

President Donna Poulter and Past President Ken Johnson

The Chapter was unable to elect all Officers needed for 2024, so on March 28th we had nominations for Officers needed. On April 25th there was an election for Officers needed and the results are listed below. **NOTE:** There still is an empty Directors position that needs to be filled. We invite a member to come forward and volunteer to be on the Board of Directors

Election of needed Officers April 25, 2024

President ~ Donna Poulter

1st Vice-President ~ Mary-Gwen Neisingh

2nd Vice-President ~ LTC Steve Countouriotis, USA

Directors: Dayle Johnson and Rosemary Rizzo

** See page 6 for entire Board Members that were previously elected.

Pub Crawl"

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

We will meet at 12:00 noon the Poppy Bank Epicenter, May 20, 2024. 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!!

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

MOAA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

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

Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 11:30am.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

Thursday, May 23, 2024

**Buffet Luncheon at the
POPPY BANK EPICENTER**

in Santa Rosa

11:00am ~ Dine at Noon

Guest Speaker: Lew Wall, will speak on
Shenandoah Valley thru the Civil War.

**PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS
FOR DINING,**

this is needed for head counts for meals and
making name tags.

See page No.4 for the Luncheon menu.

CHAPTER DUES FOR 2024

At the present time we have 8 (eight) members that have not renewed their memberships. They are: CWO4 CB, Capt R.LB, LCDR VEH, LTC DDJ, 1/Lt DJN, COL HAS, LCDR TJS, and Maj MGW. Please check with your Chapter Secretary for further information. March 1, 2024 was the Deadline. Dues are only \$25.00

LAST CHANCE YOU WILL BE DROPPED

"GOOD SPEAKERS ARE NEEDED"

Chapter members:

Who do you want to hear from?

Please send your suggestions to

Bob Safreno, (707)795-3963, Cell: 707-479-9374

or by e-mail: shadowbob1@juno.com

"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.

Legislative Update - May 2024

General Comments.

Federal. While the details of the NDAA 2024 are still being worked out, the budget for NDAA 2025 is on the horizon with some possible ugly consequences for military retirees' health benefits. Personnel matters have always been a "soft target" for the budget balancers in the Congressional Budget Office (CBO and National MOAA believes that Tricare-for-Life (TFL) may be a target again claiming that it's too expensive. DoD has pushed for changes, but fortunately Congress has maintained the *status quo*.

In the meantime, I suggest to continue to beat the drums with our representatives/senators on the following issues:

Save Tricare-for-Life. It would be a pity to lose this essential benefit for all military retirees won in the NDAA 2001 after an almost twenty year battle. In the 2001 NDAA, Congress saw fit to include the following text in that bill *in verbis*: "While extending TRICARE/CHAMPUS eligibility to Medicare eligible beneficiaries, the conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to refrain from using deductibles and co-payments, in recognition of their participation in Medicare Part B as a condition of participation" Request all look at MOAA's Advocacy in Action to ask your representative to not destroy this essential benefit for military members.

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. Please use the **MOAA Advocacy in Action** to follow up with our Representatives.

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.

