



CENTRAL OHIO CHAPTER

A Joint Non-Partisan MOAA Affiliate

*Our Mission: Taking Care of the Troops
through Legislation & Support*



CONNECT Central Ohio News



CONNECT, the Central Ohio Newsletter, is published by the MOAA-Central Ohio Chapter, which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are non-partisan.

Our mission is to promote the purposes and objectives of MOAA; foster fraternal relationships among retired, active duty, and former officers of the uniformed services and their reserve and national guard components; protect the rights and interests of active duty, retired, reserve and national guard component personnel of the uniformed services, their dependents and survivors; provide useful services for members and their dependents and survivors; and serve veterans, community and the nation.

Your membership helps us achieve the Mission! Visit our website www.moaa-centralohio.org to join the chapter, or click on the shield at right to learn about National MOAA membership.

Editor: [CDR Bill Roberts USN \(Ret\)](#). Let me know how I can improve your Newsletter!



Need to contact a Board Member? Click [HERE](#) for a listing and contact information.

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President's Corner

On behalf of the Chapter's Board of Directors we wish you a wonderful Holiday Season, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

As we approach the holidays, I would like to turn your attention to the troops that are deployed overseas to remote areas in Southwest Asia and Africa. Dorothy Williams has been doing yeoman work getting care packages out to them. We have requests for all sorts of items, ranging from moist wipes and Christmas cards to sports drink powders. Recent news articles indicate that some of these troops have been under fire. As the cost of items and of postage have been increasing, I would ask you to contribute to our Foundation—every donation helps, no matter how small.



The chapter still needs new blood. If you have the time, please consider joining us at the monthly luncheon so we can talk about how the Chapter works and what we do at the monthly Board meetings to keep this going. I believe we do important stuff advocating for active duty, retired and veterans' benefits. As a reminder, the annual defense budget is just that—annual. It comes out of the 30% discretionary part of the government budget, while the other 70% is mandatory. That means we have to advocate every year for the benefits we earned to be part of that smaller pie. MOAA is very good at it. And besides, it is nice swapping tales with fellow service members!

Along with the holidays, it's chapter dues season. Please help Nancy celebrate over twenty years of service to our chapter by sending your dues promptly!

Have a wonderful holiday season and thank you for your time. As always, if you have any comments or suggestions, please let me know.

Alex

Notes from the Membership Log

Sixteen members attended the November luncheon. LTC Jeff Collins gave a presentation on the MIA/POW table ceremony and played the Armed Forces medley. Also, LTC Jeff Collins won the 50/50 raffle. Our next luncheon will be Friday, 13 December, at the Rusty Bucket in New Albany. If you are interested in joining us for lunch, please contact [LTC Jeff Collins](#) by 6 December.

MOAA still does not have the recruiting website running, so we haven't received any listing of MOAA members in our area. If you know anyone to recommend to join our chapter, let me know their name, address, and email address and I will be glad to send them information about joining.

Reminder: Dues should be in by now. *[MOAA National's Chapter Dues Pay Portal is still down. When it's fixed, we'll tell everyone; until then, dues payments are "old school."—Ed.]*

Continually serving,
Nancy F. Rey, LCDR, US Navy (Ret)
Membership VP and Life MOAA Member
"The larger our number, the greater your voice!"



Legislative News

As MOAA National reminds us, Congress will return the week of 2 December 2 and is set to end its work by 20 December. The lame-duck Congress has many tasks to accomplish in that short span, so please write *now* to influence their decisions—once the new Congress takes over on January 3, the slate is wiped clean and every piece of proposed legislation has to start over again. As time runs short, MOAA's [legislative priorities](#) are:

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The annual NDAA is a vehicle for many MOAA-backed legislative priorities. The House-passed version includes

- A 15% pay raise for junior enlisted servicemembers, in addition to a 4.5% pay boost for all ranks
- A restoration of the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) to cover 100% of housing costs, albeit for a single year; an expansion of the Basic Needs Allowance (BNA) to reach more lower-income servicemembers; and a review of Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS) rates to assist military families.

