



# Wichita Chapter News

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



September 2020

## *President's Corner*

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

For those of you who do not know me, I would like to introduce myself. I am Lieutenant Colonel (Retired, US Army) John Hughey and am proud to serve you as the Wichita Chapter president. I have been a member of the chapter since 2013 and served as the chapter's 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president for the last two years. I want to express my appreciation to Mike George for his outstanding service as the president for the past two years. I will earnestly strive to match his impressive leadership, dedication, and professionalism. Thank you Mike. Job well done. And to his wife, Beth, who worked so hard to support Mike and the chapter membership, we are thankful for you. Great work Beth. I think Mike would gladly admit that he could not have done it without you.

Regarding my background, I entered the Army Reserve as an enlisted member in 1982 in order to help pay for my college education in Springfield, Missouri. I later attended law school in Kansas City and graduated in 1991. I then received a direct commission into the Army Judge Advocate General's Corps and spent 21 years serving in numerous functional and leadership positions in locations around the world. After retiring in 2012 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, I applied for certification as an Army JROTC instructor. As part of the certification process, I drove to Wichita to conduct my certification interview with COL Robert Hester who served, and still serves, as the District Army Instructor for the Wichita School District. After the interview, Colonel Hester sent me over to Northwest High School for an interview with the school principal. I suppose that I passed muster because I was offered the job. I have now been the Senior Army Instructor at Northwest for almost 8 years. But I must admit, this upcoming year will probably be a uniquely challenging one for all the JROTC instructors here in the Wichita School District.

The year of our Lord 2020 will likely go down as one of the most unique years in our nation's history. In just the first eight months of the year, we have seen a Presidential impeachment, a world-wide pandemic, and unprecedented social strife. And we have not even gotten to the election. Both the pandemic and our public policies in reaction to the pandemic have altered how we conduct every aspect of our lives. Anxiety, depression, fear, and maybe even anger is being experienced by all of us. And some of us have been personally touched by the pandemic through the contraction of the virus or the tragic death of a loved one. But do not be afraid. We are a strong nation with a large reservoir of faith and resolve. We will pass through this storm.

This month marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II. In August of 1945, American and Japanese delegations stood on the decks of the USS Missouri in Tokyo harbor and signed the formal agreement that brought peace to the Pacific. As soon as General Douglas MacArthur finished his inspiring speech and the surrender agreement was signed, the gray clouds hanging ominously overhead miraculously parted and warm sunlight washed over the decks of the battleship. Hope was rekindled. For the previous 3 years and 8 months, countless Americans, in battles around the globe, had given their lives in order to preserve the American ideals of freedom and democracy. We stand on their shoulders today. And we owe these wonderful heroes more than an ounce of grit and determination. Ladies and gentlemen of this chapter, I believe that the day is coming soon when the gray clouds of fear and dread hanging over our nation will mercifully part and we will restore ourselves in the warm sunlight of hope and faith.

Sincerely,

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

### **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	(pending)
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 Yenchesky
DIRECTOR	MAJ Andy Trager

### **Cloth Face Coverings Required at McConnell AFB**

In accordance with guidance from the Secretary of Defense, all individuals on McConnell will wear cloth face coverings when they cannot maintain six feet of social distance in public areas or work centers. This directive includes military members, DoD civilians, DoD contractors, family members, and any other individuals on DoD property. The masks cannot display material that is offensive, explicit or inappropriate. You can be expected to

lower the covering as your identification is verified by base defenders. Although the coverings are not intended to protect you from COVID-19, they are intended to limit the spread of germs by people who may have the virus and don't display outward symptoms. As such, each time you put the covering on or take it off, or otherwise touch your face, you should wash or sanitize your hands.

## **TROW Again Serves McConnell at the Annual School Supply Giveaway**

A total of 522 enlisted families were able to pick up school supplies this summer as several area retailers donated everything from back packs to pencils and crayons. TROW President Karen Wohlwend solicited volunteers to hand out items during the 5-day event. "This event could not take place without support from our volunteers and Operation Homefront, which coordinates with retailers to provide the school supplies," said Dale Johnson, Community Readiness Consultant at McConnell.

