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WEBMASTER
(Vacant)

San Pedro/South Bay Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P. O. Box 601
Redondo Beach, California 90277
Chartered 24 December 1969



OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

And pick a main course when making reservations

President's Message:

This Month the San Pedro/South Bay Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) recognizes another very significant military event from our Nation's past. 250 years ago, on 13 October 1775, The Continental Congress authorized the purchase of two vessels to be armed for a cruise against British merchantmen. This resolution created the Continental Navy and is considered the first establishment of the U.S. Navy. However, going up against the British Royal Navy—then the world's preeminent naval power—was a tall order for the our young nations. Still, our early ships and crews managed to be successfully in numerous engagements and raided many British merchant vessels. But at a high price—we lost 24 of our vessels and at one point we were reduced to just two in active service. However, and most importantly, our young navy showed other nations that we were a credible force, thus making it easier for us to seek support from foreign countries. This proved to be one of the major reasons the French decided to provide critical assistance later in the War.



While our original Navy was disbanded in 1785—right after the Revolutionary War—it was reactivated in 1794 as our new country realized the value and the need for a standing navy.

At our October Meeting, I propose that we raise our glasses to salute the brave Americans who served and fought in our proud Navy throughout the past 250 years,

Parking will be validated. Be sure to carry your parking ticket with you into the hotel.

Warm regards,
Jack Pharris

Dinner Meetings: Jan. through Nov. our Dinner Meetings start at 6:30pm the third Friday of each month at the restaurant noted in the newsletter. Our December meeting is Brunch usually 11am on the 2nd Sunday. Check newsletter.

Please make reservations:

Procedures: Jan-Nov please make reservations in accordance with the instructions below the menu.

Late reservations and cancellations are acceptable. Contact Sheri at 310-948-2436 or Sherriljean@aol.com.

Donations: If you have new or used clothing or Household Items you would like to donate to a Veteran's Organization please contact, our President, Bob Ettinger at 310-541-8625.

A Charity Donation letter for Income Tax purposes will be provided.

Ride Sharing: If you are a member who would like to attend our dinner meeting, but are unable to drive here, please call a chapter officer who will try to arrange for your dinner meeting transportation with another member.

Change of Status Notification:

If you know of a member who has passed on, please call one of the Chapter officers listed on our letterhead.

Attention:

Please send your email address and cell phone number to our Data Base Manager, Harry Axelrod at hiaxelrod@earthlink.net so it can be included in our Official Use Only database.

Also please note in the email if you would like to receive our Newsletter by mail (i.e. Postal service).

Monthly Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Chapter Board will be at the Restaurant 30 minutes prior to the Attitude Adjustment Period for our dinner meeting. Members and guests are welcome to attend.

By George and Sheri Thompson

OCTOBER 17 DINNER MEETING

Speaker: CAPT Rich Abele US Navy (Ret.)

Topic: USS IOWA – Battleship of Presidents

Our featured speaker at this month's MOA chapter meeting is Rich Abele – a retired US Navy Captain – and currently a tour guide on the museum battleship IOWA in San Pedro.

Rich will enlighten us about the five US presidents who have come aboard the IOWA during her war and peacetime service. These presidential visits started with FDR back in 1943 and most recently President Biden in 2022. All had intriguing reasons for coming aboard. In addition, Rich will introduce us to two significant artifact exhibits that are highlights of the presidential cabin tour. This is a presentation that you do not want to miss.

BIO:

- Retired Navy Captain with 2 tours of combat duty in Vietnam
- Served as Gunnery Officer on the USS Tripoli (LPH-10)
- Commanded a minehunter in Long Beach, CA
- Worked for The Boeing Company as a Contracts Mgr on the B-1B bomber and C-17 cargo aircraft programs
- Volunteers as a tour guide, fund raiser, training instructor and photographer on battleship IOWA for past 13 years
- Naval history buff and international adventurer

Dress: Business attire or MOAA shirt & jacket

Location: **Torrance Doubletree Hotel**

21333 Hawthorne Blvd

Torrance, CA 90505

Attitude Adjustment Period: 6:30 p.m.

Announcements: 7:00 p.m.

Dinner: 7:05 p.m.

Menu: Iced tea, hot tea, and coffee, **Appetizer** Caesar Salad

Choice of Entrée **NOTE: All entrees can be prepared Gluten Free (advise Sheri when placing your order please)**

- Half-Roasted Chicken with Fingerling potatoes tossed with Garlic aioli and Parmesan cheese
- Rigatoni Pasta with Marinara sauce

Dinner Price: \$60. You may pay at the door before 6:50 pm.

Please **TEXT** or **Voice Mail Sheri Thompson at 310 948-2436** with your

Reservation (commitment to pay) and menu choice or Cancellation no later than noon the Wednesday before the dinner. Cancellations acknowledged by Sheri will be accepted.



