



# Ozark Empire News

Ozark Empire Chapter, Military Officers Association of America  
2131 West Republic Road, Box 164, Springfield, Missouri 65807

February 2012

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

As some of you may know, there is a funding crisis developing for operation of the seven Veterans Homes and five Veterans Cemeteries established by the Missouri Veterans Commission. The fund is expected to be depleted by the end of 2013. A couple of legislators in the Missouri General Assembly have recognized the need for a dedicated source for funding the operation of the Missouri Veterans Commission and have introduced bills in the House and Senate. Those bills are SB499 and HB1160, which would require that part of the admission charged by excursion gambling boats be transferred to the Missouri Veterans Commission fund.

On 30 January, OEMOAA member Dave Reed, who is the new President of the Missouri Council of Chapters, and myself attended an open meeting of the Missouri Veterans Commission and a meeting of the Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations (MAVO) in Jefferson City. We also attempted to schedule visits with our respective representatives in the Missouri House of Representatives and Senate to ask for their support of SB499 and HB1160. I am asking that you do the same by either telephoning or writing your representatives. It is important to note that in his State of the State address, Missouri's Governor spoke of several issues in honor and support of Missouri Veterans. One of the issues he mentioned was funding of Veterans Homes to take care of Missouri Veterans. At the 30 January open meeting, the Missouri Veterans Commission voted to support the two bills currently being considered by the Missouri General Assembly. I hope you will do the same.

We have a couple of programs for which I am also asking your support. If you have any DVDs, DVD players, or CDs that you no longer have use for, please bring them to any meeting, and I will see that they get to the Mount Vernon Veterans Home for use by their residents. Another program that was launched in February 2011 by the Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee for MOAA is the Cell Phones for Soldiers project. Please bring any cell phones that you no longer have use for to any meeting and OEMOAA will see that they are shipped to MOAA for use by our deployed Soldiers around the world.

This month's meeting is on the second Friday (10 February), because our meeting place was not available on the third Friday. It has sneaked up on us, but Steve Vanderhoof is working hard to have an interesting speaker for us at the meeting. I hope you are able to make it.

## WELCOME NEW OEMOAA MEMBER

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to new member, Major Darrell Carter, USAF (Retired), and his wife Lorraine. Major Carter enlisted in the Air Force in 1973 and attended Officer Training School (OTS) and was commissioned in 1981. As a Communications-Computer Systems Officer, his assignments included Strategic Air Command (SAC) Headquarters, Offutt Air Force Base (AFB); Military Airlift Command (MAC) Headquarters, Scott AFB; and Headquarters Pacific Air Forces (PACAF), Hickam AFB. His final assignment was as the Communications Officer for the B2 Site Activation Task Force at Whiteman AFB.

## FEBRUARY MEETING

**DATE:** Friday, 10 February 2012

**TIME:** 1830 – Social Hour  
1900 – Dinner/Program

**PLACE:** Mercy (formerly St. John's) Chub  
O'Reilly Cancer Center  
Second Floor Conference Room  
2055 South Fremont Street  
Springfield, Missouri 65804

**MENU:** Buffet with roast beef, roast turkey,  
roasted red potatoes, honey-glazed  
carrots, assorted cream pies, tossed  
salad, dinner rolls, and beverages

**COST:** \$21.00 per couple or \$10.50 per person  
(includes gratuity)

**RSVP:** By 1700, Tuesday, 7 February 2012  
To Jim Echols, Major, USAF, Retired  
417-882-4724  
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## CHAPTER OFFICERS

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## 2012 CALENDAR

20 January

10 February

16 March

20 April

11 May

15 June

July – No Meeting

August – No Meeting

21 September

20 October – Saturday, Noon

9 November

The OEMOAA Chapter meets monthly, except as noted, at the Mercy (formerly St. John's) Chub O'Reilly Cancer Center, 2055 South Fremont, Springfield, Missouri 65804. The meetings are held in the second floor conference room. Both the entrance and the meeting room are handicap accessible. You are encouraged to attend and bring a prospective member. Active, Guard/Reserve, and Retired military officers from all Services are welcome.

## JANUARY MEETING

The meeting was well-attended, and after dinner we listened to a very informative presentation on the latest developments concerning our TRICARE benefits. For more information, go online to [www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com) or visit the local TRICARE West Service Center at 1311 East Montclair, Springfield, Missouri 65804