

President's Message

by Gene Wickle

As we close out our 2024 -- 2025 calendar of activities, I want to thank all our chapter officers, board members, and committee members for their outstanding service to the chapter and our community. Thank you to all our members for your participation and financial contributions to our chapter. Thank you for your countless hours of service to our chapter, veterans and community. You have made this a great year.



Chapter Officers Continue Serving -- Thank you to Linda Wolverton, Mike Kramer, and Jack Coate for offering to continue their service for another year as chapter officers. I appreciate the support of our members for choosing to reelect me as your chapter president and these officers for another year of service to the chapter. Thank you to David Ciesielski for volunteering to serve as First Vice President. Thank you to our Board of Directors for your devoted service. I look forward to serving you, our veterans, our community, and having fun along the way and to "Never Stop Serving."

New Chapter Programs -- Beginning in October, the chapter will host monthly dinner and luncheon programs. Through the months of October 2025 to May 2026 the chapter will alternate months between hosting a dinner program and a luncheon. A committee has been formed to schedule the dinner and luncheon programs. New venue locations will be secured, and we can begin planning for special guest speakers and programs that will be of interest to you. We

Coming Events

+++++

8 May 2025

RADM Connie Mariano

White House Doctor

Scholarship Winners Recognized

+++++

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

The May Board Meeting will be held on **ZOOM** on **1 May** at **1 PM.**

Non-Board Members:

Contact Mike Kramer for a ZOOM invite.

Inside

pgs 2--3: Program

pg 4: Chaplain

pgs 4--5: Vets

pgs 5--6: Legislative

pgs 6--8: Surviving Spouses

pg 17: Dinner Res

This NewsGram is available by email or USPS mail.

will continue to have a season of great programs and fellowship.

Our chapter will continue to support the college scholarship program, the veterans grant relief program, JROTC awards program and the Luke AFB "Turkey for Troops" Thanksgiving program. I invite all of you to join us in supporting these programs. The chapter needs your talent and financial contributions to continue providing outstanding support to our veterans and community.

Membership – Our chapter is experiencing a gradual decline in membership. Several factors contribute to this. We need to continue to actively seek out and recruit new members.

Our board of directors will work with you to generate activities and programs that will be of interest to you and to our younger generation of officers. I am confident that our chapter will remain strong and continue to serve the West Valley.

Memorial Day -- There is a special tribute to fallen warriors on pages 9 and 10.

This day is set aside to remember with gratitude and pride all those who served and died for our country and our freedom. May your day be filled with memories and peace. **God Bless America.**

Never Stop Serving

Programs

by Dennis DeFrain

8 May 2025

Rear Admiral Connie Mariano

White House Doctor

Breaking Barriers and Shattering the Glass Ceiling

Dr. Connie Mariano is used to breaking barriers and used to shattering the glass ceiling. She was born to a Navy father and Filipina mother in the Philippines and moved from military base to military base. Along the way, she accumulated



LUKE CHAPTER MOAA 2024-2025 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
MAJ Gene Wickle, USAF (R) 480-352-4575
1st VICE PRES/LDRSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS
CWO3 Don Fordney, USN (F) 206-595-6543
2nd VICE/PRES/SURVIVING SPOUSES PGM
SS Linda Wolvertson 623-505-7244
SECRETARY/Compliance Director
COL Mike Kramer, USAFR (R) 720-563-9953
TREASURER
Jack Coate 916-960-6820