[Urge Congress to Support a Substantial Pay Raise for our Junior Enlisted Troops](#)

[Urge Your Legislators to Pay Full Housing Costs for Servicemembers](#)

(We discussed these two items in the special hunger edition of CONNECT that we sent in November.)

The Budget. Congress did not pass a budget before the end of the last fiscal year and instead put forth a continuing resolution (CR) to keep the federal government running. That resolution runs out December 20, so lawmakers have three options: pass a full budget by then, pass another CR, or allow the government to shut down. MOAA doesn't have a prepared message about this, but you can find your Representative and Senators [here](#) and send individual messages urging them to pass a full budget.

The Dole Act. The Congressional time crunch means many omnibus bills, and the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement

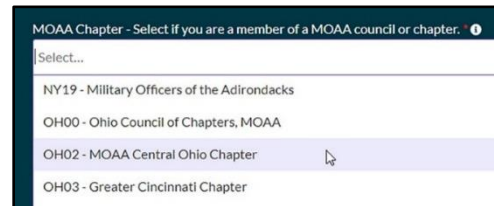
Act (H.R. 8371) is a prime example. The Dole Act, a bipartisan bundle of veteran and caregiver benefit improvements, overwhelmingly passed the House on 18 November.

[Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Dole Act](#)

Another long-standing priority is to end the VA disability offset for the tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans who lose a dollar of earned DoD retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation. For three years in a row, more than two-thirds of Congress has supported the **Major Richard Star Act**, which would end that unjust financial offset. [Use this link](#) to urge your legislators to support the Star Act.

Writing takes about two minutes. Either click one of the links above, or from the “[Active Legislative Campaigns](#)” page, click on the “Write” button to the right of the title and description of each bill. Fill out your personal information and then click the “Submit” button at the bottom of the page. *(You can edit MOAA’s recommended wording if you want, but most legislators count their “issue mail” instead of reading it.—Ed.)*

When you fill out the “Act now!” information, the last item asks you to indicate your MOAA Chapter. When you see the “SELECT” prompt, scroll down or type “**OH02**” to get the MOAA Central Ohio Chapter.



[ROTC/JROTC Update](#)

Here are links from our college ROTC programs:

[OSU AFROTC DET 645 Facebook](#)

[Ohio U Army ROTC Web page](#)

[OSU Army ROTC YouTube commercial](#)

[Capital U Army ROTC Facebook](#)

[OSU Naval ROTC Facebook](#)

On 4 October, Ohio University Army and Air Force ROTC participated in the 9th annual Athens area Veterans Stand Down. Check out the link:

<https://www.ohio.edu/news/2024/10/ohio-demonstrates-commitment-service-ninth-annual-athens-area-stand-down>

[Central Ohio Veterans Stand Down](#)

Executive Director Dan Willis sent these statistics from the Central Ohio Veterans Stand Down:

Our overall headcount was up by nearly 100 people—from 580 in 2023 to 670 this year. We had Veteran Guests, with 100 women veterans and 570 men veterans.

Volunteers: We had 91 volunteers for setup on Monday and 157 volunteers helping at Tuesday's event. A dozen volunteers worked the tear-down on Tuesday afternoon.

We worked hard marketing to new groups within the VA and to employee resource groups of local companies.

A special thanks to everyone for their support of our program and our mission of service to our Veterans!

[How Can I Donate to ROTC, JROTC, or Standdown?](#)

Go to <https://www.moaa-centralohio.org/Donations> to make a donation, or send a check to MOAA Central Ohio Chapter, P.O. Box 361632, Columbus, Ohio 43236-1632. The MOAA Central Ohio Chapter Foundation is approved by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) foundation for tax purposes.

Marston McKeon
Lt Col, USAF (Ret)



[December Luncheon](#)

The next luncheon will be 13 December at the Rusty Bucket in New Albany. If you plan to attend, please contact LTC Jeff Collins at jmcwindsor@yahoo.com by 6 December so that we can give the restaurant a headcount. We order off the menu and pay individually.

[Dates of Note](#)

The US Space Force celebrates its 5th birthday on December 20, 2024.

