



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A hearty 2024 greeting to all of you. Here's to a happy and meaningful 2024 with new Chapter Leadership.



First, I want to say thanks to all of you for honoring me with the privilege of representing you as President of the Green Valley Chapter. I have been

on the Board now for the past three years as 2nd VP, Membership Chair, and 1st VP, so hopefully I have a good feel for all the things we want to accomplish. I will work hard to live up to the quality of service our past two presidents have provided for all our members and to our military and local community. Thanks to both Joe Longo and Elliott Jones, who each did an outstanding job as Chapter President. So well done, in fact, they are both still serving on the Chapter's Board of Directors!

Our newly elected Board is looking forward to the challenge of continuing to provide scholarships for our JROTC Students, expanding that support to some deserving University of Arizona Veteran Students, and bringing our wide range of support to military members, veterans, and their families. If you would like to see the board in action, we invite you to come to a board meeting. We meet at Friends In Deed at the corner of La Canada and Camino Casa Verde in Green Valley on the first Wednesday of each month at 0900 hrs. All members are welcome, as is any member's input.

We have now again submitted our applications to National MOAA for both the Level of Excellence Award (LOE) for our overall service to the military community and the Harris Communications Award for our newsletter and website. Last year our Chapter, along with the other Arizona Chapters, was awarded a Five Star Level for both and we hope to do so again.

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QUICK LINKS

[GV MOAA WEBSITE](#)



[GV MOAA member page](#)

**GREEN VALLEY/SAHUARITA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

We're on Facebook: facebook.com/GVMOAA

[MOAA.org/takeaction](#)

[MOAA's "Never Stop Serving" Podcasts](#)

[Surviving Spouses webpage](#)

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

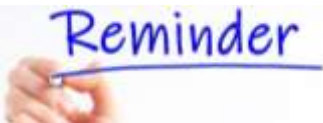
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The Board is in the process of reviewing and updating our Chapter By-Laws. We expect to have the final changes approved soon and will have them ready for the membership's approval by our May gathering.

Our local chapter continues to gain recognition and exposure in the community through our participation in meetings and expos. We are members of the Green Valley/Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce, where we have sponsored breakfast meetings and had a table at their Business Expo at Desert Diamond Casino. We also have set up a table at the Volunteer Clearing House Expo, the Quail Creek Expo, the Quail Creek 4th of July Celebration, and we will have a table at the upcoming 1st Responder Fair sponsored by the Green Valley Council.



- **MOAA's LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER:**

If you have not already done so, register on the MOAA site and send a message to your political representatives to support the various MOAA initiatives to help support the military and military families.

- **LIFE MEMBERSHIP:**

There are four types of MOAA Membership: Regular Basic Member, Regular Annual Member, Surviving Spouse of Deceased Member, and Regular Life Member. If you are not already a Life Member of MOAA, please consider becoming one. You pay dues one time, you never pay National dues again, and you receive all the benefits of a Life Membership.

- **MEETINGS:**

We encourage each of our members to attend the luncheons and dinners we hold most months. Please look at the [schedule on our website for upcoming events](#). Our next gathering will be a Mix and Mingle on March 21st, 1600 hrs. in La Posada's La Perla building. Information is on our Chapter website. **WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!**

Jack Bundy, CW3 USA (Ret)
2024 Chapter President
Green Valley Chapter, MOAA

Never Stop Serving!!



MOAA Plans Mix & Mingle

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs



Your Chapter will be hosting its annual Mix & Mingle Cocktail Party on Thursday, March 21 from 4-6 in La Perla's El Dorado Room at La Posada. The Mix & Mingle is our major recruiting event for new members. The cost for the event that will feature Hors D'oeuvres is \$15. A cash bar will be available.

The Chapter was founded in 1980 making it the 3rd oldest chapter in Arizona and one of the most active. We want to keep it that way. As you know you get a host of benefits with your Annual Chapter dues of \$25.

As happens in a retirement community, we have lost some members in the past couple of years so we are encouraging everyone to invite at least one eligible person to join the Chapter so we can remain strong. Let potential members know that every year we award scholarships to four cadets from Sahuarita, Walden Grove, Rio Rico and Nogales High Schools. We sponsor Food for the Troops and Turkeys for the Troops drives to support the junior enlisted airmen for the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, provide clothing and grooming items for homeless veterans registered with the VA Hospital, and support youth in the local area by providing gifts at Christmas time.