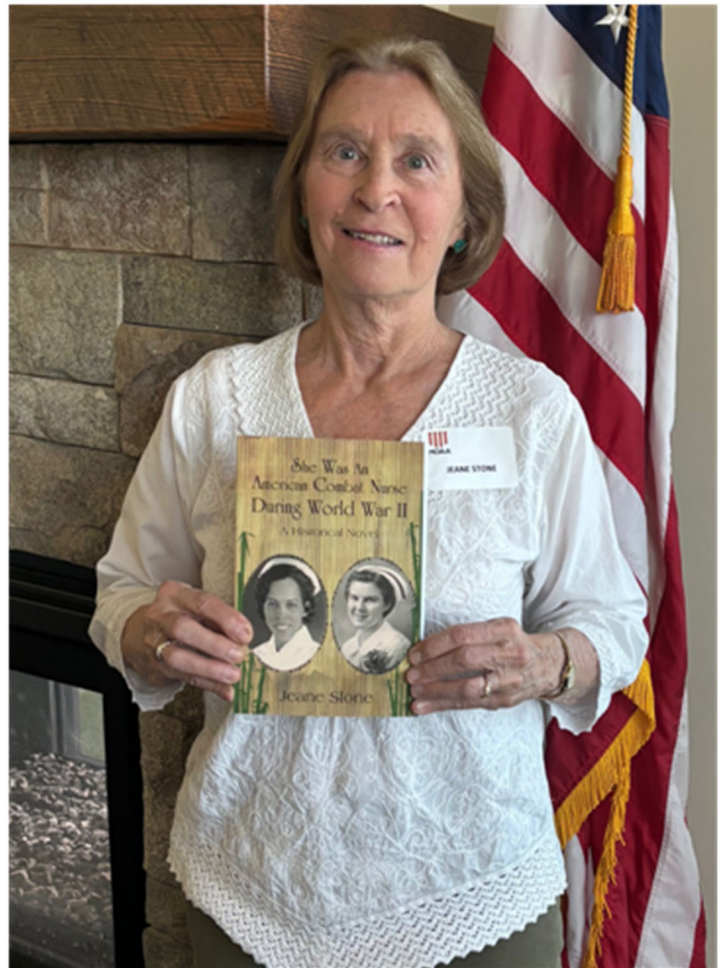
The Major Richard Star Act - Concurrent Receipt for Combat Injured Veterans: Two-thirds of Congress has supported this bill for the past two years. This legislation would reverse an unjust offset requiring these combat-injured retirees to give up a dollar of DoD-earned retirement pay for every dollar of VA-provided disability benefits they receive. We need to get our legislators back on board for the upcoming year.

State. With the current California budget crisis growing larger every day. It seems like the issues of interest to us are pretty much off the table. However, **stay tuned!** For those

who followed the recent elections regarding Governor Gavin Newsom's Proposition 1 Homeless Housing/Mental Health Bill which narrowly passed but will extend the state debt for 30 years.

Vern McNamee, LTC, USA Retired
Legislative Chairman
Redwood Empire Chapter MOAA (CA30)
707 972-3066
vernonmc@mcn.org

Jeane Slone



The guest speaker at the April luncheon was Jeane Slone, author of several historical novels about women in the military. Using an in-depth PowerPoint presentation, she focused on her most recent book, SHE WAS AN AMERICAN COMBAT NURSE DURING WORLD WAR II. The book focuses on two nurses, one black and one white. Opposing narratives involving the two women, along with many photographs, convey the experiences and impact of segregation both in general society and in the armed forces in the 1940s. Among her many involvements, Slone is a member of the Redwood Writer's Club, Pacific Coast Air Museum, the National Women's History Alliance, and the Historical Novel Society. Five of her books were available for purchase.

Warren L. "Chris" Christianson

November 29, 1929—April 16, 2024



On April 16, 2024, fittingly close to high noon, Warren L. "Chris" Christianson passed away suddenly in a fashion much like he lived - unequivocally. His failure to make it home for lunch with his beloved wife Marlys at the promised hour of 1 p.m. was, she noted, the first time he'd ever "stood her up" in their 70-plus years of marriage. Chris was born into a loving and gregarious family in November 1929 in Britton, SD. He was the youngest of the six children of Mary Elizabeth ("Mayme") Masse Christianson and Emil S. Christianson. He grew up in Cogswell, ND, where he excelled in sports at Cogswell High School. He attended the University of North Dakota before transferring to Valley City State Teachers College. While attending Valley City, he met and began dating Marlys Knutson.

Their 73-year love affair started when he offered a ride to Marlys and three other co-eds, as they walked back to their dorm. Chris and Marlys married in August 1953 while Chris was a cadet at the Pensacola Naval Air Station. They eloped and were married in the Catholic Church in Biloxi, MS.

Chris enlisted in the United States Navy in June 1952 and was awarded his wings in February 1954. Flying was his second love and he felt almost as passionate about it as he did about Marlys.

He served as a naval aviator in the United States Navy and Naval Reserves for 20 years, retiring as a Lt. Commander. He was a Commercial Pilot for Braniff International for 35 years, achieving the rank of Captain on the Boeing 747. He flew during the golden era of aviation, and always said "It beat working for a living."

