



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Hello dear Members,

I hope you all are enjoying your summer. August 7th is Purple Heart Day. It is a tribute to our combat wounded Veterans. My husband was one. August 18th is the Pub Crawl. Please join us for good food and lots of fun. Sunday, August 24th, is our

wonderful annual BBQ. It is at Riverfront Regional Park in Windsor among the beautiful redwoods. Chef Dan Cortez will be wielding his magic at the grill. He is such a blessing to our chapter. Be sure to get your reservations in.

Many thanks to Bruce Stahley for arranging July's awesome speaker. Gaylen Dunham, dressed for the part, entertained us with his program on the Civil War. It was enjoyed by all.

Take care and continue to enjoy the summer.

People are like stained-glass windows, They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, the true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within.

Elizabeth Kubler Ross



My goal this weekend is to move just enough so that people don't think I'm dead.

Donna Poulter, President

707-576-0513 ~ donnaeaglette@yahoo.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.

MOAA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

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

Tuesday, August 5, 2025, 11:30am.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025
ANNUAL BBQ
Riverfront Regional Park near Windsor
Lunch about 1:00pm when ready

See Pages 3,4 & 6
For more information

See page No. 3 for the Luncheon menu.

NOTE: WE NEED YOU RESERVATIONS IN BY THURSDAY, AUGUST 21st.

So we can make name tags and by enough food for every one.

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](tel:707-331-0366) 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 18, 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!! **NOTE:** Last month we had 10 in attendance.

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

Legislative Update - August 2025

General Comments.

Federal:

The **Big, Beautiful Bill Act - aka MagaBill** has passed, however, not without residual confusions in several areas. Therefore, we need to follow-up on our priorities shown as follows:

Major Richard Star Act - H.R. 2102/ S.1032. Authorizes 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. Senator Alex Padilla has cosponsored S.1032, however, your help with Representative Huffman regarding HR.2192 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. Again, while Senator Padilla is onboard as a cosponsor of S.1021, Rep representative Huffman is not of the House bill.

State: Hooray! Military Retired Pay Income Tax Exemption. At Last!

Follows are excerpts from Seth Reeb's press release:

Military Retirement and SBP Tax Relief Officially Enacted in California Budget

California's long fight to provide state income tax relief for military retirees and surviving spouses has succeeded, and the change goes into effect immediately. This means that California veterans and their families receiving **Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities** can claim a **state income tax exemption on their 2025 taxes**, filed in 2026.

Under the **2025–2026 State Budget**, signed by Governor Gavin Newsom, California will now exempt up to **\$20,000 per year** in military retirement pay or SBP benefits for eligible taxpayers:

Up to \$125,000 Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) for individual filers, **Up to \$250,000 AGI** for joint filers.

This exemption applies to all **retired uniformed service members**, including the **U.S. Armed Forces**,

Public Health Service, and NOAA, as well as surviving spouses receiving annuities under the Department of Defense's SBP.

MASSIVE, HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO ASSEMBLYMEMBER JAMES C. RAMOS

"Let us be absolutely clear: **none of this would have happened without the unwavering leadership, perseverance, and commitment of Assemblymember James C. Ramos.**

He championed this tax exemption effort across multiple legislative sessions, even when the odds were long. He kept showing up. He kept speaking out. He continued to advocate for our retired veterans, their surviving spouses, and their families.

From every corner of the veteran community, we extend our deepest gratitude. **Assemblymember Ramos: You did it — and the veteran community will never forget it.** — *Ramona Chavez, Commander, Military Officers Association of America – California Council of Chapters*

"This long-overdue change will keep more veterans in California, allow them to invest in local communities, and ensure their second careers and federal benefits continue to support our state's economy."

While passing out accolades, I feel that recognition should also be given to our members who have been supporting this bill (bills) for more than 10 years incentivizing Assm Ramos to continue the fight. Thank you all.

Vern McNamee, LTC, USA Retired
Legislative Chairman

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

THE IDEA HAD TO COME FROM SOMEWHERE



SEE "Pub Crawl" on Page 1

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

Annual BARBEQUE, SUNDAY- August 24, 2025, 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 @ **\$30.00** 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 @ 707-479-9374, 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.



Galen Dunham was the guest speaker at the July luncheon. His topic was the Civil War. He came dressed in full gear as a Civil War soldier, and he filled a display table with Civil War memorabilia. Dunham is a Civil War reenactor. Several hundred men participate in six to eight reenactments a year, complete with cannons and tents. One of the reenactments was captured on film for the movie "Glory." During his presentation Dunham explained the various aspects of the uniform he was wearing. He also demonstrated differences between the cavalry and the infantry. The display table was filled with items the soldiers carried with them. It was interesting to see an American flag from that

era, with only either 33, 34, or 35 stars. He did have one original artifact, a Civil War bayonet. The rest of the items were reproductions. One interesting piece of information was that the soldiers carried no coins, only paper money. Another thing that's kind of hard to imagine is that in those days the soldiers had never heard of a toothbrush. When issued one, they didn't know what to do with them. They had always only used toothpicks to clean their teeth. Later, when toothbrushes had to be purchased, they were treated like gold. As a nod to the women in the room, Dunham related the amazing story of how women became involved in the Civil War, from making paper money and uniforms to ammunition. They also became nurses. Perhaps the most intriguing thing is that some women dressed as men so they could join the men in battle. If discovered, they just dressed another way as men and returned to battle. If you would like more information about what Galen Dunham does, visit the Civil War Association at ncwa1863.org.

