

**WICHITA CHAPTER**  
**MOAA**  
**MILITARY OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

AUGUST 20, 2018

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

BY LT. COL. MICHAEL R. GEORGE

DEAR MEMBERS, SPOUSES AND FAMILIES OF THE WICHITA CHAPTER OF MOAA. WELCOME BACK TO OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER AND UPCOMING MEETING FOR THE 2018-2019 YEAR. THE FIRST THING I WOULD LIKE TO DO IS THANK YOU FOR SELECTING ME AND OUR NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS TO GUIDE OUR CHAPTER'S ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS. WE'VE HAD OUR FIRST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AND HAVE A NUMBER OF NEW IDEAS WE WANT TO PRESENT AT OUR SEPT. 16, MEETING.

AS COL. MICHAEL DILLARD STATED IN HIS SEPTEMBER 2017 PRESIDENT'S CORNER, I AM HONORED TO ANNOUNCE THAT ONCE AGAIN THE CHAPTER IS RECEIVING THE 5-STAR LEVEL AWARD. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS. WE'RE ALREADY ON OUR WAY TO QUALIFYING FOR OUR NEXT 5-STAR LEVEL AWARD. LTCs JOHN HUGHEY, AND PAUL INMAN, AND MAJ. ANDY TRAGER AND I HAD A GREAT TIME AT THIS YEAR'S VETERANS EXPO AT THE MID-AMERICA ALL INDIAN CENTER ON AUGUST 5TH.

WE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERACT WITH A NUMBER OF VETERANS GROUPS, AND WITH MAYOR JEFF LONGWELL, RADM (RET) JEFFREY PENFIELD, AND CONG. RON ESTES. THE MAIN SUBJECT OF THE EXPO AND PRESENTATIONS BY CONGRESSMAN ESTES AND RADM PENFIELD WAS THE UPCOMING COMMISSIONING OF THE USS WICHITA, LITTORAL COMBAT SHIP 13. PLANS FOR THE COMMISSIONING ARE IN THE WORKS AND WILL BE FINALIZED THIS FALL.

THE USS WICHITA, ALSO CALLED THE "KEEPER OF THE SEA," WILL BE COMMISSIONED SOMETIME THIS COMING WINTER -- DECEMBER TO FEBRUARY. CONGRESSMAN ESTES WILL ALSO BE OUR GUEST

SPEAKER AT THE SEPTEMBER BRUNCH AT ROLLING HILLS COUNTRY CLUB. HE'LL HAVE MORE TO SAY ABOUT THE COMMISSIONING THEN. I'VE ALSO ASKED RADM PENFIELD TO JOIN US AT THAT MEETING.

AS I MENTIONED AT THE START OF THIS COLUMN, WE ARE INTERESTED IN GETTING YOUR IDEAS ABOUT WHAT ACTIVITIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO AND WHAT KIND OF CHARITIES/ORGANIZATIONS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT IN THE FUTURE. TO DO THIS WE WILL BE SENDING OUT A SURVEY THROUGH SURVEY MONKEY, VIA EMAIL, AND WE WILL HAVE A HARDCOPY VERSION FOR YOU TO FILL OUT AT OUR MEETING. PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY SO WE CAN BETTER PLAN THE COMING YEAR.

YOU'LL ALSO FIND IN THIS NEWSLETTER A LIST OF THIS YEAR'S ADVOCACY ITEMS FOR MOAA; INFORMATION ABOUT PAY AND COLA INCREASES FOR 2019, AND A LIST OF DATES FOR OUR MEETINGS FOR THE COMING YEAR. JOHN HUGHEY IS ALREADY HARD AT WORK SCHEDULING GREAT SPEAKERS FOR OUR MEETINGS. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR A SPEAKER, PLEASE LET HIM KNOW.

***CONGRESSMAN RON ESTES***

OUR GUEST SPEAKER FOR THE SEPTEMBER BRUNCH IS RON ESTES. HE IS A 5TH GENERATION KANSAN AND SERVES KANSAS' 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. PRIOR TO BECOMING AN ELECTED OFFICIAL, ESTES WORKED IN CONSULTING AND MANAGEMENT ROLES IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES INCLUDING AEROSPACE, ENERGY AND MANUFACTURING.

AN ENGINEER BY TRADE, HE SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED A VARIETY OF SYSTEMS THAT STREAMLINED OPERATIONS, INCREASED EFFICIENCY AND IMPROVED CUSTOMER RELATIONS - ALL WHILE CUTTING COSTS. ESTES SERVED AS SEDGWICK COUNTY (KANSAS) TREASURER AND THEN KANSAS STATE TREASURER BEFORE BEING

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ELECTED TO CONGRESS ON APRIL 11, 2017. RON AND HIS WIFE, SUSAN, HAVE THREE CHILDREN AND RESIDE IN WICHITA. HE SERVES ON THE FOLLOWING HOUSE COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES: EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE AND HOMELAND SECURITY.

***MOAA BRUNCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING***

THE NEXT MEETING IS SUNDAY, SEPT. 16, AT ROLLING HILLS COUNTRY CLUB. BUFFET BEGINS AT 11 A.M., AND THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT 12:45 P.M. BE SURE TO ATTEND AS THIS PROMISES TO BE AN EXCELLENT PROGRAM.

