



# Officers Call



Editor: Terry Cooney

MAY 2021



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We were truly fortunate to have one of our own, Colonel Curt Nelson, USAF (Ret), as our guest speaker in April. After his long and distinguished military career, which included 200 bombing missions as a B-52 pilot during the Vietnam conflict, 11 Air Medals and a Distinguished Flying Cross, Curt recently returned to SE Asia as a tourist. His presentation highlighted memories of the war as well as the changes in Vietnam since the conflict ended. Attendees described his presentation as the best our chapter has ever offered. Thank you, Curt, for your talk and for your remarkable military service!

Our next activity is an opportunity for us to meet in person, for the first time in a while. Our outdoor event will be a base ball game between the Dayton Clodbusters and the Tippecanoe Canal Jumpers on May 30 at Carillon Historical Park, 1000 Carillon Blvd in Dayton. The Clodbusters dress in period uniforms and play according to 1860s rules (when "base ball" was spelled using two words). The game is scheduled to begin at 12:00 noon. Bring your lawn chairs and plan to have a good time. Food vendors will be onsite.

The Carillon Heritage Festival at the Park is supposed to run at the same time. The festival theme is a patriotic celebration highlighting Dayton's history, and events include costumed interpreters, miniature train rides, and a performance by the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra. Keep your fingers crossed for good weather.

On June 19<sup>th</sup> at noon we will return to the virtual world with a presentation from a representative of the Dayton Veterans Administration Medical Center. The topic will be the various medical benefits available from this facility and how eligible individuals can receive such services. While some may already be knowledgeable in this area, I suspect this presentation will fill in some gaps for many of us.

I also want to note that MOAA National recently announced that our chapter received the Colonel Marvin J. Harris Communications Award, highest level of excellence, for the quality of our website and newsletter. This award recognizes the outstanding work of our webmaster and newsletter editor, Terry Cooney. Congratulations to Terry!

Finally, I encourage everyone to visit our website at [www.daytonmoaa.weebly.com](http://www.daytonmoaa.weebly.com) where you can find information about our organization and functions, legislative issues, as well as our current and past newsletters. Also, MOAA National's website at [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org) contains information concerning MOAA resources, member benefits, and current news/event of interest to the military community.

Tom Robisch  
President Dayton Area Chapter

The Military Officers Association of America is an independent politically non-partisan organization operated to benefit members of the uniformed services, their families and survivor

**PLAN AHEAD**

30 May

Clodbusters base ball game/ Heritage Festival

19 June

Daytron VA Presentation

**MAY SOCIAL EVENT –**

Join us on 30 May at Dayton's Carillon Park to watch the Clodbuster Base Ball Club play the Tippecanoe Canal Jumpers. The 1 PM game is part of the Park's Heritage Festival. The Clodbuster Base Ball Club will play 1860s base ball (spelled using two words until the 1880s). In their words they are "Enjoying the game the 'way it was meant to be played.' The Clodbusters Club members will be dressed in period uniforms and will adhere to 1860s rules. The cost of entering the park is \$12/adult, \$10/senior, \$8/child or vets with a retired military ID.

As we go to press there still is no decision if the Festival will be held this year. If the Festival is canceled, the Base Ball game will be held on the lawn in front of the Park. The game will start at **noon**. There is no cost to watch the game from your lawn chair, while sitting in the shade of the trees that line the road leading to parking lot. If you chose that spot you would be along the first base line. You can also sit in the shade on the hill side behind home plate or behind the club's bench. Watch your email for updates to this activity.

**CHAPTER DONATION SUPPORT**

We are very grateful to the wonderful response we received in 2020 from our membership to support our many annual charitable donations. In January, we gave a \$375.00 donation to the National Museum of the USAF and in March, we sent our annual donation of \$1,000.00 to the Fisher-Nightingale House to support the great work they do to help military families and veterans in need while they stay at three (3) Dayton FNH facilities. Our next significant donation, \$2,000.00, will be for our Annual High School Scholarship which occurs in August and then our Toys for Tots Marine donation (\$1,000) in November. I ask our membership to help us ensure we are able to continue our donations at our planned levels. To date, we have \$1,300.00 allocated to the Scholarship fund; however, we only have approximately \$100.00 in our operating budget for our Toys for Tots donation. Please consider making a small donation now or when you renew in August. A little help from everyone will enable us to meet our goals. Thank you for your kind consideration.

**SURVIVING SPOUSE INITIATIVE**

I am collecting information for a 1 to 2 page summary for Surviving Spouses for our Chapter. A number of other organizations, including MOAA HQ, have already done much of this work through other formats. My plan is to create a brief guide citing these sources, rather than collect all the information itself, to guide members and friends to sources for this helpful material.

I plan to have a draft for our Board by June 1, 2021, to review before it is ready to distribute. If you have questions about this or other Surviving Spouse matters, please call me at (513)970-1095 or email me at [jblorette@gmail.com](mailto:jblorette@gmail.com).

