



# Wichita Chapter News

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



November 2020

## President's Corner

Dear Members, Spouses and Families of the Wichita Chapter of MOAA,

As we enter the fall and look forward to Veterans Day and Thanksgiving, please join me in reflecting on the sacrifice of all our veterans, both deceased and living, who have served our great Nation. And all family members of these veterans also served our Nation by providing comfort and support to those who have fought for us. My paternal grandfather fought in the Battle of the Bulge during World War II. Even in my youth, I could ascertain that he carried his experiences back home after the war and they shaped his personality for the rest of his life. I traveled to Bastogne, Belgium in June of 2019 and strolled through



the Ardennes forest where my grandfather fought. The foxholes that the Americans dug in their defense of Bastogne are still there (see picture). I am thankful my grandfather made it back home. Unfortunately, many did not. The feeling of survival guilt ate at my grandfather all his life and you could see it in his eyes. But he had nothing to feel guilty about. And if he had not made it back, I would not be here today. My

heart goes out to all the American families who never saw their loved ones return from Europe.

Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day go hand in hand. We are thankful for our veterans. But we also need to maintain thanks for all of God's blessings in life. Personally, I am thankful for my health, my wife, my children, and my job. I am also thankful for having friends such as you and being given the opportunity to be your chapter president. I look forward to seeing all of you again.

For those of you who have not paid their annual dues, please do so as soon as possible. And remember to recruit, recruit, recruit! I will bring some enrollment forms to the next meeting so you may give them to potential members. Remember that national basic membership is free and chapter membership is free for the first year for those who are national members. Also, one group eligible for membership that I had overlooked since being a member is all former officers. So, if you know a person who served as an officer in the military but left before retirement, he or she is eligible for membership.

Sincerely,

John Hughey, LTC, (Ret), USA, President

## **First Fall Chapter Brunch Will be Held this Month**

Our first chapter brunch is Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> at the Rolling Hills Country Club. The breakfast brunch will begin at 11:30 a.m., and the business meeting will follow at 12:30 p.m. We will be practicing social distancing, and masks should be worn when not eating. TROW will not be meeting this month. Any future TROW gatherings will be announced by Karen Wohlwend.

## **Surviving Spouse News from the MOAA National Virtual Workshop**

*By Roy Yenchsky LTC, (Ret) USA, Wichita Chapter Surviving Spouse Liaison*

In September I had the opportunity to participate in a virtual workshop conducted by MOAA National for chapter leadership. The workshop covered three areas: Chapter Leaders, Legislative Liaisons, and Surviving Spouse Liaisons. About 122 chapter officers participated in the workshop. On the first day we had overview presentations in each area, and the next day we had breakout sessions where we went in depth in each area. Here are just a few takeaways that I thought might be of interest to all Wichita chapter members:

- The mission of the Surviving Spouse Liaison is to provide education, encouragement, and engagement
- All Surviving Spouses are encouraged to participate in chapter activities and leadership of the chapter.
- There are end of life decisions that members can make now to assist your surviving spouse when that day comes.
- It is important to have family end of life conversations. Share with loved ones what your wishes are.
- If you are a Vietnam veteran, ensure you have filed your Agent Orange status paperwork.
- Visit the MOAA National website for frequent updates and current information.
- As Surviving Spouse Liaison, I can be a resource now as well as after the death of a loved one.

## **Wichita and Derby JROTC Units Continue to Compete and Serve**

Northwest High School JROTC hosted two Raider Challenge physical fitness competitions on Oct. 10 and 24 at Pawnee Prairie Nature Center. About 50 cadets competed in both meets. There were female, male and co-ed teams. Northwest took first place for the 2020 Orienteering season while Heights H.S. took second. There was a tie for third place between South and West. Southeast JROTC hosted two Raider Challenge physical fitness competitions on Oct. 10 and 24. There were more than 70 cadets competing at the first meet and 50 at the second one. Cadets climbed ropes, low-crawled, carried full water cans, scaled obstacles, carried 80-pound litters, crossed one rope bridge and threw spears. Southeast took first-place for the first Raider meet, while Northwest took second and North place third. Southeast claimed first place in the second meet while Northwest placed second and Northeast took third. A total of 33 cadets competing at the two events

were awarded the Raider Arc which will be proudly worn on their uniforms. The Derby High School AFJROTC Color Guard presented the colors at the Derby football playoff game Oct. 30. That same day ,40 Derby cadets wrote and signed over 150 greeting cards to be sent to McConnell AFB airmen who are deployed or will not be able to go home for the holidays.

**Slate of Officers for 2020 – 2021**

PRESIDENT	LTC John Hughey
1 <sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT	LTC Greg Willingham
2 <sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT	LTC Joe Bilik
SECRETARY	Maj Earl Shellner
TREASURER	Maj Shellie Harmon
PAST PRESIDENT	Lt Col Michael George
DIRECTOR/McCONNELL AFB LIAISON	Col Michael Dillard
DIRECTOR/SURVIVING SPOUSE COORDINATOR	LTC Roy Yanchesky
DIRECTOR	MAJ Andy Trager