

In This Issue

April Guest Speaker: LCDR Grant Hatten, USNR, Commanding Officer,	2
Honor Flight Bay Area SITREP	3
Membership	4
Legislative Affairs	4
State Tax Comparison Map: Military Retirement Pay & SBP	5
Planning Your Legacy	6
Canines and the Coronavirus	6
Past President's Notes	7



President's Message

Fred Jaffin

I hope that everyone is doing well, and we look forward to meeting with you in person in the near future.

Our next Chapter meeting will be a Zoom/call in presenting a view on the balance of power and the military challenges our nation faces in the Pacific region. Check out [Lance Saper's article](#) in this issue of the ACE with further details on this must see event April 14th.

I have attended a preliminary planning meeting on the USS Hornet to plan a PTSD symposium later in April. The Hornet is securing outside funding and medical experts/staff to support this initiative. It will cover three to four events over the next eight months. Our Chapter members will have an opportunity to attend and participate. We will provide further details early next month. If you have any questions, please let me know.

I hope most of you have received your vaccinations. This is important for any in-person meetings and certainly a factor in our consideration of in-person Chapter

Editor: Ramona Chávez, Capt, USAF (Ret)



[Save the Date: Alameda Chapter General Meeting April 14th](#)
[Guest Speaker, LCDR Grant Hatten, USNR](#)

**MOAA – ONE ASSOCIATION, ONE VOICE–
YOURS**

Take Action: <http://takeaction.moaa.org>

2021 General Meetings		
Join us on Zoom		
Apr 14 th	Jun 9 th	Aug 11 th
–	Nov 10 th	–

2021 Board of Directors Meetings		
Zoom , 1030 to 1200		
Apr 6	May 4	Jun 1
Jul 6	Aug 3	Sep 7
Oct 5	Nov 2	Dec 7

Stay Informed

- Membership in National MOAA.....[7](#)
- Resources at Your Fingertips.....[8](#)
- 2021 Alameda MOAA Membership Application....[9](#)

Upcoming Events	
Oct. 8 th	Annual Blues Cruise
Dec. 4 th	Annual Holiday Luncheon
<i>All events are dependent on COVID-19 county advisory</i>	

President’s Message...continued

meetings in the future. We will be looking for appropriate site/s for these types of events. Again, we welcome any suggestions regarding this matter. We will keep you informed.

Thanks again for supporting our Alameda Chapter!

Visit our Website:
<http://www.alamedamoaa.org/>



April Guest Speaker: LCDR Grant Hatten, USNR, Commanding Officer, United States Pacific Fleet

Lance Sopera, First VP & Program Director

Lieutenant Commander Grant Hatten, Commanding Officer, Logistics Readiness Support Detachment BRAVO, United States Pacific Fleet, is a native of Portland, Oregon. He earned a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science & Mathematics from Washington State University in 2002 and commissioned into the U.S. Air Force that same year via the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program. In 2016, Hatten earned a Master’s in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of

Washington. Hatten is currently enrolled in the U.S. Naval War College Command and Staff online program for Joint Professional Military Education Phase I (JPME I). He has been selected for promotion to Commander in FY2021.

Hatten served on active duty in the U.S. Air Force until 2007. In 2010, he received a new commission via the Direct Commission Officer (DCO) program into U.S. Navy Reserve as a Supply Corps officer. His previous Navy Reserve (NR) assignments include Company Commander for Navy Cargo Handling Battalion FIVE, Training Officer for NR U.S. Pacific Fleet Logistics Readiness Center, Detachment 210 Headquarters, and Executive Officer for Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Unit ONE.

Hatten mobilized in 2013 as the Assistant Officer-In-Charge for Logistics Task Force FOUR, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In 2020, he served as the Mobilization Readiness Officer (N35) for Northwest Reserve Component Command (RCCNW) in support of COVID-19 relief efforts.

In 2018, Hatten was awarded the Navy League’s Vice Admiral Robert E. Batchelder Award for “significant personal contributions to supply readiness.” His personal decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (four awards), Air Force Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and Air Force Achievement Medal.

