

December 2025

Website: <http://lincolnlandmoaa.org>
Facebook.com/
MOAALincolnland/

Upcoming Events

- December 12, 2025-
location TBD, Program TBD

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THE SALUTE—Never Stop Serving....



MOAA[®]
Lincoln Land Chapter

Next Meeting Information

Members of Lincoln Land MOAA Chapter

Next Chapter Meeting Information

Christmas Gala and Scholarship Fundraiser

Date: Friday, December 12, 2025

Location: Northfield Conference Center and Suites
3280 Northfield Dr, Springfield, IL 62702, Onyx Room

(Enter at Northfield II Entrance)

(Click Here for Directions - Google Maps)

Social Hour at 6:00PM Dinner at 7:00PM

COST: \$37.00 per person

Dress: Business Casual (Christmas Attire Welcome as well)

THIS IS A MAJOR FUND RAISER FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. PLEASE SHOW YOUR CONTINUED AND NEEDED SUPPORT TO THE PROGRAM AND OUR COMMITMENTS

We earnestly request a \$50 donation per member attendee towards the Scholarship Fund. We would also encourage additional donations to the Scholarship Fund.

You may give your donation when you check in for the December Meeting with a check to the Chapter.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Program: Christmas Gala – Social, Dinner, and Mixer (Holiday Music to accompany our Social Hour)

Scholarship Fundraiser

Officer Installation for 2026-2027

Our Special Keynote Speaker: Michelle Rutherford - Illinois Survivor Outreach Services - Support Coordination

Topic: "Surviving the Holidays"

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE NOT LATER THEN 5PM on Monday, December 8th
REGISTER ONLINE NOW BY Clicking Here or by Contact by Phone (Call or Text):R**

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

Pumpkin, Apple, and Mixed Berry Pies

Coffee, Iced Tea, Water

President's Corner November 2025

Greetings to members of Lincoln Land Chapter MOAA. As we approach the Christmas Season, and end of 2025 ... here is my latest message of what is currently going on in MOAA National and the Lincoln Land Chapter

Next Meeting – Northfield Conference Center and Suites, Springfield, IL

December 12, 2025

Christmas Gala and Scholarship Fundraiser

Officer Installation for 2026-27

Program: Michelle Rutherford

Illinois Survivor Outreach Service – Support Coordinator

Officers for 2026-2027

Per our Chapter By-Laws, the election of officers for 2026-2027 occurred at the October meeting in Decatur on October 10, 2025. They will be installed at the December 2025 meeting.

They are:

President	Dave Knieriem, Maj, USAF (Ret)
1st Vice President	Kory Harms, Maj, USA (Ret)
2nd Vice President	Jim Forman, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Secretary	Dave Miller, Lt Col, USA (Ret)
Treasurer	Gene Bian, Col, USA (Ret)

Scholarship Fundraiser

As noted above, the December Meeting will be our Christmas Gala and Scholarship Fundraiser at Northfield Center – Springfield on Friday, December 12, 2025. We are planning to have a FUN and FESTIVE evening of relaxation, music, celebration of the Christmas and Holiday season, and raise funds for our important

Scholarship Fund.

Please note that we are NOT having an auction, so we are requesting donations for the membership. We request that each member contribute at least \$50 to the scholarship cause. Also, we would ENCOURAGE and accept additional donations to the fund,

If you are not planning to or unable to attend the gala in December, we encourage a donation to the Scholarship Fund.

This is a PARTICULARLY important Chapter project and obligation we support. We need YOUR help and generosity to make this happen. As noted in the October meeting, our annual obligation for the Scholarship Fund is \$3,900, as follows:

\$2,000.00 allocated to the Lincoln Land Chapter Scholarship.

\$100.00 allocated to the ROTC awards (4 @ \$25 (3-University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and 1-Eastern Illinois University))

\$1,800.00 allocated to the 6 JROTC High School unit scholarships/awards (\$300 for 1 cadet/unit):
Danville, Olney, Mattoon, Springfield High School, Springfield Southeast, and Springfield Lamphier

Note that our annual Golf Outing represents ONLY PART of our scholarship funding source. We need YOUR GENEROSITY and COMMITMENT with donations to meet our commitment to this extremely important project.

