

December 2023

Website: <http://lincolnlandmoaa.org>

Upcoming Events

- December 8, 2023, Northfield Center, Springfield
- February 9, 2024, location TBD
- April 12, 2024, location TBD
- June 14, 2024, location TBD
- August 9, 2024, location TBD
- October 11, 2024, location TBD
- December 13, 2024, location TBD

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THE SALUTE—Never Stop Serving...



Next Meeting Information

Dinner Meeting/Christmas Social and Scholarship Auction Friday, December 8, 2023

**Location: Northfield Center,
3280 Northfield Dr, Springfield, IL 62702
Opal and Onyx Rooms
(Enter at Northfield II Entrance)
Social Hour at 6:00PM
Dinner at 7:00PM
Scholarship Auction to Follow Dinner**

**COST: \$33.00 Per Person
Dress: Business Casual (Christmas Attire Welcome as well)**

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE NOT LATER THEN 5PM on Wednesday, December 6th

ONLINE REGISTRATION OPEN NOW at

**<https://lincolnlandmoaa.org>
or by Contact by Phone (Call or Text):
Dave Knieriem - 217-899-5526
Email: dknieriem@casscomm.com
Let us know how many will attend.**

**MENU: Down Home Dinner Buffet
Tossed Salad with Choice of Dressing
Three Bean Salad
Roast Turkey and Dressing,
Baked Virginia Ham
Whipped Potatoes and Gravy
Green Beans with Bacon & Onion
Cranberry Relish, Biscuits & Rolls
Assorted Pies
Coffee, Ice Tea**

Program: Christmas Social, 2024 Officer Installation and Scholarship Auction

Scholarship Auction: We ask that the attendees bring a nice gift for auctioning.

President's Corner:

Our Chapter has a Facebook page presence on the web:

<https://www.facebook.com/MOAAincolnland> Check it out—Also, it may be accessed through our website by clicking the “F” logo near the top of the home page.

Please help us with the following major tasks we have in Lincolnland

Chapter:

1. Help us RECRUIT new members. Members are our best recruiters. Please talk to potential members within your Sphere of Influence about joining us as we NEVER STOP SERVING.
2. Please attend our meetings—We Need Your Support!
3. Please help and support our fund raising efforts within the Chapter.
4. As National MOAA says “Never Stop Serving”

Have a Wonderful Christmas and a GREAT New Year!!



Legislative Liaison Update

At the MOAA regional leaders' workshop in September we were reminded once again of the importance of MOAA members being signed up to using the Legislative Action Center on the MOAA website to "remind" our elected officials that they need to preserve and protect the **earned benefits** of America's uniformed service members.

If you haven't logged into the MOAA Advocacy page and signed into the Legislative Action Center this is your "encouragement" to do so!

As I type this, we are in one of those "one step forward, two steps back" places.

The US Congress is still looking at not having passed the appropriations bills by the end of the fiscal year which portends a government shutdown.

So, the things we thought would be in the NDAA are not yet passed and are still not certain.

Make your concerns known on the Legislative Action Center's link!

On the state level, the bill that provided property tax relief for disabled veterans with a General under Honorable conditions discharge issue was vetoed by the Governor.

We are hopeful that the Veto session will resolve the issue.

So as always, we need to be vigilant in order to be engaged with our elected officials to make sure that our concerns are heard and that they continue to take care of our troops!

That means that we must ***Never Stop Serving!***

Semper Fi – Bob Tyler



From The Chapter Chaplain

Surviving Spouse Corner: Thrift Savings Plan Considerations

Find information and resources to help guide spouse beneficiaries.

By [Capt. Kathy Thorp](#), *USN (Ret)*, *Surviving Spouse Advisory Council and MOAA board of directors member*

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is a tax-deferred retirement savings and investment plan for members of the uniformed services. When your military spouse dies, you — as the surviving spouse — will need to make many decisions about the TSP's future in your financial planning.

For spouse beneficiaries of deceased participants' TSP accounts with a share of the balance of \$200 or more, TSP will establish a beneficiary participant account (BPA) in your name.

Having a good financial planner, who is particularly familiar with the TSP, is the key. He or she can guide you to the best option for your new investment plan, known now to you as a BPA.

