

December 2022

Website: <http://lincolnlandmoaa.org>

Upcoming Events

- December 09, 2022, Northfield Center, Springfield
- February 10, 2023, Northfield Center, Springfield.
- April 14, 2023, (Indoors) Island Bay Yacht Club
- June 9, 2022, The Beach House, Decatur
- August 11, 2022, (outdoors) Island Bay Yacht Club, Springfield
- August 26, 2023, Saturday, Fifth Annual Golf Outing at Shamblee Golf Course, Petersburg

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THE SALUTE—Never Stop Serving...



Next Meeting Information

Dinner Meeting/Christmas Social and Scholarship Auction

Friday, December 9, 2022

Location: Northfield Center

3280 Northfield Dr, Springfield, IL 62702

Opal and Onyx Rooms (See Outline Below for Room Location - Enter at Northfield II Entrance)

Social Hour at 6:00PM,

Dinner at 7:00PM

Scholarship Auction to Follow Dinner

COST: \$32.00 Per Person

Dress: Business Casual (Christmas Attire Welcome as well)

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE NOT LATER THEN 5PM on TUESDAY, December 6th

On the website:

Caution-<https://www.lincolnlandmoaa.org/dinner-christmas-meeting-20221209> < Caution-<https://www.lincolnlandmoaa.org/dinner-christmas-meeting-20221209> >

or Contact by Phone (Call or Text):

Dave Knieriem - [217-899-5526](tel:217-899-5526)

or Email: dknieriem@casscomm.com < Caution-

mailto:dknieriem@casscomm.com?subject=August%2012%20MOAA%20Chapter%20Meeting >

Let us know how many will attend.

MENU: Down Home Dinner Buffet

Tossed Salad with Choice of Dressings, 3 Bean Salad, Grilled chicken Breast with White Wine Sauce, Baked Virginia Ham with Sweet Bourbon Mustard Glaze
Whipped Potatoes with Chicken Gravy, Green Beans with Bacon & Onions
Cranberry Relish, Biscuits & Rolls, Butter, Coffee, iced Tea, Water
Pumpkin, Apple & Berry Pies

Program: Christmas Social and Scholarship Auction

Scholarship Auction: We ask that the attendees bring a nice gift for auctioning Recommended value of gift at \$50 or more.

President's Corner:

Our Chapter has a Facebook page presence on the web:

<https://www.facebook.com/MOAAIncolnland> Check it out—Also, it may be accessed through our website by clicking the “F” logo near the top of the home page.

Gold Star Appreciation Dinner Report

The Gold Star Appreciation Dinner on November 19, 2022 could not have gone better! I want to thank Chris and her volunteers who assisted us in making this such a GREAT Event!!

Thanks to our Chapter members for their continued support of our Survivors and for the hospitality exhibited Saturday evening. Chris has told me that many of the Gold Star and Survivor attendees were very pleased with the event and grateful for the support from the Chapter!!

President Abraham Lincoln entertained and did a GREAT job! Another BIG thankyou to BG McDonough who expressed his gratitude for the sacrifices made by our service members and spoke of the continued support the Illinois National Guard provides Survivors. Thanks to Colonel Tyler who informed Survivors and attendees about the important work MOAA does to improve benefits for service members and their families. It was truly a spectacular evening!

If you missed this event, I encourage you to plan on attending our 2023 event. I hope it will be bigger and better than this year.

Chapter Annual Report: This report along with the Annual Financial Report was emailed to all. We will address any questions you may have during this meeting.

Christmas Auction for our Chapter Scholarship

Our Annual Christmas Auction will be during this meeting. MAJ Dave Knieriem will again entertain us on the key board. I appreciate all the Great work Dave has done and continues to do for the Chapter!!

We ask that the attendees bring a nice gift for auctioning Recommended value of gift at \$50 or more.

We will have an auctioneer to support our auction.

All proceeds we generate from the auction, will go to support our Chapter Scholarship Program. Your support has been and continues to be very much appreciated!

Please plan on attending this important meeting.

