

The Beacon

June 2025



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UPCOMING EVENTS

18 June, Ironbirds Outing. Check chapter website for updates.

9 July, 6:00 PM, Chapter General Meeting/Dinner at McGregors Restaurant in Havre de Grace. Guest Speaker Major General J. Birckhead, Adjutant General of Maryland.

13 September, 12:00 PM, Chapter Picnic at Ruggles Golf Course.

7 November, 7:00 PM, Poster and Essay Contest Recognition, American Legion Post 47501 St. John St., Havre de Grace.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

June has arrived and maybe the rain will stop.

May and June are especially busy months for the Veteran community with Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day and the Army's 250th Birthday all falling during those few weeks.

The membership meeting held at Liberatore's in Bei Air on May 28, featuring Delegate Mike Griffith District 35A (Harford and Cecil Counties), was a great success. Del Griffith presented an overview of legislation passed by the Legislature that impacts veterans. He also discussed bills that were not passed.

Ted Newing and I had the honor of representing the chapter at the Memorial Day celebration at Shamrock Park in Bel Air. The guest speaker was BG W. Bochat, Commanding General of the 20th CBRNE at APG. Keith Reagan attended the ceremony in Havre de Grace where the guest speaker was MG Jim Turinetti, Commanding General of CECOM. Both speakers reminded us that "Freedom is Not Free".

June 14th is the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States Army, our oldest armed service. The Army Goes Rolling Along. There will be several celebrations around Harford County too numerous to detail here, but there will be public announcements with times and locations. I urge everyone to come out and celebrate the Army's Birthday.

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Our next general membership meeting will be on July 9 at MacGregor's Restaurant in Havre de Grace. The guest speaker will be MG Birkhead, Maryland's Adjutant General. Please plan to attend. Visit the Chapter website to secure your reservation.

Planning has begun on the Chapter picnic to be held on September 13 at the Ruggles Golf Course Club House. Hope to see you there.

One last item. Frank King, our esteemed Treasurer and Poster and Essay Contest coordinator has been selected as General Counsel to the Secretary of the Army and has already assumed those duties in the Pentagon. Good luck, Frank. You will be sorely missed.

Never Stop Serving,

Bob Beahm
BG, USA (Ret)
Chapter President

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Updates to the latest legislative affairs can be found on the national website noted above or at the Maryland Council of chapters web page at <https://www.mdmoaa.org/>

MEMBER RECOGNITION

Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison recently recognized Susquehanna Chapter member and Surviving Spouse Liaison Connie Richardson for her unselfish volunteer hours at the Post chapel and for the Spouses Club. Connie certainly emulates the MOAA motto, "Never Stop Serving."



APG Garrison Commander Col. Philip J. Mundweil (left) and Garrison Command Sergeant Major Paul J. Denson (right) present Chapter Member Connie Richardson with a Certificate of Recognition for her volunteer hours devoted to the Post Chapel and Spouses Club.

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

WE NEED YOU!

Did you know that your current Regular Annual Member status with The Susquehanna Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America is about to expire? Your support over the past year has been appreciated and we would hate to lose you. Over the past years the Chapter has been instrumental in fighting for your benefits as a service member in Maryland at the legislative, legal, and community levels and indirectly at the national level through MOAA. Susquehanna Chapter of MOAA Membership annual dues (except the first year) are needed to be received by the end of each calendar year. If you have not renewed for 2025, please do so now. Chapter dues for 2026 need to be received by 1 January 2026.

Please visit our website to renew your membership today before it expires. To renew, follow these easy steps: 1. First login using the Member Login button at the top of the page. www.moaasusquehanna.org 2. Once logged in, renew your membership by clicking the Membership or Join button at the top third of the page in the blue bar.

- For those who have forgotten their username and/or password, there is a "Forgot Login?" link on the Login page. *Note: If this is your first login, click "Request Login Information" to get your temporary password.*

Should you not want to renew online you can go to this link and download the membership renewal. Fill out the form, enclose a check for \$20.00 and mail to the address on the form.