He is a qualified Navy Expeditionary Supply Corps officer.

In his civilian employment, Hatten is a Technical Project Manager for an international IT consulting firm. He has worked with clients such as Microsoft, DellEMC, and F5 Networks. He holds professional certifications as a Project Management Professional (PMP) and Certified Scrum Master (CSM).

April General Meeting

- April 14th; 11:00 – 12:00
- Join us on Zoom:
<https://talend.zoom.us/j/94806173797?pwd=RlBjUlnqVHNZWElNanJrWk9YT3U2Zz09>
- Questions: Contact secretary@alamedamoaa.org

Honor Flight Bay Area SITREP

*Carl Stewart, CAPT, SC, USN (Ret.), President/co-founder
Honor Flight Bay Area Foundation*

2020 was a bust in more ways than one for all of us. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Honor Flight HQ suspended all trips to Washington DC. After executing 23 successful HFBA trips since 2014, with almost 600 WWII, Korean and Vietnam War veterans, our flight operations stopped, and we had to “unwind” the travel logistics for five planned trips in 2020 for over 125 disappointed veterans and families.

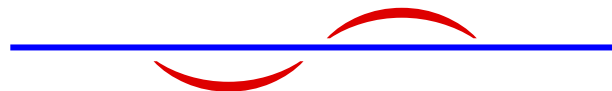


With vaccinations now being administered nationwide and dropping infection rates, we hope to fly again this fall with any needed safety protocols and have already made reservations for trips on September 23-25 and Oct 28-30. Priority will be giving the original Flight 24 and 25 veterans.

Because we could not fly in 2020, our board of directors initiated “Operation Face Masks” for our local veterans and sourced four-ply masks with filters, adjustable ear loops and nose clip features, including “VETERAN” and service emblem printed on the masks. We then distributed several hundred in time for 2020 Veterans Day to let our veterans know that we still thought and cared about them.

Honor Flight Bay Area continues to accept veteran applications and donations to help fund their travel expenses. We are also proud to say that because we have few overhead expenses, we have been able to maintain our travel cost to \$1,000 per veteran and with 95% of donations go directly toward our trip expenses.

We appreciate your continued and generous support to help us transport our local veterans to see the Washington DC memorials dedicated to their service and service and sacrifice for our country.



The Alameda MOAA Chapter will match up to \$500 in donations. One hundred percent of your donation will go toward making a veteran have a once in a lifetime trip and deserving of his/hers sacrifice to our great nation. To make a contribution, please:



- Send checks to: CAPT. Warren McDonald, 1430 Wendy Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025
- [PayPal](mailto:mcdepa@gmail.com) to: mcdepa@gmail.com
- Payable to: Alameda Chapter MOAA Honor Flight

Membership

Rudolf Bredderman, Membership Director

At the end of February, we had 68 members (10 Active Duty, 6 Surviving Spouses, 1 Spouse and 51 Regular members). Our final membership total for 2020 was 104 (11 Active Duty, 9 Surviving Spouses and 4 Spouses and 80 Regular members).

We ended January with 43 of our 2020 Regular and Surviving Spouse members who had not renewed for 2021. I sent individual emails to them and received quick responses from 22. Twelve of those renewed by the end of February and 5 more renewed in the first week of March. Eleven others have responded to say they were putting their check in the mail. That still leaves 13 of our 2020 members who did not respond to my emails. I'll try to make telephone contact with these 13 within the next week.

Former members who I believe may still be living in our area include two 2019 members who did not renew for 2020 and eight 2018 members who did not renew for 2019. I'll try to contact those 10 to see if they may reconsider.

We have not enrolled any new members in 2021. I will continue trying to contact the few prospects included on the monthly prospect list I receive from MOAA. There was contact information for three on the March list; two on the February list, and three on the January list. I'll invite all to our April meeting.

