

**October 2022**

**Website: <http://lincolnlandmoaa.org>**

**Upcoming Events**

- October 14, 2022, Northfield Center, Springfield.
- November date TBD, Thanksgiving event at Champaign/ Urbana
- November date TBD, Gold Star Dinner, location TBD
- December 09, 2022, Northfield Center, Springfield
- February 10, 2023, Northfield Center, Springfield.
- April 14, 2023, (Indoors) Island Bay Yacht Club

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# **THE SALUTE—Never Stop Serving...**



## **Next Meeting Information**

**Our next meeting will be 14 October 2022 at the Northfield Center**  
**Cost for the meal will be \$32.00 per person**

**Dinner Meeting - Friday, October 14, 2022**

**Location: Northfield Center, 3280 Northfield Dr, Springfield, IL 62702**  
**Opal and Onyx Rooms- Enter at Northfield II)**  
**Social Hour at 6:00PM, Dinner at 7:00PM**  
**COST: \$32 per person**

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE NOT LATER THEN 5PM on WEDNESDAY, October 12th**

**Click HERE to Register **ONLINE NOW** < Caution-<https://www.lincolnlandmoaa.org/reservations20221014> >**

**or by Contacting by Phone:**  
**Dave Miller - 217-415-2837**

**Dave Knieriem - 217-899-5526**

**(or email at [dknieriem@casscomm.com](mailto:dknieriem@casscomm.com) < Caution-<mailto:dknieriem@casscomm.com?subject=August%2012%20MOAA%20Chapter%20Meeting> > )**

***Let us know how many will attend.***

**MENU: DOWN HOME BUFFET**

**Tossed Salad and 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 Pie**

**Coffee and Iced Tea**

President's Corner:

Our Chapter has a Facebook page presence on the web:

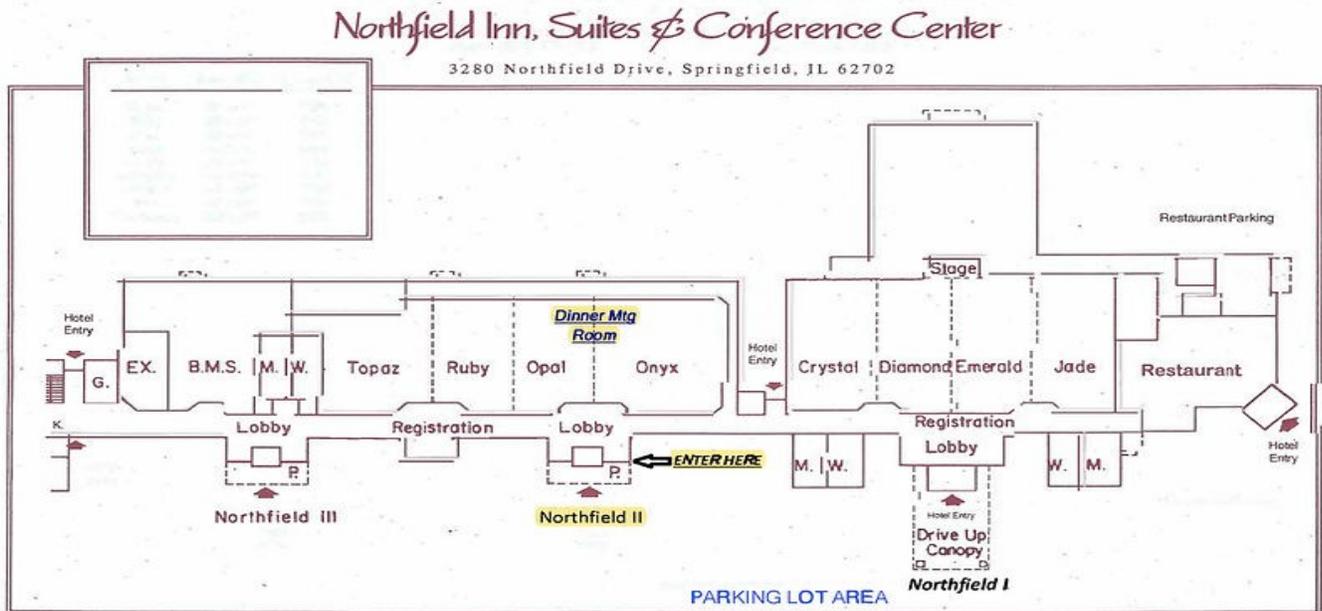
<https://www.facebook.com/MOAAIncolnland>

Check it out—Also, it may be accessed through our website by clicking the “F” logo near the top of the home page.