National MOAA and local affiliate membership are two distinct memberships. You do not have to be an MOAA member to join the Susquehanna Chapter although membership in both the local and National organizations is encouraged. Submitting your dues payment through this online application is for Susquehanna chapter dues (joins/renewals) only. If you are attempting to join/renew for National MOAA, please go to www.moa.org/join.

If you need any assistance in accessing your account, please email us at info@moaasusquehanna.org

Thank you very much for your continued support of the Susquehanna Chapter of The Military Officers Association of America.

ARMY 250th BIRTHDAY AT ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND

APG will be hosting a number of events in June to celebrate the Army's 250th Anniversary. See the flyer attached. Details can be found on the APG website at <https://home.army.mil/apg/>

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NATIONAL NEWS

Senate Hearing Spotlights MOAA-Backed Bill to Support Veteran Caregivers

By: Terry Waters

A recent Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing highlighted growing interest in a MOAA-supported proposal designed to provide critical transitional support for military caregivers.

The committee reviewed and discussed the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement (3R) Act alongside other legislation in a May 21 meeting, which featured testimony from the VA and various veterans service organizations (VSOs), including MOAA. [TAKE ACTION NOW: Urge Your Lawmakers to Pass the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act]

"Despite their vital role, caregivers face significant financial, professional, and emotional burdens," MOAA told the committee in written testimony. "Many forgo careers, retirement savings, and personal well-being to provide care." The 3R Act addresses key concerns raised by caregivers transitioning out of the VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC), including job reentry, retirement planning, health care access, and financial stability. These caregivers often sacrifice income, career advancement, and long-term financial security to care for their loved ones ... and are met with significant gaps in support.

The bill proposes a comprehensive package of support tools, such as job training assistance, counseling, continued health care coverage, and help with professional relicensing costs, all aimed at easing the shift into post-caregiving life.

What's Next

With congressional interest building, the 3R Act represents an opportunity to ensure caregivers are recognized and supported long after their caregiving duties conclude. As this legislation progresses, MOAA continues to work closely with lawmakers to ensure the bill's provisions reflect the real needs of military families.

"By offering education, employment, and retirement opportunities, the act would empower caregivers to achieve financial security while potentially reducing the federal government's long-term economic burden by decreasing their future reliance on government assistance programs," MOAA told the committee in written testimony.

What's Next for the Budget, the NDAA, and More From Congress

By: Terry Waters The historic trillion-dollar defense budget proposal marked an initial step in a lengthy appropriation and authorization process, one that will serve as the backbone for funding critical programs and services that support our nation's uniformed services and veteran communities.

As Congress makes headway on the FY 2026 budget, it's essential to know where we are in the annual process, both for the overall funding bill and for measures like the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which often serves as a vehicle for key MOAA legislative priorities. Here's a look at the overall timeline:

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The President's Budget Proposal: The process begins with the president's budget request, usually released in February or March, which outlines proposed funding levels for all government agencies. It's not uncommon for this request to be delayed during the first year of a presidential term and new Congress; this year's so-called "skinny" budget request was announced May 2.

Congressional Budget Resolution: After receiving the president's request, Congress creates a budget resolution, which sets the overall spending limits for the government. This resolution acts as a framework for future spending decisions, specifying how much money should be allocated for defense and non-defense programs, including military personnel, benefits, and VA health care.

Authorization Bills: Once the budget resolution is in place, Congress begins working on authorization bills, like the NDAA. The NDAA authorizes policies, programs, and funding levels for defense-related programs, ranging from military readiness and modernization to benefits for military families and survivors. It often incorporates many pieces of defense-related legislation, making it a useful vehicle to advance MOAA-supported bills and priorities, as evidenced by last year's "quality-of-life" NDAA.

Appropriations Bills: While the NDAA sets policy, appropriations bills, such as the Defense Appropriations Act and the Military Construction, Veteran Affairs, and Related Agencies (MilCon-VA) Act provide the funding to implement those policies. Appropriations bills must be passed by both chambers of Congress and signed into law by the president before agencies can access the funding.

Where Do Things Stand for FY 2026?

We can expect a more detailed budget request from the administration in the coming weeks. This will act as an essential input for Congress and lawmakers in both chambers.

