



Alta Gram



Alta California Chapter • Military Officers Association of America

December 2023 / January 2024

Never Stop Serving

Volume 58, No. 1

President's Corner

Kudos to our Great Chapter

Wow, what a year it has been! We coordinated the Sutter Cemetery Wreaths Across America program, supported the four cadet organizations with scholarships as well as the Nevada County and Yuba-Sutter County Stand Downs, and provided MOAA medals for the two high school cadet programs.



I spoke at the Memorial Day celebration at the Sutter Cemetery and visited Congressman Doug LaMalfa at his Chico office to educate him on the three main MOAA 2023 initiatives.

RADM Wyllie represented the chapter at the Lake Wildwood Veterans club and the Nevada County Stand Down. She attended many on-line meetings and webcasts aimed at healthcare and women veteran issues and was active in the AB 46 process.

Col Witmer emceed the Lincoln Hills Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies. He was also interfacing with both State and Federal elected officials. The chapter significantly supported the campaign to pass AB 46.

Our treasurer Don Wood did an excellent job with the books and our chaplain Marcus Bole led us with insightful prayer. We were pleased to receive the 5-star 2022 Communications Website and Level of Excellence awards from MOAA National.

- Tom Walther, Capt, USAF (Ret)

2024 Membership Renewal Form on Page 4 of this Issue

Please send in your dues right away or plan to pay at the next meeting.

Next Social Event

Holiday Luncheon December 14

Our chapter will be joining with the Lincoln Hills Veterans Group for its annual holiday celebration on Thursday, December 14 in the Orchard Creek Ballroom, 965 Orchard Creek Lane, in Lincoln.

A no-host bar will be open from 11:00 a.m. to noon.

Lunch will be served at 12:00

noon. The occasion will include a festive luncheon and drawings for door prizes.

Priced at \$35 per person, payment is required in advance. Please see the luncheon flyer on page 5 of this newsletter. Fill in the reservation form at the bottom of the flyer with your name(s) and entrée selection(s). Mail the form to the address shown with a check in the amount of \$35 per person. Reservations need to be received by December 7.

Entrée selections will include:

Roasted Turkey Breast - 4 oz. Sliced turkey breast with traditional turkey gravy and dried cranberry-sage stuffing. Served with mashed potatoes and roasted winter vegetables.

Oven Roasted Salmon - 4 oz. Atlantic salmon, topped with Sauce Béarnaise. Presented with toasted grain pilaf, garlic spinach sauté and roasted winter vegetables.

Winter Pasta Fusilli - Roasted butternut squash, charred shallots and sundried tomatoes with pine nuts, sautéed spinach, garlic white wine sauce and shaved parmesan.

Dessert – Cinnamon apple pie and whipped cream

For questions, contact Shirley Schultz at 916-645-7539.



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Website: <http://altamoaa.org> • Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/altacachapter>

Alta California Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 541, Yuba City, CA 95992

MOAA Alta California Chapter

Chartered 18 Mar 1966

2024 Executive Committee

President: Capt Tom Walther 530-218-3847
1st Vice Pres. LT Maury Castaneda 808-351-4393
2nd Vice Pres. Lt Col Ed Harvey 318-505-3236
Treasurer: CPT Don Wood 775-376-1063
Secretary: Col Steve Witmer 916-408-2455
Past President: RADM Dawn Wyllie 218-556-9292

Advisors and Committee Chairs

Membership: Capt Tom Walther 530-218-3847
Programs: Capt Tom Walther 530-218-3847
Chaplain: Lt Col Marcus Bole 530-633-0117
Asst. Chaplain: CPT Don Wood 775-376-1063
Webmaster: CPT Don Wood 775-376-1063
Legislative Chair: Col Steve Witmer 916-408-2455
CALMOAA SSL: Kathy Prout 619-980-6623

Personal Affairs / Sunshine / Hospitality

Yuba City Area: Robin Walther 530-218-3847
Grass Valley: RADM Dawn Wyllie 218-556-9292
Lake Wildwood: RADM Dawn Wyllie 218-556-9292
Lincoln Hills: Lt Col Shirley Schultz 916-645-7539

Mission

To serve the needs of active duty, retired and former military members and their surviving spouses.

