



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Independence Day. On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence, announcing the colonies separation from Great Britain, an event that eventually led to the formation of

the United States. This is the time of the year that we stop and reflect on our past history. I am reprinting a column that originally ran in 2016 published by the GEOPOLITICAL Futures.

"240 years ago today, the American people were declared to be a unique and independent nation, distinct from all others. This is the conception of the people, but the sovereign government of the United States was born in battle. The revolution lasted eight years and about 25,000 died a higher percentage of the population than died in World War II. This lead overtime to the constitution, which founded the regime that governed the American people."

"It was a unique regime because it did not trust politicians. The founders feared the politician's desire for power. To solve this problem, they founded a regime so unwieldy, so inefficient, that very little could get done. Their vision of America was a country of businesses and farms, churches and societies. They envisioned a nation whose heart was not in Washington- an artifice invented to hold politicians- but in private life. The life of farmers, businessman, clergymen and eccentrics. Few other governments were founded with such fear of governance."

"The American revolution was fought to make certain the government was weak and society strong and free. Our founders feared strong presidents and contrived to cripple them before they took office by confronting them with two Congressional houses run on different rules and a Supreme Court. Very little can get done, yet America

flourishes."

I reread this article several times and I still find it hard to understand why there is so much hurt, so many questions, and so much misunderstanding in building a nation that has given all so much to be thankful for. Discomfort may exist, but with courage and hard work we move forward towards serving the needs of all.

Major Kenneth Johnson, USAF, President
408-466-6764 ~ kenthetraveler@gmail.com

SEE "Pub Crawl" on Page 3

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2023

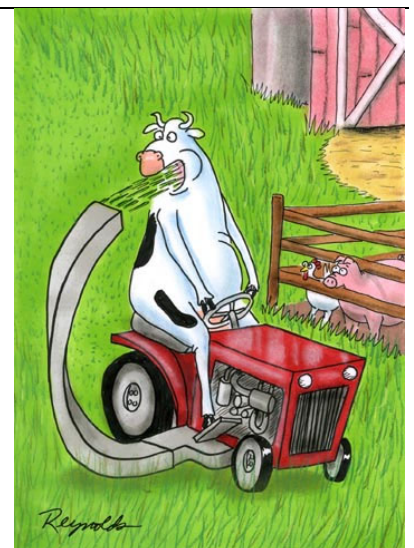
ANNUAL BBQ

Riverfront Regional Park near Windsor
Lunch about 1:00pm when ready

See Pages 3,4 & 5
For more information

See page No. 3 for the Luncheon menu.

CARTOONS FOR TWISTED PEOPLE



Legislative Update - August 2023

General Comments.

The money is "out there". Let's keep pushing our priorities!

Federal:

The Expanding America's National Cemetery Act (H.R. 1413), This is a significant piece of legislation protecting full uniformed services burial benefits introduced March 7 by Reps. Lisa McClain (R-Mich.) and Chrissy Houlahan (D-Pa.) is designed to preserve the option for full military honors now available at ANC and offers a long-term solution to Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) which would inevitably run out of room. It would authorize designating the next national cemetery location with equivalent honors to continue these benefits, rather than reducing eligibility at ANC. We need to reach out to our Congressmembers to support this bill.

Major Richard Star Act. (H.R. 1282/S.344)

This act would **repeal this unfair offset**, allowing these disabled Veterans to receive both their retirement pay and their disability pay. This bill is being resubmitted with high hopes that it will pass as a stand alone measure or included in the 2024 NDAA. Rep. Huffman is a co-sponsor as of 6/9/23. Both Senators are on board as co-sponsors of S.344

Respect for Military Families Act (H.R. 3232/ S.1588) This act would prevent the government from immediately recouping any overpayment of benefits and instead gives survivors the opportunity to repay the benefits over a 12-month period. It would also allow the secretary of defense to forgive the repayment. We need co-sponsors from our representatives and senators.