He was a great husband, wonderful father and grandfather, loving son, brother, uncle, cousin, and friend. He loved his family dearly and took enormous pride in his three children, Catherine Fugit (Mark), Shawn Christianson (Philip McLeod) and

Clay Christianson (Nanette) and six grandchildren, Hailey Fugit, Brent Fugit (Mirtha), Spencer McLeod (Madison), Connor McLeod (Isabella), Chas Christianson and Gus Christianson. For him, family came first.

He was a faithful Roman Catholic, an avid Dallas Cowboys fan, and a fierce patriot. He was also a proud member of the Sons of Norway, Elks, Airline Pilots Association, American Legion, Knights of Columbus and Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), for which he served as the President of the Redwood Empire Chapter. He also served on the City of Santa Rosa's Parks and Recreation Commission.

Donations in Chris' memory are preferred to the MOAA Scholarship Fund, attn. Susan Linch, MOAA Redwood Empire Chapter, P.O. Box 2801, Santa Rosa, CA 95405 or the American Cancer Society, in memory of Chris Christianson.

A Memorial Mass will be held in May at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, followed by a reception. Chris lived a long, extraordinary life, and to almost his last breath, he was on the move, getting things done. We will miss him every day, but will carry his memory, spirit, and love in our hearts forever. Lafferty & Smith Colonial Chapel, directors (707) 539-2921.

LETTER BELOW FROM ONE OF THE CHAPTER'S
WINNER OF THE COLONEL BREY SCHOLARSHIP.

Dear Scholarship Committee,

April 26, 2024

I greatly appreciate being awarded the Colonel William Brey Scholarship. I plan to utilize the funds and place it to good use in pursuit of a degree. My goal is to go through Warrant Officer Flight School as soon as possible but likely around January 2025, this will provide an opportunity to complete another semester this fall in Santa Rosa Junior College.

Unfortunately my family and I will be unable to make it to the picnic event on June 15th. Given that we have a trip planned to Europe primarily focused around Monaco for the F1 Grand Prix followed by a promenade towards Normandy while visiting various automobile and military history museums along the route. The purpose of the visit to Normandy, France would be for the 80th D-Day Anniversary, and it will be very sentimental for me to stand on Omaha Beach +/- 200 meters to where my grandfather would have been wounded during the Invasion on the morning of June 6th 1944.

Thank you again for awarding me with the Scholarship, I am very grateful.

William Anderson

William Anderson

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

Buffet Luncheon, Thursday May 23, 2024

Epicenter, 3215 Coffey Lane, Santa Rosa

Socializing 11:00 to 11:45 am, Meeting starts, Lunch 12:00 noon

Cost (including tax and tip) - **Price \$26.00**

Salad: Ceasar Salad ~ Garlic Parmesan Bread

Lunch: Beef Stroganov ~ Boneless Wings with Honey Sriracha
Green Beans with Bacon

Dessert: Cookies. Water, Lemonade, Iced Tea, Hot Tea and Coffee

Enclosed: is my check for my advanced reservation _____ persons @ \$26.00 each. \$ _____

Note: All must make **RESERVATIONS** Please Pre Pay if possible. (Late options only **Pay At Door**).
Information is needed for head counts for meals and making name tags.

NO RESERVATION or Walk-Ins will cost \$30.00 per person.

Donations: Col. Brey Scholarship Fund (Fully Tax Deductible). \$ _____ **TOTAL:** \$ _____

Guest Speaker: **Lew Wall**, will speak on Shenandoah Valley thru the Civil War.

Name: _____, Phone: (____) _____

Guests: _____, _____, _____, _____

Please list the names of all guest, so that we can make **NAME TAGS** for them too, thank you.

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

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

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 60 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

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WINNERS of the BREY SCHOL- ARHIPS

The Scholarship Committee, in concordance with the Board of Directors, is pleased to announce the winners of the 2024 Brey Scholarship. Twelve applications, the most ever, were received, and the decision-making process was a difficult one. Scholarships of \$1500. each were awarded to Audrey and William Anderson, children of William Anderson; Noelle Afflerbaugh, great-granddaughter of Dick Mattingly; Nicholas Linch and Sophia Phan, grandchildren of Susan and Don Linch; Niccolo Cellini, grandson of Bob Safreno; and Mahavir Lane, grandson of Jeanine Lane.