DIRECTORS/COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

SURVIVING SPOUSES LIAISON CO-CHAIR
Rosemary Eaton 303-521-7956
LEGISLATION
COL Dan Merry, USAF (R) 850-902-6695
COMPLIANCE/VETERAN SUPPORT
COL Mike Kramer, USAFR (R) 623-234-4785
TRANSITION OFFICER
CAPT Bob Cowan, USN (R) 623-266-1426
HOSPITALITY
CAPT Bob Cowan, USN (R) 623-266-1426
JROTC LIAISON
CPT Buz Isban, USN (R) 623-512-0765
MEMBERSHIP
1LT Ben Hayes, USA (F) 323-791-2755
SCHOLARSHIP
CWO3 Don Fordney USN (F) 206-595-6543
NEWSGRAM EDITOR
LTC Scott Phillips, USAF (R) 623-340-9158
HISTORIAN
VAC
COMMUNITY & LUKE AFB RELATIONS
CPT Buz Isban, USN (R) 623-512-0765
PGMS & COMM CMTE
RDML Craig Quigley, USN (R) 757-419-1164
CHAPLAIN
MAJ Fannalou Guggisberg, USAF (R) 623-975-2362
WEBMASTER
LTC Bob Nelson, USMC (R) 719-322-4130
DIRECTORS AT LARGE
COL Jerry Wojtas, USA (R) 623-544-4477
Mrs Pam Wojtas 623-544-4477
MAJ Robert Kosmal, USAR (R) 623-850-1219
LTGEN John Regni, USAF (R) 623-935-6433
MG Shanna Woyak, ANG (R) 623-640-1705
COL Stephen Pohl, USAFR (R) 425-290-2471
BG David Ciesielski, ANG (R) 703-447-0307
PRESIDENT, COMMUNITY FUND BOARD
LTC Ed McAvoy, USAF (R) 480-387-0293
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
LTC Dennis DeFrain, USA (R) 623-451-9552
PRESIDENT, AZ COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS
CAPT Charles Vaughn, USN (R) 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 & veterans and their families.**



an array of life experiences and the desire to make her own mark in the world. She has achieved an impressive list of “firsts” that include: **the first military woman to become the White House Physician to the President, the first woman Director of the White House Medical Unit, the first Filipino American in US history to become a Navy Rear Admiral.** These amazing achievements are just the tip of the iceberg of accomplishments for this remarkable woman.

Dr. Connie is the eldest daughter of a career Navy enlisted serviceman and his wife, a dentist. Her father served in the Navy as a steward and eventually retired with the rank of Master Chief. She was the Class of 1973 Valedictorian of Mar Vista High School, and she then received her Bachelor’s degree with honors in Biology from the University of California, San Diego and joined the Navy. In the Navy she received a medical degree from the Uniformed Services University School of Medicine. **She served in Uniform for 24 years of active-duty service** and then joined the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale.



In 2005, she founded the Center for Executive Medicine, a medical concierge practice which provides presidential-quality medical care to CEOs and their families. **Dr. Mariano is also a former external**

advisory board member of the committee advising the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the overhaul of the VA system.

Dr. Mariano is the author of the book, The White House Doctor: My Patients were Presidents, A

**Time flies like an arrow.
Fruit flies like a banana.**



LUKE CHAPTER COMMUNITY FUND
2024-2025
OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT/CHAIRMAN
LTC Ed McAvoy, USA (R) 480-387-0293

VICE PRESIDENT
CWO3 Don Fordney, USN (F) 206-585-8543

SECRETARY (Acting)
COL Mike Kramer, USAFR (R) 720-563-9953

TREASURER/DIRECTOR
Jack Coate 916-960-6820

COMPLIANCE/DIRECTOR
COL Mike Kramer, USAFR (R) 720-563-9953

CHAPLAIN
Rev MAJ Fannalou Guggisberg, USAF (R) 623-975-2362

DIRECTORS

COL Beth Johnson, USA (R) 703-405-0347

COL Lou Tronzo, USAF (R) 623-208-8899

CWO2 Ron Walk, USA (F) 856-418-8325

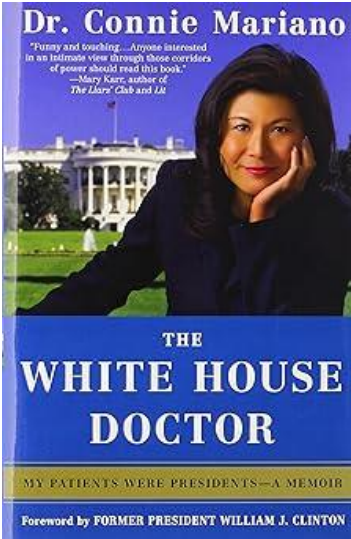
Mrs Pam Wojtas 623-544-4477

MAJ Mike Byers, USAF(R) 623-606-5288

LTC Wyck Furcron, USAF (R) 703-615-0973

Mrs Val Kuhn 623-556-1295

Memoir, published in 2010 by St. Martin’s Press. Dr. Mariano also hosts two podcasts on the Voice of America network, “House Calls with Dr Connie,” now in its ninth season and “The Widow’s Walk,” launched in February 2023.



