



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Hello dear Members,

I wish you all a festive and safe 4th of July. Independence Day commemorates the ratification of the Declaration of Independence. The thirteen colonies were now united, free, and independent states. Enjoy your freedom and holiday!

Many thanks to Dan Cortez for barbecuing at our picnic last month and to the wives for the delicious food they provided. It is always such a happy occasion.

I look forward to seeing you at the Pub Crawl on July 21st

We are saddened to learn of the death of beloved member Gary Meagher on June 8th.. He contributed so much to our chapter. He was a Board member always treating us to popcorn and water. He was a vital part of our picnics, BBQ, and Lobster feed. I will personally miss his grin, humor, and kindness. He was such a wonderful and lovable guy.



~~~~~  
Today . . .  
I hope you loved, I hope you  
laughed, I hope you smiled.

Tomorrow . . .  
I hope you do it again!

UNKNOWN



"When you're in jail, a good friend  
will be trying to bail you out. A best  
friend will be in the cell next to you  
saying 'Damn that was fun.'"

Groucho Marx

**Donna Poulter, President**  
707-576-0513 ~ donnaeaglette@yahoo.com

**SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 4**

## MOAA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

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

**NO BOARD MEETING IN JULY**

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

**THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2025**

**Buffet Luncheon at the  
EPICENTER in Santa Rosa  
11:00am ~ Dine at Noon**

~~~~~  
Guest Speaker: Gaylen Dunham, who will speak on the
Civil War. He will be dressed in full gear as a soldier during
the Civil War, including all equipment, packs, etc.

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR DINING

~~~~~  
By Tuesday, July 22, 2025. This is needed for head  
counts for meals and making name tags.

~~~~~  
See page No. 3 for the Luncheon menu.

A former Sergeant in the Marine Corps took a new job as a high
school teacher.

~~~~~  
Just before the school year started, he injured his back.  
He was required to wear a plaster cast around the upper part of  
his body. Fortunately, the cast fit under his shirt and wasn't  
noticeable.

~~~~~  
On the first day of class, he found himself assigned to the
toughest students in the school. The smart punks, having
already heard the new teacher was a former Marine, were leery
of him and he knew they would be testing his discipline in the
classroom.
Walking confidently into the rowdy classroom, the new teacher
opened the window wide and sat down at his desk. When a
strong breeze made his tie flap, he picked up a stapler and
stapled the tie to his chest.

~~~~~  
Dead silence...  
The rest of the year went very smoothly.

## **"GOOD SPEAKERS ARE NEEDED"**

Chapter members:

Who do you want to hear from?

Please send your suggestions to

**Bruce Stahley**, Phone: 415-328-9278

or by e-mail: [bruce.a.stahley@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.a.stahley@gmail.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 July 2025

## General Comments.

### Federal.

Hopefully, by the time you read this, the waiting should be over. However, we still need to follow-up on our promotes shown as follows:

**Major Richard Star Act - H.R. 2102** would authorize combat-injured veterans to receive their earned DoD retirement pay for years of service and their VA disability compensation for lifelong injury. This has been a long term priority with overwhelming support, but has never passed. To reduce earned retirement pay because of a combat disability is an injustice; the compensation for these injured veterans is not the place to achieve savings. Your help with Representative Huffman is urged.

**PACT Act - VA Benefits.** This act was a historic step forward, but its work isn't complete. Many exposed veterans wait over 34 years on average before receiving presumptive service connection and the care they've earned. Congress needs to make a commonsense reform will cut through red tape, improve VA accountability, and end the long wait faced by millions of veterans'

**Basic Allowance for Housing Act (BAH). H.R. 1965:** This measure will reduce the impact of military personnel being transferred to a "high cost" area where they must be debt ridden to severe in that area - by order, not by choice.

**Military Spouse Hiring Act H.R. 2033:** To reduce the impact of spouses losing employment opportunities due to their military situation. Employers are reluctant to hire them because of the fact that they will move in a few years. The act gives employers financial benefit of hiring them through tax cuts.

### State.

**Military Retired Pay Income Tax Exemption.** AB 53 has passed out of committee, however, the Senate companion bill SB-1, died in committee. Does this mean we are "dead in the water?". I don't think so because of Governor Gavin Newsom's budget line RN 25 10165 which covers a small exemption of military retirement.

Follows is an excerpt from the Governor's May Budget Revision:

#### **"Public safety and veterans"**

"The Governor's revised budget also includes historic funding in firefighting and emergency response to match escalating wildfire risks, and a tax cut for military retirees, recognizing their service and supporting their financial security."

Let's pray that no-one changes the Governor's mind.

**Vern McNamee, LTC, USA Retired**  
Legislative Chair Redwood Empire Chapter MOAA (CA30)  
[vernonmc@mcn.org](mailto:vernonmc@mcn.org) ~ 707 972-3066