We need to recruit new members. If you have a friend, neighbor or acquaintance who has been an officer in any of our military services, please make them aware of our MOAA chapter and see if you can get them to join. Use the attached membership application. If you give me their contact information, I'll make contact and send them our most recent newsletter. Just send an to email bredderman@sbcglobal.net.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual dues are \$20 for regular members, \$5 for Surviving Spouses and Spouses

- Send check
 - Payable to: Alameda County Chapter, MOAA
 - Send to: Rudolf Bredderman, 35923 Romilly Court, Fremont, CA 94536.
 - [PayPal](mailto:mcdepa@gmail.com): mcdepa@gmail.com
-

Legislative Affairs

James "Skip" Phair, Legislative Affairs Liaison

The priority of MOAA's legislative agenda for the 117th congress is to protect the benefits earned by the members of the uniformed services. Following are highlights of the priorities and objectives at the national level. More extensive details are available on the moaa.org website.



Protect the Value of the Military Health Care Benefit

Oppose any proposal for TRICARE for Life enrollment fees, increases to TRICARE Prime costs for active-duty family members, or increases to working-age retiree costs that exceed retiree COLA.

Secure reduction in mental health and physical, speech, and occupational therapy copays.

Protect the MHS Pharmacy Benefit and Achieve Flexibility in TRICARE Pharmacy Copays

Oppose any plans to restrict access to MTF pharmacies.

Address Barriers to Accessing Care Within the MHS, Including TRICARE Coverage Gaps and Mental Health Care Access Challenges

Support a pilot program to test MHS mental health appointment schedulers to assist beneficiaries with access to care.

Achieve Equity of Benefits, Protections and Administrative Support for Guard/Reserve Members Consistent with Their Active Duty Counterparts

Eliminate pay, benefit, and retirement credit inequities of our Guard/ Reserve servicemembers.

Expand Military Lending Act protections to the Guard/Reserve forces to support their activation with reduced stress to meet financial obligations.

Sustain Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Foundational Missions and Services

Eliminate health disparities for women and minority veterans and ensure equity in accessing timely, sensitive, and quality care and benefits through the VA.

Expand access to caregiving, palliative, geriatric, and extended care programs for veterans and wounded warriors.

Sustain Pay Raises for Servicemembers and COLA Raises for Retirees

Protect COLA and maintain pay raises tied to the Employment Cost Index.

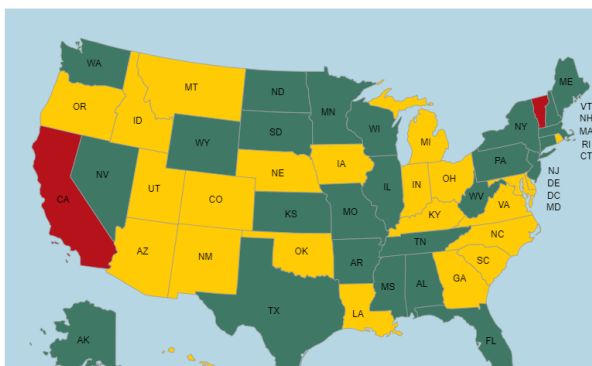
Improve Survivor Benefit

Build co-sponsors for The Caring for the Survivors and Families of Veterans Act of 2020.

Continue to support Dependency and Indemnity Compensation improvement to bring it on par with federal employees.

Ensure the Coast Guard Receives Pay During a Government Shutdown

During a government shutdown, the USCG is not paid. Advocate lawmakers to co-sponsor inclusion of The Pay Our Coast Guard Act in the NDAA.



State Tax Comparison Map for Military Retirement Pay and SBP

Map Legend

Green: Both military retired pay (MRP) and Survivor Benefit Plan payments (SBP) are fully exempt from state taxation.

Yellow: MRP and/or SBP receive partial exemption from state taxation.

