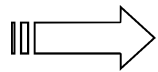


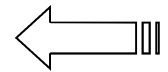
CINCINNATI MILITARY OFFICERS NEWS

VOL 31 No. 5
September 2004

GREATER CINCINNATI CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
AN AFFILIATE OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Newsletter By Email – please see page 5!



LUNCHEON: Book “War in Pacific Skies”

WHERE: HOLIDAY INN—Riverfront
660 West 3rd Street, COVINGTON, KY

WHEN: FRIDAY, 8 October 2004

TIME: 11:30 AM – Social Time
12:00 PM – Luncheon Program follows Luncheon

Featuring: MG Charlie and Mrs. Cooper

“War in Pacific Skies” is the third book written by MG Cooper and his wife Ann. It is a history of World War II in the Pacific and C.B.I theaters and features the Aviation Art of Jack Fellows. Come listen to the stories that are told visually in the paintings. The book was published in May 2003 by Motorbooks Inc.. Mrs. Cooper has written six books on her own mainly biographies of women aviators. The Coopers also have one, possibly two more books on the back burner.

LUNCHEON RESERVATION: Friday, 8 October 2004—Holiday Inn—Riverfront, Covington, KY.

Name: _____ **Rank & Service:** _____ **Spouse/Guests:** _____
(ARE YOU A NEW MEMBER, OR FIRST TIME OUT? _____)

Entrée choices: (Includes rolls, butter, salad, vegetables, starch, and beverage)

BAKED COD _____
CREAM CHICKEN W/VEGETABLE _____
AND BISCUIT _____

Total Reservations _____ @ \$16.00 = Total \$ _____

Make Checks payable to GREATER CINCINNATI CHAPTER/MOAA and mail to **LTC JAMES HOEH, 3027 Queen City Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45238-2432**, (Phone (513) 481-4045) or email: rakkasan@fuse.net. Please make reservations NLT 6 October. No cancellations after that date.

2004 CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD

(phone #'s are area code 513 unless noted)

Executive Committee

President	1LT John Erby, AR	777-1538
Immed PP	CAPT Clyde Middleton, NA	859 331-1879
1st VP	LT Chuck Kenny, NA	489-2957
2nd VP	1LT Richard McConn, AR	871-4193
3rd VP	vacant	
Secretary	MAJ Gary Thomson, AR	859 689-2799
Treasurer	LTC Paul Fellingner, AR	451-9881
Chaplain	vacant	
Dir Govt Rel	CAPT Clyde Middleton, NA	859 331-1879
Past Natl Bd	MAJ Isaac Mincy, AF	542-6145

State Council

Delegate	LTC James Hoeh, AR	481-4045
Alt Delegate	vacant	
3 rd V.P.	CAPT Jack Meyer, NA	489-7361

Committees

Program	COL Bob Greene, AR	859-689-4321
Arrangements	LTC Jim Hoeh, AR	481-4045
Membership	LT Chuck Kenny, NA	489-2957
Goodwill	LTC Earl Nichols, AR	859 261-4266
Personal Affairs	COL Dean Smittle, USAF	922-6018
Historian	vacant	
R.O.T.C.	1LT John Erby, AR	777-1538
CinMoaaNews	CWO3 Kym Mader, NA	759-0852

Service Representatives

Army	1LT John Erby	777-1538
Navy/CG/PHS	CAPT Jack Meyer	489-7361
Air Force	LTC Jim Sholar	859 384-2922
Marine Corps	MAJ Parker Lillie	281-5807

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- To serve the community and the nation.

Your officers and Board members welcome your comments and suggestions on steps that may be taken to strengthen our Chapter and its benefits to all members.

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** Date Change

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TAPS

None Reported

If you know a member of MOAA who has past away, please let us know so we may pass it on.

MOAA UPDATES

COLA Watch - This week, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced the monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is the metric used to calculate the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for military retired pay, VA disability compensation, survivor annuities, and Social Security.

After a decline in the CPI during the last few months of 2003, inflation has rebounded as the year has progressed. The June CPI is 0.3 percent above the May tally, and 2.8 percent above last year's COLA baseline.

If the June inflation rate continues for the next three months, we can expect the 2005 COLA to be in the neighborhood of 3.4 percent.

