



Miramar Chapter Newsletter

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Editor, HT Linke, COL/USA (Ret)

February—March 2025

Message from the Chapter President: Greetings! I hope that you all had a great February and are off to a positive month of March! As this is my first newsletter as President, I thought I would share a little about myself and thoughts about our chapter and perhaps some interests that I'd like to present to our chapter.

I'm originally from the State of Maine (Sanford) and ultimately went to Norwich University (Vermont) as an NROTC Scholarship recipient. I graduated (BS Mechanical Engineering) and was commissioned in to the Marine Corps in May of 1989. I became an Infantry Officer and while on Active Duty served two tours in the 1st Marine Division, one as a Lieutenant then a second as a Captain completing four 6-month overseas deployments including Desert Shield/Storm, and follow on deployments to Okinawa and the Middle East. I also did a three year "B" Billet at the Naval Academy Prep School in Newport Rhode, Island.

In 1999, I moved from Active Duty to the Marine Corps Reserve serving in several supporting establishment roles here in Southern California. When mobilized, my roles were in support of OIF / OEF but remained stateside. Ultimately, I retired in 2009 from the Marine Corps Reserve.

As a civilian, I've primarily been involved in Maintenance Management activities mostly supporting aerospace manufacturing in Southern California since leaving Active Duty in 1999. I've lived in Escondido since 1996 when we moved back to California from my Rhode Island tour. I was widowed a few years ago and have two adult daughters are both successfully launching their own careers with one as a Nurse in Houston Tx., and the second an Elementary School Teacher here in San Diego.

I'm excited for the next two years in supporting the chapter. Some areas that I'm interested in recruiting new members and finding ways to tap into the area's vast military population to increase our membership.
(President's message continues next page.....)



Our next chapter meeting is April 3rd at 1130 at Admiral Baker Golf Club. Our speaker will be Steve Cross of the USS Midway Museum Speakers Bureau. See page 5 for details and RSVP information.

(President's message continued....) From a service perspective, definitely interested in veteran workforce development (how to get transitioning veterans & spouses employed), veteran mental health issues (suicide awareness & homelessness) and taking care of our senior Vets AND Spouses as they age and perhaps need added support as they (WE ALL) grow older. I don't think our chapter can solve any of these challenges but I believe that raising awareness and understanding is always a good thing.

To wrap up, I joined MOAA as I believe that MOAA is one of the premier Veteran's Service Organizations. I want to support at a local level and I'm looking forward to working with your Board of Directors and YOU as we advance it's mission locally and continue to Never Stop Serving.

Birthday and Anniversary Celebrations



February and March Birthdays

Mr. Roger Ang	LTCOL Christian Breault	LCDR Michael Brown
CAPT William Chisum	LTCOL Gerard Cloutier	Mrs. Ann Costello
Ms. Norma Dahlvig	Ms. Mary Doyle	Ms. Carol Erazo
CAPT H. Speer Ezzard	CDR Janet Gallagher	Ms. Rosemary Gengler
CAPT David Grundies	Ms. Diana Hill	Ms. Jeri Lynn Holm
Ms. Deralyn Kaheny	Ms. Carol Linke	MAJ Ronan Mandra
Ms. Colleen Pescatore	CPT Desirae Smidt	Ms. Judy Splitgerber
LCDR Samuel Strong	CAPT Shaun Swartz	LCDR Glenn Tyson

February and March Anniversaries



COL & Mrs. Dan Burnett (Feb)	CAPT & Mrs. H. Speer Ezzard (Mar)
LCDR & Mrs. Elmer Green (Feb)	LTC & Mrs. Robert Gaddi (Mar)
LCDR & Mrs. John Heltsley (Feb)	Col & Mrs. H. T. Linke (Mar)
LtCol & Mrs. William Walker (Feb)	Maj & Mrs. Ronan Mandra (Mar)
CAPT & Mrs. Shaun Swartz (Mar)	

MIRAMAR CHAPTER
Military Officers Association of America
2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

<u>Position</u>	<u>Grade/Rank)/Name/Service</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>E-Mail Address</u>
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MOAA Poway Veterans Park Rep	CAPT Michael Puckett, USN	858 -679-2326	mikepuckett@cox.net
(* (Interim or Vacant Positions)			

Next Miramar Chapter BOD meeting 1 May 2025 @ 1800 via Zoom



Have not received notice of any members having passed away to date in 2025. Any members aware of recent passings of chapter members please advise the newsletter editor of the death.