To make a reservation for the event, contact Peggy McGee at peggy@greenvalleymoaa.org or 520-207-6188. Deadline for reservations is March 13.

Thank a Veteran

Carin Kaiser, GV MOAA Auxiliary Spouse Member

Honor Flight Southern Arizona will sponsor an Honor Flight to Washington D.C on June 23-25 for about 70 veterans from the southern region of Arizona. While in our Nation's Capital, these veterans will tour the war memorials reflecting their period of service and be honored for their service to the country.

You have an opportunity to show your appreciation for these veterans' sacrifices by participating in a military "mail call" which will be held for them during their tour orientation.

Your mail call letters should express your appreciation for their military service and honor their sacrifice.



[Click on this link to get some ideas on what to say and see some sample letters.](#) Letters can be handwritten or typed.

If you have any questions about the Honor Flight letters program, please contact Carin Kaiser (carinkaiser@me.com). **Deadline for letters is April 22.**

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MIX & MINGLE RESERVATION FORM

Reservation form may also be found on the [GreenValleyMOAA.org website](http://GreenValleyMOAA.org)

21 March 2024 · 4:00 – 6:00 PM

La Posada Campus (Green Valley) · La Perla Bldg. ► El Dorado Room

Please make your reservations by MARCH 13

Reserve _____ places

Cost: \$_____ (\$15 per person)

MENU CHOICES: (there will be no individual meals at the Mix & Mingle Cocktail Party)

This event will feature hors d'oeuvres.

A cash bar will be available.

Check # _____
Attn: GV MOAA Reservation

Mail check and reservation form to:

MOAA of Green Valley · PO Box 1535 · Green Valley, AZ 85622-1535

RANK: _____ **NAME:** (please print) _____

Member/Guest name: _____

Member/Guest name: _____

Member/Guest name: _____

Member/Guest name: _____

If you require a ride to the meeting, program or event please check here:

✂ ----- CUT HERE -----

If you cannot get your reservation and check mailed timely, or **if you have made a reservation and find you cannot attend, PLEASE CALL (leave a message if no answer):** Peggy McGee 520-207-6188 or by email:

peggy@greenvalleymoaa.org. **Your chapter is charged for all ordered meals even if they aren't served.**

Please bring a check or exact cash amount to the meeting.

Scholarship Awards Dinner

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs

We are still working out the details for the Scholarship Awards dinner during the week of May 6-10. We will send out a special notice later this month giving the full details, date, place, and price.



MOAA Caps and Polo Shirts



We will have polo shirts in red, white and navy as well as MOAA caps available for purchase at the May dinner.

Shirts are \$23 and the caps are \$15. You may use cash, checks or credit cards to pay for these items.

Homeless Veterans' Continuing Needs



The VA Hospital appreciates receiving donations of grooming items (shampoo, conditioner, hand cream, sunscreen, toothbrushes, paste and floss, razors, shaving cream, blades). They can use listed items in both travel and regular size containers. Please bring **unopened** items to the May dinner or drop them at the McGee's house, 1908 E Longspur Place, first right after the Quail Creek waterfall.

If you travel during the summer, perhaps you can collect some of the needed items along the way and bring them to our September 19 meeting.

Chapter Membership News

Elliott Jones, Immediate Past President/Membership

Our Chapter membership remains steady with a total of 86 members. Additionally, we have 30 registered auxiliary spouses.

We now have a credit card reader if you want to use it. Just bring your credit card with you to one of our functions and see Elliott Jones who will process the payment with the card reader. The credit card reader can be used to pay dues, make donations, purchase caps and shirts.



DUES FOR 2024



Seventy members and spouses have paid their Chapter dues for 2024 so far. We have collected \$1,495 as of 1 February. If you have not had a chance to pay your Chapter dues, now would be a good time. You can mail your dues payment, along with the membership form: [Membership Application and Renewal Form](#) found on our website (greenvalleymoaa.org) to **Green Valley MOAA, P.O. Box 1535, Green Valley, AZ 85622-1535** or bring your dues to our upcoming Mix and Mingle on March 21st. The 2-page Membership renewal form can also be found on pages 13 and 14 of this newsletter.