Military Spouse Hiring Act (H.R. 1277). This act will help spouses who are currently discriminated against for employment due to their husbands frequent transfers. Both Senators are on board as co-sponsors, however, we need to get our Representatives on board.

State:

AB 46 Retired Pay Tax Exemption . AB 46 has passed from the Senate Military and Veterans Committee with a 5-0 vote. Now it goes to the Senate Appropriations Committee - possibly on August 14. We will be sending emails to all of the committee members urging support. Again, **stay tuned** because the next step is the Governor's desk.

Vern McNamee, LTC, USA Retired
Legislative Chairman

Redwood Empire Chapter MOAA (CA30)
707 972-3066 vernonmc@mcn.org

Marcele and her daughter Leslie



The birthday cake



See Page 6 ~ **MOAA WIVES CLUB**
For more information

"Sunshine Lady"

Call Myrna Hurst, 707-468-0146,
if you know of anyone in the chapter who
might enjoy a get well or sympathy card.

SEE "Pub Crawl" on Page 3

MOAA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

will be at the Santa Rosa Veterans building
in the Conference room.

Tuesday, August 1, 2023, 11:30am.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

(A Sonoma County Main Chapter event; all members are more than welcome to attend)

Annual BARBEQUE, SUNDAY- August 20, 2023, 1:00 pm
Riverfront Regional Park near Windsor [Dining at 1:00 pm]
See directions and other important information on page 4

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

MENU CHOICES - Menu is Pork Ribs and Chicken, BBQ Beans, Salad, Garlic Bread and Chef's Special Dessert Bread Pudding with whipped cream. Coffee, Water and Wine will also be available. BYOB, Soft Drinks and Snacks.

Enclosed is my check for _____ persons @ **\$25.00** each, Col Brey Scholarship Fund \$_____ Total \$_____

Please make name tags for: _____,
_____, _____,

Reservation must be received not later than Wednesday, August 16, 2023. We need a count to buy for meals.

NOTE: We have to pay for parking. If you have a County pass, please use it and share rides to save money.

Make check (s) payable to: **RECMOAA**

To: MOAA, Redwood Empire Chapter, P.O. Box 2801, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

"Contact the Chapter Secretary @ 707-795-3963, prior to 12:00 noon Monday,

We will be having a Raffle to help with our funds. If you are able to bring a Raffle Prize we would be grateful.

Redwood Empire Chapter member
CPT WILLIAM ANDERSON, USA

Is offering his service to
members and veterans in need.

He realizes that the country is presently going through a rough time, because of the present COVID-19 virus and shelter in place, there are a lot of people with many different needs. He is offering to our members and any veterans organizations his help.

As a landlord he can repair many house issues for our their members. **FREE!** They only need to pay for parts.

He can transport supplies. He lives in Santa Rosa. He owns 57 properties in this state alone and is his own maintenance service. He does many kinds of things. He still offers a weeks worth of goods and 5 gallons of gas to needy members, vets and classmates.

Anyone can call him and he will give you more details. Call: William Anderson at 707-331-0366

"Pub Crawl"

Chapter members, Friends and Guests: "Pub Crawl", is back on our event calendar.

We will meet at 11:30 at the **Epicenter**. August 21, 2023. Always on the **THIRD** Monday of each month. Our pub crawls are a great place to relax and share our past experiences. We all have stories to tell!! **NOTE:** Last month we had 10 in attendance.

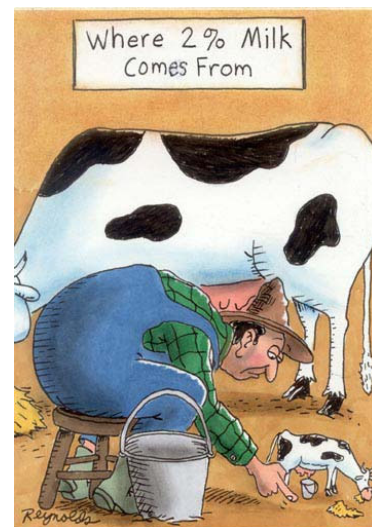
Any other questions, please call your President Ken Johnson. (408)466-6764.