Please remember all our families, and all those who are serving their country, and their families, in our thoughts and prayers.

Update on legislative efforts to stop California from taxing Military Retirement and Survivors Benefit income

Following a determined, but ultimately unsuccessful effort in 2023-24 to exempt military retirement pay and survivors benefit income from California state taxes, the 2025-26 legislative session will again consider the matter.

State Assemblyman James Ramos and State Senator Kelly Seyarto have introduced legislation to resolve the issue. Both AB 53 (Ramos) and SB1 (Seyarto) provide a partial state tax exemption on military retirement pay and Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities, helping keep veterans and their families in California while strengthening our economy. Significantly, and for the first time, California's proposed 2025 budget includes a line item to support a tax exclusion for military retirees and surviving spouses. This is good news.

Per the legislative summary, Personal income taxes: exclusion: Military Services Retirement and Surviving Spouse Benefit Payment Act excludes, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, and before January 1, 2030, up to \$20,000 of uniformed services retirement pay and annuity payments from a United States Department of Defense Survivor Benefit Plan received by qualified taxpayers during the taxable year from gross income under the Personal Income Tax (PIT) Law. As part of the proposed legislation there are income limits: Up to \$250,000 for joint filers, up to \$125,000 for single filers, and a maximum tax exclusion of \$1860. CALMOAA and the CACVC are working with the legislators and the governor's office to encourage raising or eliminating the cap during the legislative process this year. For more information please see the Legislative Affairs page on the Miramar MOAA Chapter Website: [Legislation - MOAA Miramar Chapter](#)

As a California veteran or supporter, your voice matters. Join us in advocating for policies that benefit those who have served our country. Please share the following with your friends, neighbors, and fellow Veterans.

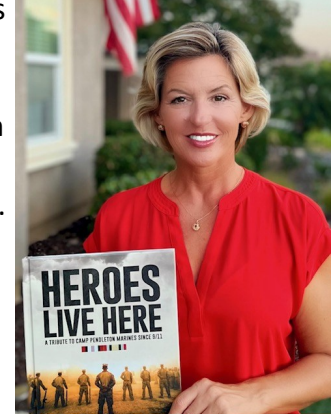
Call to Action:

1. Visit the CSCVC Take Action page: <https://calcommanders.org/take-action/>
2. Use our easy-to-use tool to contact your state representatives.
3. Share your personal story and why this issue matters to you.
4. Encourage fellow veterans and supporters to join the campaign
5. Every member has the opportunity to draft your own letter to our legislators. This is the best way we can support both AB53 and SB1.
6. Members should visit CALMOAA Treasurer (Steve Donlon) Facebook page: STOP California from Taxing Military Retiree Pay. Draft letters supporting AB53 and SB1 have been placed in TAX EXCLUSION. VOTERS VOICE LETTER.

Last minute update: On 12 March SB1 was heard by the Senate's Revenue and Taxation Committee and was passed to the next committee by a vote of 5-0. Anticipate SB1 will next be heard by the Senate's Military and Veterans Committee. On 17 March AB53 was heard by the Assembly's Revenue and Taxation Committee and was passed to the suspense file because cost of bill mandated that bill be placed in suspense file. We had very good testimony, 15 supporters, no opposition, and positive comments from the committee members. Bills placed in the suspense file are then considered at a committee hearing after the state budget has been prepared, mid-to-late May when the committee has a better sense of available revenue.

Author and Marine, Amy Forsythe featured as guest speaker for the February Chapter Meeting

Amy Forsythe was guest speaker for our February chapter luncheon meeting. A distinguished journalist, author, and USMC and USN veteran, she served on multiple overseas deployments, has worked as a TV reporter, and was a featured author at the 2024 Los Angeles Times Festival of Books at the University of Southern California. Amy served more than 30 years in uniform, on active duty and in the reserves, and has been at the 'tip of the spear,' armed with a camera and microphone as she covered combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.



In her presentation she spoke about her book, ***Heroes Live Here: A Tribute to Camp Pendleton Marines Since 9/11***. Amy was first stationed at Camp Pendleton in 1995 and noted that her book started as a passion project to showcase the memorials and markers on Camp Pendleton and has turned into a collaborative work of art that honors our fallen heroes of the post-9/11 generation. Her book guides readers through the sprawling military base and shares heartwarming tributes behind more than a dozen monuments honoring those who served and sacrificed in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.



