

## Dayton Area Chapter – Military Officers Association of America



# Officers Call



Editor: Terry Cooney

SEPTEMBER 2021

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We held our annual business meeting, election of officers for 2022, and picnic on August 22 at Rotary Park in Beavercreek. The venue was great, turnout was very good, the weather was wonderful, and I believe everyone enjoyed the camaraderie. The food was delicious, and desserts were plentiful. Many thanks to Terry Cooney and Mike Ondrasek for organizing this fine event.

1 Highlights of the picnic included: (1) MOAA National recognized our newsletter and website with two Colonel Marvin J. Harrison Communications Awards, both five-star level (highest achievement). Terry Cooney, our newsletter editor and webmaster, is responsible for both. He has done all the work and deserves the credit and our thanks. The photo on the left shows him receiving the



certificates and award hardware. (2) Judy Eckhart won the 50-50 raffle. The photo on the right shows Denny Crouch presenting the winner's share to her.



The business meeting was relatively short. I mentioned some highlights of the past year (updated constitution, incorporation, insurance), outlined our membership status (substantial but could improve), summarized our financial status (solid), and listed the organizations to which we made contributions. The election of officers also took little time. There are five elective positions, but we had candidates for only three. None were contested. I will repeat as President, Kurt Grafton will return as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, and Dave Gothard will continue as Treasurer. The vacant elective roles are the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Secretary positions. Additionally, there are or will soon be vacancies in several appointive positions, i.e., the Surviving Spouse and the Army and Navy Representatives. I stated that our most pressing need is additional volunteers to serve on our Executive Board. None of the open positions require a substantial time investment, and I hope some of you will consider joining an amiable and interesting group of your peers. Anyone interested in learning more about these functions should contact me or any of the board members.



CAPT Erin Stone, JAGC, USN (Ret), Senior Director, Council and Chapter Affairs from MOAA National joined us for the picnic. She spoke briefly to everyone about the importance of chapters such as ours to MOAA and later participated in a meeting with our Executive Board members. Thanks to Erin for traveling from the Washington DC area to visit our chapter.

Finally, MOAA recently announced the winners of the 2020 Levels of Excellence Five-Star Awards. Out of over 400 MOAA State Councils and Chapters, only 162 received the highest-level honor. The Dayton Area Chapter (DAC) was one of those awarded Five-Stars. Evaluation

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

criteria included grassroots advocacy, community engagement, recruiting and retention, and chapter management. The DAC's success was a group accomplishment. Many thanks to the members of the Executive Board.

Tom Robisch

President

Dayton Area Chapter

### **AUGUST IS DUES MONTH**

Watch the mail for your dues packet. Dues are still \$15/yr. for regular members and \$10/yr. for surviving spouses/auxiliary7.

### **PLAN AHEAD**

18 September	Luncheon and Presentation at 5 <sup>th</sup> Street Brew Pub – 1230
17 October	ROTC Appreciation Luncheon at Kettering VFW
November	Theater Outing @Wright State Theater – “Mamma Mia” TBD

### **AIRFORCE MARATHON CANCELLED BUT LET THE FUN CONTINUE**

I am fairly certain that everyone enjoyed the opportunity to get together for the annual picnic so when the Air Force Marathon was cancelled, we have decided to let the fun of the picnic continue. To that end we have made reservations for lunch at the Fifth Street BrewPub, a local cooperative brewery and restaurant, for September 18<sup>th</sup> at 1230. The General Manager, Tanya Brock, will give us a short talk on how the cooperative works and the workings of the brewery. We will order lunch from their menu which I have included with the newsletter.

Reservations are required so contact Terry Cooney at 937-427-0590 or [tcooney8@twc.com](mailto:tcooney8@twc.com) **NLT** then 15 September to reserve a spot. This is a hard date so that the BrewPub can make sure they have the proper staff to handle us. Hope to hear from you soon and see you on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND 2021/2022 DONATIONS:**

We would like to thank our members who have renewed their membership thus far for 2022. In addition, we truly appreciate those who have added a generous donation to our main efforts for the current and coming year. As of 28 August, we have 113 members who have renewed their membership. Twenty-two (22) members donated \$530.00 toward our 2022 Scholarship fund, 29 members donated \$820.00 to our 2022 Fisher Nightingale House fund, 39 members donated \$1,040 to our where needed fund and 2 members donated \$200 towards our 2021 Marine's Toys for Tots fund. We will allocate the majority of our Where needed donations to cover our 2021 Toys for Tots fund which we will submit to the Marines in November 2021. We look forward to our remaining members renewal and any additional donations are greatly appreciated. Finally, our Golf Tournament outing in July was very successful and we received contributions for the USO fund totaling \$1,023. With our DAC allocation and USAA's contribution, we will donate \$1,523.00 to the USO in September. We cannot support these worthwhile causes without the generosity of our member and their commitment to serving others. Thank you very much. in your annual membership renewal check of \$15.00 through 8/1/2022, we would very much appreciate any donation you can support for our major 2022 programs of Scholarship, Fisher Nightingale House, Toys for Tots and where needed. Thanks so very much for your continued service and support to such worthwhile causes.

