

The Beacon

June 2026



In this issue:

UPCOMING EVENTS.....	1
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....	1
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS.....	2
WOMEN VETERANS RECONGNITION DAY.....	2
JROTC AWARDS PRESENTATION.....	2
SKEET AND TRAP SHOOTING FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS.....	3
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL.....	4
NATIONAL NEWS.....	5
CHAPTER LEADERSHIP.....	7
ABOUT MOAA.....	8
MOAA MISSION.....	8
SUSQUEHANNA CHAPTER MOAA.....	9
WOMEN VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY FLYER.....	12
GUEST SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY.....	13
MEMBERSHIP DUES FORM.....	14

UPCOMING EVENTS

8 July 6:00 – 8:30 pm General Membership Meeting, Coakley's Restaurant. Speaker COL(R) Rick Sayre, Geneological researcher and instructor.

19 September, 12:00- 3:00 Chapter Picnic at Ruggles Clubhouse on Aberdeen Proving Ground. Details to follow.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It looks like the weather has finally turned to summer. Enjoy it before it gets too hot.

Memorial Day saw several members attend or participate in ceremonies around Harford County as Ted Newing and Bob Brown represented the Chapter at the Bel Air celebration, Cathy Hampton attended the Havre de Grace ceremony and Bob Brown participated in the Jarrettsville program.

We had a well-attended dinner meeting on May 12 at Latitude Seafood Company. Our speaker, Mike Ray, President of the Army Alliance, presented information on the mission of the Alliance to ensure that Aberdeen Proving Ground remains a viable installation into the future and on several initiatives the Alliance has adopted or proposed to accomplish that mission. His remarks were well received

The Harford County JROTC program held an awards ceremony and dinner on June 3 at Joppatown High School. We presented Cadet Connyr Bates Jr, with the JROTC Medal for having achieved the highest Grade Point Average in the Cadet Battalion. I would also like to welcome the new Army Senior Instructor for the program, LTC(R) Ronal Lenker.

The Beacon

June 2026

Our next general membership meeting will be a dinner meeting on July 8 at Coakley's Pub in Havre de Grace beginning at 6:00 PM. Our speaker is scheduled to be COL(R) Rick Sayre, a long-time researcher and instructor in genealogical topics. Sounds interesting. Besides Coakley's food is always great. I hope to see you there.

As America will celebrate our 250th birthday before the next issue of the "Beacon" is published, I want to tie Memorial Day to that anniversary. We can celebrate that milestone as a country because our service members, from Lexington and Concord through Iran have been willing to pay the last full – measure of devotion. Remember them always. Also remember the Gold Star families they left.

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.mdmooa.org/>

The governor recently signed into law Maryland House Bill 842 (2026). It authorizes local governments to grant a property tax credit on a home for surviving spouses of military service members who don't qualify for an existing exemption. It applies to local property taxes and takes effect for taxable years beginning after June 30, 2026.

WOMEN VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY

The Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families is sponsoring the Womens Veteran Recongnition day 12 June, 9:00 - 2:00, at the Baltimore City War Memorial Building, 101 N. Gay Street, Baltimore, MD. See flyer attached.

JROTC AWARDS PRESENTATION

Chapter President, Bob Beahm, presented Cadet Connyr Bates Jr, with the JROTC Medal for having achieved the highest Grade Point Average in the Cadet Battalion

The Beacon

June 2026



Joppa High JROTC Cadets receive awards 3 June

SKEET AND TRAP SHOOTING EVENT FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS

May 15, 2026, was more than a weather-perfect day, as Wounded Warriors from Walter Reed Hospital had the opportunity to try skeet and trap shooting at APG-South. The event, sponsored by Morale, Recreation and Welfare (MWR) and co-sponsored by the Susquehanna Chapter MOAA, is held annually, weather permitting. The Chapter provided financial support for ammunition costs, personal support from Bill Whitford and Carl Kilhoffer, both coaches and range safety officers, and moral support for these Warriors. In addition to time on the range, the Warriors received goodie bags as a reminder of their time away from the hospital and enjoyed an amazing lunch featuring dishes made from various wild game, prepared with skill and gratitude for these service members. See pictures below.



Bill and Carl Provide support

The Beacon

June 2026



Picking up the brass

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL. WE NEED YOU!