LUKE CHAPTER
MEMBERSHIP

Regular	115
Surviving Spouses	33
Honorary	4
TOTAL:	152

Chaplain's Corner

by Rev. Fannalou Guggisberg

One Nation under God

In Washington, DC, there can never be a building higher than the Washington Monument. Construction of this giant obelisk began in 1848 when James Polk was President, but it was not until 1888 that it was inaugurated and opened to the public. It took 25 more years to place the aluminum cap on the memorial. Displayed on the cap is a Latin phrase, *Laus Deo*.



Laus Deo. No one can see these words, and most visitors are unaware of their presence perched 555 feet, 5,125 inches high atop the monument, facing heavenward to the Father of our country, above the 69-square-mile District of Columbia. How purposeful is their placement, at the highest point in the most powerful city in the most successful nation on earth.

Just four syllables, of seven letters, *Laus Deo* declares simply, "Praise Be to God!" Perfect tribute to the Creator and guarantor of our cherished rights and noblest privileges.

"Within the monument itself are 898 steps and 50 landings. As one climbs the steps and pauses at the landings, the memorial stones share a message. On the 12th Landing is a prayer offered by the City of Baltimore; on the 20th is a memorial presented by some Chinese Christians; on the 24th, a presentation made by Sunday School children from New York and Philadelphia quoting Proverbs 10:7, Luke 18:16, and Proverbs 22:6."

When the cornerstone was laid 4 July 1848, among the items deposited within it was the Holy Bible. George Washington stands in timeless testimony to our nation's founding under God.

(anonymous, adapted)

Blessings!

Helping Needy Vets

by Mike Kramer, Veterans' Relief Committee Chair

Luke Chapter Finishes the Year

As previously reported, our Veterans' Relief Grant Committee paused its activities until next fall. We granted nearly all designated funds in the current budget to needy veterans and their families. In addition, the volunteer team needs a rest. We also need some 'fresh blood' in the form of members willing to take an active leadership role.



Our veterans' relief program will be significantly smaller in the next program year for several reasons. Our membership continues to shrink, reducing member donations. Also, we expect much reduced outside grant funding. There is limited member labor support for the necessary administrative and logistical tasks.

At present, we have about \$2,500 in remaining funds between Luke Chapter and Community Fund line-item accounts for the program. These funds will be held over in our budget until next fall.

We anticipate approval of our grant application to MOAA Community Foundation submitted in late February in its "Community Outreach" grant program. We have been approved for grants every year since 2017-18. However, last May the grant was \$3,250 rather than \$5,000 as in past years. MOAA told us they want to 'spread the money' across more chapters. We expect no more than that again this May, when MOAA announces the chapter awards.

MOAA honors our Veterans' Relief program. We were highlighted in the January 2025 Military Officer Magazine, along with other chapters. The article titled "The ChangeMakers" (pp. 40-45) featured Chapter Leaders Ed McAvoy and Linda Wolverton.

The Board of Directors decided we will not be applying again to the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) under its grant program. We were awarded a grant of \$4,999 and a grant of \$25,000 received in two payments in 2024. These funds were paid out across two fiscal years to veteran recipients. There are no overhead, salary or other administrative costs in our program. All grant monies are paid out to needy veterans and their families.

However, the terms and conditions DVS now imposes are too onerous and burdensome for our small volunteer staff. DVS requires highly technical accounting and reports on a quarterly basis. DVS prohibits grants for veterans' families. Also banned are grants for food, water, hygiene items, car repairs, gift cards, and other limitations. We are volunteers and not paid staff. The pain from DVS is just not worth the gain.



Turkeys for Troops 2024

Our program will continue on a smaller scale. We will continue to support active-duty families at Luke AFB in the annual Turkeys for Troops food drive. To the extent of available funding, we will also make individual grants to veterans needing help with their rent, mortgage, utilities, car repairs and the like. Our program funds are expected to be in the range of \$10-12,000 annually going forward.

