions of the gift to benefit the Community Fund Scholarship program over approximately a ten-year period. We are deeply grateful to Rose Mary for her wonderful support to our Scholarship program!
- Annual fund-raising activities are underway this spring in 2026 under direction of President Shanna Woyak and the Community Fund Board of Directors.

- Mike Kramer drafted the annual letter requesting local business donations and support to Community Fund charities. The letter will be sent soon to 10-12 current and potential donor businesses.
- The Board continued discussions and plans for fund-raising efforts this Spring to support Luke Chapter Community Fund charitable distributions in the coming fiscal year.



New Members CDR Paul Pompier, USN (Ret), and his wife, Jana



New Members COL John Menter, USA (Ret), and his wife, Jeanette



New Members COL Erik Vermulen, USAF (Ret), and his wife, Bonita

Helping Needy Vets

by Mike Kramer, Relief Committee Chair

A Navy Veteran and Family Keep their Home---for Now

Luke Chapter Community Fund flexed its financial budgets and went the extra mile to help Jennifer and her three young boys, aged 3, 5, and 8, to cope with unemployment and potential foreclosure of her mortgage.

Jennifer's grant application was considered by a panel of officers consisting of Beth Johnson, Robert Kosmal, Jack Coate, and Chair Mike Kramer. She served her country in the US Navy Reserve for eight years from 2015 to 2022. Jennifer was trained as a Boatswain's Mate on active duty and assigned to a Naval Reserve Unit in California. Jennifer was discharged with an Honorable Discharge at the grade of E-4, rank of Boatswains Mate 3. Though qualified for reenlistment, she felt she had to leave her reserve position due to pressing child-care and financial pressures. The middle child is diagnosed as autistic and has behavior difficulties in school. He requires constant supervision.

Now 45 years of age, Jennifer was making a living as the sole support for her three children as an LPN nurse. Unfortunately, she lost her position in November and has not yet found a follow-on job. She has no regular income. She feeds the family from church food banks. Consequently, she has now fallen five months behind on the mortgage and sadly may soon lose her home to foreclosure. In the meantime, her 20+ year old Honda sedan required major repairs to stay on the road. A working car and functional phone are essential to getting and keeping a job. Of course, Jennifer also owed for past due utilities.

Faced with a living situation requiring 'triage,' the panel authorized a grant with Board concurrence for \$3,500, enabling Jennifer to hold on to the house for now and to get and keep a job. Finding regular work is her highest priority at this time. She plans to transition to an apartment should a mortgage 'work-out' plan be unsuc-

cessful and foreclosure occur. We could not bring the mortgage current. But we paid arrears on the water bill and cell phone. We authorized \$2,200 for auto repairs. Jennifer now has a ser-



"Jennifer" and her family.

viceable vehicle and Verizon restored cell service. She has had several promising job interviews.

We cannot work miracles for destitute veterans, but we did enable Jennifer to take the 'next step' in financial recovery in getting a job. Luke Chapter never stops helping our fellow service members, veterans, and their families.

Never Stop Serving



Our very own RDML Craig Quigley was the speaker at our February Luncheon.

MOAA Luke Chapter
Scholarship and
Veterans Fund
salutes our
corporate sponsors

LIBERTY **GMC**
LIBERTY **BUICK**

SONORAN
TECHNOLOGY

BURGER KING
Barnett Enterprises, LLC

Mahoney Law Office
Wills, Trusts, Estates

 Monarch Auction and Estate Services
Providing solutions for the sale of your assets

LEGACY
FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP

 WEST VALLEY
NATIONAL BANK

Robson Resort
COMMUNITIES
LeNelle R. Robson
Foundation

The Colonnade
Sun Health

Osborne Jewelers
THE STORE
INTEGRITY BUILT

BMD Printing & Business Services
Brian Day
623.925.8877
info@bmdprinting.com | www.bmdprinting.com
facebook.com/BMDPrinting
15605 W Roosevelt St, Goodyear, AZ 85338

Robert Haynes
robert@monarchauction.com
480-277-8156
Servicing Arizona
Like us on FB @monarchauction
www.monarchauction.com
CS Scanned with CamScanner

 Monarch Auction and Estate Services
Providing solutions for the sale of your assets

Osborne Jewelers
THE STORE
INTEGRITY BUILT

15350 W McDowell Rd
Goodyear, AZ 85395 623.925.1815
OsborneJewelersinc.com

VISIT: www.moaa.org/takeaction

Membership Information

Dues are \$25 per year for Member and \$15 per year for Surviving Spouses
Make checks payable to
"Luke Chapter MOAA" and mail to:

Luke Chapter MOAA
P.O. Box 5072
Sun City West, AZ 85376-5072

Contact Info

For more information about the Luke Chapter, contact Membership Chair:
email: Membership@lukemoaa.org

OR

visit our website at
www.LukeMOAA.org

RESERVATION INFO

(SEE NEXT PAGE)

NOTE:

The March Luncheon and the April and May Dinners are at PebbleCreek at the Tuscany Falls Clubhouse. Nonresident attendees need to enter through the manned gate at 15872 W Clubhouse Dr. (West side)

PLEASE mail your reservation so that it will be received by the date indicated. If you are running late, CALL or TEXT Jack Coate (916-960-6820) by that date to tell him "I'll pay at the door."