### **NEW ACTIVITY SUGGESTION**

Last month's newsletter included a piece proposing extra activities that might be of interest to sub-groups of our members. This is a specific recommendation for a new group consistent with that idea.

The cover story for the July edition of the *Military Officer* magazine discussed possible summer readings for MOAA members. In addition to reviewing six books that might be of interest, the article also included lists of works on historical/military topics including leadership; tales of true grit; accounts of heroism, perseverance, and service; fiction; and MOAA staff members' favorite military-themed books. While the books listed in the article are not the only ones that might be of interest to a Dayton Area Chapter book club, it is a nice starting point to consider which books would be acceptable for a new group. Take a look at this article – it's interesting reading.

Please contact Tom Robisch at [trobisch63@gmail.com](mailto:trobisch63@gmail.com) or 757-327-1388 if you are interested in forming a chapter book club.

### **THE 7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL USO BENEFIT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS for MOAA GOLFERS**

The Dayton Area Chapter Golf League completed its 7<sup>th</sup> annual benefit for the benefit of the USO of Central and Southern Ohio. **The tournament raised over \$1,500 for the USO this year!! A great showing by the MOAA golfers and a big thanks to all.** A special call out to USAA for contributing \$300. Ticket Sales for gifts resulted in another \$95 to USO as well. Another player gave an extra contribution again; many thanks! The real winners of this benefit are the active military and the many benefits provided to them by the USO in our area. The Chapter Board of Directors also contributed an additional \$200 to this USO Benefit. A salute to all.

Cash prizes were given for individual and team performances. And now, the winners are!

Winning Place	Team Winners (Based on Net Scores)	Individual Winners
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Mark Lua/Brad Gale	Long Drive (men): Bill Schaff
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Jim Verstrete/Doug Hufnagle	Closest to Pin #5: F. Pumroy/M Riley
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Dave White/Herb Edwards	Closest to Pin #8: Mike Riley
		Long Putt: Chuck Sweet

### **LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES**

These important issues require your immediate attention. Send your elected officials a MOAA-suggested message today.

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

Comprehensive toxic exposure reform is needed to ensure we avoid the problems faced by Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange.

- **[Urge Your Elected Officials to Fix the TRICARE Young Adult Coverage Gap](#)**

MOAA continues efforts to build support for The Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act of 2021, H.R. 475 in the House, and S. 1972 in the Senate. These bipartisan and bicameral pieces of legislation would expand TRICARE eligibility to young adult dependents up to age 26, bringing TRICARE in line with commercial plan requirements.

- **[Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Military Hunger Prevention Act](#)**

Food insecurity among junior servicemembers is not a new concern, but like many ongoing problems, it's been made worse by the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Military Hunger Prevention Act would establish a Basic Needs Allowance (BNA) for these servicemembers, helping them overcome financial difficulties and allowing them to concentrate on their duties.

### **MOAA GOLF LEAGUE**

As of 27 August, all teams have played all their head-to-head matches. Currently Larry Simpson & Jay DeJongh have a massive 6 ½ point lead. The last Monday in Aug, each team will play against

the Wright Brothers. This is the final match that will determine the final standings for the 2021 season. The last 2 rounds will be a team scramble as an independent competition over 2 Mondays in September. If either of the last 2 rounds is cancelled for weather, the 18-hole scramble will revert to a 9-hole scramble. We are working to schedule an awards lunch at Twin Base clubhouse on 20 Sep. after our final round

## 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. Watch this space for when contributions can restart. Thanks for all your previous support.

## WORDS TO PONDER

"For love of country they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and their virtue." – James A. Garfield

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

PRESIDENT	TOM ROBISCH, LTC, USA	<a href="mailto:trobisch63@gmail.com">trobisch63@gmail.com</a>	757 327-1388
1ST VICE PRESIDENT	<b>VACANT</b>		
2ND VICE PRESIDENT	KURT GRAFTON, MAJ USAF	<a href="mailto:kurtgrafton@yahoo.com">kurtgrafton@yahoo.com</a>	513-409-5625
TREASURER	DAVE GOTHARD, COL, USAF	<a href="mailto:ddgothard@aol.com">ddgothard@aol.com</a>	937-429-1649
SECRETARY	<b>VACANT</b>		
PAST PRESIDENT	MIKE ONDRASEK, COL, USAF	<a href="mailto:michael.ondrasek@att.net">michael.ondrasek@att.net</a>	937-429-9297