Veterans Benefits Bills Advance - On July 22, the House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) favorably reported a number of veterans' benefits bills. The Committee approved a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for veterans receiving VA disability compensation, as well as to surviving spouses and dependents of disabled veterans who receive monthly Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). The COLA is tied to any adjustment to Social Security benefits and is projected to be in the range of 3.4%. The VA COLA will take effect on December 1 and be reflected in January 2005 checks.

The HVAC also endorsed a bill (strongly supported by MOAA) that would strengthen reemployment rights as well as financial and legal protections for mobilized reservists and National Guard members and their families. The "Servicemembers and Veterans Legal Protection Act of 2004" (H.R. 4658) includes provisions to:

- *Clarify that dependents as well as servicemembers are covered by the residential and motor vehicle lease termination protections on joint leases under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA);

- *Prohibit double taxation of servicemembers when the laws of a tax jurisdiction do not provide credit against certain taxes the servicemember previously paid in another jurisdiction;

- *Increase from 18 to 24 months the maximum period of employer-provided health coverage that an employee may elect to continue under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA);

- *Require employers to provide notice to employees of their rights and obligations under USERRA; and

- *Reinstate a requirement for the Labor Department to report annually to Congress on the disposition of cases filed under USERRA.

MOAA testified before the HVAC on these issues on June 23; the testimony is available at: www.moaa.org/Legislative/Testimony/Default.asp.

The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee was also busy in July before Congress recessed for the month of August. The Committee endorsed an omnibus veterans' benefits bill (S.2486) that would enhance education and other benefits for veterans and surviving spouses. S.2486 includes provisions to:

- *Permit mobilized reservists who serve an aggregate 24 months active duty within a five year period (since Sept. 11, 2001) to become eligible for the active duty Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB);

- *Open MGIB benefits to pay for admission exams and college credit exams;

- *Extend the usage period for surviving spouses' educational assistance benefits if the servicemember died on active duty from 10 to 20 years after the member's death (MOAA supports extending or eliminating the usage period for all MGIB programs); and

- *Raise home VA home loan guaranty rates and authorize the use of Adjustable Rate Mortgages (ARM) for VA home loans.

These and related veterans' benefits legislation will come before the full House and Senate for consideration when Congress returns to work after Labor Day. With the nation at war, we expect final action on many of these legislative initiatives before the 108th Congress adjourns.

MOAA UPDATES (continued)

Senate Committee Endorses Flag Amendment - In an 11-7 vote this week, the Senate Judiciary approved a proposed constitutional amendment that would allow Congress to pass legislation prohibiting the physical desecration of the U.S. Flag.

Earlier this year, the House passed the Flag amendment by a 300-125 margin. The measure requires a two-thirds majority in the Senate in order to proceed. If the Senate does manage to secure the necessary votes, ratification by three-fourths of the states will be necessary to amend the Constitution.

Senate leaders have not stated when they expect to bring the bill to the floor, but virtually all observers believe the measure will fall short of the necessary 67 votes. MOAA will report any further progress in a future Legislative Update.

OHIO UPDATES

Grants to help homeless Veterans - By Howard Wilkinson, The Cincinnati Enquirer, Friday August 6, 2004

WOODLAWN - Homeless veterans in the Cincinnati area, including some who served as recently as in the war in Iraq, will get help finding jobs through nearly \$600,000 in federal grants awarded to Ohio Valley Goodwill industries.

U.S. Rep. Steve Chabot, R-Cincinnati, toured Goodwill's Woodlawn facility Thursday and told Goodwill officials their homeless veterans program would receive \$594,440 from the U.S. Department of Labor under the federal government's Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program.

"This is a huge boost for a program that has been proven to be successful," said Charles Blythe, Goodwill's special projects manager.

Since the program began 11 years ago, more than 2,000 homeless veterans have been given temporary shelter in Goodwill's dormitory-style housing, and 1,747 have been placed in jobs, Blythe said.

The new federal grant money, Blythe said, will allow Goodwill to serve another 355 homeless veterans in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, giving them a place to live while they receive job training and seek jobs.

The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs says that one of every three homeless men in the U.S. is a veteran.

Vietnam veterans make up the largest portion of homeless veterans, but Blythe said Goodwill's program is currently working with three recently returned veterans of the war in Iraq.

"There are going to be more veterans as men and women come home from Iraq who are going to fall on hard times, for whatever reason, Blythe said.