We welcome your support for our Chapter. Dues amounts have not changed. They are still \$25 per military member and \$15 for a spouse, should you wish to register your spouse.

Arizona Legislative News

Darren Venters, Legislative Affairs/Transition Liaison

Sen David Gowan, District 19 and Chair of the Military Affairs committee has reintroduced legislation to address active duty pay parity for USPHS and NOAA officers serving in Arizona. SB1413: Income Tax; Subtraction; Uniformed Services awaits a reading and assignment to committee. I urge you to immediately contact your Senators and Representatives and ask them to vote for this important legislation. As of this writing SB1413 Has passed the Finance and Commerce Committee, Rules Committee and Consent Calendar and is on its way to a full vote in the Senate and then to the House and Governor! The passing of SB1413 will be the number one legislative priority for MOAA-AZ. Please take the time to contact your Senator and Representatives and ask them to support SB1413. [Find My Legislator \(azleg.gov\)](http://FindMyLegislator.azleg.gov) You can access volumes of information on current activities at Arizona Legislature (azleg.gov).



LD-17:

Sen. Justine Wadsack, 602-926-3106, JWadsack@azleg.gov;
Rep. Rachel Jones, 602-926- 3558, rachel.jones@azleg.gov;
Rep. Cory McGarr, (602) 926-3630, CMc-Garr@azleg.gov.

LD-18:

Sen. Priya Sundareshan, (602) 926-3437, PSundareshan@azleg.gov;
Rep. Nancy Gutierrez, (602) 926-4134, NGutierrez@azleg.gov;
Rep. Christopher Mathis, (602) 926-3138, CMathis@azleg.gov.

LD-19:

Sen. David Gowan, (602) 926-5154, dgowan@azleg.gov
Rep. Gail Griffin, (602) 926-5895, ggriffin@azleg.gov
Rep. Lupe Diaz, (602) 926-4852, ldiaz@azleg.gov

LD-20:

Sen. Sally Ann Gonzalez, (602) 926-3278, SGonzalez@azleg.gov;
Rep. André Cano, (602) 926-3027, ACa-no@azleg.gov;
Rep. Alma Hernandez, (602) 926-3136, AHernandez@azleg.gov.

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LD -21:

Sen. Rosanna Gabaldón, (602) 926-3424, RGalbaldon@azleg.gov;
Rep. Consuelo Hernández, (602) 926-3523, CHernandez@azleg.gov,
Rep. Stephanie Stahl Hamilton, (602) 926-3279, SStahlhamilton@azleg.gov

AZ Presidential Preference Election

Check your voter registration, especially if you moved or updated your driver's license since the last time you voted. You must be a registered voter in the party in which Presidential Primary Election you wish to participate. These are NOT open primaries unlike the state primaries but for party members only. recorder.pima.gov

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE ELECTION

February 3: UOCAVA (Military and Overseas) Ballots Mailed.
February 20: Last day to register to vote for Presidential Preference Election.
February 21: Early Ballots mailed out /Early Voting Begins.
March 8: Last day to request a Ballot by Mail.
March 12: Recommended deadline to mail back your ballot.
March 15: Last day to vote early in-person.

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE ELECTION, March 19, 2024

MOAA'S Spring Advocacy Push

Darren Venters, Legislative Affairs/Transition Liaison



[MOAA - TRICARE For Life, Star Act, Housing Help Will Anchor MOAA's Spring Advocacy Push](#). Click here for details. MOAA's legislative priorities are not just for officers and not just for retirees. MOAA is not wavering on their commitment to long-term advocacy goals. Here is a quick look at each of the issues, which were approved by MOAA's board of directors on January. 19. Get involved!

CONCURRENT RECEIPT -- *What is at Stake?* The Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282/S. 344) would end an unjust offset for combat-injured veterans who lose a dollar of service-earned retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation.