Our April luncheon will be **Thursday, April 3rd at 11:30am at Adm Baker Golf Course.**

Steve Cross of the USS Midway Museum Speakers Bureau will be our speaker. Steve will provide us with a little World War II history on the topic of **"The Early Carrier Raids leading up to the Doolittle Raid April 18, 1942."**

For 2025, the cost for luncheons at Admiral Baker will be \$30 per person. Please confirm your attendance and pay via the Zelle app to miramarchapter@gmail.com or mail a check (made out to "Miramar Chapter, MOAA") to Darryle Grimes (7671 Forrestall Rd., San Diego, 92120-2202) NLT March 31st. Wes Schermann normally handles these duties but will be unavailable this month, so **please forward your RSVP's, payments, etc. to Darryle.** Hope to see many of you there for this program.

News Flashes

COLA Update: Revised March 3 to reflect new predictions. After near-record raises in the early 2020s, the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) received by military retirees, VA disability and Social Security recipients, and others receiving certain federal compensation is on track to continue a recent downward trend.



An early prediction estimates an increase of 2.3% for the 2026 calendar year – lower than the 2.5% increase for this year and well off the previous two annual adjustments (8.7% and 5.9%), which came in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Those figures represented the largest two-year increase in the formula used to calculate Social Security COLA since the early 1980s, when inflation led to double-digit increases.

*Thank you
retirees!!*

Military Retiree Appreciation Days are held annually all over the country. The closest one for our members for 2025 will be 6 September 2025 at Camp Pendleton. Please call 760-725-6090 for more information.

Here's a good deal from MOAA National HQ: Renewal by Andersen: It's our 31 Day Sales Event. Is it time to replace your drafty old windows and doors? Count on Renewal by Andersen to do it right at a great price! Our beautiful, energy-efficient windows and doors help keep your home

warm in the winter and cool in the summer and can help reduce high energy bills. Our exclusive Signature Service includes everything – even installation! **Call 855-962-5170 today** to get your project started! Right now Veterans receive a special discount in addition to this great offer on. It's our way of saying, "Thank you for your selfless service and sacrifices!". Military discount applies to all active duty, reserves, national guard, veterans, and retired military personnel. Eligibility will be verified through SheerID. Military discount equals \$300 off your entire purchase and applies after all other discounts, only valid on initial visit, no minimum purchase required. **For a full list of MOAA Member Benefits please visit [MOAA - MOAA's Exclusive Discounts](#) on the national MOAA website.**

**Veterans SAVE BIG
with Renewal
by Andersen
Military Discount!**





Membership Renewal

The RENEWAL process is always in action. **Thank You to those who have renewed your Membership. Please speak to everyone you know about our chapter.** MOAA's chapters over the years provide critical grassroots support for MOAA's national legislative agenda. Our benefits are under attack, **MOAA is fighting to preserve them, and MOAA has made great progress this last year.** Chapter members let legislators know what is on their mind, open doors for **MOAA legislative team** in Washington D.C. MOAA members **need to stick together**, and chapters are the best way we know to do so. **MOAA chapters unite** active duty/former/retired officers from every branch (National Guard/Reserve/ Surviving Spouses included). This camaraderie allows connection with members of similar background and develop close and lasting friendships. Chapter Membership is critical to attaining that goal. If you have not renewed, and we have an email address on file for you, John Gorman will email you a reminder that your membership is up for renewal. Please encourage qualified friends/associates, to join this outstanding support organization of veterans and their families.



**Standing with you
at every stage.**

1-800-247-2192 100392
www.moaainsurance.com/plans

For more information, please visit the Chapter website <https://miramarmoa.us/>

On the website is most current information concerning:

- ⇒ Legislative Activities and Highlights
- ⇒ Surviving spouse matters
- ⇒ National MOAA and related organizations contact Information
- ⇒ Job Search Assistance
- ⇒ Volunteer opportunities
- ⇒ And much, much more

Editor's Note

Articles for Newsletter: Please submit articles or topic ideas prior to the first week of every odd month. The newsletter has been uploaded to our Chapter Website. (Current information is covered in the newsletter, along with articles/photos of interest to our members). Newsletter will continue to be mailed to members who prefer that method of delivery. Complete PDF version will be posted on Website as Newsletter and available for download, past copies are maintained in Editor files and available to members.

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