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Capitol Area Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America

## Timely Topics

Chapter Web site: [www.cacmoaa.org](http://www.cacmoaa.org)

(Vol 2017 – No.3)

### 2016-17 EXECUTIVE BOARD of DIRECTORS

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## March MOAA Dinner

When: Thursday, 9 March 2017

Where: Crowne Plaza Hotel

925 South Creyts Road, Lansing, Michigan (at I-496)

**SOCIAL HOUR: 6:00 PM**

**DINNER: 6:30 PM**

**PROGRAM: 7:30 PM**

**ADJOURN: 9:00 PM**

### Menu Selections:

#1: **Signature Steak**, Topped with sautéed onions demi-glace, served with whipped Yukon potatoes and vegetable medley.

#2: **Broiled Whitefish**, Served with chive balsamic lemon butter, roasted red skin potatoes and vegetable medley

**Make your reservations by SUNDAY, 5 March 2017**

On line at [www.cacmoaa.org](http://www.cacmoaa.org)

or contact CW3 Tony Kruckeberg, [armyblkhawk@yahoo.com](mailto:armyblkhawk@yahoo.com), or [517-575-9386](tel:517-575-9386)

Include # of attendees. Cost is \$25.00.

Make checks payable to 'Capitol Area Chapter MOAA.'

## March Program--Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret), President and CEO of MOAA

Lt.Gen. Atkins, the current MOAA President and CEO, is visiting our Chapter and mid Michigan for the very first time. Don't miss this opportunity to hear and speak with the General. The opportunity to hear directly from the CEO on MOAA priorities, initiatives, goals and programs is rare. If you have a concern to voice, or an issue to raise, this is your Golden opportunity. If you have never personally met with or spoken to one of our MOAA leaders from National Headquarters you will be impressed. No one who attends a MOAA function in our Nations Capitol or elsewhere has ever come away not impressed with our leadership. You will get a better appreciation of what MOAA is doing for all of us. **DO NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY.**

See Lt.Gen Atkins' bio below.

## Dinner Reservations

We are understandably expecting larger than normal attendance. Our ability to accept late reservations may be limited. Please make your Reservations before Sunday, 5 March 2017, by email, call, or on-line at [www.cacmoaa.org](http://www.cacmoaa.org).

## CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE APPROACHING

Contributions to the Chapter scholarship fund are ahead of last year's disappointing total, and we are hoping for additional donations from previous contributors who haven't yet donated this year. We may then be able to award more scholarships and book allowances than we did last year.

**APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS BY MARCH 15TH TO BE CONSIDERED.** Application forms and eligibility information for high school seniors and college students is on the chapter web site, [www.cac.moaa.org](http://www.cac.moaa.org).

## Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency

[www.michiganveterans.com](http://www.michiganveterans.com)

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency serves as the central coordinating point for Michigan veterans, connecting those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, and their families, to services and benefits throughout the state.

Capitol Area Chapter, MOAA has been given the opportunity to nominate a Chapter Member to serve on the Veterans Advisory Board to assist the MVAA with decisions that affect Michigan veterans. Our Chapter Executive Board of Directors has nominated MG James Pocock as the primary member and LTC James Sigmon as the alternate.

Another example of our Chapter supporting Veterans in our Community and State. Thanks goes to Lt Col Doug Couto for making this happen.

## MOAA Scholarship, Loan and Grant Programs

MOAA National has an array of Student Programs. They can be accessed at: [www.moaa.org/loans/#Student-Loan-Programs](http://www.moaa.org/loans/#Student-Loan-Programs) Deadline for submission is 1 March. If you are interested, time is of essence. These programs are separate and distinct from the Scholarships available through our Chapter.

## Chapter Membership & Recruiting

### How can we recruit new Chapter members?

By sharing our Chapter's story with potential members as we visit our individual local organization. Many of us belong to the VFW, American Legion, church groups, and community organizations. By getting the word out about who we are and what you like about belonging can go a long way to interesting a prospective person to join. Some ideas could be the national and state issues we lobby for such as national security, pay for our active duty members and benefits, veterans issues, survivor benefits, retirement for our active and retired Guard and Reserves. In addition the camaraderie at our dinner meetings and giving back to our community as an organization are others that come to mind. So the next time you are out keep us in mind. **"Don't ever stop serving"**, we need your support.

Jim Sigmon, LTC (Ret), 3d VP and Membership Committee Chairman



**The Hedlund Family** were among our guests at the February Dinner because of a special connection to one of our Speaker's Topics. Dave and Margaret are the right, their son, Bob and wife Elizabeth on left.

### Veterans Tribute Train

Bruce Kuffer, from the Steam Railroading Institute, provided an update about the World War I Centennial and Veterans Tribute Train project featured at our fall picnic. The engine pulling the Train is Locomotive 1225. Margaret's father was the engineer on 1225 in the 1930's and 40's. His main route was from Grand Rapids to Chicago. Because he was a smooth driver, he was selected to engineer on Harry Truman's whistle stop campaign in 1948. Thanks, Frank Moss!

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### Executive Board Meeting

2 March 2017, 1130 hours at Piazzano's,  
1825 N Grand River, Lansing, MI

Newsletter Comments or Questions  
Contact our Newsletter Editor, COL Dave  
Herring, [moaaeditor@gmail.com](mailto:moaaeditor@gmail.com) or 517-  
719-4579.

## Military OneSource

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/>

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### **Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret) President and CEO, MOAA**

Atkins is a native of Portland, Ore. He earned his bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Portland and holds two master's degrees, one in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and another in national security strategy from the National War College.

A command pilot with more than 4,000 hours in fighter aircraft, Atkins has served in a number of key command and staff positions, including commander, 20th Fighter Wing, Shaw AFB, S.C.; commander, 35th Fighter Wing, Misawa, Japan; vice commander, 7th Air Force and U.S. Air Force Korea; director of operations, U.S. Pacific Command; and special assistant to the supreme allied commander Europe during the air war over Serbia. During his career, he flew as a demonstration pilot for both the European A-10 Demonstration Team and the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds.

At the time of his retirement from the Air Force, Atkins served as commander, Alaskan Command, U.S. Pacific Command; commander, 11th Air Force, Pacific Air Forces; and commander, Alaskan North American Defense Region, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

He and his wife, Laura, were the 2004 recipients of the General and Mrs. Jerome F. O'Malley Award, which recognizes the wing commander and spouse whose contributions to the nation, the Air Force, and the local community best exemplify the highest ideals and positive leadership of a military couple.

Before becoming the ninth president of MOAA, Atkins served as president of Chronicle Media, a print and digital media company based in Augusta, Ga., that serves the southeastern U.S.