From the Survivor Outreach Services Coordinator

The Gold Star Appreciation Dinner on November 19, 2022 could not have gone better! On behalf of Survivor Outreach Services and my Survivors, I want to thank Pres. David Miller and MOAA LLC members for their continued support of our Survivors and for the hospitality exhibited Saturday evening. Monday morning, I received calls from several Survivors, expressing their appreciation for the invitation and the heart-warming interaction they experienced with MOAA members in attendance and with other Survivors. They were pleasantly surprised with the generosity of MOAA not just because of the fabulous dinner, but for the \$100 in gift cards each Survivor family received, as well. Many commented on how helpful the gift cards will be with some of the upcoming holiday preparations. Some MOAA Members and Survivors even went home with door prizes! President Abraham Lincoln entertained and informed attendees, much to their delight. Brigadier General McDonough expressed his gratitude for the sacrifices made by our service members and spoke of the continued support the Illinois National Guard provides Survivors. Colonel Bob Tyler informed Survivors and attendees about the important work MOAA does to improve benefits for service members and their families. It was truly a spectacular evening! Below is a group photo of the Survivors who attended, as well as MOAA and SOS Leadership. I hoped to have more photos to share, but my Public Affairs photographer was unable to get the photos to me in time for the newsletter publication. However, once I do receive the photos, I will share them with Dave Knieriem to put on the MOAA LLC website. (I think Dave K. took the photo below.)

Wishing all of you a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving!

Chris Milchuck, Survivor Outreach Services
217-761-3382
Christine.a.milchuck.ctr@army.mil



Legislative Liaison Update

Not much to add as Congress is still working on the funding bills.

Stuff that was in the NDAA has disappeared and Congress is making runs at TriCare fees, medical care and pay raises.

Folks need to stay informed (MOAA newsletters & e-mails) to engage on the advocacy page of the MOAA website.

It will continue to be an up hill battle.

Best wishes to all during this coming holiday season!

S/F – Bob

Robert R. Tyler

Col USMC (ret)

Legislative Liaison, Lincoln Land Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



(217) 422-2983 (H) or (703) 963-0471 (C)

robtyler@msn.com



Chaplain Update

The True Story of The Patton Prayer

by Msgr. James H. O'Neill

(From the Review of the News 6 October 1971)

Many conflicting and some untrue stories have been printed about General George S. Patton and the Third Army Prayer. Some have had the tinge of blasphemy and disrespect for the Deity. Even in "War As I Knew It" by General Patton, the footnote on the Prayer by Colonel Paul D. Harkins, Patton's Deputy Chief of Staff, while containing the elements of a funny story about the General and his Chaplain, is not the true account of the prayer Incident or its sequence.

As the Chief Chaplain of the Third Army throughout the five campaigns on the Staff of General Patton, I should have some knowledge of the event because at the direction of General Patton I composed the now world famous Prayer, and wrote Training Letter No. 5, which constitutes an integral, but untold part, of the prayer story. These Incidents, narrated in sequence, should serve to enhance the memory of the man himself, and cause him to be enshrined by generations to come as one of the greatest of our soldiers. He had all the traits of military leadership, fortified by genuine trust in God, intense love of country, and high faith in the American soldier.

He had no use for half-measures. He wrote this line a few days before his death: "Anyone in any walk of life who is content with mediocrity is untrue to himself and to American tradition." He was true to the principles of his religion, Episcopalian, and was regular in Church attendance and practices, unless duty made his presence impossible.

The incident of the now famous Patton Prayer commenced with a telephone call to the Third Army Chaplain on the morning of December 8, 1944, when the Third Army Headquarters were located in the Caserne Molitor in Nancy, France: "This is General Patton; do you have a good prayer for weather? We must do something about those rains if we are to win the war." My reply was that I know where to look for such a prayer, that I would locate, and report within the hour. As I hung up the telephone receiver, about eleven in the morning, I looked out on the steadily falling rain, "immoderate" I would call it -- the same rain that had plagued Patton's Army throughout the Moselle and Saar Campaigns from September until now, December 8.

Chaplain Update

The few prayer books at hand contained no formal prayer on weather that might prove acceptable to the Army Commander. Keeping his immediate objective in mind, I typed an original and an improved copy on a 5" x 3" filing card:

Almighty and most merciful Father, we humbly beseech Thee, of Thy great goodness, to restrain these immoderate rains with which we have had to contend. Grant us fair weather for Battle. Graciously hearken to us as soldiers who call upon Thee that, armed with Thy power, we may advance from victory to victory, and crush the oppression and wickedness of our enemies and establish Thy justice among men and nations.