***CURRENT SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2018 - 2019***

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WERE ELECTED IN MAY TO SERVE IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS FOR THE CHAPTER:

LTC (RET) MICHAEL GEORGE, PRESIDENT

LTC (RET) JOHN HUGHEY, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

LTC (RET) GREG WILLINGHAM, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

MAJ (RET) EARL SHELLNER, SECRETARY

MAJ (RET) SHELLIE HARMON, TREASURER

DIRECTORS: LTC (RET) ROY YENCHESKY, LCDR

(RET) JOHN HYDE, AND MAJ (RET) ANDY TRAGER.

***TROW ANNOUNCEMENTS***

THE NEXT TROW MEETING IS FRIDAY, SEPT. 21, 11:30 A.M., AT THE WICHITA COUNTRY CLUB. THE PROGRAM WILL BE PRESENTED BY CARRIE RENGERS, A COLUMNIST FOR THE WICHITA EAGLE. PLEASE CALL KAREN WOHLWEND, TROW PRESIDENT, AT 316-788-9308 TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION. MEMBERSHIP IN TROW IS OPEN TO ANY WOMAN WHO IS MARRIED TO, OR HAS BEEN MARRIED TO ANYONE WHO SERVED IN THE MILITARY AS AN OFFICER.

THE ANNUAL BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLIES GIVE-AWAY WAS A GREAT SUCCESS DUE TO THE EFFORTS OF 21 TROW AND 4 MOAA MEMBERS. THE VOLUNTEERS SPENT THE WEEK OF JULY 30 - AUGUST 3 DISTRIBUTING BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO 306 CHILDREN. THE PROGRAM, SPONSORED BY THE MCCONNELL AIRMAN AND FAMILY READINESS CENTER, SERVES CHILDREN OF SERVICE MEMBERS IN GRADES E-5 AND BELOW. AN ADDITIONAL 100 BAGS WERE SENT TO THE 184TH GUARD UNIT FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THEIR CHILDREN AS WELL. THIS WAS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF HOW OUR MEMBERS CONTINUE TO SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES. THANKS TO ALL WHO DONATED THEIR TIME TO THIS WORTHY CAUSE.

***MOAA's 2018 ADVOCACY MISSION***

MOAA NATIONAL CONTINUES TO PUSH PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO PROTECT PAY AND BENEFITS FOR ALL SERVICE MEMBERS, ACTIVE AND RETIRED. THE FOLLOWING IS A COMPOSITE OF INITIATIVES FOR 2018:

**ACTION ITEM ONE:** ENSURE ANY TRICARE REFORM SUSTAINS ACCESS TO TOP-QUALITY CARE AND AVOIDS DISPROPORTIONAL TRICARE FEE INCREASES.

**ACTION ITEM TWO:** SUSTAIN MILITARY PAY COMPARABILITY WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

**ACTION ITEM THREE:** BLOCK EROSION OF COMPENSATION AND QUALITY-OF-LIFE BENEFITS.

**ACTION ITEM FOUR:** PROTECT MILITARY RETIREMENT AND COLAS.

**ACTION ITEM FIVE:** SUSTAIN WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAMS AND EXPAND CAREGIVER SUPPORT.

**ACTION ITEM SIX:** END FINANCIAL PENALTIES TO DISABLED SERVICE MEMBERS.

**ACTION ITEM SEVEN:** END FINANCIAL PENALTIES TO SURVIVORS.

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**ACTION ITEM EIGHT:** ENSURE THE GUARD AND RESERVE SYSTEM ADEQUATELY SUPPORTS REQUIREMENTS FOR AN OPERATIONAL RESERVE.

APRIL 21

MAY 19

**ACTION ITEM NINE:** RECRUITING AND RETENTION OF AN ALL-VOLUNTEER FORCE REQUIRES ALIGNMENT OF SPOUSE AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS.

SEPTEMBER 15

OCTOBER 20

NOVEMBER 17

**ACTION ITEM TEN:** ENSURE TIMELY ACCESS TO VA HEALTH CARE AND PRESERVE VETERAN'S EARNED BENEFITS. (EXTRACT FROM THE MOAA WEBSITE)

DECEMBER 8

SPEAKERS AND PROGRAMS FOR THESE MEETINGS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN UPCOMING NEWSLETTERS.

***MORE NEWS FROM MOAA***

*PLEASE CONTACT EARL SHELLNER IF YOU HAVE NEWS OR INFORMATION YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH CHAPTER MEMBERS. HE CAN BE REACHED AT 316-733-0912, OR EARLSHELLNERJR@GMAIL.COM*

THE 2019 PROPOSED MILITARY PAY INCREASE HAS BEEN SET AT 2.6%, WHICH IS .2% HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR, AND THE HIGHEST INCREASE IN 9 YEARS. THE PROPOSED PAY INCREASE HAS BEEN APPROVED BY CONGRESS AND PRESIDENT TRUMP IS EXPECTED TO SIGN IT INTO LAW. THE COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA) FOR 2019 WILL NOT BE ANNOUNCED UNTIL MID-OCTOBER 2018. EARLY INDICATIONS FOR A COLA INCREASE ARE POSITIVE BASED ON THE OASDI TRUSTEES REPORT. PLEASE VISIT THE NATIONAL MOAA WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THIS IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF OUR PAY AND ENTITLEMENTS.

***MOAA BRUNCH MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS***

THE MEETING DATES FOR THE CHAPTER FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2018 AND ALL OF 2019 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

SEPTEMBER 16

OCTOBER 21

NOVEMBER 18

DECEMBER 9

JANUARY 20

FEBRUARY 17

MARCH 17