2022 Golf Outing

The 2022 Golf Outing was a HUGE success!! Weather was Great!! We had 47 golfers and 21 sponsors. I would appreciate more Chapter member involvement at our 2023 golf outing.

Our meeting location at Northfield Center



## From the Survivor Outreach Services Coordinator

### ***Greeting, MOAA Members!***

Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> begins the autumnal equinox, which means we are in the last quarter of 2022. (No, I can't believe it either...where did 2022 go?) Fall is my favorite season, by far. Regardless of season, Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) strives to honor our fallen, support our survivors, and keep our survivors connected to our military family. One of the ways SOS does this is by supporting or facilitating events throughout the year, fall and winter included. As such, we invite our MOAA Survivors to attend any of the events identified below.

### **September**

#### **Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup> – VA/DOD Survivor's Forum**

*(This forum is open to anyone receiving military benefits or entitlements and anyone providing service or support for those receiving military benefits or entitlements.)*

This is a VA/DOD hosted, virtual forum which brings together the subject matter experts from the many different military benefits and entitlements available to service members, veterans, family members, and survivors. The topics to be covered in this meeting include Arlington National Cemetery eligibility, ID Cards, SBP/DIC offset elimination, and more. The main platform for the meeting is Microsoft Teams, but a call-in/audio only option is available, too. If you prefer the call-in platform and you have email access, I recommend contacting Mr. Scott Bell at [Christopher.bell1@va.gov](mailto:Christopher.bell1@va.gov) to request an email with the slide deck of the day's presenters. I have always found the information presented in these meetings to be valuable and beneficial in assisting my survivors. You may use one of the options below to attend the meeting.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 276 173 510 962

Passcode: 3chLeQ

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

#### **Or Call-in (audio only)**

[+1 872-701-0185](tel:+18727010185),477950867# United States, Chicago

Phone Conference ID: 477 950 867#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

## October

**Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> - Maroa Post Office Dedication** for Illinois Army National Guard Soldier, SPC Jeremy Ridlen. (200 E. Main Street in Maroa, IL) – **10:00 AM**  
SPC Ridlen was killed in action on May 23, 2004 in Fallujah, Iraq.

**Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> - The Annual Trunk or Treat at Camp Lincoln** (1301 N. MacArthur Boulevard, Springfield) – **1:00 PM to 3:00 PM** in the parking lot and on the drill floor of building 10 (The building in which the PX is located). This is an annual event sponsored by the Illinois National Guard's Youth Program for the benefit of Illinois National Guard kids. Survivor Outreach Services participates each year so that surviving children of deceased service members have an opportunity to participate. I will have a trunk full of treats and an SOS Program resource table available. You are invited to bring your children or grandchildren to this event. There will be games and other activities available for the kids, as well.

### **NOTES:**

If you plan to attend, please let me know ahead of time.

If you would like to donate candy for the event, please contact me.

## November

### **Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> – A Holiday Potluck for Survivors**

The details on this event are not yet finalized, but it will be in Springfield, and I think it will be a lunchtime potluck, possibly Noon-2? (I will finalize the details soon and ensure you received the finalized information.) I wanted to mention it now though, because this is a MOAA LLC-sponsored event paid for with the Community Outreach Grant funding we received earlier this year. I am super excited about this event, and we would very much like to have Survivors from MOAA LLC, as well as MOAA LLC Members attend this event. I will be inviting IL SOS surviving spouses with children aged 18 and under to this event.

