



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

As we enter spring, YOUR Foundation is again awarding a scholarship to a cadet or midshipman in each of the six ROTC detachments we support.

Thanks to YOUR generosity, we were able to raise the amount of each scholarship from \$750 to \$1000. That is a nice achievement, and I am asking you to see if you can help our Foundation out for next year by contributing again.



One of the Foundation's areas of support is service personnel overseas, especially those "in the sandbox." As you well know, remote locations don't have supermarkets or Exchanges, and with summer coming, Syria, Iraq, Libya, and Sinai get really hot. Deployed units tell Dorothy that Powerade and Gatorade powder would be really welcome—it's easily shippable, and when mixed with canteen water, it adds both flavor and electrolytes. It's expensive, though, and your help would be appreciated.

The top MOAA priority for this Spring's Advocacy in Action is for lawmakers to fix the Marine Corps unaccompanied housing issues like mold and insects. As officers, retired or active duty, we have a responsibility to support the troops, and this is one serious issue. As I mentioned last month, a welcoming environment for newly enlisted troops pays off handsomely in increased retention, reduced training costs, and increased readiness. Spending a few minutes on the computer and the MOAA website contacting our representatives is really time well spent. See the [Legislative News](#) section for how to do this.

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 March luncheon. I gave another presentation with a different aspect on things we all need to accomplish before a military member passes away. The 50/50 raffle winner donated their winnings to the Foundation. Our next luncheon will be **Friday, April 25th [note the date change]** at the Rusty Bucket in New Albany. If you are interested in joining us for lunch, please contact LTC Jeff Collins at jmcwindsor@yahoo.com by 18 April.

We still have 13 military, 2 surviving spouses, and 7 supporting members who have not renewed their memberships.

On-line Payments

Our Chapter is now enrolled in MOAA's online payments system (at no charge to us). To pay dues or give donations, go to the MEMBERSHIPS page on the MOAA Central Ohio website (<https://moaa-centralohio.org/Memberships>) and click on the orange PAY NOW button. Fill in your name and email on [the page that opens](#). Click the orange ENTER button to go to a page that will enable you to pay dues and donate.

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 the new Congress finds its footing, MOAA continues to advocate for active duty, reserve, retired, priorities in the new 119th Congress include:

A 2023 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report revealed bad conditions in **unaccompanied military housing**, and action is needed to ensure full transparency and accountability. MOAA is urging Congress to require DoD to publicly disclose housing condition reports and expand housing complaint databases to allow servicemembers to submit photos and videos as evidence. Ask Congress to address hazardous unaccompanied housing conditions by clicking [here](#).

Combat-injured veterans lose a dollar of earned DoD retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation. The **Major Richard Star Act** would end that unjust financial offset. [Use this link](#) to urge your legislators to support the Star Act.

A decade-old law cut the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for all service members who live off base. The **BAH Restoration Act** (H.R. 1956) would reverse that cut so that BAH will again cover 100% of housing-related expenses. Ask your legislators to support BAH restoration by clicking [this link](#).

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. *(No real need to edit MOAA’s recommended wording—most legislators count their “issue mail” instead of reading it.—Ed.)*

You can find the bills MOAA supports on the “MOAA-Supported Legislation” page here: [MOAA Action Center](#) This is a great list if you're interested in learning more about

the bills. You can click on the name of the bill and learn more about it.

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](#)

ROTC Awards Ceremonies

MOAA Central Ohio annually presents a scholarship to a cadet or midshipman in each of the six ROTC detachments we support. We kicked off “awards season” with the OSU Army awards ceremony on 20 March, and the remaining ceremonies are:

OSU Navy	11 APR 1700	Fawcett Center
Capital	15 APR 0800	Cap Center
OSU AF	16 APR 0545	TBA (following morning PT)
OU Army	16 APR 1500	Morton Hall 235
OU AF	23 APR 1600	Walter Hall 135

We will also be represented at the following JROTC ceremonies:

Logan	28 APR 1730
Grove City	30 APR 1015
Newark	02 MAY 1730
Delaware	07 MAY 1800
Knox County	08 MAY 1830

Contact Marston at marston66@hotmail.com for locations if you would like to attend!

Central Ohio Stand Down

Save the date for the 2025 Central Ohio Veterans Stand Down: **Friday, 3 October, 2025**, from 0830-1330. Stand Down Event Registration will open in August.

The 2025 FORE Golf Fundraiser, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 1056 Delaware, will benefit the Stand Down. The fundraiser will be Saturday, April 26, 2025,

at Oakhaven Golf Club, 2871 US-23, Delaware OH 43015. You can register at <https://www.centralohiostanddown.org/registration>

Golf Fundraiser Volunteers Needed

The Knights of Columbus golf outing donations cover the majority of the cost of the hot lunch offered to veterans at Stand Down. We need volunteers to “work the greens” during the golf outing, explaining to golfers how their donations create an investment with our veterans of Central Ohio at the Stand Down.

