

The Beacon

January 2026



MOAA
SUSQUEHANNA
CHAPTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS

January 21, 6:00 PM, General Membership Meeting, Officer Installation, MacGregor's Restaurant in Havre de Grace. Guest Speaker, COL Troy S Johnson, Garrison Commander, Aberdeen Proving Ground

March 2026, 6:00 PM, General Membership Meeting, Coakley's Pub, Havre de Grace. Guest speaker, Asha George, DrPH, Executive Director, Bipartisan Commission on Biodefense

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we welcome 2026, I want to wish each of you a happy, safe and prosperous New Year. The Chapter had a great year in 2025 as we again were recognized by National MOAA as a 5-star awardee for both our newsletter and website. Larry Archer, our newsletter editor and Bill Beddow, our webmaster, have performed yeoman service to ensure our continued excellence.

Susquehanna Chapter has also been very active in using the MOAA Legislative Action Center to encourage Maryland's Congressional delegation to support legislation beneficial to military veterans and retirees. Almost 60% of our members have registered to participate and we have submitted over 170 actions, over 50% more than any other Maryland chapter. Keep up the good work.

We continue to see increased participation in our Veterans Day Poster and Essay Contest as submissions increased to over 100. Two of the winners will present their essays at our next general membership meeting on 21 January at MacGregor's in Havre de Grace. We will also install our officers for 2026 at that meeting as well as hear remarks by our guest speaker, COL Troy Johnson, APG's new Installation Commander. I hope to see you then.

The Chapter continues to support the JROTC program at Joppatown High School. The program is in its third year and has drawn over 50 cadets from Harford County. Our Chapter Vice-President, Ivan Montenez has taken on the liaison responsibilities for the program.

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It looks like the chapter is set up for another successful year.

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/>

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.

Chapter dues for 2026 are due now.

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.moaausquehanna.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.moaa.org/join.

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

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

PROJECT OPPORTUNITY

The Spring 2025 Project Opportunity Military Spouse Course is sponsored by Philip E and Carol R Ratcliffe Foundation. The Ratcliffe Foundation is based in Annapolis Maryland and operates as a charitable organization designed to encourage and reward entrepreneurship, create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

Project Opportunity will soon be starting their Spring 2026 Entrepreneurship Course for spouses of veterans, active duty, National Guard and Reserve personnel. The course is free, but applicants must first attend a mandatory orientation session on March 10, 2026 at the Converge Center, 1201 Technology Drive in Aberdeen. See page 12 for more detail.

SURVIVING SPOUSES VIRTUAL WEBSITE

The MOAA Surviving Spouses virtual chapter has created a new website with lots of information of value to surviving spouses. The site can be accessed via: www.moaa-surviving-spouse-virtual-chapter.org

SURVIVING SPOUSES SYMPOSIUM

As part of its commitment to survivors of active-duty deaths, the Department of War (DOW) is continuing its virtual Survivor Symposium series on Jan. 30 from noon to 3 p.m. EST.

The symposium provides a platform for survivors and service providers to learn about a range of essential topics. During the January event, experts will:

- Offer updates from the Department of War, Defense Finance Accounting Service and Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Provide details about third-party representation.
- Discuss Medicare and TRICARE For Life.
- Give an overview of Social Security considerations.
- Outline the College Success Roadmap Series, including financial, scholarship and benefit resources for 2026/2027.

Those interested in attending the symposium can register for the event by using this online registration form. Participants will receive an email before the symposium with a link to join the virtual conference. The DOW Survivor Symposium is a recurring event that addresses topics important to eligible members of the survivor community.

To attend the symposium register at: <https://public.militaryonesource.mil/survivor-symposium>

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NATIONAL NEWS

Start Your 2026 Strong With MOAA and GNC

By MOAA Staff

Have you resolved to get fit, or stay fit, in the new year? An upcoming webinar can help you keep that promise.

GNC, a proud sponsor of TotalForce+, will host a 90-minute online event Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. Eastern on healthy aging. The webinar will explore practical, science-based strategies to support energy, strength, and overall wellness. Connect at link below:

<https://zoom.us/j/92707392710?pwd=9Yml5NH3uRvC4ZXk6nC1nyIR9291Ux.1#success>

(Event ID: 927 0739 2710; Passcode: 820623)]

Attendees will:

- Learn how to set health and fitness goals for the year ahead.
- Understand how vitamins and supplements can boost your wellness journey.
- Discover simple tips and tricks to increase mobility and maintain muscle tone.