### **NOTES:**

If you are the spouse of a deceased service member and you think you will attend, please let me know by Friday, November 4, 2022.

If you are a MOAA member and you would like to support our survivors and promote the benefits of MOAA for service members, family members, and survivors, please contact me or Dave Miller, if you plan to attend.

Survivors attending this event will go home with a gift basket filled with “all the fixin’s” for a spectacular holiday meal at home. ☐

## December

### **Saturday, December 17, 2022 – Wreaths Across America, 10:00 AM - NOON**

Each year, I invite service members and survivors to accompany me in placing wreaths at a local cemetery. I haven't decided on a location for this year's wreath-placement yet, but it will be here in Central Illinois and based on feedback from Survivors. I usually participate at Camp Butler, but I would like to participate at a new location this year.

If you would like to participate in placing wreaths on the graves of fallen veterans, please contact me by November 1, 2022. By then, I will be able to tell you which cemetery and the timeline for the day. If you would like to sponsor a wreath for us to place, contact me, and I will give you the instructions on how to do that.

I hope you will consider attending one or more of the events mentioned above. For more information or to let me know which events you plan to attend, my contact information is:

[Christine.A.Milchuck.CTR@Army.MiL](mailto:Christine.A.Milchuck.CTR@Army.MiL) or 217-761-3382 (office)/217-720-9574 (cell)

Wishing you a Happy Autumn!

Chris Milchuck

### **Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> – A Holiday Potluck for Survivors**

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This is a **MOAA LLC-sponsored event** paid for with the Community Outreach Grant funding we received earlier this year. We are very excited about this event, and we would very much like to have Survivors from MOAA LLC, as well as MOAA LLC Members attend this event. Chris Milchuck will be inviting IL SOS surviving spouses with children aged 18 and under to this event.

Please mark your calendar and attend this event. We need a good showing from the chapter.

## Chaplain's Column

**Surviving Spouse Corner: Get Involved in MOAA's Advocacy Efforts—Surviving spouses play an important role in educating elected officials about key legislation.** *By [Dr. Vivianne Wersel](#), MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisory Council member*

This spring, MOAA members contacted all 535 members of Congress during the association's annual Advocacy in Action event, conducting more than 235 meetings and sending over 7,500 letters. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and the challenges of security on Capitol Hill, MOAA members met with their elected officials either in face-to-face or virtual meetings. MOAA's three legislative priorities were supporting the Major Richard Star Act, supporting the Stop Copay Overpay Act; and ensuring a competitive military pay raise.

Why get involved with Advocacy in Action? Volunteers are well trained to understand the process of setting up meetings and communicating with elected officials as well as having a better understanding of legislation. In addition, participation cultivates relationships with staffers and members of Congress from your district and state. The experience you gain is beneficial to help support other legislation as a constituent or with a group to help improve survivor benefits. Military survivors are the stakeholders to the legislation at large. Congress continuously adjusts military survivor benefits. It is important surviving spouse members exercise their rights to educate staffers and members of Congress and remain vigilant to protect and improve survivor benefits. MOAA headquarters' staff does an outstanding job educating members so they can participate in grassroots advocacy efforts.

**Here are some ways to contribute and keep MOAA's priorities on Congress' radar:**

Send pre-written letters to Capitol Hill using MOAA's **Legislative Action Center**.

- Call elected officials using MOAA's direct line to the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 1-866-272-6622.
- Engage with congressional members via social media, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Stay current with MOAA's legislative efforts and subscribe to *The MOAA Newsletter*. Customize your letters and conversations with elected officials; embed a personal story.

Congress will act only if they are inspired by their voters. Join MOAA's effort to help improve benefits for military, veterans, retirees, family, and survivors.

## Legislative Liaison Update

Well, we got the PACT Act enacted!

As you know there were multiple efforts to “encourage” Congress to take action on behalf of our service members exposed to toxic fumes. Thanks for your efforts.

That said, the Defense authorization Bill is still tied up with the funding bills, so we aren’t over the goal line yet.