What’s involved: Arrive at the Oakhaven Golf Club by 7:30 AM on Saturday, April 26. Bring a folding chair, bottle of water (and a coat, in case it’s cool). You will be assigned a location when you get to the golf course. Lunch will be provided, and you’ll be done by 1:30 PM (or earlier if you don’t stay for lunch).

To volunteer, contact Volunteer Coordinator Kim Stock Foster at ksffosters@gmail.com as soon as you can.



OSU Out of the Darkness Walk 10 April 2025

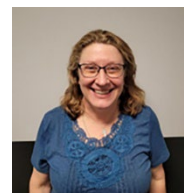
The OSU Suicide Prevention Program sponsors an annual Out of the Darkness Campus Walk as a journey of remembrance, hope, and support, and as a way to unite as a campus and community to acknowledge the ways in which suicide and mental illness have affected our lives and our loved ones. This year’s walk will include military-specific resources, and more information is available [here](#).

Central Ohio MOAA will participate in the Out of the Darkness walk on 10 April. It takes place at the OSU Recreation and Physical Activity Center (RPAC), and we’d love to have you join us! Contact Marston at marston66@hotmail.com if you are interested.

How Can I Donate to ROTC, JROTC, or Standdown?

If you want to donate online, the instructions are in the Membership column [here](#). You can also 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)



April Luncheon

DATE CHANGED to 25 April

The next luncheon will be 25 April at the Rusty Bucket in New Albany. If you plan to attend, please contact LTC Jeff Collins at jmcwindsor@yahoo.com by 18 April so that we can give the restaurant a headcount. We order off the menu and pay individually.

Upcoming Events

April 2025 Chapter Board Meeting	9 April 2025, DSCC, Room 905
April 2025 Chapter Luncheon.....	25 April 2025 , Rusty Bucket
May 2025 Chapter Board Meeting.....	7 May 2025, DSCC, Room 905
Armed Forces Day Luncheon.....	16 May 2025, Villa Milano
June 2025 Chapter Board Meeting.....	4 June 2025, DSCC, Room 905
June 2025 Chapter Luncheon	20 June 2025, Rusty Bucket
July 2025 Chapter Board Meeting.....	9 July 2025, DSCC, Room 905
July 2025 Chapter Luncheon	18 July 2025, Rusty Bucket
August 2025 Chapter Board Meeting	6 August 2025, DSCC, Room 905

Adopt A Serviceperson

From a US Army Brigade Chaplain in South Sinai, I received the following email:

We have received a care package you sent and were very blessed by the contents of the box—especially the Little Debbie snack cakes. It reminded everyone of home. Thank you so much for your outstanding and ongoing support to the military. We are extremely grateful for the sacrifice you make to provide us with a touch of home. I am sorry that I failed to snap a picture before the troops enjoyed the snack cakes and Cheetos! Please know there are smiles on many faces because of your support. We are honored to be remembered in this manner.

This week I will be sending two care packages filled with requested snacks. Also in the boxes, will be children's drawings and Easter decorations. I am including some Peeps!

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.

MOAA Statement on Federal Budget and Workforce Reductions

March 2025

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) has always advocated for a strong national defense, with a particular focus on the people whose service and sacrifices make it possible. Maintaining this strength requires both sufficient funding and a capable workforce. However, the nation's growing debt and fiscal challenges pose a significant risk to future prosperity and place increasing pressure on our ability to sustain a robust force.

Given this reality, ongoing budget scrutiny to find efficiencies and savings is not only appropriate but necessary. However, early results from these exercises and actions have highlighted the need for thoughtful implementation and greater caution as budget reviews continue. There have been opportunities to reconsider and reverse rapid decisions when their negative consequences became evident; a prime example came in the protection of military spouses with existing remote-work arrangements from a return-to-work directive that would've significantly harmed military families. We must balance fiscal responsibility with maintaining a strong and prepared all-volunteer force, ensuring the nation upholds its promises to those Americans and their families who commit themselves to uniformed service and sacrifice for their country.

Those who serve and have served in uniform make extraordinary commitments and sacrifices—not only for our national defense, but for the very ideals that define America: freedom, security, and prosperity. Military members uphold the foundation of economic prosperity and freedoms all Americans enjoy—foundations built by veterans. These servicemembers swear an oath to protect and defend the Constitution, many putting their lives on the line, to make this happen. They don't join to get rich or receive

accolades, they join to defend and protect liberties often taken for granted. In return, they expect the nation to honor its commitments and uphold promises made to care for them and their families both during and after their service. Fulfilling these promises is essential to ensuring those who wear the uniform—and their families—continue to encourage future generations to serve.