Healthy aging is about building habits that help you stay active, energized, and resilient at every stage of life. This free webinar is open to the entire uniformed services community – including currently serving members, retirees, veterans, military family members, and survivors.

If you're ready to invest in your long term wellness, this is a great place to start. GNC operates stores at 85 military installations and provides a 10% discount to servicemembers, dependents, and veterans at retail stores and online.

Don't miss this chance to make your fitness resolution stick for 2026 – join the free event on Jan. 7 using the link and access information above.

From MOAA's Chairman: Building on Strength

By: Thomas Waldhauser

As your chairman, I am so proud of what MOAA continues to accomplish on behalf of the entire uniformed services community. Every day, MOAA's members, volunteers, and staff demonstrate that commitment through advocacy, outreach, and action.

In 2025, MOAA sharpened its legislative strategy with clear priorities and disciplined strategies that continue in the new year. Our Government Relations team has been hard at work on Capitol Hill — building new relationships and strengthening existing ones across the new Congress.

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Our Advocacy in Action event once again brought MOAA members from across the country to Washington, D.C., to meet directly with lawmakers — an impressive demonstration of unity and professionalism that continues to set us apart.

Our grassroots network remains one of the strongest in the nation; amplifying our message through our constituent contacts makes a real difference in legislative outcomes.

We were named in The Hill's "Top Lobbyist" list for the 19th straight year, a mark of our sustained influence and the trust in our advocacy.

That same spirit of service was on full display at our inaugural TotalForce+ conference, where leaders from across the uniformed service, civilian, industry, and academic sectors came together to strengthen the all-volunteer force. The conversations and ideas shared there will shape our efforts in the years ahead, including as we look toward a number of smaller TotalForce+ events in 2026, with the full conference returning Feb. 1-3, 2027.

Please share the good work of our association throughout your network and in your local communities. Remind potential members of our greatest achievements.

From a personal perspective, I find my service on this board over the past five years, and especially now as your chairman, incredibly rewarding and gratifying. I want to express my gratitude to MOAA's dedicated council and chapter leaders, staff, and every member and volunteer who keeps our association strong. Your leadership, advocacy, and generosity drive our success.

Together, we will continue to protect what's been earned, champion solutions that strengthen the community we serve, and advance a future worthy of those who defend our nation.

Access the Application Portal

We use SurveyMonkey Apply to facilitate our application process. While applications are only open from Nov 1 to March 1, you can access your account at any time to check the status of your application.

Chapters – enter title of an interesting news item here

Provide pictures and stories of a recent chapter meeting or program

You can copy and paste your Chapter news source "then site the news source (i.e. person's name and/or where you pulled that source)"; you can include any items of interest, special programs, dates of your next meeting, recaps or agendas, local news, state legislative issues, and other matters for your members.

Chapters – enter title of your final news item here

This item should conclude or wrap up your newsletter; next, provide chapter's contact information for officers, RSVP meeting (easy return form) for special meetings you mentioned, and/or chapter enrollment form for new members.

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CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| President | BG Robert Beahm, USA (Ret) | info@moaasusquehanna.org |
| Vice President | COL Ivan Montanez; USA (Ret) | info@moaasusquehanna.org |
| Membership | COL Ted Newing, USA (Ret) | info@moaasusquehanna.org |
| Programs | Keith Reagan USA LTC Reserve (Ret) | info@moaasusquehanna.org |
| Treasurer | MAJ Sidney (Bill) Beddow, USA (Ret) | info@moaasusquehanna.org |
| Secretary | Connie Richardson | info@moaasusquehanna.org |
| Legislative Affairs | LTC Bob Brown, USA (Ret) | info@moaasusquehanna.org |
| Newsletter | LCDR Lawrence Archer, USN (Ret) | info@moaasusquehanna.org |
| Chaplain | CPT Bill Whitford USA Reserve (Former) | info@moaasusquehanna.org |
| Publicity | Keith Reagan USA LTC Reserve (Ret) | info@moaasusquehanna.org |
| Webmaster | MAJ Sidney (Bill) Beddow, USA (Ret) | info@moaasusquehanna.org |
| Director | MAJ Jessica Ryu, USMC (Ret) | info@moaasusquehanna.org |
| Director | MAJ Cathy Hampton, USA (Ret) | info@moaasusquehanna.org |
| Immediate Past President | Keith Reagan USA LTC Reserve (Ret) | info@moaasusquehanna.org |
| Surviving Spouse Liaison | Connie Richardson | info@moaasusquehanna.org |
| Community Outreach | Keith Reagan USA LTC Reserve (Ret) | info@moaasusquehanna.org |

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.