Both the House and Senate are well into the process of shaping the authorization and appropriations bills for FY 2026, with amendments from advocates and constituents now under review in committees and subcommittees.

Each chamber has passed its own budget resolution. While they haven't been reconciled, they are crucial to guiding ongoing budget negotiations. More detailed legislation – known as a reconciliation bill, in conjunction with the initial resolution – passed House by a 215-214 vote early May 22 and will move to the Senate, where leaders reportedly hope to have a vote before the July 4 holiday.

While the NDAA and other authorization bills were passed and signed into law in 2025, they're funded through a full-year continuing resolution enacted to ensure government operations continue without disruption. Despite the challenges associated with continuing resolutions, the practice has become increasingly common.

With a compressed timeline for debating, amending, and reconciling the NDAA this year, there remains a significant risk of further stopgap funding measures.

How Can Advocates Help?

As Congress gets further into the process of shaping the FY 2026 budget, it's critical to stay informed of the latest updates regarding the NDAA and other relevant legislation. You can review MOAA's legislative priorities on our spring Advocacy in Action page. In addition to these issues, MOAA remains fully prepared to adapt our focus and leverage every available resource to ensure promises made to those who serve and have served, along with their families and survivors, are honored.

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Grassroots advocacy is critical to determining what will make its way into final authorization and appropriation bills, and lawmakers want to hear what's important to their constituents. To support these efforts, stay up to date with MOAA's advocacy news, and register and take action using the Legislative Action Center.

Help MOAA Protect Student-Veterans: Stop the Repeal of the '90-10 Rule'

By: Kevin Lilley

Instead of maintaining a regulation that's helped keep student-veterans safe from predatory for-profit education sales pitches – putting hard-earned benefits at risk – Congress instead could repeal hard-won protections ... and spend \$1.6 billion to do it.

MOAA joined 30 advocacy groups in a May 28 letter to House and Senate leadership urging a “No” vote on ending the so-called “90-10 rule,” which mandates for-profit schools receive no more than 90% of their revenue from federal education assistance.

Before a bipartisan 2023 change to this rule ensuring VA and DoD education benefits counted toward federal limits, student-veterans served as “dollar signs in uniform” for unscrupulous schools seeking to land GI bill benefits with often-unfilled promises. [READ THE LETTER | TAKE ACTION: Ask Congress to Keep the 90-10 Rule]

The bipartisan rule helps “ensure quality in higher education programs,” the letter states, with the measure serving as “a market viability test to protect taxpayers from artificially propping up a failing college of such low quality that no employer or private-paying student is willing to pay for it.”

Repealing the rule would cost \$1.6 billion over 10 years, according to a Congressional Budget Office estimate. The regulation would be replaced by a “sector-neutral accountability plan,” according to a statement from House Education and Workforce Committee Republicans. In a statement, a representative from Veterans Education Success called it a “high-risk, complicated, and untested model.”

Despite the cost and the consequences, the repeal is included in the House budget reconciliation bill, which is now under consideration in the Senate. That chamber may make significant changes to the legislation in the coming weeks, with a vote likely coming before the July 4 holiday. MOAA members and others can help raise the importance of protecting student-veterans with their lawmakers by sending a prewritten message via our Legislative Action Center.

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Standing with you at every stage.

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CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

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ABOUT MOAA

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the nation’s largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization. <http://moaa.org>. The Chapter is an affiliate of the national MOAA. Like MOAA National, the Chapter is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.

The MOAA Legislative Action Center provides information regarding MOAA’s top national legislative priorities for the year and COLA, as well as perspective on issues in the military community that could affect you and your family <http://takeaction.moaa.org>

If you are not a member of MOAA, you can join at <http://bit.ly/JoinMOAA>. Membership in MOAA is separate from membership in the Susquehanna Chapter.

MOAA MISSION

To preserve and protect earned benefits for our uniformed services, veterans, their families, and surviving spouses through:

Advocacy, Leadership, Education, and Service.