I pondered the question, What use would General Patton make of the prayer? Surely not for private devotion. If he intended it for circulation to chaplains or others, with Christmas not far removed, it might be proper to type the Army Commander's Christmas Greetings on the reverse side. This would please the recipient, and anything that pleased the men I knew would please him:

To each officer and soldier in the Third United States Army, I Wish a Merry Christmas. I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty, and skill in battle. We march in our might to complete victory. May God's blessings rest upon each of you on this Christmas Day. G.S. Patton, Jr, Lieutenant General, Commanding, Third United States Army.

This done, I donned my heavy trench coat, crossed the quadrangle of the old French military barracks, and reported to General Patton. He read the prayer copy, returned it to me with a very casual directive, "Have 250,000 copies printed and see to it that every man in the Third Army gets one." The size of the order amazed me; this was certainly doing something about the weather in a big way. But I said nothing but the usual, "Very well, Sir!" Recovering, I invited his attention to the reverse side containing the Christmas Greeting, with his name and rank typed. "Very good," he said, with a smile of approval. "If the General would sign the card, it would add a personal touch that I am sure the men would like." He took his place at his desk, signed the card, returned it to me and then Said: "Chaplain, sit down for a moment; I want to talk to you about this business of prayer."

He rubbed his face in his hands, was silent for a moment, then rose and walked over to the high window, and stood there with his back toward me as he looked out on the falling rain. As usual, he was dressed stunningly, and his six-foot-two powerfully built physique made an unforgettable silhouette against the great window. The General Patton I saw there was the Army Commander to whom the welfare of the men under him was a matter of Personal responsibility. Even in the heat of combat he could take time out to direct new methods to prevent trench feet, to see to it that dry socks went forward daily with the rations to troops on the line, to kneel in the mud administering morphine and caring for a wounded soldier until the ambulance Came. What was coming now?

Chaplain Update

"Chaplain, how much praying is being done in the Third Army?" was his question. I parried: "Does the General mean by chaplains, or by the men?" "By everybody," he replied. To this I countered: "I am afraid to admit it, but I do not believe that much praying is going on. When there is fighting, everyone prays, but now with this constant rain -- when things are quiet, dangerously quiet, men just sit and wait for things to happen. Prayer out here is difficult. Both chaplains and men are removed from a special building with a steeple. Prayer to most of them is a formal, ritualized affair, involving special posture and a liturgical setting. I do not believe that much praying is being done."

The General left the window, and again seated himself at his desk, leaned back in his swivel chair, toying with a long lead pencil between his index fingers.

Chaplain, I am a strong believer in Prayer. There are three ways that men get what they want; by planning, by working, and by Praying. Any great military operation takes careful planning, or thinking. Then you must have well-trained troops to carry it out: that's working. But between the plan and the operation there is always an unknown. That unknown spells defeat or victory, success or failure. It is the reaction of the actors to the ordeal when it actually comes. Some people call that getting the breaks; I call it God. God has His part, or margin in everything, That's where prayer comes in. Up to now, in the Third Army, God has been very good to us. We have never retreated; we have suffered no defeats, no famine, no epidemics.

This is because a lot of people back home are praying for us. We were lucky in Africa, in Sicily, and in Italy. Simply because people prayed. But we have to pray for ourselves, too. A good soldier is not made merely by making him think and work. There is something in every soldier that goes deeper than thinking or working--it's his "guts." It is something that he has built in there: it is a world of truth and power that is higher than himself. Great living is not all output of thought and work. A man has to have intake as well. I don't know what you call it, but I call it Religion, Prayer, or God.

He talked about Gideon in the Bible, said that men should pray no matter where they were, in church or out of it, that if they did not pray, sooner or later they would "crack up." To all this I commented agreement, that one of the major training objectives of my office was to help soldiers recover and make their lives effective in this third realm, prayer.