We must provide an accurate count and stick to it.

Membership Application

LAST NAME: _____

FIRST NAME: _____

MI or GO BY: _____

RANK & SERVICE: _____

ACTIVE, RESERVES, NATIONAL GUARD, or SURVIVING SPOUSE? (circle one)

ACTIVE, FORMER, or RETIRED? (circle one)

SERVED FROM: (m/y) _____ TO: _____

DATE of BIRTH: (m/d/y) _____

SPOUSE : _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

NEWSGRAM (monthly newsletter):
USPS Mail **or** EMAIL (circle one)

MOAA National Member? YES / NO

If "YES", MOAA #: _____

If "NO", your Chapter membership includes an automatic enrollment in the Basic (Free) membership in MOAA.

REFERRED BY: _____

TODAY'S DATE: _____

Communicate with Jack by email or text only from 15 Feb to 20 Mar.

Payments should be to the P.O. Box or pay at the door.

MENU**SOUTHWESTERN
BUFFET**

Flour tortillas, tortilla chips, & taco shells
 Assorted toppings
 Tequila lime grilled chicken
 Seasoned ground beef
 Spanish rice
 Refried beans
 Cinnamon churros
 Water, coffee, tea
 \$36.00

(Price includes taxes, tips, & closed captioning.)

PebbleCreek

12 Mar 2026
11:30 – 1:30

MENU

Smoked Pork Chop w/
 Sweet Potato Hash,
 Asparagus, Pineapple
 Chutney
 OR

Herb Roasted Chicken
 Breast w/ Yukon Gold
 Potatoes, Brussels
 Sprouts
 OR

Spinach Artichoke
 Gnocchi

Caesar Salad
 Spiced Carrot Cake
 Rolls & Butter
 Coffee, Tea, Water
 \$41.00

PebbleCreek

9 Apr 2026

Social – 5:00 p.m.
 Program – 5:30 p.m.
 Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

12 Mar 2026 Luncheon Reservation at PebbleCreek

Register **ONLINE** or make checks payable to "Luke Chapter MOAA".
 Mail checks to: **Luke Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 5072, SCW, AZ 85376**

For questions and information, email
 or text

Jack Coate, jrcoate@gmail.com 916-960-6820.

Please mail to REACH us no later than end of day, 2 Mar

Request _____ luncheon reservations for Thursday, **12 Mar 2026, 11:30**
 at **PebbleCreek**. My Check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

**Luncheon from 11:30 to 1:30. Buffet.
 Open seating. Casual Attire. In the Chianti Room,
 Tuscany Falls Clubhouse, PebbleCreek**

Member Name (Printed): _____

Member Signature: _____

9 Apr 2026 Dinner Reservation at PebbleCreek

Register **ONLINE** or make checks payable to "Luke Chapter MOAA".
 Mail checks to: **Luke Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 5072, SCW, AZ 85376**

For questions and information,

Please mail to REACH us no later than 30 Mar

Request _____ dinner reservations for Thursday evening, **9 Apr 2026**,
 at **PebbleCreek**. My Check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

[] Reserve table for (3 to 8) _____ people. **Sitting at my table (including me):**

Number of Pork Chicken Gnocchi

_____ (TABLE HOST) _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

Member Name (Printed): _____

Member Signature: _____

Luke Chapter
P.O Box 5072
Sun City West, AZ 85376



Never Stop Serving

The Military Officers Association of America is a nonprofit veteran's association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and to preserving the earned entitlements of members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. Membership is open to anyone who holds or has ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, or NOAA and their surviving spouses. For membership information, see previous page.

APPLY
FIRST
CLASS
POSTAGE



Show your colors by proudly displaying the Arizona "Veteran Plate" on your vehicle. Show how veterans help veterans.



**LIVING THE
Good Life**

Sun Health Communities offers a vibrant and carefree lifestyle through our three Life Plan Communities and an exceptional Sun Health At Home® program for those looking to continue living independently wherever they call home.

SunHealthCommunities.org
(623) 537-7540




Sun Health
COMMUNITIES



Nancy Muslin
REALTOR®, GRI
www.NancyMuslin.com

ONE REALTYONEGROUP

cell: (623) 910-5469
office: (623) 777-4415
fax: (866) 331-3672
email: nancymuslin@gmail.com

14815 W Bell Rd. Ste 206
Surprise, AZ 85374



Standing with you
at every stage.

97017

1-800-247-2192 • www.moainsurance.com/plans