### **ELECTED SERVICE/AUXILIARY REPRESENTATIVES**

USAF REPRESENTATIVE	TIM CRAVEN CAPT, USAF	<a href="mailto:cravente@msn.com">cravente@msn.com</a>	937-233-3538
NAVY REPRESENTATIVE	<b>VACANT</b>		937-879-6230
ARMY REPRESENTATIVE	<b>VACANT</b>		
USMC REPRESENTATIVE	LAURENCE SIMPSON, COL, USMC	<a href="mailto:simpsonle@aol.com">simpsonle@aol.com</a>	937-429-1469
SURVIVING SPOUSE REPRESENTATIVE	JAN LORETTE	<a href="mailto:jblorette@gmail.com">jblorette@gmail.com</a>	513-970-1095

### **APPOINTED OFFICERS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

OHIO COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS REP	MIKE ONDRASEK, COL, USAF	<a href="mailto:michael.ondrasek@att.net">michael.ondrasek@att.net</a>	937-429-9297
LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE	TERRY COONEY, CAPT, USN	<a href="mailto:tcooney8@gmail.com">tcooney8@gmail.com</a>	937-427-0590
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN	DENNIS CROUCH, COL, USAF	<a href="mailto:denniscrouch@earthlink.net">denniscrouch@earthlink.net</a>	937-426-6246
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CHAPTER ROSTER	KURT GRAFTON, MAJ, USAF	<a href="mailto:kurtgrafton@yahoo.com">kurtgrafton@yahoo.com</a>	513-409-5625
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## FAIRBORN MILITARY VETERANS MEMORIAL PROJECT

[www.fairbornvetsmemorial.com](http://www.fairbornvetsmemorial.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/fairbornmemorial/>

1 Jul 2021

### Mission Statement

To promote, design, and develop a permanent memorial honoring service members who were born in, or lived in, the Fairborn, Osborn, Fairfield, and Bath Township areas - especially those service members who died in the service of their country and those who served at Wright-Patterson AFB.

### About the Memorial

Plans are to build the memorial in the newly designated Fairborn Memorial Park located on Central Avenue. The memorial will be made from black granite in a pentagon shape to represent the military. The center piece of the memorial will be a six-sided, twelve-foot-tall obelisk with each side showing granite etchings of the Air Force, U.S. Space Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard. Surrounding the obelisk will be brick pavers etched with names of those serving in the military with the closest, dark gray pavers representing those who paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving in the military. The outer, lighter gray pavers will be names of those donating to the memorial at the \$100 or higher level. Around the brick paver area will be six brick walls approximately three-feet tall topped with black granite slanted at forty-five degrees. The six black granite sections will be etched with pictures of veterans from Fairborn, Fairfield, Osborn, Bath Township and Wright-Patterson AFB. The pictures will not have names associated with the pictures to allow them to anonymously represent past, present and future local veterans. On the backs of one section of the six brick and granite walls will be a listing of major donors etched into the granite, two section will depict the history of Fairborn, and one section will show etched pictures of service animals. The backs of the other two walls will face Central Avenue and will be etched with the name of the memorial and the saying about those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Between the obelisk and the walls will be four black granite benches to allow visitors a place to sit and reflect on the significance of the memorial and to pay respect to those represented by the memorial. In the area next to the benches will be six small columns also standing approximately three-feet tall, each topped with the service logos of the six branches of the military.

### How You Can Help

All donations are tax deductible and can be mailed to:

Fairborn Chamber of Commerce  
12 North Central Ave.  
Fairborn, OH 45324

Please make checks out to: *Greene County Community Foundation*  
and include *Fairborn Military Veterans Memorial* in the memo field

For additional information about the memorial or for questions, please contact me at 937-673-4178 or [daniel.r.kirkpatrick@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.r.kirkpatrick@gmail.com).

*Daniel R. Kirkpatrick*

Daniel R. Kirkpatrick, Colonel, USAF (Retired)  
Co-Chairperson, Fairborn Military Veterans Memorial Project



## FAIRBORN MILITARY VETERANS MEMORIAL PROJECT

[www.fairbornvetmemorial.com](http://www.fairbornvetmemorial.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/fairbornmemorial/>

### There are several ways individuals or corporations can make donations to the FAIRBORN MILITARY VETERANS MEMORIAL PROJECT

Donations of any amount are tremendously appreciated. Donations given at the following levels will have special recognition on the granite Donors Wall at the Memorial site

**Diamond Level: \$25,000 and up**

**Platinum Level: \$10,000 - \$24,999**

**Gold Level: \$5,000 - \$9,999**

**Silver Level: \$1,000 - \$4,999**

**Bronze Level: \$500 - \$999**

The memorial site has four granite benches that can be purchased which allow donors to have their personal picture or corporate logo etched in the bench. One bench is available.

**Benches - \$10,000 (also get name on Donors Wall at the Platinum Level)**

Another way to receive name recognition for donations is the purchase of Brick Pavers at the Memorial site

### **Red Brick Pavers and sizes**

**4" X 8" - \$100**

**8" X 8" - \$300**

**8" X 16" - \$700**

**16" X 16" - \$1500**

Pavers can be purchased with individual or corporate logos