It would do no harm to re-impress this training on chaplains. We had about 486 chaplains in the Third Army at that time, representing 32 denominations. Once the Third Army had become operational, my mode of contact with the chaplains had been chiefly through Training Letters issued from time to time to the Chaplains in the four corps and the 22 to 26 divisions comprising the Third Army. Each treated of a variety of subjects of corrective or training value to a chaplain working with troops in the field. [Patton continued:]

Chaplain Update

I wish you would put out a Training Letter on this subject of Prayer to all the chaplains; write about nothing else, just the importance of prayer. Let me see it before you send it. We've got to get not only the chaplains but every man in the Third Army to pray. We must ask God to stop these rains. These rains are that margin that hold defeat or victory.

If we all pray, it will be like what Dr. Carrel said [the allusion was to a press quote some days previously when Dr. Alexis Carrel, one of the foremost scientists, described prayer "as one of the most powerful forms of energy man can generate"], it will be like plugging in on a current whose source is in Heaven. I believe that prayer completes that circuit. It is power.

With that the General arose from his chair, a sign that the interview was ended. I returned to my field desk, typed Training Letter No. 5 while the "copy" was "hot," touching on some or all of the General's reverie on Prayer, and after staff processing, presented it to General Patton on the next day.

The General read it and without change directed that it be circulated not only to the 486 chaplains, but to every organization commander down to and including the regimental level. Three thousand two hundred copies were distributed to every unit in the Third Army over my signature as Third Army Chaplain. Strictly speaking, it was the Army Commander's letter, not mine.

Due to the fact that the order came directly from General Patton, distribution was completed on December 11 and 12 in advance of its date line, December 14, 1944. Titled "Training Letter No. 5," with the salutary "Chaplains of the Third Army," the letter continued: "At this stage of the operations I would call upon the chaplains and the men of the Third United States Army to focus their attention on the importance of prayer.

"Our glorious march from the Normandy Beach across France to where we stand, before and beyond the Siegfried Line, with the wreckage of the German Army behind us should convince the most skeptical soldier that God has ridden with our banner. Pestilence and famine have not touched us. We have continued in unity of purpose. We have had no quitters; and our leadership has been masterful.

The Third Army has no roster of Retreats. None of Defeats. We have no memory of a lost battle to hand on to our children from this great campaign.

"But we are not stopping at the Siegfried Line. Tough days may be ahead of us before we eat our rations in the Chancellery of the Deutsches Reich.

"As chaplains it is our business to pray. We preach its importance. We urge its practice. But the time is now to intensify our faith in prayer, not alone with ourselves, but with every believing man, Protestant, Catholic, Jew, or Christian in the ranks of the Third United States Army.

Chaplain Update

"Those who pray do more for the world than those who fight; and if the world goes from bad to worse, it is because there are more battles than prayers. 'Hands lifted up,' said Bosuet, 'smash more battalions than hands that strike.' Gideon of Bible fame was least in his father's house.

He came from Israel's smallest tribe. But he was a mighty man of valor. His strength lay not in his military might, but in his recognition of God's proper claims upon his life. He reduced his Army from thirty-two thousand to three hundred men lest the people of Israel would think that their valor had saved them.

We have no intention to reduce our vast striking force. But we must urge, instruct, and indoctrinate every fighting man to pray as well as fight. In Gideon's day, and in our own, spiritually alert minorities carry the burdens and bring the victories.

"Urge all of your men to pray, not alone in church, but everywhere. Pray when driving. Pray when fighting. Pray alone. Pray with others. Pray by night and pray by day. Pray for the cessation of immoderate rains, for good weather for Battle. Pray for the defeat of our wicked enemy whose banner is injustice and whose good is oppression. Pray for victory. Pray for our Army, and Pray for Peace.

"We must march together, all out for God. The soldier who 'cracks up' does not need sympathy or comfort as much as he needs strength. We are not trying to make the best of these days. It is our job to make the most of them. Now is not the time to follow God from 'afar off.' This Army needs the assurance and the faith that God is with us. With prayer, we cannot fail.

"Be assured that this message on prayer has the approval, the encouragement, and the enthusiastic support of the Third United States Army Commander.

"With every good wish to each of you for a very Happy Christmas, and my personal congratulations for your splendid and courageous work since landing on the beach, I am," etc., etc., signed The Third Army Commander.