Membership

Find membership information at these links:

MOAA National: <https://www.moaa.org/join>

Alta Calif. Chapter: <http://altamoaa.org/memberships>

Editorial Policy

National MOAA is a nonpartisan organization. The content of this newsletter is intended to be nonpartisan, in accordance with national policy.

Legislative Updates

Find out about MOAA's legislative initiatives by accessing the MOAA national website at: moaa.org/takeaction.
For state issues visit: www.leginfo.ca.gov/.

Chapter Recognition



2022 5-Star Level of Excellence Award



2022 5-Star Communications Award - Website

AltaGram Contributions

Contributions to the *AltaGram* are appreciated.
Please send material for consideration to:

Col Steve Witmer, Editor
1582 Summerhill Lane
Lincoln, CA 95648
altacalifmoaa@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report

As of September 18, the chapter's treasury balances were:

Checking	\$1,101.74
Savings	3,962.78
Cash	250.00
Total	\$5,314.52

Membership Report

As of September 18, the chapter's membership totaled 44 (39 regular and 5 surviving spouses).

New Member:

Capt Kelsey Cox, USAF

2024 Meetings Set

The chapter will meet every other month in 2024.

Date	Time	Venue
Thurs, 22 Feb	11:15 a.m.	Cool Hand Luke's
Thurs, 25 Apr	11:15 a.m.	Cool Hand Luke's
Thurs, 27 Jun	3:00 p.m.	Walther Home
Thurs, 22 Aug	11:15 a.m.	Cool Hand Luke's
Thurs, 24 Oct	11:15 a.m.	Cool Hand Luke's
Thurs, 12 Dec	11:15 a.m.	Cool Hand Luke's

Retirees to See Smaller COLA Boost in 2024

Retirees from the federal government and military will see a much smaller cost-of-living adjustment to their Social Security benefits next year thanks to cooling inflation rates.

The Social Security Administration announced on October 12 that the COLA for 2024 will be 3.2%, which beneficiaries will see reflected in their statements come January.

In May, Congress approved legislation guaranteeing that veterans receiving disability and support benefits will see the same cost-of-living boost in 2024 as Social Security recipients. Military retirees will see the same increase in their benefits.

— *Military Times*



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Annual Cadet Recognition Luncheon

It was our chapter's privilege on October 26 to recognize once again the outstanding military cadets of our area. Cadets and senior representatives attended from the Air Force and Navy JROTC detachments at Lindhurst and Yuba City High Schools, the Beale AFB Civil Air Patrol squadron and the Sea Cadets.

Each cadet program received a \$500 donation from the chapter.



◀ Cadet Lt Col Esmeralda Mercado accepted our chapter's donation to the Lindhurst High School AFJROTC detachment.

► Tom Walther presented the Yuba City High School NJROTC donation to student Ben Hart and instructor Maury Castaneda, also our chapter's first vice president.



◀ Cadet Senior Airman Evan Alexander (right) and squadron commander CAP Lt Col Darryl L Dunn accepted the Civil Air Patrol contribution.



► Petty Officer Second Class Jason Tran and LTJG Mark Graminski received their donation from Tom Walther for the Sea Cadets.



Final Army Base Stripped of Confederate Name

The names of Confederate leaders who took up arms against the United States in the Civil War have been fully stripped from Army installations, as the former Fort Gordon in Georgia was renamed Fort Eisenhower on October 27.

► Army Maj. Gen. Paul Stanton, the commander of Fort Eisenhower and Command Sgt. Maj.



Michael Starrett unveil a bust of General of the Army and President Dwight D. Eisenhower during a renaming ceremony Friday, Oct. 27, 2023.