A hearty thanks goes out to Karen and her husband Jim, Anne Tibbetts, Sue Tanner, Earl and Jeri Shellner, Donna Morrison, Sue Bush and her daughter Bev Maness, along with her granddaughter and husband Lesley and David Perreault. Other volunteers include Susie Moran, Rita French, and Carol and Tom Zackery.

## **MOAA Seeks Fix for DACA "Dreamers:" Citizenship Through Service**

**By Eryn Wagnon**

MOAA joined with several military service and immigrant advocacy organizations in a letter to Capitol Hill leaders urging Congress to consider the impact of changes to the Deferred Action of Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program on military readiness. The Supreme Court issued a ruling to preserve the DACA program, which provides protection for individuals commonly known as "Dreamers" – undocumented immigrants who arrive in the U.S. as children.

The program allows them to apply for deferred action and a work permit if they do not have a serious criminal record. About 800 DACA recipients are serving in the U.S. military through the Military Accessions Vital to National Interests (MAVNI) program. Immigrant servicemembers contribute critical skills that make our more effective, including language translation and medical services.

The Inspire2Serve commission estimates 465,000, or less than 1% of Americans, are eligible to serve. As the military struggles with recruitment and retention, a permanent solution for Dreamers could mean an additional 71,000 individuals being eligible for military service, according to a 2017 study from the Migration Policy Institute. This would increase the recruiting population by 15%. In the letter, MOAA and other military and immigrant advocacy groups ask House and Senate leaders to:

1. Create a permanent legislative solution allowing Dreamers to have a path to permanent citizenship through military service.
2. Ensure the 800 DACA recipients now serving in military can continue to serve.
3. Guarantee DACA recipients who have served or are currently serving be granted access to earned benefits including health care, transitional programs, and Parole in Place, and ensure they are encouraged to take advantage of the existing fast track to citizenship.

“We celebrate with the hundreds of military members who have DACA, their families, and their fellow servicemembers who count on them,” said Ali Noorani, president and CEO of the National Immigration Forum, a leading voice for immigrant servicemembers. “At the same time, we need Congress to pass a solution that offers permanent certainty and allows more Dreamers to enlist and serve. We are grateful for the overwhelming support for military members with DACA from military and veterans’ organizations. We’ll continue to need your advocacy for a legislative solution to become reality.”

In 2019, MOAA also submitted a statement for the record highlighting this issue and others that impact immigrant servicemembers, veterans and their families. *(Eryn Wagnon is director of Government Relations, Military Family Policy & Spouse Programs. (Article was published in the Sep. 2020 issue of MOAA’s Military Officer Magazine.)*

## **MOAA Honors the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the End of World War II**

The September issue of Military Officer Magazine provides excellent stories commemorating the end of WW II in Europe and the Pacific. Be sure to check out those great articles. In the issue you’ll also find a list of great WW II. Movies – including “The Bridge on the River Kwai,” (1957); “The Longest Day,” (1962); “Patton,” (1970); “Memphis Belle,” (1990); “Saving Private Ryan,” (1998); “Red Tails,” (2012), and “Dunkirk,” (2017).

Other features in the magazine include the Fall Retirement Guide for 2020; Former TV host Lt. Cmdr. Montel Williams, USN, on a quest to help military families; The “United Through Reading,” program that has delivered stories to more than 2.4 million military family members since 1989; and other great articles. Be sure to pickup your issue.

## **JROTC Programs Face Difficult Year Due to Covid-19**

The Wichita and Derby JROTC programs will face distinct challenges this year due to Covid-19. All cadets will be taught on-line for at least for the first quarter of the year. But JROTC will be able to conduct extra-curricular activities such as orienteering meets, raider challenges, and drill meets. JROTC will be conducting two orienteering meets at Pawnee Prairie Park and two raider challenges at Southeast and West High Schools. However, most other activities will not be conducted. Those include the Veterans Day Ceremony, Veterans Day Parade, and community service color guards.