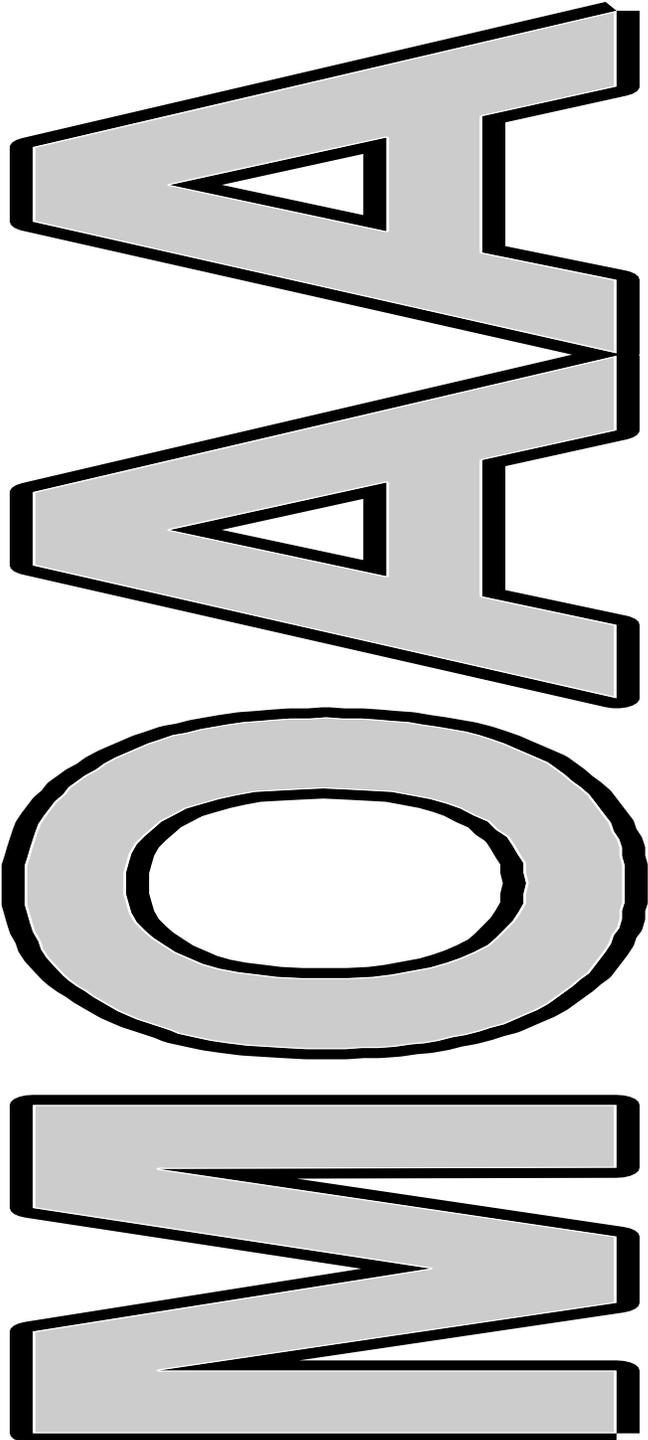
**Please
Bring a Raffle Prize
If you are able**

SEE "Pub Crawl" on Page 1

CPT LEE P. HOSKINS, USA



IF YOU ATTEND THE BBQ ON AUGUST 24th, AND IF YOU DRIVE YOUR CAR THERE, THEN CLIP THE “MOAA” BELOW AND PUT ON YOUR CAR DASH BOARD



Past President 2009-10 Lee Hoskins passed away on May 30, 2024. Kathy Krieger Hoskins, Lee's wife, is reaching out to all Redwood Empire Chapter members, hoping that they can come to Lee's Celebration of Life. It will be Saturday, September 13th, at the Santa Rosa Veterans building. The Celebration starts at 1:00pm and ends about 3:00pm.

DECEASED MEMBER

LTC GARY MEAGHER, AUS
June 8, 2025 ~ Services held June 26, 2025

THE REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER OFFICERS AND MEMBERS EXTEND OUR SINCEREST SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THEIR DEPARTED LOVE ONES

SEE “Pub Crawl” on Page 1

2025 DATES TO REMEMBER

- 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:
 2th 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
- 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, Cattlemens
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



SEE "Pub Crawl" on Page 1

MOAA WIVES CLUB

(Sonoma County Main - All members welcome)

2025 Officers

President: Susan Linch 707-538-3342
 Vice President: Donna Poulter 707-576-0513
 Secretary: Tina Lewis 707-758-9739
 Treasurer: Norma Viglienzone 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, August 13th. The lunch cost is \$26.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be wonton tacos, crispy French fries, esquite, house 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 guest speaker for August will be Krista Sherer from the Living Room, which provides help and services for at-risk women and children.

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

3 Deadly Terms Used by Women

- #1 **Fine**
 THIS IS THE WORD WOMEN USE TO END AN ARGUMENT WHEN SHE KNOWS SHE IS RIGHT AND YOU NEED TO SHUT UP.
- #2 **Nothing**
 MEANS SOMETHING AND YOU NEED TO BE WORRIED.
- #3 **Go Ahead**
 THIS IS A DATE, NOT PERMISSION, DO NOT DO IT.

EXERCISE
MAKES YOU LOOK
BETTER NAKED.

— ❖ ❖ ❖ —

SO DOES WINE.
YOUR CHOICE.

HUSBAND:
 I want you to have this bracelet. It belonged to my Grandmother.

WIFE:
 Why does it say, "Do not resuscitate?"

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, USAF 415-892-2248
Secretary: Cpt Robert R. Safreno, USAF 707-479-9374
Treasurer: LCDR Tim Morgan, USN 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

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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.