

August 2023

ILCouncilMOAA.org

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Never Stop Serving!!!

***“NEVER
STOP
SERVING”***



2023 State Fair (s) Edition

President's column

Greetings from the Illinois State Fair(s).

We had good representation at both State Fairs this year. Several of us enjoyed excellent weather on August 13 for the Springfield Fair.

While there, I had some time to chat with the Lt. Governor about her Veteran Transition working group.

We handed out JROTC Drill competition awards and listened to our own Dr. Mark DePue recount American war stories from his veteran interviews.

And then Col Richard Smith and I took in the Du Quoin Fair on August 27th. It is different from the Springfield fair, but very reaffirming of those who have served.

We got good “face time” with the Director of the IDVA and with several of the Illinois Guard's Survivor Outreach coordinators for the lower half of the state.

I think all of us who attended the Fairs this year would say that it was a good experience. And as we know, it is always good to get a measure of name recognition within the VSO community.

See you next year at the Fair!

Semper Fi – Bob

Springfield



Opening Parade-Veteran's Day

Springfield



Dr. Mark DePue—Veteran's stories

Springfield



Dr. Mark DePue—Veteran's stories

Springfield



COL (USAF, Ret) Richard Smith, Illinois State Fair Queen,
and COL (USMC, Ret) Robert Tyler

DuQuoin



Sheila Forristall and Tina Fletcher, Southern Region's
Survivor Outreach Coordinators and COL (USMC, Ret)

Robert Tyler

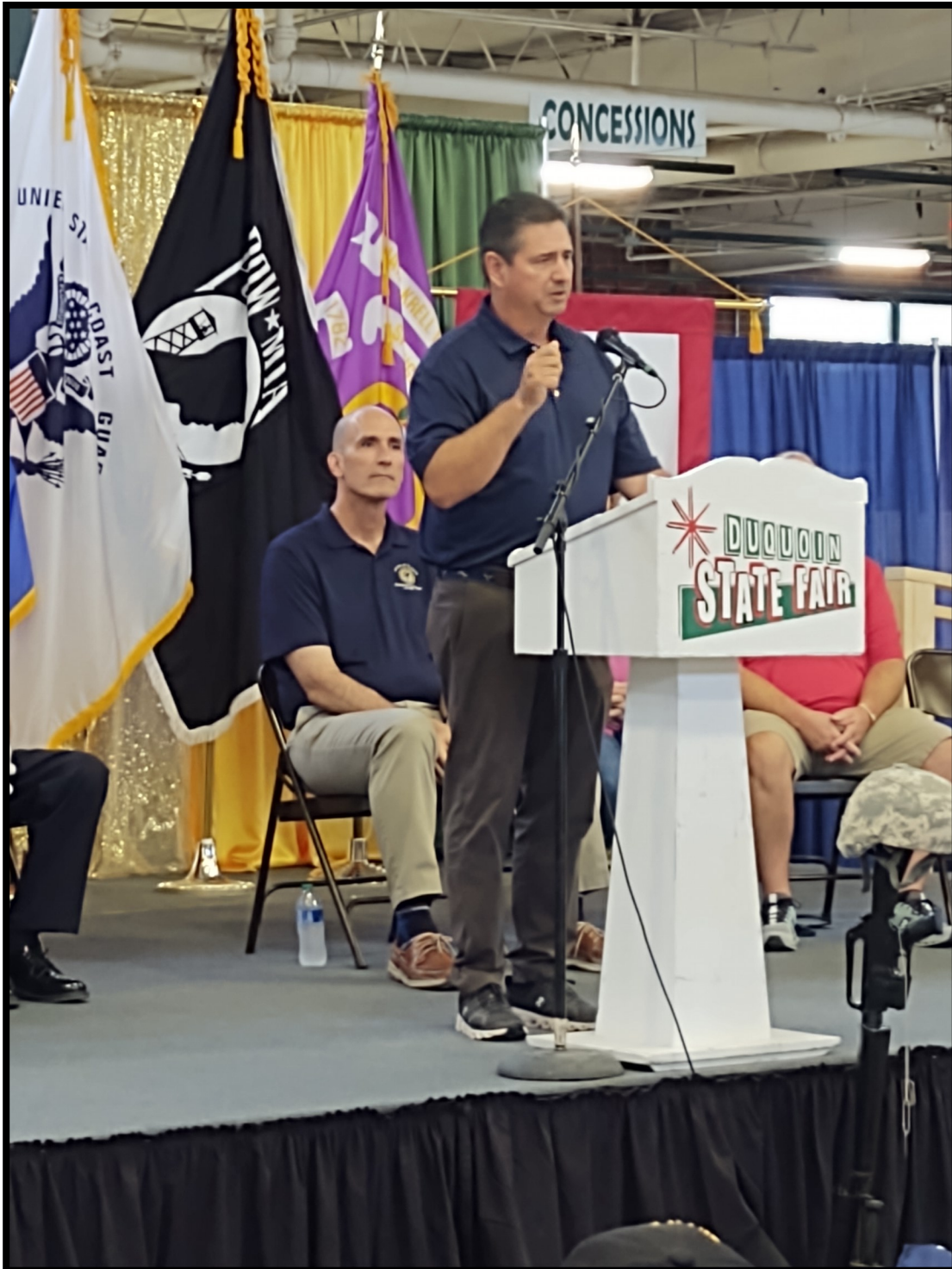
DuQuoin



COL (USMC, Ret) Robert Tyler and

COL (USAF, Ret) Richard Smith

DuQuoin



Speakers at the DuQuoin Fair

DuQuoin



Another group shot with the Fair Queen

DuQuoin



Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs Director

Terry Prince

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.

Council of Chapters

New Website

The Council has a new website. Address is <http://www.ilcouncilmoaa.org>

If you have any items or input for the website, contact MAJ (USAF, Ret) Dave Knieriem at the following email address: dknieriem@casscomm.com

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.



Never Stop Serving!!!

MOAA Store and ROTC/Junior ROTC Items

The MOAA store has re-opened at <https://moaa.estore.shop/>. In addition to promotional gear, you can find ROTC and Junior ROTC (JROTC) award certificates (in stock now) and medals (place orders now for backorders to be shipped when medals are in stock, expected by the end of April). Electronic certificates may be customized and downloaded [online](#) at any time. Note that medals have been updated to reflect all eight uniformed services, and JROTC certificates have been updated with language more appropriate to high school students rather than ROTC students.

The cost of medals to affiliates will remain at \$3.00 per medal due to a MOAA subsidy. Additionally, the store recently added the USPS live rate to shipping options, providing a lower-cost alternative.

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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