Luke Chapter is proud of its support over the years to Arizona veterans to maintain housing, utilities, transportation, food security, and related essential needs. In the current fiscal year, we spent a record amount of \$40,300 on cash grants and food goods. Since program inception

in 2017-18, we distributed more than \$202,000 to help 132 individual vets with housing related emergencies. Many of them would have become homeless without our support. In addition, hundreds of active-duty military and their families at Luke AFB have benefited from food donations through Turkeys-for-Troops.

The veterans and military members and families receiving aid more than pay us back with their well-being, gratitude, and tears of relief.

Luke Chapter will resume the program again next fall on a smaller scale. We will never stop helping our brothers and sisters in the profession of arms.

Never Stop Serving

Legislative Liaison

by Tom Waddell

Reprinted and abridged from the Grand Canyon Chapter Newsletter with permission.

MOAA Advocacy Update

MOAA has updated the Legislative Action Center (LAC) with the Advocacy in Action (AiA) priorities. This month's *Military Officer* magazine contains valuable information on these priorities and MOAA's advocacy efforts. I encourage you to read the articles and then visit the LAC to send letters to our congressional members using the pre-drafted messages available:

🔗 [Access the LAC here](#)

If you haven't visited the LAC recently, this newsletter includes easy-to-follow instructions to help you register and access the platform. Your participation is critical to the success of our grassroots advocacy program!

Advocacy in Action (AiA) –

MOAA is currently finalizing the AiA action plan. Once complete, I will ask you to reach out to our congressional members and request their support for MOAA's legislative priorities.

Support the Richard Star Act

The Major Richard Star Act was reintroduced in the 119th Congress. This critical legislation would allow combat-injured veterans to receive both their earned DoD retirement pay for years of service and VA disability compensation for lifelong injuries.

MOAA has long championed this effort, and we need your help to get it passed!

 [Send your letter of support here](#)

ACES Act – Support Needed

Senator Mark Kelly has reintroduced the ACES Act (S.201), which has been assigned to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. This legislation would fund a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to examine cancer prevalence and mortality among active-duty aircrew.

MOAA is reviewing the ACES Act for inclusion in this year's legislative priorities. Until it is added to the LAC, I encourage you to personally send letters of support to Senator Kelly and Senator Gallego.


Please continue to monitor the LAC and take action in support of MOAA's priorities. Your advocacy matters!


ARIZONA LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

Arizona Legislative Update – Keep Up the Momentum!

We are making progress on the four bills we are supporting in the Arizona Senate and House, but as the session winds down, we must maintain strong advocacy efforts to ensure they pass.


Key Bills & Status Updates:

 **HB2672: Property Tax Exemption for Disabled Veterans** – Under review by the Senate Rules Committee, chaired by Senator Farnsworth.

 **SB1155: Pay Equity for USPHS/NOAA** – Under review by the House Ways and Means Committee (Chair: Rep. Olson) and the House Rules Committee (Chair: Rep. Hendrix).

 **SB1704: VDF Monies for State Veterans**

Homes – Under review by the House Rules Committee, chaired by Rep. Hendrix.

 **SB1021: In-State Tuition for ROTC Cadets** – Passed all House committees, now awaiting a final vote.


Call to Action: Contact Committee Chairs Today!

Help us push these bills forward by contacting the following committee chairs and urging their support:

 **Senator Farnsworth, Senate Rules Committee** – DFARNSWORTH@AZLEG.GOV

 **Support HB2672: Property Tax Exemption for Disabled Veterans**

 **Rep. Hendrix, House Rules Committee** – LHENDRIX@AZLEG.GOV

 **Support SB1155: Pay Equity for USPHS/NOAA**

 **Support SB1704: VDF Monies for State Veterans Homes**

SB1201 – Urgent Action Needed!

Please reach out to your representative and urge them to pass SB1201 immediately and send it to the governor for signature.

Thank you for your continued support of our **Arizona grassroots advocacy program**—your voice makes a difference!