~~~~~  
SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 4

Vernon D. McNamee
33001 S. Hwy 1
Gualala, CA 95445-0343

June 18, 2025
The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Room 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Military Retirement Exclusion Trailer Bill RN 25 10165

Dear Governor Newsom,

As a veteran and proud Californian, I respectfully urge you to support your trailer bill, RN 25 10165, which would provide a state income tax exemption on military retirement pay and Survivor Benefit Plan annuities for eligible individuals. This legislation is not just a matter of tax policy—it is a statement of California's values and a long-overdue step toward honoring the service and sacrifice of our veterans and their families.

Why California Cannot Afford to Wait

California is the only state in the nation that fully taxes military retirement and survivor benefits. This sends a painful message to those who have dedicated the best years of their lives to defending our freedoms. While other states are opening their doors to veterans and their families, California's policy has driven many away, taking with them their leadership, skills, and commitment to community. We are losing more than just residents, we are losing mentors, role models, and the backbone of our civic life.

Most military retirees leave service while still young, ready to embark on new careers and give back in countless ways. They become teachers, first responders, engineers, and entrepreneurs. They pay taxes, buy homes, volunteer, and raise families. These are the very people California needs to help build a stronger, more resilient future.

The High Cost of Inaction

When we fail to support those who have served, the loss is felt in every corner of our state. Our communities are deprived of experienced leaders and dedicated citizens. Schools, hospitals, and small businesses miss out on the steady support and investment that veterans and their families bring. Every time a veteran chooses to leave California, we lose not only their presence but also the values and contributions that make our state vibrant and strong.

What This Bill Will Deliver

By offering meaningful tax relief for military retirement and survivor benefits, this bill will:

- Help keep talented, dedicated veterans and their families in California
- Strengthen our workforce and local communities
- Support civic life through increased participation and investment
- Affirm that California truly values the service and sacrifice of its veterans, not just in words, but in action

The modest investment required by this measure will be repaid many times over by the veterans who choose to stay and build their lives here. Their continued presence enriches our state in ways that go far beyond dollars and cents.

Please help California finally join the rest of the nation in providing meaningful support to its military retirees and their families.

Sincerely,

Vernon D. McNamee
P.O. Box 343,
Gualala, CA 95445

**ATTN: THE LETTER ABOVE WAS SENT BY
VERNON D. McNAMEE**

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

Buffet Luncheon, Thursday July 24, 2025

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 \$27.00**

Salad: Caesar Salad, Fruit Salad Fresh Rolls & Butter.

Lunch: Tempura Shrimp, Green Beans with Mushrooms

Dessert: Cookies. Water, Lemon Aid, Iced Tea, Hot Tea and Coffee

Enclosed: is my check for my advanced reservation _____ persons @ \$27.00 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: Gaylen Dunham will speak on 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: **RECMOAA**

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

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

**PLEASE CONSIDER BRINGING
A RAFFLE PRIZE**

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

SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 4

EATING IN THE FIFTIES

Pasta had not been invented. It was macaroni or spaghetti.

Curry was a surname.

A take-away was a mathematical problem.

Pizza? Sounds like a leaning tower somewhere.

Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas time.

All chips were plain.

Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking.

Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.

Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.

Chickens didn't have fingers in those days.

None of us had ever heard of yogurt.