According to [TSP.gov](#), as the owner of a TSP BPA, benefits include:

- a diversified choice of investment options, including individual funds; professionally designed Lifecycle (L) Funds, which mix the individual funds with an eye toward specific target dates; and an option for investing in mutual funds
- tax-deferred earnings on traditional money
- tax-free earnings on Roth money if qualified
- low administrative and investment expenses
- the ability to roll your beneficiary participant account over to an existing civilian or uniformed services TSP account if you have one
- a variety of distribution options

Learn all that you can through hosts of various veteran financial planners' podcasts, websites such as [MOAA.org](#), and other social platforms. The most vital of all these is the [TSP webpage](#), where you will find a plethora of resources for your perusal.

From The Survivor Outreach Coordinator

It was a pleasure meeting so many Officers and spouses who continue to preserve the Corps and work toward the future of our military. I plan to provide information useful for survivors.

Eligibility for a Survivor Access Card.

1. You may receive either a Digital Automated Installation Entry card or the Survivor Access Card DA Form 1602. The type of card issued is determined by the installation entry procedures at the installation you are applying.
2. If you are planning to use your Survivor Access Card at a new installation for the first time you will need to register the card at the new location's visitor control center. You are encouraged to contact the installation you are visiting in advance to verify local procedures.
3. Eligible surviving Family members who meet the criteria to receive the Gold Star Lapel Button or Next of Kin (NOK) Lapel Button including widow or widower, parent, child, stepchild, child through adoption, brother, half-brother, sister and half-sister and stepsiblings are eligible to receive the Survivor Access Card. Additionally, the custodial parent or guardian of a surviving child is eligible to apply.
4. Surviving Family members who already have a military identification card granting installation access, such as a DD Form 1173 or Common Access Card (CAC)(Usually Retirees) are not eligible to receive the Survivor Access Card.

Any questions feel free to email me at michelle.r.rutherford3.ctr.@army.mil.

Best to all,

Michelle Rutherford

Survivor Outreach Coordinator

Illinois National Guard

THE SALUTE—Never Stop Serving....



PROVIDING CRISIS RELIEF TO OUR NATION'S HEROES

Together, we can offer support and stability to the uniformed services and veteran communities during a crisis.



OUR GOAL

Our goal is to raise \$1 million to endow The MOAA Foundation's Crisis Relief Fund and continue our great work.



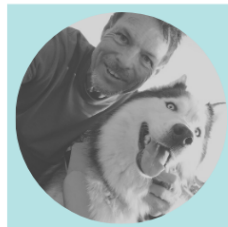
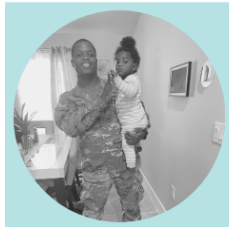
WHY CRISIS RELIEF?

More than 12 million veterans without a VA disability rating have virtually no support when disaster strikes.



CAN YOU HELP?

Our hope is your generous contribution will help us reach our goal to fund this program in perpetuity.



READY TO ASSIST

In April 2020, The MOAA Foundation launched an emergency COVID-19 Relief Fund to support uniformed services families impacted by the pandemic.

As the pandemic has ebbed, we know crisis-related needs of uniformed services families and veterans still exist.

To answer the call for help, we established The MOAA Foundation Crisis Relief Fund — an enduring emergency relief fund to assist uniformed services personnel, veterans, and their families (including caregivers and survivors) in the midst of crisis.

WHAT SETS US APART



Our streamlined application takes less than 20 minutes to complete, saving applicants the time they need to address other urgent priorities.



Funds reach an approved applicant's bank account within days of approval — timely relief when it can have the most impact.



Financial grants are awarded to qualifying applicants to help with housing costs, utilities, medical and insurance bills, groceries, and more.



100% of our Crisis Relief applicants would recommend our program to others in need.



(800) 234-6622



moaa_foundation@moaa.org



charities.moaa.org/crisisrelief

Lincoln Land Chapter MOAA

PO Box 9435
Springfield, IL 62791-9435

David Miller
Phone: (217) 415-2837
or 217-761-3973.

Email:
david.b.miller32.nfg@mail.mil

[http://
lincolnlandmoaa.org](http://lincolnlandmoaa.org)



Our Purpose—Serving the entire Military Community locally & nationally

Our Motivation—Supporting our most reliable asset—the US military member

Our Means—Informing legislators, supporting local events & organizations

Our Membership—Commissioned Officers of the Eight Uniformed Services (USA, USMC, USN, USAF, US Space Force, USCG, NOAA, USPHS) who strongly believe in supporting a volunteer force for the safety and security of our country

MISSION OF THE LINCOLN LAND CHAPTER

Military Officers Association of America

The Lincoln Land Chapter's mission is to foster fraternal relations among the retired, active and former uniformed services and their National Guard or reserve components;

to protect the rights and interest of same to include dependents and survivors;

to further promote useful services for members of the former and current members of the Armed Forces and their dependents and survivors;

and to serve the community to the fullest extent possible.

MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.

While MOAA is permitted by law to lobby—and does so actively—its status as a tax-exempt veterans organization precludes it from participating in political activities, which are defined as intervening directly or indirectly in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Stated briefly: the association may advocate issues, but it may not advocate the election or defeat of particular candidates or political parties. This newsletter follows the policies of MOAA National.

**Now and Always
We'll be There.**



90228

1-800-247-2192 • www.moaainsurance.com



MOAA Legislative Action Center

You can help MOAA by visiting their legislative action center and contacting your elected officials regarding pending legislation MOAA is working. You can reach the Legislative Action Center at the following email address: takeaction.moaa.org

Reasons to Join a MOAA Chapter

You know the value of belonging to MOAA and your chapter. But when you're talking to a potential new chapter member, it's important to remember that many officers might have only limited knowledge of MOAA's chapter system.

Creating a dialogue and asking open-ended questions is the best way to find out if and how a chapter membership could help a prospective member.

Find out as much as you can about their priorities in order to tailor a response that is more likely to resonate with them personally.

Here are some aspects of membership that may appeal to them.

1. **Make yourself heard.** MOAA's chapters provide critical grassroots support for MOAA's national legislative agenda. Chapter members let their legislators know what's on their minds and open doors for MOAA's legislative team in Washington, D.C.

2. **Give back to the community.** Chapter members are MOAA's ambassadors in their communities, supporting countless programs that make a difference in the lives of others. These members continue to serve and are giving back in the truest sense.

3. **Value added to chapter members' lives.** MOAA chapters sponsor interesting programs and opportunities to interact with civic, political, military, and business leaders on issues important to members.

4. **Networking with fellow officers.** Chapters include second-career members in the work force and retired service members who have contacts in their communities that can be valuable to transitioning officers.

5. **Stay informed.** Chapter newsletters, websites, and meetings provide you with the latest information on local, state, and national issues and changes to military benefits.

6. **Influencing state legislation.** Most states have a council of chapters that unites chapters in the state. These councils, and independent chapters in states without a council, often lobby for and pass state-level legislation that affects military members and their families, such as exempting military retired pay from state income tax or increasing funding for state veterans' programs.

7. **Camaraderie with a purpose.** MOAA chapters unite active duty, former, and retired officers from every branch of service, including National Guard and Reserve, as well as surviving spouses, offering the opportunity to connect with others with similar backgrounds and interest and develop close and lasting friendships.

2024 Lincoln Land Chapter

MOAA Meeting Dates

February 9, 2024—Location TBD

April 12, 2024—Location TBD

June 14, 2024—Location TBD

August 9, 2024—Location TBD

October 11, 2024—Location TBD

December 13, 2024—Location TBD

**2024 Golf Outing—(September 21, 2024)—Shamblee Golf Course, Lake Petersburg,
IL**

**Merry Christmas and A Great New Year to All
Chapter Members!!**



All about MOAA

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military service members and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers. MOAA members proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country: Never Stop Serving. MOAA's greatest mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families, which is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's capital. MOAA's experts in Washington are there to support legislation that benefits the military community and are equally vigilant when fighting to stop legislation that threatens our livelihood. The larger our numbers, the greater our voice. Membership is open to active duty, former, retired, and National Guard and Reserve commissioned and warrant officers of the uniformed services and their surviving spouses. MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization. With more than 350,000 members from every branch of service - including active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retired, former officers, and their families - we are a powerful force speaking for a strong national defense and representing the interests of military officers at every stage of their careers. MOAA's highest priority is providing first-class service to our members. We are the leading voice on compensation and benefit matters for all members of the military community. We provide expert advice and guidance to our members. While the association does advocate a strong national defense, it does not, as an association, become involved in matters pertaining to military strategy or individual weapons systems of the various services. The association's board of directors has long believed that such decisions can be made only by those who have all of the facts available to them: today's actively serving military leadership. The association plays an active role in military personnel matters and especially proposed legislation affecting the career force, the retired community, and veterans of the uniformed services. MOAA's overarching goals are captured in its resolutions, which reflect the views of the entire membership. The membership provides input and votes on resolutions every two years (on even years). While MOAA is permitted by law to lobby - and does so actively - its status as a tax-exempt veterans organization precludes it from participating in political activities, which are defined as intervening directly or indirectly in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Stated briefly, the association may advocate issues, but it may not advocate the election or defeat of particular candidates or political parties.