The timing of the Prayer story is important: let us rearrange the dates: the "Prayer Conference" with General Patton was 8 December; the 664th Engineer Topographical Company, at the order of Colonel David H. Tulley, C.E., Assistant to the Third Army Engineer, working night and day reproduced 250,000 copies of the Prayer Card; the Adjutant General, Colonel Robert S. Cummings, supervised the distribution of both the Prayer Cards and Training Letter No. 5 to reach the troops by December 12-14. The breakthrough was on December 16 in the First Army Zone when the Germans crept out of the Schnee Eifel Forest in the midst of heavy rains, thick fogs, and swirling ground mists that muffled sound, blotted out the sun, and reduced visibility to a few yards.

Chaplain Update

The few divisions on the Luxembourg frontier were surprised and brushed aside. They found it hard to fight an enemy they could neither see nor hear. For three days it looked to the jubilant Nazis as if their desperate gamble would succeed. They had achieved complete surprise.

Their Sixth Panzer Army, rejuvenated in secret after its debacle in France, seared through the Ardennes like a hot knife through butter. The First Army's VIII Corps was holding this area with three infantry divisions (one of them new and in the line only a few days) thinly disposed over an 88-mile front and with one armored division far to the rear, in reserve. The VIII Corps had been in the sector for months. It was considered a semi-rest area and outside of a little patrolling was wholly an inactive position.

When the blow struck the VIII Corps fought with imperishable heroism. The Germans were slowed down but the Corps was too shattered to stop them with its remnants. Meanwhile, to the north, the Fifth Panzer Army was slugging through another powerful prong along the vulnerable boundary between the VIII and VI Corps. Had the bad weather continued there is no telling how far the Germans might have advanced.

On the 19th of December, the Third Army turned from East to North to meet the attack. As General Patton rushed his divisions north from the Saar Valley to the relief of the beleaguered Bastogne, the prayer was answered.

On December 20, to the consternation of the Germans and the delight of the American forecasters who were equally surprised at the turn-about-the rains and the fogs ceased. For the better part of a week came bright clear skies and perfect flying weather. Our planes came over by tens, hundreds, and thousands. They knocked out hundreds of tanks, killed thousands of enemy troops in the Bastogne salient, and harried the enemy as he valiantly tried to bring up reinforcements. The 101st Airborne, with the 4th, 9th, and 10th Armored Divisions, which saved Bastogne, and other divisions which assisted so valiantly in driving the Germans home, will testify to the great support rendered by our air forces. General Patton prayed for fair weather for Battle. He got it.

It was late in January of 1945 when I saw the Army Commander again. This was in the city of Luxembourg. He stood directly in front of me, smiled: "Well, Padre, our prayers worked. I knew they would." Then he cracked me on the side of my steel helmet with his riding crop. That was his way of saying, "Well done."

Merry Christmas to all of you in Lincolnland Chapter!!



MOAA Accomplishments in 2022

Active Duty

Executing a Credible Game Plan for Health Care Oversight --

This issue also impacts Families, Retirees, and Survivors.

Maintaining Pay Raise Comparability

Families

Securing Comprehensive Privatized Military Housing Reform*

Securing a Basic Needs Allowance for Families Facing Food Insecurity

Temporary BAH Increase for High Cost-of-Living Areas

Enhanced Leave for Military Families

Support for Public Schools Serving Military-Connected Children

Guard & Reserve

Securing Major GI Bill Upgrades to Include Transferability and Improving Benefits for Those on Title 32 Orders*

Improving Guard and Reserve TRICARE Coverage (and Securing a Premium Cut)

Ensuring Guard and Reserve Retirement Age Credit for Active Duty Service

Retirees

Protecting TRICARE For Life*

Lessening the Impact of TRICARE Fee Hikes

Defeating 'COLA Minus 1 Percent'*

Boosting Compensation Significantly for Retirees With 50% VA Disability (and Fighting for Full Concurrent Receipt)*

Ensuring TRICARE Coverage Evolves to Keep Up With Commercial Plans and Other Government Payers

Survivors

Repealing the SBP-DIC Offset ('Widows Tax')

Veterans

Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform

Providing Wounded Warrior Protections and Caregiver Enhancements*

Expanding Veterans' Health Care, Benefits, and other VA Compensation and Support Programs



COL Gene Bian (USA, Ret)