My grateful thanks go to Mary Gwen Neisingh, Dayle and Ken Johnson, Tim Morgan, and Mary Glenn Curtin who put time, energy and a tremendous amount of thought into reviewing the applications. A very big thank-you also to Pete Rizzo who redacted the applications.

Susan Linch, Scholarship Committee Chair

2024 DATES TO REMEMBER

May:

- 7th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners
- 8th Wives Club Luncheon, Epicenter
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 18th Armed Forces Day – Rose Parade, Santa Rosa
- 20th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
- 22nd United Veterans Council meeting
- 23rd Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 27th Memorial Day Ceremonies

June:

- 4th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 15th Saturday, Picnic Spring Lake, Lower Jackrabbit Area
Honor Scholarship Recipients?
- 17th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
- 26th United Veterans Council meeting

July:

- 10th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 15th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
- 24th United Veterans Council meeting
- 25th Luncheon, Epicenter

August:

- 6th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am, select a nominating committee
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 14th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 17th Saturday, Riverfront Regional Park, Annual BBQ
- 19th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
- 28rd United Veterans Council meeting

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

September:

- 3rd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2025 officers

10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information

11th Wives Club Luncheon, Epicenter

16th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**

20th - 22nd Air Show at CMS Airport?

25th United Veterans Council meeting

26th Luncheon, Epicenter

October:

- 1st BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
- 9th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 21st **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
- 23rd United Veterans Council meeting
- 24th Luncheon Epicenter, Election of Officers for 2025

November:

- 5th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 11th North Bay Veterans Day parade (Monday)
- 13th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 15th Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building
- 18th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
- NO** United Veterans Council meeting
- 28th Thanksgiving Day

December:

- ** 7th Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- ** 15th Sunday, Holiday Social, Sally's Tomatoes
- NO** United Veterans Council meeting
- ** 16th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00 noon??**
- 25th Christmas

06/32/06

MOAA WIVES CLUB

(Sonoma County Main - All members welcome)

2024 Officers

President: Barbara Confer	707-763-8198
Vice President: Donna Poulter	707-576-0513
Secretary: Tina Lewis	707-758-9739
Treasurer: Norma Viglienzzone	707-542-1458
Parliamentarian: Donna Poulter	707-576-0513

The next meeting of the Wives Club will be a buffet lunch at the Epicenter on Wednesday, May 8th. The price is \$25.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be mini meatloaves, chicken enchiladas, esquite, broccoli salad, 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.

At the April luncheon it was very interesting to hear from everyone the best and worst place they've ever lived. In May our speaker will be Monique Meza, who is with Santa Rosa Community Health. She will probably speak about the Baby Closet, which is a monthly event when volunteers have collected things that provide moms-to-be with vital resources.

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

Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2024

<u>President:</u>	Donna Poulter	707-576-0513
<u>1st Vice President</u>	Mary-Gwen Neisingh	707-481-7614
<u>2nd Vice President</u>	LTC Steve Countouriotis, USA	707-763-5309
<u>Secretary:</u>	Cpt Robert R. Safreno, USAF	707-795-3963
<u>Treasurer:</u>	LCDR Tim Morgan, USNR	707-695-9293
<u>Imed. Past President:</u>	Maj Ken Johnson, USAF	408-466-6764

<u>CAL-MOAA Director, Area I</u>	
	Cpt Tom Walther, USAF 530-673-5499

<u>Directors-at-large - Term 2023-24</u>	
	Martina Lewis 707-539-5546
	Susan Linch 707-538-3342
	LTC Gary Meagher, AUS 707-544-4089
	(Vacant need Volunteer)

<u>Directors-at-large - Term 2024-25</u>	
	Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst 707-468-0146
	Dayle Johnson 408-466-6764
	Rosemary Rizzo 707-539-3346
	CPT Lewis Wall, USA 707-837-7389

<u>Directors Representing Sub-Chapters:</u>	
<u>Mendocino:</u>	Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst 707-468-0146

MOAA VOICE

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