

October Social



Our thanks to Colonel Charlie Huggins (USA, Ret) who, at our October social, talked to the chapter about his experiences during the Vietnam War. The chapter enjoyed his remembrance, but he also turned the tables on us and asked us about our experiences during our time in service. It was a treat hearing about our members personal stories. Thanks Colonel! As always, a great time was had by all.



November USMC Birthday Ball

Our November event was participating in the Marine Corps Birthday Ball, which was held at the Hilton on 4 November. Those who attended agree we had a great time! Thanks to all those who came.

December Christmas Party

Steve and Milly Warner have graciously volunteered to provide a host site for this year's annual Chapter Christmas party! We will be providing additional directions and details in a separate e-mail shortly, and will post on the Chapter Facebook page.

- Date: December 14
- Day: Thursday
- Time: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Warner Household

Please mark on your calendar and look for our invite!

January Social

In January, our guest speaker will discuss a topic that is gaining hold in the military and is still being established. Resilience, and how it can strengthen both the individual and the organization will be shared, along with his personal story. Please join us.

- Date: January 26
- Day: Thursday
- Time: 6 p.m.
- Location: Coast International Inn
- Speaker: LtCol Ty Moore, USMC, Homeland Defense Planner. Alaska NORAD Region and Alaskan Command J554

We're looking forward to a brief on a new program that continues to evolve in support of our veterans on active and post service status.

February Event

Per our tradition, this year's Salute to the Military will replace our February Social. It will be on February 18, 2018 at the Egan Center in Anchorage. Guest speaker is Keynote Speaker General Robert Brown, Commanding General, U.S. Army Pacific. Please register for the event directly at:

<https://www.asymca.org/alaska-salute>

MOAA News – Key Federal Bills

MOAA Tracks legislation at the national level and uses the strength of the chapter system to leverage it's discussions with our federal legislators and in providing key information to assist in developing sound, sustainable and fair policy. Here are bills currently under consideration in the House and Senate.

Federal - S 66: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

Federal - S 143: A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow



a credit against income tax for amounts paid by a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces for a new State license or certification required by reason of a permanent change in the duty station of such member to another State.

Federal - S 339: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

Federal - HR 303: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or combat-related special compensation.

Federal - HR 333: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans' disability compensation, to extend eligibility for concurrent receipt to chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service, and for other purposes.

Federal - HR 1384: A bill to amend titles 5, 10, 37, and 38 of the United States Code to ensure that an order to serve on active duty under section 12304a and 12304b of title 10, United States Code, is treated the same as other orders to serve on active duty for determining the eligibility of members of the uniformed services and veterans for certain benefits and for calculating the deadlines for certain benefits.

Federal - HR 92: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program.

Federal - HR 93: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for increased access to Department of Veterans Affairs medical care for women veterans.

Federal - HR 102: A bill to expand the research and education on and delivery of complementary and alternative medicine to veterans, and for other purposes.

Federal - S 422: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

Federal - HR 299: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify

presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

Federal - HR 3897: Gold Star Family Support and Installation Access Act.

Defense News

What's inside the \$700 billion defense budget plan headed to Trump's desk?:

Congress on Thursday sent President Donald Trump a sweeping defense policy bill authorizing a \$700 billion budget for the military, including billions of dollars more for missile defense programs to counter the growing nuclear weapons threat from North Korea. The authorization bill also includes a 2.4 percent pay raise for troops, boosts in military end strengths and equipment, and more acquisition reforms. (*Defense News*)



Russia's Putin signs 'foreign agents' media law:

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed into law on Saturday new measures allowing authorities to list foreign media outlets as "foreign agents" in response to what Moscow



says is unacceptable U.S. pressure on Russian media. (Reuters)

Coast Guard says it's \$900 million short after 'all-hands-on-deck' hurricane response: The U.S. Coast Guard faces \$914 million shortfall after scrambling to respond to three devastating hurricanes this year within six weeks, the service's top officer told a Senate subcommittee Thursday. (*Washington Post*)

Congress to MDA: Prepare for space-based missile attacks: Congress made another aggressive push for space-based missile defense in its annual defense authorization bill. Congress preemptively threw its support behind the yet-to-be-released findings of the Pentagon's ballistic missile defense review in the conference report of the fiscal year 2018 defense policy bill, and signaled what could ultimately be recommended. (*Defense News*)



Surge in Afghanistan is underway; 14,000 US troops now in country: There are now approximately 14,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan, according to

Lt. Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr., the Joint Staff Director. (*Military Times*)

Downing North Korean Missiles Is Hard, so the U.S. Is Experimenting: Concerned that the missile defense system designed to protect American cities is insufficient by itself to deter a North Korean attack, the Trump administration is expanding its strategy to also try to stop Pyongyang's missiles before they get far from Korean airspace. The new approach, hinted at in an emergency request to Congress last week for \$4 billion to deal with North Korea, envisions the stepped-up use of cyberweapons to interfere with the North's control systems before missiles are launched, as well as drones and fighter jets to shoot them down moments after liftoff. The missile defense network on the West Coast would be expanded for use if everything else fails. (*New York Times*)