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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:

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

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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.

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Colonel Troy S. Johnson, U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground

Colonel Troy Johnson was born in Wakefield, Virginia. He enlisted in October 1994 as a field artillery crew member. He served as an enlisted Soldier in the 101st Airborne Air Assault Division at Ft Campbell, KY, Yongsan South Korea, and the 116th Military Intelligence Group at Fort Gordon, GA.

Commissioned after Officer Candidate School into the Quartermaster Corp in 2001, COL Johnson served as a Platoon Leader for the 530th Maintenance Company and Company XO for the 348th Quartermaster Company, Camp Humphrey's South Korea 2002-2004.

Immediately following the Captain Career Course, he deployed to Iraq as part of the Public Order BN MiTT. Upon completion, COL Johnson became the Battalion S3 for the 244th Quartermaster BN. In 2007, he deployed to Iraq with the 530th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion as the Material Management officer. Upon returning, COL Johnson commanded the 54th Quartermaster Company at Fort Lee, Virginia.

After command, he became the General Supply Officer for the 7th Sustainment Brigade where he deployed to Afghanistan in 2010. Following deployment from Afghanistan, COL Johnson transitioned from General Supply Officer to the Chief of Plans before attending Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. After graduating from CGSC in December 2013, he became the Chief of Effects at the Brigade Modernization Command at Fort Bliss, TX, before moving to become the Support Operation Officer at the 1st Armored Division (AD) and deploying to Bagram, Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel and NATO operations Resolute Support. Upon returning from deployment, he became the 1AD Combat Aviation Brigade S4. COL Johnson later deployed in 2017-18 as the 1AD Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command Chief of Supply and Services in Baghdad, Iraq.

Upon returning from deployment, he was assigned as the Deputy Director of Logistics in Yokota Airbase for United States Forces Japan. COL Johnson later commanded the Army Field Support Battalion – Cavazos at “The Great Place”, Fort Cavazos Texas and most recently served as the State Inspector General for the Maryland National Guard. COL Johnson holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management with a Minor in Finance from the University of Maryland University College, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. His military education includes the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the Combined Logistics Officer Career Course. Colonel Johnson military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Air Assault and Parachutist Badge.

Colonel Johnson and his wife Shanna have three children, Alexis (25), Troy II (20), and Sean (17).

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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 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.

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PROJECT OPPORTUNITY

FREE ENTREPRENEUR TRAINING FOR SPOUSES OF VETERANS, ACTIVE DUTY, AND GUARD/RESERVE PERSONNEL

Is Entrepreneurship the right choice for you?

Do you have a business idea but not sure where to start?

Do you currently have a business and want to take it to the next level?

Currently laid off or furloughed and looking at entrepreneurship?

Mandatory Orientation Session will be held on

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

6:00 to 8:00 PM

Classes will be held on Tuesday Evenings from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, starting on March 24, 2026, and ending with a Graduation Ceremony on June 2, 2026

Orientation and all classes will be held at

**Converge Building
1201 Technology Drive
Aberdeen, Maryland**



To register for the Orientation Session please complete form found at
<https://www.project-opportunity.com/spouse-entrepreneurship-course/>

Project Opportunity is an intensive curriculum based 10-week cohort program that meets every Tuesday evening from 6:00-9:00PM. The curriculum and material are facilitated by small business professionals and subject matter experts. The program concludes with a formal Graduation Ceremony and Business Pitch Competition.

Training Includes:

- ❖ *Assessing Your Business Idea*
- ❖ *Marketing Analysis*
- ❖ *Financing and Financial Management*
- ❖ *Business Structure and Taxes*
- ❖ *Development of a Business Plan*

The Spring 2025 Project Opportunity Military Spouse Course is sponsored by **Philip E and Carol R Ratcliffe Foundation**. The Ratcliffe Foundation is based in Annapolis Maryland and operates as a charitable organization designed to encourage and reward entrepreneurship, create jobs and expand economic opportunities.