Grassroots advocacy works and thanks for supporting our legislative efforts both here in Arizona and in Washington. Keep up the great work!!

Surviving Spouses

By Linda Wolverson, Rosemary Eaton, Marilu Trainor, & Pat Staflin



LEGISLATION UPDATE:



Love Lives On Act of 2025 (H.R. 1004 and S.410)

This bill allows a surviving spouse to retain the Survivor Benefit Plan and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) at any age, regardless of whether they remarry. The House and the Senate have separate bills addressing this subject with only minor differences. As of 03-06-25 it has been referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

Caring For Survivors Act of 2025 (H.R. 680)

This bipartisan legislation strengthens Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for 505,000 eligible survivors and reduces the timeframe a veteran needs to be rated totally disabled allowing more survivors, who likely would have been caregivers, to become eligible for critical DIC benefits. As of 26 Feb 25 it has been with the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

Re-education, Re-employment, and Retirement Act

The caregivers who provide daily care and support to aging and disabled veterans often sacrifice their own careers, financial stability, and personal well-being to fulfill their vital role. Caregivers rely on stipends classified as “un-earned income,” meaning they lose opportunities to save for retirement or contribute to Social Security. That means if the caregiver is in a position, later in life, to age out of a work life, Social Security has not been added to since the caregiver had to stop working to care for their loved one. The caregiver, when they at a point when they could go back to work, faces workforce reentry challenges (i.e., licenses have not been maintained, workforce specialty certifica-

tions have lapsed). All of this contributes to no financial solvency when they are ready to retire.

This Act, if passed, would provide professional development, employment assistance, and retirement planning specifically tailored for the veteran caregiver. The MOAA monthly letter provides the opportunity to send auto-developed letters to your congressional senators and representatives about this and other veteran, spouse and surviving spouse concerns.



OUTREACH -- WHAT'S NEW?

The Surviving Spouses, at their recent luncheon, again discussed their willingness to support sending “Thank You for your Service” Cards to The Veteran's Last Patrol participants. Cards will be purchased in bulk, and the first 30 minutes of our luncheon meetings will be set aside to write ‘Thank You’ and sign our names. The cards would then be gathered and sent to the home base of The Veteran's Last Patrol, a 501 3 c organization, in Spartanburg, SC, for distribution to those heroes.



YOU AND I

The Luke Chapter Surviving Spouse group met for lunch at Haymakers, Goodyear on April Fool's Day. Our speaker was Mary Dickson of the Litchfield Heritage Center. We learned about the history of Litchfield Park, a company town founded by the Goodyear Tire Company.

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



INSECTEK (602) 795-7850
insectekpest.com

Insectek Pest Solutions

Environmentally-Friendly
Custom Pest Control Solutions
Serving the
Phoenix Metropolitan Area

**Insectek Offers Free Termite Inspections &
5% OFF MILITARY DISCOUNT**

f i insectekpest.com (602) 795-7850



**Pam Wojtas administering the
Oath of Office to our 2025—2026 Officers**

**April Raffle
Winners**



Game

Dennis DeFraín

Jose Cuervo Tequila

Hal Richards

Remy Martin VSOP Cognac

Don Noteboom

**Gentleman Jack w/ Whiskey Sour
Mixer**

Mikki Coutchie

Le Preziose Assorted Jellies

Ed McAvoy

Biscuits from the UK

Marsha Hanson

Chocolate Baileys

Pat Williams

Congrats!



**Lt Col Ryan Hutton
speaking at our April Dinner.**

***Memorial Day Tribute to my fallen comrades –
by Gene Wikle***

Memorial Day is a day for me to reflect on those I served with in Afghanistan. During my five years of service in Afghanistan, there were five American men and women patriots I had the privilege of serving with who made the ultimate sacrifice. Below is the story of two patriots that I served with. This is their story.