CARTOONS

FOR

TWISTED

PEOPLE



Dolphin Trainer!!!!

An elderly man rear-ended a guy driving an expensive sports car.

Enraged, the guy hops out and confronts the old man.

"Look what you did to my car" he yells.

"You're going to give me \$10,000 right now or I'm going to beat you to a pulp!"

"Oh my" says the old man, "I don't have that kind of money.

Let me call my son, he trains dolphins and he will know what to do."

"Dolphins" the other driver huffs, while rolling his eyes.

The old man pulls out his phone, dials his son and just as his son answered, the irate man snatches the phone away from the old man.

"So, YOU'RE a dolphin trainer, huh? Well, Your old man here just rear-ended my car and I need 10 grand right now or I'm going to beat you AND your old man to a pulp."

"I'll be there in 10 minutes," says the voice calmly on the other end.

Exactly 10 minutes later a Jeep pulls up and a guy hops out and proceeds to pulverize the bully, leaving him in a heap on the side of the road.

When he finished, he walked over to his father and said.....

"For the last time dad, I train Seals, Navy Seals..... NOT dolphins!"

**IF YOU ATTEND THE BBQ ON
AUGUST 20th, AND IF YOU
DRIVE YOUR CAR THERE,
THEN CLIP THE "MOAA"
BELOW AND PUT ON
YOUR CAR DASH BOARD**