Annual Membership Fee. New members joining the Chapter during January – June pay no dues for the current year. Those who join in July – December will pay no dues during the current year and following calendar year. Annual dues are \$20 after the free year.

We recently made it easier to pay Chapter dues, just click on the following link: <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/susquehanna-chapter-dues-payments/items>

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.

A detailed membership application and renewal form is located at the end of this newsletter. For further information, please contact our Membership Chair.

National MOAA and local affiliate membership are two distinct memberships. You do not have to be a National 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.

The Beacon

June 2026

If you are attempting to join/renew for National MOAA, please go to: <https://www.moaa.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.

NATIONAL NEWS

From MOAA's President: Our Commitment to Community Support

By: Brian T. Kelly

On a national scale, many know MOAA because of our daily work in Washington, D.C., on behalf of the uniformed services community — protecting earned benefits and ensuring the voices of servicemembers, retirees, and veterans and their families and survivors are heard.

But on the local level, when someone recognizes the MOAA name, it is because they have seen firsthand the impact of a local council or chapter — neighbors helping neighbors, veterans supporting veterans, and communities strengthened through service. This local engagement is essential to fulfilling MOAA's broader mission of advocacy, education, and philanthropy, and I'm pleased to share national MOAA is providing support at record levels.

MOAA Charities' Community Outreach Grants provide awards of up to \$5,000 to chapters covering a wide range of critical family needs, including housing, food assistance, family support, transportation, legal assistance, and crisis relief.

This year marks a milestone: We received the highest number of applications in the program's history and are awarding the largest number of grants — and the greatest total funding — ever.

It is a clear signal that the need is growing, but so is the commitment of our members to meet it.

What makes these efforts especially powerful is their focus on prevention. Rather than reacting to crises after they occur, our chapters and partners are working to connect servicemembers, veterans, and families

with support before challenges escalate. Whether addressing housing instability, financial hardship, or mental health concerns, these coordinated efforts can stabilize lives and strengthen communities.

Coordinated local efforts can truly bolster military families and save veterans' lives, advocates shared last year at our TotalForce+ conference.

The VA reports veteran homelessness numbers are dropping, and we can point to MOAA's own efforts in support of the mission in places like Flagstaff, Ariz., and Monterey, Calif.

I often say MOAA is an association of officers but never only about officers. Our commitment extends to all ranks, all services, and all who have served and continue to serve. The work we do — at the national level and in communities across the country — demonstrates this responsibility.

The Beacon

June 2026

And it is why, together, we will always answer the call to serve.

What's Next for a Key Caregiver Support Bill

By: René Campos

Bipartisan legislation that would strengthen long-term stability for military and veteran caregivers has one more hurdle to clear before it can be put before the full House of Representatives for a vote.

The MOAA-supported Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement (3R) Act (H.R. 2148) already has moved through both the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees — a significant milestone reflecting broad recognition of caregivers' role as the backbone of veterans' long-term care. But the bill must receive approval from one more committee, the House Ways and Means Committee, before the House can vote on it.

On May 21, a coalition of leading veterans and caregiver organizations including MOAA, the Quality of Life Foundation, Elizabeth Dole Foundation, Wounded Warrior Project, Code of Support Foundation, The Independence Fund, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Veteran Caregiver, and Veteran Warriors sent a letter to the Ways and Means Committee urging members waive consideration over H.R. 2148 so that this bipartisan legislation may proceed forward to the full House floor for a vote.

"These caregivers stepped forward to care for our nation's most severely wounded veterans, saving the federal government substantial resources in the process," the letter reads. "They should not, as a result of that service, face financial insecurity in their own retirement."

Addressing a Critical Financial Gap

Veteran caregivers often leave the workforce for years to care for wounded, ill, injured, or aging veterans. However, stipends provided under the VA's caregiver program are not classified as earned income, which prevents caregivers from building retirement credits or contributing to savings.

As a result, many face long-term financial insecurity after their caregiving role ends.

The 3R Act takes an important step to close this gap by expanding:

Reemployment and transition support

Education and training opportunities

Retirement planning resources and policy solutions

National Spotlight Reinforces the Need

Momentum behind caregiver policy is being amplified at the national level, most recently at the Elizabeth Dole Foundation's 11th Annual National Convening on Military and Veteran Caregiving, held May 19 in Washington, D.C.