**First Lieutenant Roslyn Shulte
US Air Force
First Female Air Force Academy
graduate killed in combat**

**Personal Sacrifice
May 20, 2009**



**Mr. Shawn Pine
Lieutenant Colonel
Army Ranger
US Army Reserve Retired**



Killed by IED



**Memorial Service
Camp Eggers, Kabul**



On the morning of May 20, 2009, I sat across the table at the Camp Eggers Dining facility in Kabul Afghanistan with Lieutenant Roslyn Shulte and Shawn Pine, LTC USA, retired. It was 7:30am as we enjoyed breakfast and discussed their mission to perform at Bagram Air Base. They were part of my team that I served with in Afghanistan. After breakfast Roslyn and Shawn departed Kabul in an SUV for a 45-mile drive to Bagram Air Base. Shortly after 9:00am they were both dead. They were both killed instantly by an IED.

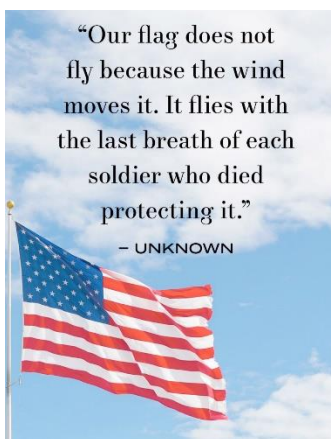
(Continued)

Roslyn was 25 years old. She was the first female Air Force Academy graduate killed in combat. Lt Shulte served as an intelligence officer providing actionable intelligence in support of counter-insurgency operations. In addition to her military mission, Roslyn demonstrated exemplary humanitarian concern for the people of Afghanistan as an active member of the Camp Eggers Voluntary Community Relations Program. She assisted in numerous humanitarian assistance missions and participated in the distribution of clothing and food to needy Afghan families at a Kabul refugee camp.

Shawn was 52 years old and survived by his wife and three children. He had spent a career in military intelligence serving special missions in Iraq, central Asia and at Camp Eggers as a counterintelligence advisor. He was actively engaged in humanitarian service projects in support of the people of Afghanistan.

“Whether we observe the occasion through public ceremony or through private prayer, Memorial Day leaves few hearts unmoved. Each of the patriots whom we remember on this day was first a beloved son or daughter, a brother or sister, or a spouse, friend, and neighbor.”

– George H.W. Bush, 1992



Board Briefs

by Mike Kramer, Secretary & Compliance Director

Luke Chapter (LC) and Community Fund (CF)-March 2025 Board Meetings

- The Annual Members Meeting will be held on 10 April in accordance with Luke Chapter Bylaws. President Wikle will brief the Members on accomplishments and challenges in FY 2024-25. The Members will elect primary officers for next program year and consider potential

changes in Chapter policies and procedures.

- The Luke Chapter Board of Directors is studying multiple potential changes in our recruiting practices, venues and locations, time of dinner meetings, 'dress code', programs and speakers, publicity and press releases, efficiencies in our primary charities, etc. We need to arrest the gradual decline in membership by attracting more and younger officers as members. Discussions are on-going, with plans to adopt many ideas in the May 2025 board meeting when feasible. The

changes will be announced as they are made.

- The current asset balance of Luke Chapter (LC) on 31 March 2025 is \$38,600, of which \$23,800 is unrestricted equity. Also, restricted funds include \$8,000 set aside as contingent reserve.
- Don Fordney announced that 21 scholarship grants were awarded to college bound students, which total \$30,000 this year. Looking back to 2001, the scholarship program has made 297 grants that total to more than \$423,000. Quite impressive!
- Assets of Community Fund (CF) on 31 March 2025 stand at \$85,464, including \$38,623 in currently unrestricted funds. Our net equity will pay the scholarship grant awards of \$30,000 made in April. Those grants will be paid next fall when the students are settled in a university.
- The CF Board made final plans for its Spring fund-raising activities for our charities. A 'silent auction' will be held on 10 April 2025. CF has received member and business donations. The PebbleCreek Nine Hole Men's Club is conducting a golf tournament on 17 April that will benefit our Community Fund.
- Final IRS Form 990 income tax returns were filed electronically in March for both Luke Chapter MOAA and Luke Chapter Community Funds. Both returns were 'accepted for filing' by the IRS. Arizona does not require a separate tax return from tax-exempt organizations.
- The Luke AFB Honor Guard will present the colors at the 8 May dinner and scholarship award event at Grandview Terrace. This precision military formation will be exciting to watch.
- Linda Wolverton and the Surviving Spouses will hold a quarterly luncheon at the Haymaker Restaurant in Goodyear on 1 April. Mary Dickson will brief the group on the history of Goodyear, and the Goodyear Airport nearby. The Veteran's

Last Patrol program has been very well received by other AZCOC chapters in the state.