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The bill has a supermajority of bipartisan support – more than 325 House co-sponsors and more than 70 in the Senate – thanks in part to past grassroots efforts from MOAA and partners in [The Military Coalition](#) - **MOAA's Mission:** We need to keep up this momentum and secure the bill's inclusion in the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). It is time for lawmakers to push this long-delayed step toward concurrent receipt for all past the finish line.

FULL HOUSING ALLOWANCE -- What is at Stake: The BAH Restoration Act (H.R. 2537/S. 1823) reverses DoD policy capping the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) at 95% of local rental and utilities costs – a policy that is placing a financial burden on service members and families in the middle of a nationwide rental shortage and ongoing. 2015 – would make a difference in the quality of life for all who serve, but especially among junior enlisted members and their families who rely on this allowance as a significant percentage of their compensation. **MOAA's Mission:** Language requiring an incremental increase reached the late stages of the FY 2024 NDAA process but was not included in the final bill. We must send a message to lawmakers that close is not good enough – service members deserve a full housing allowance, and more progress must be made this legislative session. [MOAA | Urge Your Legislators to Pay Full Housing Costs for Service members \(quorum.us\)](#)

TRICARE FOR LIFE -- What is at Stake: Protecting TRICARE For Life (TFL) remains a key issue for all MOAA members – those already covered by TFL and Medicare, along with those who will use the benefit when they turn 65. [MOAA - TRICARE For Life Benefit Targeted by Congressional Budget Office Report](#) suggesting two measures which would severely weaken the benefit – enrollment fees topping \$1,100 per family, and cost-sharing requirements including an \$850 deductible and up to \$4,675 in potential yearly medical bills. **MOAA's Mission:** Legislators seeking solutions to budget gaps must hear a clear message: Maintaining TFL is not just a national obligation to those who spent decades in uniform, it is also critical to ensuring key influencers in the recruiting process are not discouraged from recommending uniformed service to future generations. While TFL fees or cost shares are not part of any current legislation, we must counter CBO's misguided options with our grassroots advocacy efforts. The next CBO release is slated for December of this year, following the elections; MOAA will update our members as soon as we get the report.

Take Action Online: MOAA's last online advocacy effort addressing potential TFL fees resulted in nearly 49,000 messages to lawmakers. Register for [MOAA | Legislative Action Center \(quorum.us\)](#) today so you can be part of upcoming campaigns!

JROTC News

Marianne Rogers Faust
Director/JROTC Liaison

The Naval JROTC cadets continue to be busy in the new year. On 10 February, several cadets competed successfully in the Area 11 Regional NJROTC Field Meet in Santa Ana, CA. On the same day, other cadets participated in the Academic “Mindsoon” Competition in Phoenix. The next week many cadets competed in the Raider Meet in Fontana, CA.



The Area 20/21/22 Orienteering Championship was held on 21 January in Santa Fe Dam Recreation area in Irwindale, CA. The Sahuarita NJROTC Orienteering Team Varsity and Junior Varsity finished 3rd overall and qualified for the Navy National Orienteering Invitational in Charlotte, NC (March 2024). Cadet Kevin Benedix was the overall 3rd best male runner in the Intermediate/Freshman Division.



The Army JROTC cadets have been busy too. In December, several cadets made field trips to the WAATS (Western Area Army Aviation Training Center). These photos show cadets participating in aviation activities. Also in December, many cadets participated in the Southern Regional Sports Marksmanship Competition held at Flowing Wells High School. The team won 2nd place and the young female cadet in the photo attained second place standing in her category.

The AJROTC Massing of the Colors ceremony at the Military Order of the World Wars event held at the Sahuarita High School Auditorium on 12 January.

The Air Force JROTC unit at Nogales High School has been busy too, but we have not yet been provided with any details or photos. The senior instructor position has not yet been filled for the current school year.

We hope many of you will be able to help us celebrate our scholarship winners. Watch your email Inbox for more information as details become available.

Chaplain's Corner

Robert D. Lewis, Chapter Chaplain



Reflecting back on my two years serving as the Chapter Chaplain, I know that I have, in the past, expressed how hard the Board works

for the Chapter members. They ensure the Chapter is well represented, that all available resources are actively pursued and that all expenditures are in the best interest of the Chapter.