I encourage each of you to log on to your MOAA site ([www.MOAA.org](http://www.MOAA.org)) select the “advocacy: tab and then select the “Legislation Action Center” link on the left side so that you can take action on the issues we care about.

The website has been improved to make it easier to send e-mails to Congressmembers.

There is even a tutorial to answer most of your questions.

Congress will be busy heading into the election. We need to make sure that they don’t forget about their – and our – servicemembers.

Check out the Advocacy Action Center, and then take action! ***Let’s Never Stop Serving!***

Semper Fi – Bob



## MOAA's Legislative Priorities for 2022

- **Sustain pay raises and adequate BAH for the troops and COLA raises for retirees.**
- **Ensure the Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service continue to receive pay during a government shutdown.**
- **Protect the value of the military health care benefit.**
- **Protect the Military Health System pharmacy benefit, and achieve flexibility in TRICARE pharmacy copays.**
- **Address barriers to accessing care within the MHS, including TRICARE coverage gaps and mental health care access challenges.**
- **Protect family support programs, and ensure military-provided services (housing, PCS, child care, youth programs, financial counseling) are readily available and meet standards for quality and costs.**
- **Achieve equity of benefits, protections, and administrative support for Guard/Reserve members consistent with their active-duty counterparts.**
- **Sustain Veterans Health Administration (VHA) foundational missions and services.**
- **Reform the presumptive process to support veterans claiming service-connected disabilities for toxic exposures.**
- **Achieve concurrent receipt of service-earned retirement pay and VA disability pay.**
- **Protect full military honors and burial at Arlington National Cemetery for those currently eligible.**
- **Improve Survivor Benefits.**
- **Support a quality transition experience from active duty to veteran status for all servicemembers.**
- **Recognize the pandemic continues to affect the lives of our servicemembers.**

## Lincoln Land Chapter MOAA

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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

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### **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: [take.action.moaa.org](mailto:take.action.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.

**LINCOLN Land Chapter Leadership 2022-2023****IL-03 Lincoln Land Chapter**

**\*President, BOD:** David Miller, LTC USA, Ret, david.b.miller32.nfg@army.mil, or miller42@aol.com.

**\*1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Webmaster, Dinner/contracts, BOD:** David Knieriem, Maj USA, Ret, dknieriem@casscomm.com.

**\*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Programs, Personal affairs, BOD:** Nathan Clemmer, LtCol USAF, Ret, Nathan.Clemmer@gmail.com

**\*Treasurer, BOD:** Eugene (Gene) Bian, COL USAR, Ret, gb2416@comcast.net

**\*Secretary, Communications & Publicity, BOD:** Maj Kory Harms, Kory.l.Harms.mil@army.mil

**Legislative Liaison:** Dr. Robert Tyler, Col USMC, Ret, robtttyler@msn.com

**Membership Chair:** David Falk, Maj USMC, Ret, falkda63@aol.com

**Immediate Past President:** Darrell L. Roll, COL USA Ret, darrell.roll@sbcglobal.net

**Scholarships:** Dr. Mark DePue, LTC USA, Ret, DePuemr@outlook.com

**Surviving Spouse Representative:** Christine (Chris) Milchuck, Christine.A.Milchuck.ctr@army.mil

**Honorary Chapter Chaplain:** Justin Everson, je3453@gmail.com

\*BOD = Board of Directors



2023 Lincoln Land Chapter

MOAA Meeting Dates

February 10, 2023—Northfield Center, Springfield

April 14, 2023—(indoors) Island Bay Yacht Club, Springfield

June 9, 2023—The Beach House, Decatur

Fifth Annual Golf Outing— August 23, 2023—Shambolee Golf Course, Petersburg, Illinois  
(Tentative)

August 11, 2023—(Outdoors) Island Bay Yacht Club, Springfield

October 13, 2023—Northfield Center, Springfield

December 8, 2023—Northfield Center, Springfield~Annual Christmas Meeting/Member  
Auction



## **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.