- Mike Kramer reported that \$40,300 was distributed in grants this fiscal year by CF and LC to 18 veterans threatened with financial emergencies and potential homelessness. Only about \$2500 remains available for veterans' grants. This amount will be used as 'seed money' for the program next fall. The CF Board suspended the grant program until more funds are raised and leadership roles are filled next fall. We will learn in early May whether MOAA Community Foundation will award a grant to support our veterans' program.
- Ben Hayes reported that Luke Chapter now has 148 active Members on our roster, including 115 Regular Members and 33 Surviving Spouses, with 4 "Honorary" persons. LC membership was reduced by 18 members this year, due to aging, death, moves, health problems, etc.
- MOAA sent a recruiting letter and materials through email to about 350 MOAA members in the West Valley who are not currently Luke Chapter members. We are hoping that significant recruiting will result from the mass emails.
- Buz Isban has connected as our JROTC Liaison with 13 out of 14 JROTC high school programs in the West Valley. Buz is scheduling LC members to make award presentations at Honors Night later this spring.



Gene Wikle Serving Iced Tea
"...and other duties as assigned."

HOW TO ENROLL IN FRY'S COMMUNITY REWARDS

LUKE CHAPTER MEMBERS AND FRIENDS -- PLEASE READ

TO ENROLL:

1. **go** to www.frysfood.com/account/
2. **Enter** your user ID and password to open your account; **or**
3. If you don't have a Fry's account card, follow the instructions to **get an account**, and then continue;
4. On the "My Account" page, **scroll down** to the box called: Community Rewards;
5. **Enter** the name of "Luke Chapter MOAA Scholarship Fund" **or** enter our Organization Number: **TK860**;
6. **Press** the "Enroll" button; congratulations, you are **done**!

NOTE:

- Your participation in this program will automatically create modest donations which accumulate into our IRS 501(c)(3), public charity, Luke Chapter MOAA Community Fund, Inc. (EIN: 47-4053737). Frys pays us quarterly with a check made out to our checking account.
- There is **no cost or charge** to you. The donation by Fry's is from their profit and is **not** an extra charge to you and is **not** added to product prices. The donations are '**free money**' supporting our Community Fund charities: the scholarships, veterans' relief, and JROTC programs in local high schools.
- Please shop & gas up occasionally at Fry's/Fred Meyer/Kroger stores.
😊
- **Thank you** for supporting your Luke Chapter MOAA charities!



Never Stop Serving – As a Chapter Recruiter

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


Robson Resort
COMMUNITIES
LeNelle R. Robson Foundation

LEGACY
FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP


WEST VALLEY
NATIONAL BANK


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
 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



Ben Hayes
Membership Chair

A New Year is a wonderful time of celebration, and as Luke Chapter members of MOAA, we enjoy celebrating two New Year's each year. 1 January begins our calendar year, and 1 July begins our fiscal year. This 1 July begins our 45th since being chartered in 1980.

The year 2025 has seen prices for everything escalate, in some cases as never before. Wonderful News! Our Chapter dues remain \$25 for regular members, and \$15 for Surviving Spouses for the fiscal year. Happy New Year indeed!

With the fiscal year running from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, it is important to remember that dues become in arrears on 1 October 2025. If dues are not received by 31 December 2025, membership will be terminated.

If you prefer, rather than mailing your dues check to the P.O. Box in Sun City West, you can pay your dues online. Go to [www.lukemoaa.org/ Chapter Info/ Member Log In/ Renew Membership](http://www.lukemoaa.org/Chapter%20Info/Member%20Log%20In/Renew%20Membership).

I look forward to seeing you in October. If you have any questions, please contact me at Ben.Hayes@lukemoaa.org, or telephone me at 323.791.2755.

Never Stop Serving
Never Stop Recruiting for the Luke Chapter

Did you know?.....