The Beacon

June 2026

The convening brought together senior federal leaders, bipartisan lawmakers, advocates, and caregivers — including VA Secretary Doug Collins, former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), chairman of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee. These high-profile attendees highlight the progress that’s been made, despite the work still ahead

At the event, the foundation launched its National Blueprint for Action, a roadmap to strengthen support for the 14.3 million Americans caring for wounded, ill, or injured servicemembers and veterans. Developed with input from across government, industry, and the nonprofit sector (including organizations like MOAA and other veterans groups), the blueprint emphasizes emotional and mental wellness, economic mobility, caregiving youth and families, and supportive care ecosystems.

Broader national findings show caregivers provide an estimated \$119 billion in annual care while many households face significant financial strain tied to lost income and long-term economic insecurity. Discussions held at the event, along with the blueprint’s priorities, reinforce a clear conclusion that support requires not just recognition, but targeted policy solutions like the Caregiver 3R bill that address the emotional well-being, financial stability, and retirement security needs within the military and veteran community.

Time to Finish the Job

As we close out the Month of the Military Caregiver, the message is clear: It’s time to move the Caregiver 3R bill toward the finish line. Support MOAA’s caregiver advocacy efforts by reaching out to your lawmakers via our Legislative Action Center.

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

The Beacon

June 2026

Webmaster	MAJ Sidney (Bill) Beddow, USA (Ret)	info@moaasusquehanna.org
Director	MAJ Jessica Ryu, USMC, Active	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	Vacant	

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:

The Beacon

June 2026

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.

MOAA SIGNATURE GROUPS

**Join MOAA Leadership and your fellow MOAA members
on these hosted cruises and land tours.**

July 12-21, 2026	Highlights of Eastern Europe River Cruise	9-nights from \$3,999
October 1-10, 2026	Western Europe Yacht Cruise	9-nights from \$4,999
April 25-May 2, 2027	Castles Along the Rhine River Cruise	7-nights from \$4,199
July 19-27, 2027	France & Spain Yacht Cruise	8-nights from \$5,799
September 14-25, 2027	Circle Iceland Yacht Cruise	11-nights from \$8,999
Sept. 25-Oct. 4, 2027	Battlefields of WWI & WWII Tour	10 days from \$6,495

GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES *from* The Official Travel Agency of MOAA



Toll-Free Telephone: **1-800-211-5107**

Email Address: **mail@MOAAvac.com**



For complete details, including detailed day-by-day itinerary, please visit us online

The Beacon

June 2026



**Standing with you
at every stage.**

1-800-247-2192

www.moaainsurance.com/plans

100392

The Beacon

June 2026



DATE:
JUNE 12TH



TIME:
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM



LOCATION:
**BALTIMORE CITY
WAR MEMORIAL BUILDING**
101 N GAY STREET, BALTIMORE, MD 21202



FOCUSING ON
WOMEN VETERAN
OWNED BUSINESSES



LAUNCH OF THE
WVIP AMBASSADOR
PROGRAM

Building Legacy. Expanding Impact.



WOMEN'S HEALTH
WORKSHOP AND
PROCUREMENT
PANEL DISCUSSION



MEET RESOURCE
PARTNERS &
NETWORKING



HEAR FROM STATE,
FEDERAL AND CITY
PROCUREMENT
PROFESSIONALS



BOXED LUNCH
PROVIDED

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH




REGISTER HERE!



POINTS OF CONTACT:

 Roslyn.jones1@maryland.gov

 danielle.davis2@maryland.gov

 jill.muth@baltimorecity.gov

She Served. She Leads. She Inspires.

COL (Ret) Rick G. Sayre, CG®, CGL®, FUGA



Rick Sayre, CG®, CGL®, FUGA, is a long-time researcher, course coordinator, instructor, and lecturer at national conferences and seminars. Rick's areas of expertise encompass records relating to: military, land, using maps in genealogy, urban research, the National Archives, government documents, and Irish research. Rick a past-president of the of the Board for the Certification of Genealogists. He is also a fellow of the Utah Genealogical Association (UGA).

The Beacon

June 2026



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 _____@_____

MOAA National Member ___ No ___ Yes MOAA National Membership Number _____

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" 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

You may also pay at the Chapter website, logon, go to My Account and then click Renew Your Chapter Membership, or you may pay online at the MOAA National website

[Susquehanna Chapter Dues Payments - Cheddar Up](#)

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.moaasusquehanna.org