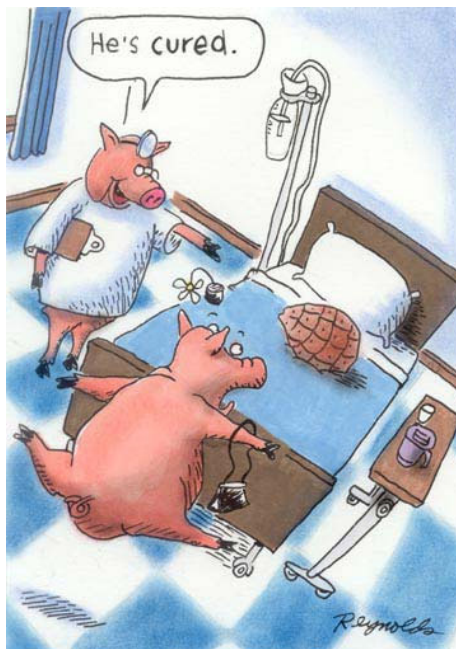
MOAA

CARTOONS

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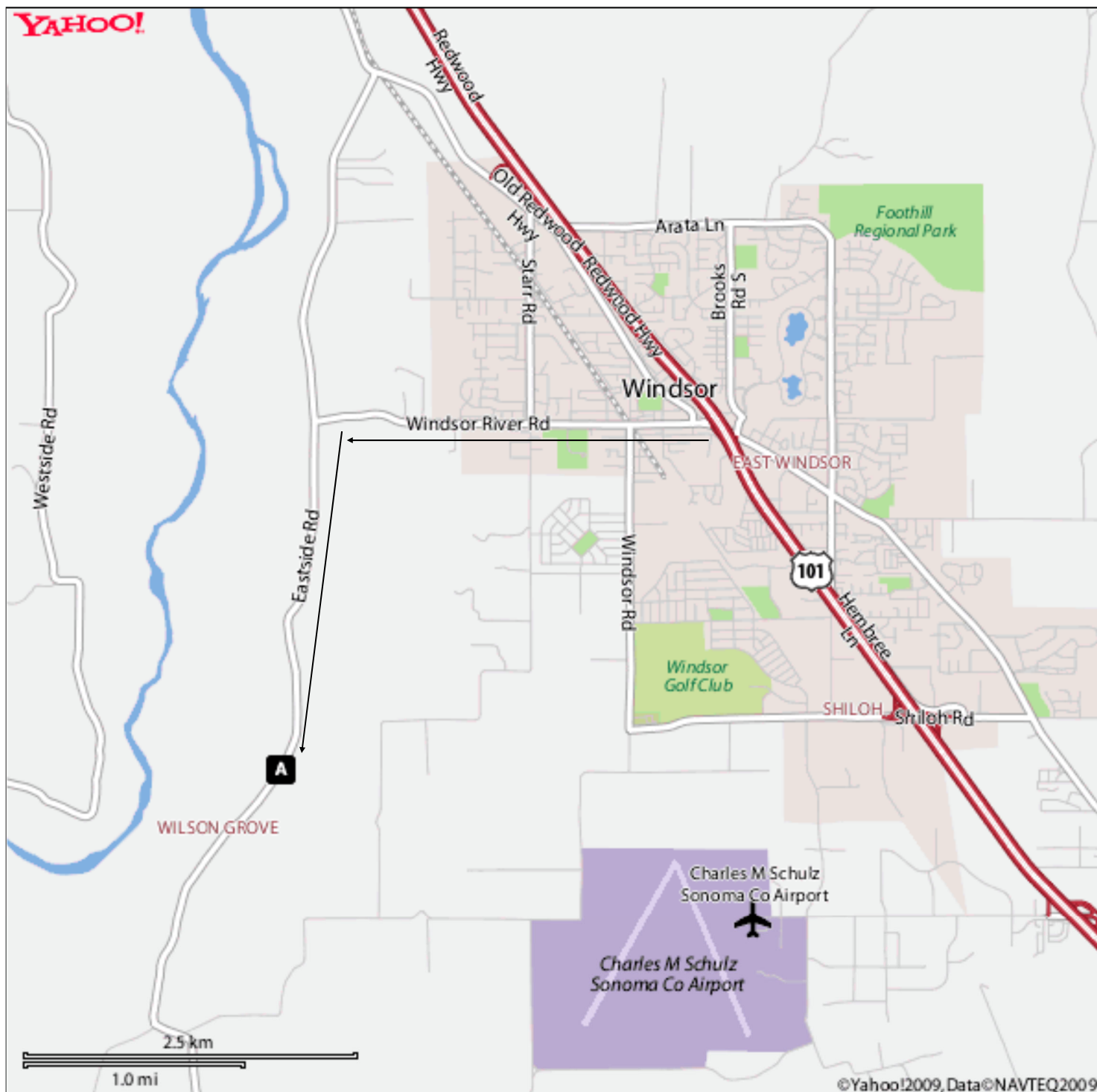
TWISTED

PEOPLE



**SEE "Pub
Crawl" on**

Page 3



RIVERFRONT REGIONAL PARK

DIRECTIONS: Take Highway 101 North from Santa Rosa to Windsor. Turn off at Central Windsor Exit. Go West on Windsor River Road about 2 miles to a “T” intersection which is Eastside Road. Left (South) for 1.8 miles and “**Riverfront Regional Park**” will be on the right. (Marked with an “A”) It takes about 20 to 25 minutes from central Santa Rosa to get there.

INFORMATION ON BBQ

Our annual BBQ will take place on Sunday, August 20, 2023, at 1:00 pm. It will be at the Riverfront Regional Park near Windsor. The park is a glen of tall

redwood trees affording plenty of cool shade and beauty.

- New restrooms are available and the ground area is relatively flat and maneuverable.
- There is a sandy volleyball court but be warned, for those who make use of this, there is no cardiac equipment available...
- Recommend you bring a sweater or windbreaker in case it chills later in the afternoon.
- The **parking fee** will be handled by the chapter but the parking spaces is somewhat limited, so carpooling is requested.
- If you have a County pass, please use it and share rides to save money.