"What this does, really, is boost the economy," said Blythe. "You take homeless people and turn them into wage earners who go out and buy things for themselves and pay taxes. Everybody benefits."

Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries, located on Springfield Pike in Woodlawn, has 24 beds for homeless veterans, Blythe said they are usually full.

Chabot, who pushed for the Goodwill program to be included in the federal program, said society has "an obligation to help those who have worn the uniform of their country and fallen on hard times."

"It's especially important at a time like this when we have men and women in harm's way in Iraq and Afghanistan," Chabot said.

2004 DUES ARE DUE! Please pay now- IF you haven't done so.

To determine whether your dues are paid, please check your address sticker on the other side of this form. **The last two digits on the top line indicate the latest year for which your dues are paid.** (Life members show LIFE). If your two-digit number is 03, please return this form (with your name sticker on reverse) along with a check for your dues. Please mark your selection of dues (one year, multi-year or life).

Please mail form and check ASAP to LT Paul Fellinger, 5493 Delhi Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45238-5139

Membership Renewal. Greater Cincinnati Chapter / MOAA

Your email address please: _____

Regular Member ___\$28 for three. ___\$19 for two ___\$10.00 for one year

Auxiliary Member (as the surviving spouse of a deceased officer)

___\$14 for three ___\$9.50 for two ___\$5.00 for one year

Please renew as a LIFE member. ____ (Please circle amount in fee schedule.)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES	
(Fee is based on your age, nearest birthday)	
Regular	Auxiliary
Age up to 55 \$161.25	\$80.00
Age 56 to 70 \$127.50	\$63.75
Age 71 to 89 \$ 93.75	\$46.90
Age 90 and over \$ 10.00	\$ 5.00

Make check payable to: **Greater Cincinnati Chapter / MOAA**

Mail Renewal form and check to:

Maj. Gary Thomson, 2515 Flagstone Court, Burlington, KY 41005

----- cut here ----- **Dues Form** -----cut here-----

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

Would you like to receive your newsletter by email instead of through the postal mail? Would you like to know a little sooner about the next meeting? If you answered yes please let us know by sending an email to CWO3 Kym Mader, Newsletter Editor at chmader@fuse.net. By sending the newsletter out by email you can also save the chapter on costs of mailing out the newsletter. The newsletter would be in PDF format that can be read by Adobe Acrobat Reader which is a free download at the following web site: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

LAST MEETING

Approximately 30 members strong, we were given an overview of the state of SBP (Survivor Benefit Plan) and guidance on taking care of your Personal Affairs, by our own BG O'Brien.

DIC Benefits Deadline Looming

Surviving spouses of Deceased Veterans who remarried after age 57 have until December 15, 2004 to apply for reinstatement of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits. Under previous law, surviving spouses who remarried were not eligible for DIC unless their marriages ended, at which time they could apply for reinstatement of benefits. Under a 2003 law, surviving spouses who remarried after age 57 and before December 16,2003, have one year to apply for restoration of DIC. For more information about restoration of DIC, call the VA at 800 827-1000 or TDD 800 829-4833 or go to www.va.gov.

Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial

Thursday—Sunday

September 30– October 3, 2004

Blue Ash Recreation Center, 4433 Cooper Rd., Blue Ash, OH

Open to public 24 hours daily

Opening Ceremony - Thursday, Sept. 30, 10:00AM

Nightly Ceremony - Featuring special guest speakers, 7:00 PM

Closing Ceremony - Sunday, Oct. 3, 5:00 PM

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Greater Cincinnati Chapter
 MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF
 AMERICA
 2515 Flagstone Court
 Burlington, KY 41005-9341



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***PURPOSES OF
 MILITARY OFFICERS
 ASSOCIATION
 OF AMERICA***

- TO include and stimulate love of country and flag;
- TO defend the honor, integrity, and supremacy of our National Government and the Constitution of the United States;
- TO advocate military forces adequate to the defense of our country;
- TO foster fraternal relations between all branches of the various services from which are members are drawn;
- TO further the education of children of service personnel;
- TO aid active and retired personnel of the various services from which are members are drawn and their dependents and survivors, in every proper and legitimate manner;
- TO present their rights and interests when service matters are under consideration; and
- TO foster the integrity and prestige of uniformed service.

—from the Preamble to the Association's Bylaws