**ROTC/JROTC NEWS**

Cadets enrolled in local high school Junior ROTC programs studied virtually at home and safely in-person classes at their school house during these past arduous 14 months of the COVID pandemic. Similarly, the officer candidates in programs offered at Wright State University (Army and Air Force ROTC), University of Dayton (Army ROTC) and at Central State University (Army ROTC) achieved their goals to be commissioned graduates, that is, serve as 2nd Lts and maybe become our

future senior generals. Several of our DAC members represented our chapter at some recently held awards ceremonies for the teens or college students to recognize their focused achievements both academically and as engaged leaders.

Thanks especially to these members, who travelled to attend scheduled events: Tom Robisch (Greenville's Navy JROTC and Wayne High School's AFJROTC), Terry Cooney (Northmont Navy JROTC), Dave Gothard (Bellbrook AFJROTC), Leslie Buerki (Central State University's Army ROTC), Ray Gaier (University of Dayton's Army ROTC) and Denny Crouch (Wright State University's Army and Air Force ROTC). Did you know that we also give a gift of a pair of gold bars (their first rank) to each commissioned officer and a free BASIC e-membership to MOAA National.

Even though seven schools held a virtual ceremony for parents and students and we could not "high five" the awardee in person, all schools did receive by mail our MOAA medal/ribbon and certificate for this annual recognition to students. Also, thanks to our scholarship evaluators who reviewed ten submissions by seniors competing for our Chapter's \$2,000 scholarship, but especially to the many members who donate again and again to guarantee this generosity to one local high school graduate's further education.

### **AIR FORCE MARATHON VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION OPENS 1 MAY**

Once again our Chapter is going to support the Air Force Marathon. As in previous years we will be manning the Information Booth on Thursday 16 September. There will be 2 shifts starting at 2pm. Instructions for signing up are depicted below. Our password is **moaa21**

Volunteer Registration Instructions: Volunteer registration opens on May 1 and shifts will not be visible until then

1. Access the volunteer registration site:  
<https://airforcemarathon.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=53510>
2. Enter your group password into the "Have a password? Enter it here" textbox, then select "Submit"
3. Your group's shifts will appear and select the "+" buttons to expand the selections
4. Select the checkbox next to your preferred shift time
5. Scroll down to enter your email address and fill out the registration form, then select "Sign Up To Volunteer"
6. You will receive a confirmation email shortly afterwards

Please send me an e-mail at [tcooney8@gmail.com](mailto:tcooney8@gmail.com) to let me know for which shift you signed up.

### **LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES**

There is still work to be done for Congress to improve equity for survivor benefits. MOAA and The Military Coalition, continue to advocate for the survivor community and seek legislation to address existing inequities

#### **[Urge Your Elected Officials to Support Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform Legislation](#)**

The Toxic Exposure in the American Military (TEAM) Act, introduced by Sens. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) and Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.) and Rep. Mike Bost (R-Ill.) would create comprehensive toxic exposure reform to expand health care, improve the presumptive process, and ensure veteran input in the process about the critical conditions affecting the health and well-being of servicemembers, veterans, families, survivors, and caregivers as a result of exposures while in service.

#### **[Urge Your Senators to Support Legislation to Repeal the TRICARE Select Enrollment Fee](#)**

Act now to urge your senators to support the TRICARE Select Restoration Act, which is an important first step to repeal the enrollment fee for grandfathered retirees.

#### **[Urge your legislators to support concurrent receipt](#)**

Contact your representative and senators and urge them to support *The Major Richard Star Act*, which would provide concurrent receipt for servicemembers unable to complete 20 years Of service due to combat related injuries. Help ensure these men and women get their full service

earned retirement, as well as their disability compensation from the VA

## **MOAA GOLF LEAGUE**

Spring is here! A few hearty souls are already getting in a round of golf already. The opening league meeting is planned for the week after Easter via Zoom. There is always ability to phone-in for those who wish to join the meeting outside Zoom. We are tentatively planning on starting on, May 3. The MOAA Monday morning 9 Hole golf league can handle more players. We have room for more teams (consist of 2 people). You can sign up as a single or a team. We have players who need partners. Players must be MOAA members and members of the local MOAA Chapter. We can also use subslf you need any additional information about the league, please call Larry Pohl (937-477-5645) or Bob Emerson (937-545-4610). The league starts normally in May & runs until September. We do not play on holidays (Memorial Day, July 4<sup>th</sup> & Labor Day). Check us out!

## **FISHER HOUSE**



Thanks to all MOAA DAC members who have supported WPAFB Fisher Houses. The Fisher House program recognizes the special sacrifices of our men and women in uniform and the hardships of military service by meeting a humanitarian need beyond that is normally provided by the DoD and the VA. At the

present time Fisher House is not accepting any physical items. The COVID impact this year has been hard on the finances of the organization but they have never closed their doors. Please consider making a tax deductible donation by sending a check to Fisher Nightingale House 417 Schlatter Dr Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH 45433. To make a contribution by credit or debit card contact FNHI Director Chris Stanley at [\(937\) 672-8724](tel:9376728724). Watch this space for when contributions can restart. Thanks for all your previous support.

### **ELECTED 2020 EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICES**

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