Red: Neither MRP nor SBP is exempt from state taxation

Source: MOAA Communications; updated Jan. 14, 2021

For an interactive map, visit <https://www.moaa.org/content/state-report-card/statereportcard/>

Planning Your Legacy

Bill Garcia, 2nd VP & Personal Affairs Director

VA offers a Survivors and Burial Benefits Kit to assist Veterans and their families with pre-need planning. The kit includes a guide through possible end-of-life and survivors' benefits eligibility and makes it easy to keep your personal information all in one place for you and your loved ones. The link at benefits.va.gov is: [Learn what VA benefits are offered and how to apply for them.](#)



Canines and the Coronavirus

Joyce Quartly, Surviving Spouse Liaison

Those of us who are dog owners know the value of the companionship, the entertainment, the unconditional love, the warmth, and the loyalty that our furry creatures provide us and our families. When we live alone, they become our best friends and protectors and can fill a deep void in our lives. Others have become aware of the comforts they offer, and during the pandemic, dog adoptions are at an all-time high; fortunately, the typically overcrowded shelters are actually low on inhabitants.

We are now learning that the multi-talented canines are “at the cutting edge of medicine” and “may very well become an integral part of the pandemic,” according to Maria Goodavage, former USA Today journalist. Maria is considered one of the foremost author experts on working dogs since the publication of her critically acclaimed New York Times bestselling books about military dogs, secret service dogs, “top” dogs, and her most recent release - [Doctor Dogs: How Our Best Friends Are Becoming Our Best Medicine](#). Maria has appeared on the Today Show, The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, and The Doctors. She was featured in People Magazine, and she has made presentations on working dogs at the New York Stock Exchange, the National Museum of the United States Air Force and other notable venues. Maria lives in San Francisco with her Labrador Gus. She is a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and has studied the Coast Guard's use of dogs for drug detection.

In Doctor Dogs, Maria reveals the fascinating ways dogs are saving lives every day and how they are training to detect COVID-19 to slow or stop the spread of the pandemic. The dogs' primary tool is their astonishingly sensitive noses which can sniff in parts per trillion, as well as in 3D, and their brains are equipped to make sense of scents. With the right training they can easily pick up the scent of various diseases including COVID-19. Their rewards for all of their remarkable accomplishments are universal: treats, toys, and praise! Goodavage traveled the world to see firsthand the advancing technologies involving dogs and their super noses to sniff out cancers, malaria, diabetes, autism, Parkinson's, and seizures (in advance), as well as helping people to cope with PTSD, schizophrenia, and other mental illnesses.

In Doctor Dogs, Goodavage shares how COVID-19 detection dogs could help societies open more safely, adding an extra layer of assurance that people who enter countries, states, airports, schools, businesses, sporting events - anywhere they're deployed - are free of the disease. Helsinki and Chile are already successfully using dogs to screen incoming passengers at their airports. In Doctor Dogs, Goodavage has delved into the worlds of science and medicine to research and study dogs throughout the US, England, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Australia, Chile, Spain, Finland, the UAE, Bahrain, Lebanon, Japan, and others visiting laboratories and family environments to arrive at her conclusions. [Goodavage](#) has traveled throughout the US and the world studying dogs. She refers to these Doctor Dogs as being at the cutting edge of medicine. She refers to them as lifesaving/life changing best friends.

Past President's Notes

Geoff Kline, President Emeritus

When [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted in 79 AD, the town of Pompeii was devastated by the ash and lapilli (pumice stone) which covered over the city. However, there are lesser recognized cities which were also destroyed. Herculaneum and Stabiae, both along the shore of the Bay of Naples along with Pompeii, accounted for an estimated death toll of 3,360 people. Pompeii, with a population of about 2,000, was covered in ash up to ten feet or more. Although no actual lava flowed into the city, inhabitants were mostly asphyxiated by the volcano's noxious, poisonous gases. Consequently, the bodies of those killed were preserved under the ash raining down. The prevailing wind was such that the other two cities had more time to react, but nevertheless were swallowed up in a wave of earth and debris. Hot volcanic mud went down stream beds and buried Herculaneum in 65-85 feet of mud and lapilli. With their backs to the sea, many perished under a wall of mud and earth. There have since been several volcanic eruptions of Mt. Vesuvius, the most recent being in 1944. Concern is for future casualties and destruction if the volcano becomes active again because the same region has a population of 2 million. Being a highly dense area, volcanologists predict that up to 3 million people could be affected by a future eruption. This section of Italy remains highly vulnerable to the wrath of Vesuvius just as it occurred twenty centuries ago.