**Accepts the Five Star,
Levels of Excellence Award
For LincolnLand Chapter**

MOAA's Legislative Priorities for 2022

- **Sustain pay raises and adequate BAH for the troops and COLA raises for retirees.**
- **Ensure the Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service continue to receive pay during a government shutdown.**
- **Protect the value of the military health care benefit.**
- **Protect the Military Health System pharmacy benefit, and achieve flexibility in TRI-CARE pharmacy copays.**
- **Address barriers to accessing care within the MHS, including TRICARE coverage gaps and mental health care access challenges.**
- **Protect family support programs, and ensure military-provided services (housing, PCS, child care, youth programs, financial counseling) are readily available and meet standards for quality and costs.**
- **Achieve equity of benefits, protections, and administrative support for Guard/Reserve members consistent with their active-duty counterparts.**
- **Sustain Veterans Health Administration (VHA) foundational missions and services.**
- **Reform the presumptive process to support veterans claiming service-connected disabilities for toxic exposures.**
- **Achieve concurrent receipt of service-earned retirement pay and VA disability pay.**
- **Protect full military honors and burial at Arlington National Cemetery for those currently eligible.**
- **Improve Survivor Benefits.**
- **Support a quality transition experience from active duty to veteran status for all servicemembers.**
- **Recognize the pandemic continues to affect the lives of our servicemembers.**

Lincoln Land Chapter MOAA

PO Box 9435
Springfield, IL 62791-9435

David Miller
Phone: (217) 415-2837
or 217-761-3973.

Email:
david.b.miller32.nfg@mail.mil

[http://
lincolnlandmoaa.org](http://lincolnlandmoaa.org)



Our Purpose—Serving the entire Military Community locally & nationally

Our Motivation—Supporting our most reliable asset—the US military member

Our Means—Informing legislators, supporting local events & organizations

Our Membership—Commissioned Officers of the Eight Uniformed Services (USA, USMC, USN, USAF, US Space Force, USCG, NOAA, USPHS) who strongly believe in supporting a volunteer force for the safety and security of our country

MISSION OF THE LINCOLN LAND CHAPTER

Military Officers Association of America

The Lincoln Land Chapter's mission is to foster fraternal relations among the retired, active and former uniformed services and their National Guard or reserve components;

to protect the rights and interest of same to include dependents and survivors;

to further promote useful services for members of the former and current members of the Armed Forces and their dependents and survivors;

and to serve the community to the fullest extent possible.

MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.

While MOAA is permitted by law to lobby—and does so actively—its status as a tax-exempt veterans organization precludes it from participating in political activities, which are defined as intervening directly or indirectly in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Stated briefly: the association may advocate issues, but it may not advocate the election or defeat of particular candidates or political parties. This newsletter follows the policies of MOAA National.

**Now and Always
We'll be There.**



90228

1-800-247-2192 • www.moaainsurance.com

MOAA Legislative Action Center

You can help MOAA by visiting their legislative action center and contacting your elected officials regarding pending legislation MOAA is working. You can reach the Legislative Action Center at the following email address: [take action.moaa.org](mailto:takeaction.moaa.org)

Reasons to Join a MOAA Chapter

You know the value of belonging to MOAA and your chapter. But when you're talking to a potential new chapter member, it's important to remember that many officers might have only limited knowledge of MOAA's chapter system.

Creating a dialogue and asking open-ended questions is the best way to find out if and how a chapter membership could help a prospective member.

Find out as much as you can about their priorities in order to tailor a response that is more likely to resonate with them personally.

Here are some aspects of membership that may appeal to them.