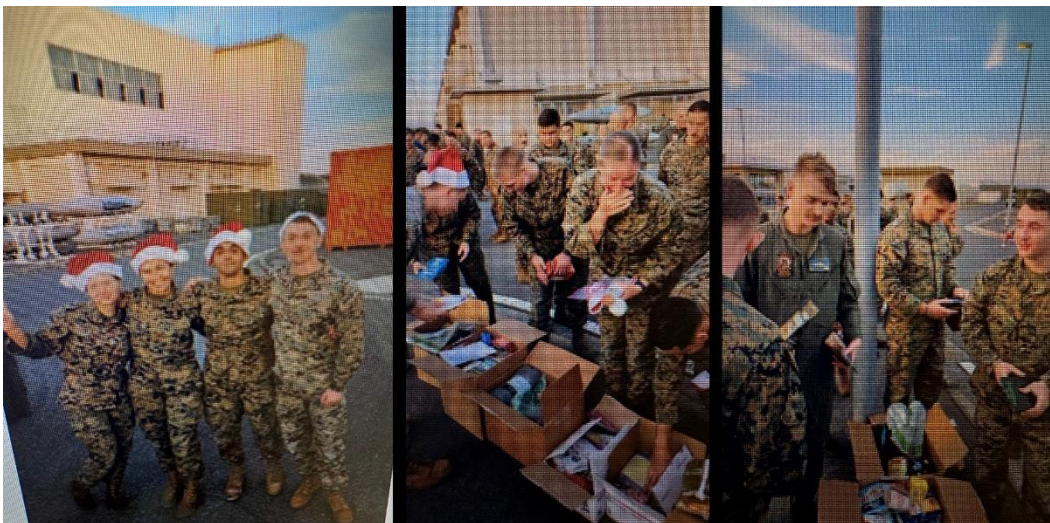
Upcoming Events

December Board Meeting	4 December 2024, DSCC
December Holiday Luncheon	13 December 2024, Rusty Bucket
January 2025 Board Meeting	8 January 2025, DSCC
January 2025 Luncheon.....	17 January 2025, Rusty Bucket
February 2025 Board Meeting.....	5 February 2025, DSCC
February 2025 Luncheon	21 February 2025 Rusty Bucket
March 2025 Board Meeting	5 March 2025, DSCC
March 2025 Luncheon.....	21 March 2025 Rusty Bucket
April 2025 Board Meeting	9 April 2025, DSCC
April 2025 Luncheon	18 April 2025, Rusty Bucket
May 2025 Board Meeting	7 May 2025, DSCC

Adopt A Serviceperson

New Christmas cards have been sent to 2 locations: Syria and Iraq. The drive at our condo units resulted in the collection of 658 Christmas cards, and with donations from MOAA supporters, I sent over 800 new Christmas cards to our troop deployed in harm’s way. In the boxes, I also included Christmas decorations.

From a new Chaplain in Iraq who covers 4 remote sites: “So far my only special request is multivitamins since we don’t have a lot of fruits and veggies in our remote locations. At those sites we have roughly 40 people each and roughly 5 to 10 females.” The pictures are from an “Unknown Location” we support. They are Marines celebrating the 219th Birthday of the Marine Corps and opening packages.



So many servicemembers will be separated from family this Christmas season. For all you who served, you know what that is like. I want to thank you for helping us “Take

Care of The Troops” in harm’s way. May you be richly blessed this Christmas season. Thank you for your support.

Dorothy Williams
861-423-7016



Central Ohio Chapter Board

The Chapter Board needs new people with fresh views. Two big opportunities to learn by doing are:

- **National Legislative Affairs:** Our National Legislative Affairs board member keeps track of current MOAA legislative priorities and provides monthly updates through the CONNECT newsletter.
- **Outreach:** Your Foundation depends upon contributions to achieve its mission. The Outreach Director will oversee our fundraising efforts and will also serve as a member of the Foundation Board of Directors.

If you are interested, please contact Alex at abetting2@gmail.com.

Honor Flight

Honor Flight Columbus has released a video of Mission 137, sponsored by Battelle, which took place 31 October 2024. You can find it [here](#) on YouTube.

For more information, contact [LTC Joe Machado](#).

HONOR FLIGHT
Click here to see
Honor Flight
volunteer
opportunities

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