I would like to invite all members to attend a Board Meeting, that are the first Wednesday of the month at the Friends in Deed facility at the corner of La Canada Drive and Camino Casa Verde. The meeting starts promptly at 9 am and usually ends by 10:30 am. You will be impressed, as I am, to observe the dedication of the Board members.

As with any organization we are only as good as the volunteers that help in managing the Chapter. We have fantastic Board Members that apply their talents and time to provide an award-winning Chapter. It is the cumulative effort of the Board that is so wonderful to watch.

I am personally awed by the results of this very collaborative effort, the wide variety of ongoing activities, the ideas and discussion that take place and the decisions that result.

My final thought is to reiterate that this is a cumulative effort with cumulative results. Only a few hours spent on a committee will be added exponentially to the final result of service to our community and to an award-winning Chapter.

We ask all those that would like to support our Chapter's efforts to please contact a Board Member who are pictured along with their contact information on page 16.

May the Lord continue to bless our Chapter, our Board, and our membership. With Lent being observed, and the preparation for the Resurrection on Easter, may you find the hope and the promise of forgiveness in your hearts.



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Military Officers Association of America
Green Valley, Arizona Chapter
PO Box 1535 · Green Valley, AZ 85622-1535

2024 Chapter Membership/Renew Dues

Chapter Dues: (Regular-\$25; Spouses-\$15)

Membership Dues \$ _____ Make check payable to: Military Officers Association of Green Valley or GV MOAA.

PLEASE PROVIDE THE INFORMATION BELOW:

Name: _____ New ___ Renewal__

Rank: _____ Branch of Service: _____ (Status) _____ National # _____

Spouse/Partner _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

DOB (Month/Day/Year) _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Scholarship & Military Assistance Fund \$ _____ Donation.

Make check payable to: Green Valley MOAA Scholarship and Military Assistance Fund or GV MOAA S&MA Fund.

Dues may be paid at any meeting or mailed to Military Officers Association of America, Green Valley, Arizona Chapter, P.O. Box 1535, Green Valley, AZ 85622-1535.

SEE REVERSE SIDE (next page)

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Congratulations on becoming a member of the second oldest of the nine MOAA Arizona Chapters. The MOAA is recognized as the most respected and influential professional military association in America. The Vision Statement "NEVER STOP SERVING" provides a focus for the entire MOAA organization.

To help us better understand how you would prefer to contribute to our Chapter, please complete the following questions.

Previous work and/or volunteer experience _____

Description of training, leadership and knowledge that may be pertinent _____

PLACE A CHECK NEXT TO YOUR DESIRED CHAPTER AREAS OF PARTICIPATION:

- Fundraising or Assistant
- Public Relations or Assistant
- Scheduling & managing Chapter events or Assistant
- Grant writing or Assistant
- Chapter secretary or assistant
- Chapter Treasurer or assistant
- Community Partner Programs committee member
- Historian
- Chapter Liaison to military units
- Chapter Liaison to JROTC units
- Chapter Liaison to Green Valley Chamber of Commerce or Assistant

RETURN THIS NEW MEMBER QUESTIONNAIRE WITH YOUR CHAPTER APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM.

Welcome Aboard

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR for these dates!

Information for the December & January dates (programs, reservation forms), chapter membership dues, & other events listed are in this newsletter or linked to an external location.

2024 Chapter Dues Campaign continues!

- 18 January:** Luncheon, La Posada
- 21 March:** Mix & Mingle, La Posada
- 23 March:** 1st Responders Fair, Historic Canoa Ranch
- (TBA) May:** Scholarship Dinner, TBA
- 19 September:** Dinner, La Posada
- 17 October:** Cocktail Party, La Posada
- 21 November:** Dinner, La Posada
- 12 December:** Holiday Dinner, La Posada

The Board of Directors meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month 9-10:30am at the Friends in Deed Building, Green Valley.

Members are welcomed to attend... join us!

There are no Board meetings in June, July or August. Check the Chapter website for Calendar updates:

greenvalleymoaa.org/news-events

MOAA MISSION



The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a nonprofit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors.

Membership is open to those who hold or have ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force,

Space Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, or NOAA and their surviving spouses.