A ceremony marking the name change was held on the post's parade grounds, a location where Eisenhower as president conducted his final review of troops as commander in chief in January 1961.

The following Army installations also received new names this year:

- **Fort Barfoot, Virginia**, formerly Fort Pickett.
- **Fort Novosel, Alabama**, once Fort Rucker.
- **Fort Gregg-Adams, Virginia**, once Fort Lee.
- **Fort Cavazos, Texas**, once Fort Hood.
- **Fort Liberty, North Carolina**, formerly Fort Bragg
- **Fort Johnson, Louisiana**, transitioned from Fort Polk
- **Fort Walker, Virginia**, formerly Fort A. P. Hill
- **Louisiana National Guard Training Center-Pineville** was formerly Camp Beauregard.

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 Yuba City, CA 95992



Alta California Chapter Annual Dues, Membership Year 2024

January 1, 2024

Dear Valued MOAA Chapter Member,

Your support for MOAA and the Alta California Chapter has been much appreciated in the past. As with all organizations, our strength is in numbers, and we need your voice along with ours to advocate for the many issues facing our Active and Retired Military, as well as surviving spouses. In addition, we count on local dues to help fund important projects such as the annual Stand Down for veterans in Yuba, Sutter and Nevada Counties. We also support the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), the Yuba Sutter Sea Cadets, Lindhurst High Air Force JROTC, and the Yuba City High Navy JROTC programs.

We hope you will renew your Alta California Chapter dues and enjoy the camaraderie of the members and the excellent presentations at our luncheon meetings. Specific information will appear in the next *Alta Gram*. The Alta California Chapter appreciates your continued membership and support.

Annual Dues for Alta California Chapter MOAA, Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2024

\$20.00 Regular Member ** or \$10.00 Surviving Spouse (SS)

Add \$_____ for additional donation to fund such causes as Veterans Stand Down, Civil Air Patrol, Sea Cadets, Naval JROTC, and AF JROTC.

Total Enclosed \$_____. Please make check payable to: Alta CA Chapter MOAA

Mail to: Alta California Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 541, Yuba City, CA 95992

Or renew online at: <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx>

NAME: _____ **Status: Officer Rank** _____

Address _____ **Check if Surviving Spouse** _____

Phone: _____ **e-mail address** _____

***Help us recruit a new member. Those who do not already belong to national MOAA can receive a one-year FREE Chapter membership by joining national MOAA. www.moaa.org.*



Alta California Chapter Holiday Luncheon

Celebrating with the Lincoln Hills Veterans Group

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Orchard Creek Ballroom

965 Orchard Creek Lane, Lincoln, CA

\$35.00 per person

Entrée Selections:

Roasted Turkey Breast

*4 oz. Sliced Turkey Breast with Traditional Turkey Gravy and Dried Cranberry-Sage Stuffing.
Served with Mashed Potatoes and Roasted Winter Vegetables.*

Oven Roasted Salmon

4 oz. Atlantic Salmon, Topped with Sauce Béarnaise. Presented with Toasted Grain Pilaf, Garlic Spinach Sauté and Roasted Winter Vegetables.

Winter Pasta Fusilli

*Roasted Butternut Squash, Charred Shallots & Sundried Tomatoes with Pine Nuts,
Sautéed Spinach, Garlic White Wine Sauce, and Shaved Parmesan.*

Dessert

Cinnamon Apple Pie and Whipped Cream

No-host bar open 11:00 – 12:00

Luncheon served at Noon

For questions, contact Claire Luke at (916) 253-3711

Deadline for reservations is December 7 at 4 p.m.

*Please complete this form and send it with your check in the amount of
\$35 per person, payable to LH Veterans Group, to:*

Claire Luke
1149 Lasso Lake Lane
Lincoln, CA 95648

I/we plan to attend the Holiday Luncheon on December 14

Name(s)



Entrée Selection(s)

PHONE: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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