2023 DATES TO REMEMBER

AUGUST:

1st BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 9th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 20th Sunday, Riverfront Regional Park, Annual BBQ
 21st "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, 11:30 am
 23rd United Veterans Council meeting

SEPTEMBER:

5th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2024 officers
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 13th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 18th "Pub Crawl" at Epicenter, **11:30 am**
 ** 15th - 19th Air Show at CMS Airport?
 27th United Veterans Council meeting
 28th Luncheon, **Epicenter**

OCTOBER:

3rd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 11th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 16th "Pub Crawl" at Epicenter, **11:30 am**
 25th United Veterans Council meeting
 26th Luncheon Epicenter, Election of Officers for

NOVEMBER:

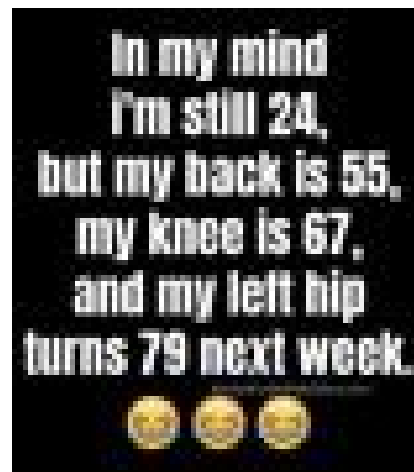
7th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 8th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 ** 11th North Bay Veterans Day parade (Friday)
 17th Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building
 20th "Pub Crawl" at Epicenter, **11:30 am**
 ** 22nd United Veterans Council meeting
 23rd Thanksgiving Day

DECEMBER:

5th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 ** 7th Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??
 17th Sunday, Holiday Social, Sally's Tomatoes
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 NO United Veterans Council meeting
 ** 18th "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, 11:30 am ??
 25th Christmas

** = Not Confirmed at this time ~ **CNX** = Cancelled ~ **UNK** = Unknown

06/32/06



MOAA WIVES CLUB

(Sonoma County Main - All members welcome)

2023 Officers

President: Dayle Johnson 408-466-6764
 Vice President: Barbara Confer 707-763-8198
 Secretary: Tina Lewis 707-758-9739
 Treasurer: Florence Wall 707-837-7389
 Parliamentarian: Donna Poulter 707-576-0513

The next meeting of the Wives Club will be a buffet lunch at the Epicenter on Wednesday, August 9th. The price is \$25.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be shrimp tempura, pesto chicken breast, angel hair pasta with white wine and butter, seasonal vegetables, fruit salad, and cookies.

If the Telephone Committee does not contact you, you may make a reservation up to the day before the meeting; however, cancellations must be made by Monday preceding the meeting. For either situation, call Susan Linch at 707-538-3342.

The July program was a surprise 100th birthday party for Marcele Gallez. Her daughter was there to review Marcele's life. A lifelong pianist, Marcele is still giving lessons and performing for audiences. A life well lived. And still going strong.

The August program will be Chapter Treasurer Tim Morgan showing photos of his travels. Please join us!

Tina Lewis, Publicity 707-539-5546,
 tinalewis31@comcast.net

Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2023

President: Maj Ken Johnson, USAF 408-466-6764
1st Vice President (NONE AT THIS TIME)
2nd Vice President 1/Lt Donald J. Nowacki, USANG 707-595-1047
Secretary: Cpt Robert R. Saferno, USAF 707-795-3963
Treasurer: LCDR Tim Morgan, USNR 707-695-9293
Imed. Past President: CPT Lee P. Hoskins, USA 707-328-2316

CAL-MOAA Director, Area I

Cpt Tom Walther, USAF 530-673-5499

Directors-at-large - Term 2023-2024

Martina Lewis 707-539-5546
 Susan Linch 707-538-3342
 LTC Gary Meagher, AUS 707-544-4089
 Mary-Gwen Neisingh 707-481-7614

Directors-at-large - Term 2022-2023

Capt R. Lee Berry, USMC 707-308-4160
 Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst 707-468-0146
 Donna Poulter 707-576-0513
 CPT Lewis Wall, USA 707-837-7389

Directors Representing Sub-Chapters:

Mendocino: Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst 707-468-0146
Sonoma Valley: Maj B. K. White, USMC 707-996-1335

MOAA VOICE

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