Despite statements to the contrary, some of the cuts made to the federal workforce and budget have negative consequences for the uniform[ed] services community, veterans, and families. Veterans, who make up approximately 30% of the federal workforce, are being dismissed. The speed of current actions is preventing recognition of the previous commitments made by the nation through veterans' hiring preferences. Similarly, military spouses who are granted a federal hiring preference are also being let go. For military spouses, the impact extends beyond household income—their job loss directly impacts the readiness and retention of their uniformed partners. Military families increasingly rely on dual incomes, and the loss of that second income stream plays a significant role in the decision to remain in service. These preferences were not established as handouts, but as a strategic investment recognizing the vital role of these workers in supporting recruiting, retention, and overall warfighting readiness.

Unfortunately, in the rush to make reductions, broad assumptions have emerged that veterans and spouses are simply being handed employment. In reality, their unique skillsets, experience, and dedication are highly valued and difficult to replace. Many of these individuals sought federal jobs so they could continue to serve the country and, in some cases, keep their military family together, when they could have commanded higher salaries in the private sector. As demonstrated in previous reversals and during DOGE updates that have highlighted a need to clean up the inevitable mistakes, some of these actions should be reversed quickly to eliminate inadvertent impacts on national defense.

The pace of current actions underscores the need to apply lessons learned and proceed with greater caution as budget reduction efforts, such as those announced for DoD, take place. As in previous budget-cutting exercises, it is not unusual for operations and maintenance and military personnel accounts to receive the most scrutiny. These tend to be the easiest areas to generate quick savings, free from the political or contractual concerns associated with other parts of the budget.

Once again, the right statements about supporting the uniformed service members and families who bear the burden are being made. But history tells us budget discussions often lead to reductions in "people programs"—housing allowances, healthcare benefits, cost-of-living adjustments, compensation, and manpower reductions themselves. These cuts may appear to offer immediate savings, but they have often proven more expensive thanks to unintended long-term costs:

- **Retention and Recruitment Risks:** Reductions in benefits make military service less attractive, weakening our ability to maintain a skilled and ready force.

- **Readiness Degradation:** Morale and stability among servicemembers decline when financial security is undermined.
- **Historical Lessons Ignored:** Past budget reductions, such as those seen during the 2014-2016 sequestration period and after Operation Desert Storm, led to force management challenges and cost more to correct. The costs to hastily reverse force reductions made without connections to actual defense strategies were significant. Even more costly was the extensive loss of experience, as new recruits replaced experienced members (who were in many cases paid to depart).

If increasing focus on warfighting and meritocracy is a target, then addressing harder but more lucrative places to generate savings should be in the plan. Though more difficult given the amount of associated political considerations, there are opportunities to generate savings through responsible defense budget reform:

1. **Efficient Program Management:** Allowing defense leaders to shutter outdated programs, weapon systems, and infrastructure through a BRAC would free up significant funds.
2. **Acquisition Reform:** Addressing inefficiencies in the procurement process would reduce costs.
3. **Long-Term Fiscal Planning:** Instead of making hasty cuts to meet short-term budget targets, policymakers should focus on sustainable financial strategies that prevent costly course corrections.

The men and women in uniform understand their duty to serve and protect this nation. It is the nation's duty to ensure their sacrifices are honored—not just with words, but with policies that reflect the value of their service. Budget constraints must be addressed—even within DoD and the VA, but cuts should not come at the expense of those who have given so much. By working together—lawmakers, advocacy groups, and the American public—we must find fiscally responsible solutions that uphold our commitment to those who serve.

MOAA stands ready to work in a bipartisan way to ensure that we, as a nation, fulfill the promises made to those who serve and have served—along with their families. Now is not the time to erode our servicemembers' earned benefits. Rather, it's time to find solutions.

[DFAS Retiree Newsletter](#)

The March 2025 issue of the quarterly Retiree Newsletter is available online at <https://www.dfas.mil/retireenews>. You can download a pdf [here](#).

Preparing for Survivorship

When a family member dies, the last thing on your mind is taxes and notifying pension plan administrators. But even as you grieve, it's essential that you begin taking steps to tie up the affairs of your loved one. Keep [this checklist](#) on hand to refer to when dealing with the death in the family. While not exhaustive, this list is intended as reminder for family members and surviving spouses about the many subjects that need attention at the time of death of a MOAA member.

The checklist, developed by the Minnesota Chapter of MOAA, may be found at <https://www.mcmoaa.org/index.php?/death-of-a-loved-one>. The accompanying booklet, "[The Day-After Calls](#)," is available in pdf at: <https://www.mcmoaa.org/files/MCMOAA-Day-After-Calls.pdf>.

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