WHY JOIN MOAA

MOAA's greatest mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families. Membership is open to active duty, former, retired, and National Guard and Reserve commissioned and warrant officers of the uniformed services and their surviving spouses.



2024 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS & CHAIRS



<p>Immediate Past President, President, 501(c)(3), Membership 1LT Elliott Jones USA (Fmr) (847) 366-6466</p> 	<p>PRESIDENT CW3 Jack Bundy USA (Ret) (951) 760-8706</p> 	<p>1st Vice-President LT Joseph Longo USA (Fmr) (509) 945-4993</p> 	<p>2nd Vice-President, Programs, Public Relations COL Peggy McGee USAR (Ret) 207-6188</p> 
<p>Legislative Affairs, Transition Liaison Lt Col Darren Venters USAF (Ret) 490-4470</p> 	<p>Secretary Bettie Rundlett (509) 389-1696</p> 	<p>Treasurer LTC Gene Graff Army (Ret) (425) 269-8694</p> 	<p>Director, Personal Affairs CWO3 James Rundlett USCG (Ret) (509) 389-4286</p> 
<p>Surviving Spouse Liaison Nora Durham (719) 232-9277</p> 	<p>Chaplain CW3 Robert Lewis USA (Ret) 481-6994</p> 	<p>Community/Sponsor Outreach Maj. Gen. James Whitehead, Jr. USAF (Ret) 475-8033</p> 	<p>Historian Col Mike Faust USAF (Ret) (210) 861-9440</p> 
<p>MOAA • GREEN VALLEY CHAPTER • 2024 Officers & Board Members</p>		<p>JROTC Coordinators Col Marianne Rogers Faust USAF (Ret) (210) 861-9440 CDR Myra McCune USN (Ret) 279-0433</p> 	<p>Grant Writer/ Coordinator COL Ken Cottrill Army (Ret) (304) 702-3693</p> 

Webmaster/Newsletter Editor: Marianne Cobarrubias
 Phone numbers are 520 area code unless otherwise indicated

Happy St. Patrick's Day
 March 17, 2024

Celebrate Easter
 March 31, 2024

Leprechauns and the Easter Bunny
 celebrate together in March...

Shamrock Bunny 🍀 Lucky Charm





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A special “thank you” to our sponsors who support MOAA of Green Valley with a sponsor ad.

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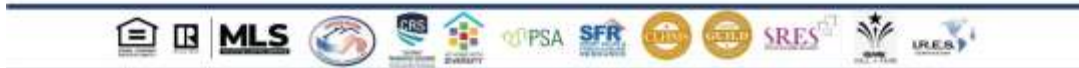
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Area Manager

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Joe Longo
Facilitating Your Housing Dreams



MOAA National News

5 MOAA Issues President Biden Should Address in His State of the Union Speech

This year's State of the Union address comes as the nation functions without a full budget, as its civilian and military leaders engage with and monitor increasing threats around the globe, and as servicemembers past and present, and their families, worry whether they'll receive the benefits they've earned.

MOAA's work to secure these benefits has taken [many forms over the decades](#), and while we will continue those efforts with our grassroots [Advocacy in Action campaign](#) this spring, President Joe Biden's March 7 address offers a chance for some of these issues to receive the nationwide attention they deserve:

1. Protect DoD/VA Medical Care: The uniformed services community must not be left out of the national health care conversation, and the president should make clear the nation's commitment to preserving both DoD and VA health resources. MOAA has worked to ensure changes to the TRICARE pharmacy plan, for example, will not have adverse effects on rural veterans or others with limited options for their prescriptions. We've also supported legislation to improve staffing at military treatment facilities and to expand elderly care and caregiver support programs within the VA.

While the State of the Union rarely reaches into specifics, the president must stress that these earned health care benefits won't be dragged into budget battles or fall behind private-sector programs.

[RELATED: [What a Major DoD Health Care Shift Could Mean for Your TRICARE Benefit](#)]

2. Pass a Budget. As the fiscal year nears its halfway point, the damage done by continuing resolutions to DoD budgets alone likely will run into billions of dollars. While the president should urge Congress to fix a broken budget system, he should also acknowledge an unwelcome slide in recent years, by multiple administrations, in the timetable for delivering the annual budget request.