You can make donations to the Community Fund whenever you want via Zelle. Just use: Treasurer@LukeMOAA.org for the payment e-mail. Give it a try, send funds today!

MEMBERSHIP

The **renewal form** for membership dues is on this page.

If you're not certain whether you owe dues, you can check your membership status on the website (www.lukemoaa.org). Log In, select My Account at the top of the page, select Renew Membership. This page will show when your dues expire. If your dues expire in 2025, then you can renew online by selecting Renew Your Membership Online. If your expiration date is 2026 (or later), then no action is required.

If you prefer to send a check, please include the dues form if possible.

If you would like to speak to someone about your dues, please don't hesitate to contact **Ben Hayes (323-791-2755)**

2025-2026 Luke Chapter Membership Dues Renewal Form

Name: _____

ANNUAL DUES: Regular Member \$25.00 (**incl Spouse**) \$15.00 Surviving Spouse
Membership dues are due and payable by 1 September 2025. After 31 December 2025, membership will be terminated.

\$ _____ for NewsGram (optional)
\$ _____ for Closed Captioning (optional)

Please make check payable to: **Luke Chapter, MOAA**

--- Write "Dues, NewsGram and/or Closed Captioning" on Memo Line of the check

Mail to: Luke Chapter MOAA, ATTN: Treasurer, P.O. Box 5072, Sun City West, AZ 85376

Regular dues :

\$25/ 1 year _____ \$50/ 2 years _____ \$75/ 3 Years _____

Surviving Spouse dues:

\$15/ 1 Year _____ \$30/ 2 years _____ \$45/ 3 Years _____

Additional comments or concerns? We want to know!

*** RENEW ONLINE! WWW.LUKEMOAA.ORG ITS QUICK, EASY, AND SAVES POSTAGE ***

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 FORM (NEXT PAGE)

PLEASE mail your reservation so that
it will be received by the date indicated.
If you are running late, **CALL** the Fordneys
(1-206-595-6543) by that date to tell them
"The check is in the mail." or "I'll pay at
the door." We must provide an accurate
count and stick to it.

May dinners are \$33

NOTE DINNER VENUE:

8 MAY: Grandview Terrace

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: _____



Candy & Mike Klackle

(623) 261-9943

REALTOR® www.PebbleCreekResales.com

10320 West McDowell Road
Building B Suite 2005
Avondale, Arizona 85392






Each Office Independently Owned and Operated. All Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

Retired U.S. Air Force -
Now serving the PebbleCreek Community!



MENU

Grilled Beef Filet
OR
Sauteed Halibut w/
Apricot Glaze
OR
Seared Polenta Cake w/
Sauteed Spinach

Caesar Salad
Whipped Sweet Potatoes
Steamed Vegie Medley
Rolls & Butter
Flourless Chocolate Cake
Coffee, Iced Tea, Water

\$33.00

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

Grandview
Terrace

8 May 2025

Social – 5:00 p.m.
Dinner - 6:00 p.m.
Program – 7:00 p.m.

8 May 2025 Dinner Reservation at Grandview Terrace

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

For questions and information, call Don & Maureen Fordney at 1-206-595-6543.

Please mail to **REACH** Co-Treasurer no later than **5PM, 30 Apr**

Request _____ dinner reservations for Thursday evening, **8 May 2025**,
at **Grandview Terrace**. My Check for \$_____ is enclosed.

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

Number of ☐ Beef ☐ Halibut ☐ Polenta

_____(TABLE HOST) _____

Member Name (Printed): _____

Member Signature: _____

Watch for the October NewsGram coming out in
mid September announcing our Fall activities.

Meanwhile, have a great summer and keep in touch informally.

Please contact the Editor, Scott Phillips, 623-340-9158, sphillipsaz@cox.net if
you have either inputs or suggested changes to the NewsGram.

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



HOME REALTY
A PREMIER ARIZONA
REAL ESTATE COMPANY

cell: (623) 910-5469
office: (623) 584-5384
fax: (866) 331-3672
email: nancy@nancymuslin.com
14245 W. Grand Ave., STE 1
Surprise, AZ 85374



Standing with you
at every stage.

97017

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