Advocacy Highlights:

Pay Raises for all ranks, Widows Tax repeal, MTF restructuring delays, protecting TRICARE benefits, military housing reforms, PACT Act support, MISSION Act reforming VA programs, GI Bill upgrades, COLA adjustment improvements.

Current Legislative Goals:

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Compensations and Service-Earned Benefits, Military Housing, Health Care for currently serving, retirees, and veterans, Survivor families benefits, and improve Guard and Reserves pay and health coverage.

SUSQUEHANNA CHAPTER MOAA:

Susquehanna Chapter, a 501(c)(19) nonprofit organization was affiliated in October 1969 with the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), formerly TROA. Chapter members live in Harford and Cecil Counties. We promote the MOAA purposes and objectives to foster fraternal relations among retired, active and former officers of the eight uniformed services and the Reserve Components.

The chapter has 60 active members, who are currently serving, former, and retired officers, and their spouses and widows/widowers. Working through the Chapter, we provide assistance to our membership, enabling them to continue to serve their nation and communities, maintain contact with the other services, and enjoy social fellowship with people who share common values of patriotism, honor and selflessness.

Our Chapter helps provide critical grassroots support for MOAA's national legislative agenda. Our benefits are under attack, and MOAA is in the fight to preserve them. Chapter members let their legislators know what's on their minds and open doors for MOAA's legislative team in Washington, D.C. In these difficult times, our chapters are the best way we know to do that.

At the local level we successfully advocated for reduction of Harford County property taxes for retired veterans and reductions of MD State taxes on retired pay for military members and first responders. We sponsored scholarships, engaged Harford County Board of Education to establish a JROTC program, and continue to coordinate community outreach to schools for Veteran Poster essay contests. We coordinated COVID 19 grants for qualifying veterans, volunteered with the Susquehanna Habitat for Humanity, and participate in local veteran memorial activities.

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND

Celebrating the Army's 250th Birthday!



YOU'RE INVITED!

SAVE THE DATE!



SUNDAY
JUNE 8, 2025
CONCERT AT
SHAMROCK PARK
Open to Public



MONDAY
JUNE 9, 2025
FUN RUN/WALK
Open to Public



TUESDAY
JUNE 10, 2025
250 CHALLENGE
Open to Public



WEDNESDAY
JUNE 11, 2025
BEHIND THE
GATE TOUR
Open to Select Groups



THURSDAY
JUNE 12, 2025
GOLF TOURNAMENT
250 CHALLENGE
Open to Public



FRIDAY
JUNE 13, 2025
250 FLOWER
PLANTING
Open to Public



SATURDAY
JUNE 14, 2025
SUMMER SOAKER
Open to Public



MORE INFORMATION
COMING SOON!

#ARMY250

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MEMBERSHIP DUES FORM (New & Renewal) Susquehanna Chapter

Name _____
Last First MI

Information below is only required if it has changed. ___ New ___ Renewal

Mailing _____
Address Street City State Zip Code

Home _____
Address* Street City State Zip Code

*If different from mailing address

Home Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____

Office Phone # _____

e-mail _____ @ _____
address

Annual Membership Fee. New members joining the Chapter during January – June pay no dues for the current year. Those who join in July – December pay no dues during the current year and following year. Annual dues are \$20. Please complete this form and submit it with your check for the appropriate amount, payable to “Susquehanna Chapter, MOAA” or you may pay online at <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx>.

Mail this form to:

Membership Chair
Susquehanna Chapter, MOAA
PO Box 243
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005

Dues enclosed are for ___2025 ___2026 ___2027 ___2028 ___2029 ___2030 ___ Lifetime Membership

Lifetime Membership: If you are 70 years of age or older, and not in arrears for dues, you are eligible to become a Lifetime Member of the Susquehanna Chapter. The one-time fee for Lifetime Membership is 80- your age x \$20.00. Lifetime membership cannot be paid online. Lifetime Membership in the Susquehanna Chapter does not convey Lifetime Membership in MOAA. Payment for Lifetime Member status must be paid via check to the address above.

Please contact Ted Newing at ted.newing@gmail.com with questions about your dues status.

Serving the Community and the Nation since 1969

One of the oldest Chapters in the Maryland Council

www.moaausquehanna.org