All in Washington must work to end these costly delays, and the State of the Union offers a platform to pledge support for such efforts. *(continued, next page)*



3. Make Quality of Life a Priority. MOAA has worked closely with the new House Armed Services Committee Quality of Life Panel – a bipartisan group of lawmakers whose upcoming proposals may make a big difference for servicemembers and families if they are included in the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

From barracks and housing improvements to mental health concerns to spouse employment, the panel's formation shows servicemember quality of life matters to congressional leaders – the president should make it clear it matters to the nation, both as a duty to those who serve and as a way to strengthen recruitment and retention. The panel has signaled its support for the BAH Restoration Act, a centerpiece of MOAA's [spring advocacy campaign](#) which would restore the Basic Allowance for Housing to 100% of costs.

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Restore BAH to 100%](#)]

4. Toxic Exposure Benefits. The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act has offered the biggest expansion of health care to veterans in decades. MOAA expects the president to highlight the expansions the administration [has made ahead of deadline](#).

Addressing this issue in front of Congress is important because it will reinforce the need for Congress to continue to ensure veterans' programs are funded as the desire to tighten purse strings looms.

5. Concurrent Receipt. The president can highlight the need to keep our promise to our combat-injured veterans by signaling to Congress that it should pass the Major Richard Star Act this year.

Over two-thirds of lawmakers support this legislation, a bill which would remove an unjust offset that reduces the medical retirement pay earned by our combat-injured veterans through extraordinary personal sacrifice. The bill is an example of keeping a sacred promise to those who serve.

Good, Bad, and Ugly: 3 Paths for the Ongoing Budget Crisis

Although Congress passed [yet another continuing resolution](#) (CR) late Feb. 29, the clock still is ticking on a potential government shutdown.

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After the latest CR, Congress now needs to pass 12 funding bills – six by March 8 (including funding for the VA and military construction) and the rest by March 22 – to keep the government open. Aside from temporary CRs, Congress has three primary options:

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Avoid a Government Shutdown and Finish the Appropriations Process](#)]

1. Full Funding

The preferred option – passing all the spending bills, either individually or as part of an omnibus package – would fund the government through the end of the year. All the attention is on the House of Representatives, including Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) and the razor-thin Republican majority.

Passing these bills likely will require some Democratic support, which complicates the situation. Johnson made it “[unequivocally](#)” clear that he wants to avoid a shutdown, and the bipartisan path risks [angering members](#) of his own conference. An agreement has been reached on some of the bills including military construction and VA appropriations, according to [a Feb. 28 joint statement by House and Senate leaders](#); DoD funding negotiations continue.

2. Yearlong CR

The second option is to pass a full-year continuing resolution, which would push DoD into uncharted territory. As Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin highlighted [in his Nov. 29 letter](#) to the lead Senate appropriator, Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), DoD has never operated under a full-year CR.

This arrangement “would misalign billions of dollars, subject Service members and their families to unnecessary stress, damage our readiness, and impede our ability to react to emergent events,” Austin wrote in the letter.

In addition to losing ground against the pacing challenges of China, this path would force DoD to deal with a multibillion cut to military personnel accounts.

[FROM 2023: [Understanding the Unseen Costs of a Continuing Resolution](#)]

3. Federal Shutdown

The last, worst option brings not just uncertainty for DoD budget-planners, but potential financial disaster for those in uniform: Unlike past shutdowns and shutdown threats, Congress has not passed any legislation protecting servicemember pay should the government run out of money.

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Without that agreement, all uniformed servicemembers would be subject to the challenges members of the Coast Guard, as well as those in the commissioned corps of the U.S. Public Health Service and NOAA, [faced in 2019](#), when pay protections were limited to DoD branches.

While Congress should have serious policy debates about spending levels, shutting down the government does not advance such discussions. A shutdown is ultimately wasteful and prevents DoD from moving funds to important things like construction projects that support quality of life infrastructure for our servicemembers and their families.

[Write your lawmakers today to make your voice heard](#) – Congress needs to pass the funding bills our community relies upon.

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Medal of Honor Day

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