Upcoming event:

Retiree Appreciation Day

Saturday, November 15, 2025

8 AM - 1230 PM (0800 - 1230)

Los Angeles AFB, CA

Building 270, Gordon Conference Center (GCC)

483 N Aviation Blvd, El Segundo, CA 90245

Coffee, Snacks, and Lunch Provided

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

George and Sheri Thompson

Military-Connected

Consumers Lost Over \$580 Million to Fraud

Last Year By: Kevin Lilley APRIL 16, 2025

Military-connected consumers reported more fraud cases to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in 2024 than the previous year, as well as a significant hike in fraud losses – a total of \$584 million, up from \$477 million in 2023.

Retirees and veterans reported \$419 million in losses in 2024, according to the FTC's 2024 data book, released last month. That's up from \$350 million in 2023. The other categories of "military consumers" as identified by the FTC also saw increases:

Active duty: \$71 million in losses, up from \$52 million in 2023

Guard and Reserve members: \$40 million in losses, up from \$39 million

Spouses and/or dependents of active duty servicemembers: \$54 million in losses, up from \$36 million

While veterans and retirees lost the most overall, active duty members saw the largest loss per report, with an average of \$920 lost in about 7,300 cases.

"We know that this is sort of the tip of the iceberg," Terri Miller, a consumer education specialist with the FTC's Division of Consumer and Business Education, said during a recent MOAA webinar on preventing fraud and identity theft. "Everyone who is affected by a scam doesn't always report it. So this is just what we know ... let's assume that this number is higher."

Behind the Numbers

Impostor scams remained the most-reported threat to military consumers last year, with nearly \$200 million lost in more than 44,000 reported incidents. And while only 4,750 investment-related scams were

reported to the FTC, they cost victims more than \$208 million – up from \$147 million in 2023.

Other costly scam types included business and job-related fraud (\$38.4 million), sweepstakes fraud (\$29.2 million), online shopping scams (\$22.5 million), and travel and timeshare fraud (\$18.6 million).

Along with nearly 100,000 fraud cases, military consumers reported more than 38,000 instances of identity theft, with more than 11,000 scammers attempting to open new credit card accounts and more than 5,100 attempting to secure a business or personal loan.

Stopping Fraud

Miller offered some basics to avoid identity theft, impostors, and other scams during her webinar presentation:

Take Your Time: "You don't have to respond to anything right away. ... Honest organizations are always going to give you time to make a decision."

Pay Smart: "Listen to how they tell you to pay. Often, scammers will use gift cards, wire transfers, cryptocurrency, payment apps, things like that because it's easy for you to send money but very, very hard for you to get your money back."

Check Your Credit: "One of the best ways to detect identity theft early is to check your credit reports regularly. AnnualCreditReport.com, that's the best place to check it because you can check all three credit bureaus. ... Make it part of your financial plan to check your credit regularly, especially when you're on the move."

MOAA Can Help Stop Scams

MOAA offers a range of resources to help you protect your personal data (and your bank account) from scammers of all types:

From our financial and benefits expert: **Protect Yourself From These 5 Common Fraud Schemes**

Three-part series: **Don't Be Scammed**

More recorded webinars (available to Premium and Life members): **An Overview of Scams and Frauds | Outsmart the Scammers: How to Spot and Avoid Financial Fraud | Protecting Yourself From Cybercrime and Scams**



San Pedro/South Bay Chapter
PO Box 601
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

October 2025 Newsletter

Please RSVP for the dinner meeting with your menu choices by Wednesday Noon before the meeting.
Dues, Charity and JROTC donations may also be paid using the form below.

FIRST CLASS MAIL
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
Time Sensitive Material

Moved? Let us know. The Post Office will not forward Newsletters even if you have submitted a "Change of Address" form.



San Pedro
South Bay
California



2025 Membership Application

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal* ☐ Reinstating

*** If renewing: Please fill in Name and only information that has changed.**

Send this form with a check payable to:

SP/SB MOAA to: SP/SB Chapter MOAA, PO Box 601, Redondo Beach, CA 90277

Name _____ Nickname _____ Branch of service _____ Rank _____

☐ Retired ☐ Active ☐ Reserve ☐ National Guard ☐ Former ☐ Auxiliary (surviving spouse) ☐ Associate (spouse)

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (H) (____) _____ (W) (____) _____ Cell (____) _____

Email (please print) _____ Send Newsletter by: ☐ email (saves \$\$) ☐ mail ☐ both

Birth Month _____ Spouse's Name _____ Birth Month _____

Recruited by _____ ☐ Current MOAA Member number _____ **TOTAL \$** _____

Annual chapter dues:

Please check one

- ☐ Chapter Membership \$ 40/year
☐ Chapter Surviving Spouse \$ 10/year

I would like to:

- ☐ Contribute to chapter JROTC Scholarships Program \$ _____
☐ Contribute to chapter Veterans Charity Programs \$ _____
☐ Serve on the Board or help with other projects.