Membership in National MOAA

Rudolf Bredderman, Membership Director

It is important that Chapter members who are Premium (Annual) members of national MOAA keep their national MOAA membership current with the payment of annual dues; or upgrade to "LIFE" membership in national MOAA. Another option would be to join "Basic" membership, which does not include MOAA's monthly Military Officer magazine.

MOAA Membership Costs:

Basic MOAA membership is FREE

Premium (Annual) Membership:

Annual Dues	One Year	Two Years	Three Years
regular members -	\$48	\$82	\$108
surviving spouses -	\$43	\$73	\$97

LIFE membership cost varies from \$851 for someone 50 years old or less to \$88 if you are 96 to 100 years old. LIFE membership passes to your spouse if you predecease your spouse.

If you need help in becoming a member of national MOAA, let me know. If I have your written permission, I can sign you up to be a "Basic" MOAA member at no cost. The best way is to send me an email bredderman@sbcglobal.net.

MOAA membership is incredibly significant when MOAA lobbies Congress on issues important to the military community.



To join, visit <https://www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa/>

You defend the country. We defend your benefits.

[Join Now](#)

Resources at Your Fingertips

- **Need a DD-214?** Visit <https://www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/>
 - **Alameda, MOAA Board Members for 2021:** <http://www.alamedamoaa.org/Chapter-Officers>
 - **MOAA Alameda Membership/Renewal Application** Last page of newsletter or online here:
<http://www.alamedamoaa.org/Join>
 - **MOAA National application** <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Join-MOAA/Why-join-MOAA.aspx>
- Alameda Chapter Website** <http://www.alamedamoaa.org>
- California MOAA Council Website:** <http://www.calmoaa.org>
- **Alameda Chapter Editorial and Privacy Policy:** <http://alamedamoaa.org/Editorial-and-Privacy-Policies>
 - **MOAA Legislative Update/Action Center:** <http://alamedamoaa.org/Legislative-Update>
 - **Useful Websites for California Veterans**
 - **CA Legislation:**
<https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml>
 - **California State Senate:** <http://senate.ca.gov/>
 - **California State Assembly:** <http://assembly.ca.gov/>
 - To find CA Law, including the Military and Veterans Code: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml>
 - Find your State and Local Legislator: <http://votesmart.org/>
 - **CALMOAA Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/582556558468846>



2021 Alameda MOAA Membership Application

Please Check One		Please Check One		
<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse	<input type="checkbox"/> Surviving Spouse	
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal				
Name and Rank of qualifying officer's spouse:				

Military Status (please check one)

Active Duty
 Retired
 Guard/Reserve
 Former / Inactive

U.S. Service (please check one)

Army
 Air Force
 Coast Guard
 Marine Corps
 Navy
 USPHS
 U.S. Space Force
 NOAA

Date: mm/dd/yyyy National MOAA #*: _____

**National MOAA # not required; however you can acquire free basic membership at: <https://www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa/>*

Name: _____ Rank: _____ Date of Birth: mm/dd/yyyy
 Email: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____ Apt: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____
 Spouses Name: _____

I am interested in participating in a Chapter office or committee Yes No

Membership is for the calendar year commencing 1 January of each year.

Annual Dues: 1) Active Duty: \$0 2) Regular: \$20 / \$10 if joining after July 1 3) Spouse/Surviving Spouse: \$5

New Members: Please attach a copy of your military ID, DD-214, or other proof of service as military officer.

Make checks payable to: ALAMEDA COUNTY CHAPTER, MOAA
Mail to: MOAA Alameda County Chapter, c/o CDR Rudolf Bredderman
 35923 Romilly Court
 Fremont, CA 94536