The Navy wants to know if a drone can detect nautical mines: If the Navy wants to detect nautical mines from the sky, the job often requires an MH-60 helicopter and an on-board countermeasure system. This arrangement lets operators learn about these mines and do so from a safe distance. Now the service wants something more nimble. One solution could be a small quadcopter sporting an ultra-sensitive magnetometer sensor system. This setup would allow the

instrument to detect mines and then relay the information almost immediately to a handheld Android device. (*C4ISRNet*)

Denmark, Eyeing Russia, OKs 20% Spending Boost: (Breaking Defense) Denmark is a small country, but an important player in the NATO Alliance and the resurgent Nordic defense group of Norway, Sweden and Finland to deal with the rumbling Russia. And it will grow more important as it implements an impressive 20 percent increase in defense spending over the next six years. The increase was announced in mid-October 2017 when the Danish government released its proposed new six-year defense guidance and defense spending guidelines. The new agreement is for 2018-2023 and for six years and is expected to pass Parliament. The government is very clear about the threats facing Denmark, the importance of allies modernizing and of effective interdependence in the defense of the North Atlantic and beyond. (*Breaking Defense*)

The U.S. is "on track," but additional armored forces, long-range artillery and bridging capabilities would help deter Russia, Milley says: In order for the U.S. military to do its primary job in Europe — deter Russian aggression — America will need to send more troops there in the coming years, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley said today. Big



moves would depend upon decisions made in the forthcoming National Defense Strategy, he said, but a more immediate “slight increase in the size of the force” would help reduce risk and reassure allies on the other side of the Atlantic. “We, the Army, think that additional capability is probably needed, in combination with our NATO allies, to ensure deterrence of further Russian territorial aggression,” Milley told a group of defense reporters Wednesday morning. (*Defense One*)

VA asks for quick funding fix to start 10-year medical records overhaul: Veterans Affairs officials say it will take 10 years to fully match their electronic medical records with the military’s system, but they need nearly \$800 million by the end of the year or else risk taking even longer. (*Military Times*)

Medal of Honor

Corporal John Henry Pruitt, USMC



John Henry Pruitt was born on October 4, 1896, in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He entered military service from Phoenix, Arizona in May 1917. As a corporal in the Marine Corps, Pruitt attacked and captured two enemy machine guns, and later

captured forty of the enemy. Killed by shell-fire on his 22nd birthday, the U.S. Army and later the U.S. Navy would award him the Medal of Honor for his bravery a day earlier on October 3, 1918, at the Battle of Blanc Mont Ridge, France. He is one of only 19 people who have received two Medals of Honor.

Army Citation: Pruitt single-handedly attacked two machineguns, capturing them and killing two of the enemy. He then captured 40 prisoners in a dugout nearby. This gallant Marine was killed soon afterward by shellfire while he was sniping at the enemy.

Navy Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy at Blanc Mont Ridge, France, October 3, 1918. Corporal Pruitt single-handedly attacked two machine-guns, capturing them and killing two of the enemy. He then captured 40 prisoners in a dugout nearby. This gallant soldier was killed soon afterward by shell-fire while he was sniping the enemy.

After his remains were returned to the United States he was buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia. His grave can be found in section 18, lot #245-3, map grid P 10.

2017/18 Calendar of Events

General dates of interest are noted below. Membership meetings are generally on the 4th Thursday of each month except as noted.

- Dec 14: Christmas Social
- Jan 25 (2018): Dinner Social, Guest Speaker - LtCol Ty Moore
- Feb 17: ASYMCA Salute to the Military
- Mar 22: Dinner Social
- April ##-##: MOAA Storming the Hill
- Apr 26: Dinner Social
- May 24: End-of-Season Dinner Social
- Jun 14: Army Birthday
- Aug 4: Coast Guard Birthday
- Sep 18: Air Force Birthday
- Oct 13: Navy Birthday
- Oct ##: Dinner Social
- Nov 10: Marine Corps Birthday
- Nov ##: USMC Birthday Ball

Contact Information

Please share this newsletter with active duty, Guard, Reservist and retired Officers you know and encourage them to join. Contact information below:

- E-mail: c2burton@gci.net
- Phone: (907)644-6202
- Address: 1143 M Ct.
Anchorage, AK 99501
- Annual chapter dues: \$25; on or about January of each year, on-line payment may be made at <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx> or a check payable to Captain Cook Chapter. Thank you for your support!
- Chapter site: www.MOAA-AK.COM

President: Catkin Kilcher Burton
Vice-Pres/Comms: Clyde T. (Tom) Burton
Secretary/Treasurer: Edith M. Grunwald
Legislative Liaison: Bob Pawlowski