- 1. Make yourself heard.** MOAA's chapters provide critical grassroots support for MOAA's national legislative agenda. Chapter members let their legislators know what's on their minds and open doors for MOAA's legislative team in Washington, D.C.
- 2. Give back to the community.** Chapter members are MOAA's ambassadors in their communities, supporting countless programs that make a difference in the lives of others. These members continue to serve and are giving back in the truest sense.
- 3. Value added to chapter members' lives.** MOAA chapters sponsor interesting programs and opportunities to interact with civic, political, military, and business leaders on issues important to members.
- 4. Networking with fellow officers.** Chapters include second-career members in the work force and retired service members who have contacts in their communities that can be valuable to transitioning officers.
- 5. Stay informed.** Chapter newsletters, websites, and meetings provide you with the latest information on local, state, and national issues and changes to military benefits.
- 6. Influencing state legislation.** Most states have a council of chapters that unites chapters in the state. These councils, and independent chapters in states without a council, often lobby for and pass state-level legislation that affects military members and their families, such as exempting military retired pay from state income tax or increasing funding for state veterans' programs.
- 7. Camaraderie with a purpose.** MOAA chapters unite active duty, former, and retired officers from every branch of service, including National Guard and Reserve, as well as surviving spouses, offering the opportunity to connect with others with similar backgrounds and interest and develop close and lasting friendships.

LINCOLN Land Chapter Leadership 2022-2023**IL-03 Lincoln Land Chapter**

***President, BOD:** David Miller, LTC USA, Ret, david.b.miller32.nfg@army.mil, or miller42@aol.com.

***1st Vice President, Webmaster, Dinner/contracts, BOD:** David Knieriem, Maj USA, Ret, dknieriem@casscomm.com.

***2nd Vice President, Programs, Personal affairs, BOD:** Nathan Clemmer, LtCol USAF, Ret, Nathan.Clemmer@gmail.com

***Treasurer, BOD:** Eugene (Gene) Bian, COL USAR, Ret, gb2416@comcast.net

***Secretary, Communications & Publicity, BOD:** Maj Kory Harms, Kory.l.Harms.mil@army.mil

Legislative Liaison: Dr. Robert Tyler, Col USMC, Ret, robtttyler@msn.com

Membership Chair: David Falk, Maj USMC, Ret, falkda63@aol.com

Immediate Past President: Darrell L. Roll, COL USA Ret, darrell.roll@sbcglobal.net

Scholarships: Dr. Mark DePue, LTC USA, Ret, DePuemr@outlook.com

Surviving Spouse Representative: Christine (Chris) Milchuck, Christine.A.Milchuck.ctr@army.mil

Honorary Chapter Chaplain: Justin Everson, je3453@gmail.com

*BOD = Board of Directors



2023 Lincoln Land ChapterMOAA Meeting Dates

February 10, 2023—Northfield Center, Springfield

April 14, 2023—(indoors) Island Bay Yacht Club, Springfield

June 9, 2023—The Beach House, Decatur

Fifth Annual Golf Outing— August 26, 2023—Shambole Golf Course, Petersburg, Illinois

August 11, 2023—(Outdoors) Island Bay Yacht Club, Springfield

October 13, 2023—Northfield Center, Springfield

December 8, 2023—Northfield Center, Springfield~Annual Christmas Meeting/Member Auction



All about MOAA

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military service members and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers. MOAA members proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country: Never Stop Serving. MOAA's greatest mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families, which is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's capital. MOAA's experts in Washington are there to support legislation that benefits the military community and are equally vigilant when fighting to stop legislation that threatens our livelihood. The larger our numbers, the greater our voice. Membership is open to active duty, former, retired, and National Guard and Reserve commissioned and warrant officers of the uniformed services and their surviving spouses. MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization. With more than 350,000 members from every branch of service - including active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retired, former officers, and their families - we are a powerful force speaking for a strong national defense and representing the interests of military officers at every stage of their careers. MOAA's highest priority is providing first-class service to our members. We are the leading voice on compensation and benefit matters for all members of the military community. We provide expert advice and guidance to our members. While the association does advocate a strong national defense, it does not, as an association, become involved in matters pertaining to military strategy or individual weapons systems of the various services. The association's board of directors has long believed that such decisions can be made only by those who have all of the facts available to them: today's actively serving military leadership. The association plays an active role in military personnel matters and especially proposed legislation affecting the career force, the retired community, and veterans of the uniformed services. MOAA's overarching goals are captured in its resolutions, which reflect the views of the entire membership. The membership provides input and votes on resolutions every two years (on even years). While MOAA is permitted by law to lobby - and does so actively - its status as a tax-exempt veterans organization precludes it from participating in political activities, which are defined as intervening directly or indirectly in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Stated briefly, the association may advocate issues, but it may not advocate the election or defeat of particular candidates or political parties.