Healthy food consisted of anything edible.

Cooking outside was called camping.

Seaweed was not a recognized food.

'Kebab' was not even a word, never mind a food.

Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days, and was regarded as being white gold.

Prunes were medicinal.

Surprisingly muesli was readily available. It was called cattle feed.

Pineapples came in chunks in a tin; we had only ever seen a picture of a real one.

Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than gasoline for it, they would have become a laughing stock.

The one thing that we never ever had on/at our table in the fifties ... was elbows, hats and cell phones.

2025 DATES TO REMEMBER

June:

3rd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 14th Saturday, Picnic Spring Lake, Lower Jackrabbit Area
 Honor Scholarship Recipients?
 16th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00** noon
 25th United Veterans Council **ZOOM** meeting

July: (No Board meeting)

9th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 21st **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00** noon
 23rd United Veterans Council **ZOOM** meeting
 24th Luncheon, Epicenter

August:

5th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am, select a nominating committee
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 13th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 18th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00** noon
 24th Sunday, Riverfront Regional Park, Annual BBQ
 27th United Veterans Council **ZOOM** meeting

September:

2nd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2025 officers
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 10th Wives Club Luncheon, Epicenter
 15th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00** noon
 ** 20th - 22nd Air Show at CMS Airport?
 24th United Veterans Council **ZOOM** meeting
 25th Luncheon, Epicenter

October:

7th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 8th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 20th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00** noon
 22nd United Veterans Council **ZOOM** meeting
 23rd Luncheon Epicenter, Election of Officers for 2026

November:

4th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am

10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 11th North Bay Veterans Day parade (Tuesday)
 12th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 17th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00** noon
 ** 21st Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building
 26th United Veterans Council **ZOOM** meeting
 27th Thanksgiving Day

December: (No Board meeting)

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

** = Not Confirmed at this time ~ **CNX** = Cancelled ~ **UNK** = Unknown
 06/32/06

Pub Crawl

Chapter members, Friends and Guests: Pub Crawl, is our Chapters fun event lunch

We will meet at 12:00 noon the Poppy Bank Epicenter, July 21, 2025. 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

(Sonoma County Main - All members welcome)

MOAA WIVES CLUB

2025 Officers

President: Susan Linch 707-538-3342
 Vice President: Donna Poulter 707-576-0513
 Secretary: Tina Lewis 707-758-9739
 Treasurer: Norma Viglienza 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, July 9th. The lunch cost is \$26.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be chicken wings with garlic butter, margherita flatbread, penne with pesto, chopped 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.

We hope you enjoyed the picnic in June, and we hope you will join us for the Wives Club luncheons at the Epicenter. The food is good, and the companionship is invaluable.

Tina Lewis, Publicity 707-758-9739, tinalewis31@comcast.net

Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2025

President: Donna Poulter 707-576-0513
1st Vice President LTC Steve Countouriotis, USA 707-763-5309
2nd Vice President COL Bruce A. Stahley, USAR 415-892-2248
Secretary: Cpt Robert R. Safreno, USAF 707-479-9374
Treasurer: LCDR Tim Morgan, USNR 707-695-9293
Imed. Past President: Maj Ken Johnson, USAF 408-466-6764

CAL-MOAA Director, Area I

Cpt Tom Walther, USAF 530-673-5499

Directors-at-large - Term 2025-26

Martina Lewis 707-758-9739
 Susan Linch 707-538-3342
 LTC Gary Meagher, AUS 707-544-4089
 Mary-Gwen Neisingh 707-481-7614

Directors-at-large - Term 2024-25

Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst 707-468-0146
 Dayle Johnson 408-466-6764
 Rosemary Rizzo 707-539-3346
 CPT Lewis Wall, USA 707-837-7389

Directors Representing Sub-Chapters:

Mendocino: Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst 707-468-0146

MOAA VOICE

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Publication Title: **MOAA VOICE** is a newsletter of the Redwood Empire Chapter, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). Statement of Frequency: Published monthly. Authorized organization's name and address: MOAA Redwood Empire Chapter, PO Box 2801, Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801. Cost of publication: **FREE**