I ASK THAT YOU GIVE GENEROUSLY, as you have in the past! I hope to see you at our Christmas Gala.

7th Annual Golf Outing:

This year's outing was EXTRAORDINARILY successful, due to the splendid work by Lt Col Jim For-man, chair for the event, and ALL the great support that he received for the project. The weather for that day was PERFECT! There was a great turn out of golfing teams that had a wonderful time in support of our fundraising tournament. We will be presenting the results and funds generated from the event at the

December meeting.

If you would like to see a recap and photos of the event, please go to our Chapter Website:

<https://www.lincolnlandmoaa.org/golf-outing-2025-recap>

Planning is already in progress for the 8th Annual Golf Outing in 2026.

MOAA – Why We Exist

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization preserving and protecting service-earned benefits for uniformed servicemembers 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.

Importance of MOAA Chapter Membership:

Along with a MOAA National Membership, it is important to know what chapters do for us and the organization,

A MOAA chapter allows you to

Engage in local advocacy and community service

Build a local network with fellow officers and their families

Stay informed about state and local issues that affect military families.

Chapters provide opportunities to support the national organization's legislative agenda through grassroots efforts and connect with other members for social and professional development

do not know the structure we will be adopting, but it could be smaller “satellites”/sub chapters attached to Lincoln Land Chapter. More to follow on that subject in the upcoming months. We are anxious to see how we can grow our chapter in new and innovative ways, moving into the future.

Also, as a reminder, please contact me if you have trouble updating your personal information in the MOAA National Database. I am here to help serve you as I can.

AND ... We need your help to make Lincoln Land Chapter and MOAA National even better organizations. Here is how you can help right now:

Recruit new members – you are ALL recruiters.

I ask you to attend as many of our meetings as possible and invite guests to attend.

Support our Chapter fund-raising efforts to support ALL our projects.

Please browse the Chapter Website and our Facebook presence and read our Chapter Newsletter to keep informed concerning events and issues of the Chapter and MOAA:

Website: <https://lincolnlandmoaa.org>

Newsletter – Available on the website and emailed to you.

Chapter Facebook Page (Still a “work in progress:
<https://www.facebook.com/MOAAlincolnland>

ALSO ... “NEVER STOP SERVING”!!

Electronic Media Updates:

In the past few weeks, I have been working on our electronic media presence:

On the website, I have added a new icon and link on the header to take you to the MOAA You Tube Channel. You will find some interesting short videos from MOAA.

Our Chapter Web Home Page is: <https://lincolnlandmoaa.org>

When you click on the YouTube icon link at the top of the page, it will open the page: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=MOAA

Chapter Facebook Page, I will try to keep this updated with our events and items of interest for the Chapter members. Please visit the Facebook Page and “Like” it and follow it. The Facebook address is: <https://www.facebook.com/MOAAlincolnland>

Please provide your thoughts and input to me to aid me in keeping these media sites relevant, interesting, and up to date.

Upcoming Meetings:

December 12, 2025 – Northfield Center, Springfield, IL

Christmas Gala and Scholarship Fund Raiser (More information to follow soon)

Legislative Liaison Update

Whew! The government shutdown is finally over. Congress has funded three of the twelve appropriation bills, but the NDAA is not one of the three! So, the uniformed personnel issues that MOAA cares about are still in the “sausage grinder.” That means we need to remain vigilant. One way to do that is to be active on the MOAA Legislative Action Center Link. To get there

Log into MOAA.org

Click on “Advocacy”

Click on “Legislative Action Center” (you may need to establish an account). You will find:

Advocacy campaigns with prepared emails to YOUR legislators

Advocacy issues listed by interest areas

The latest advocacy news

And more

Exploring the Action Center will take one to links to check on legislation moving through the Congress, listings of which members have signed onto specific legislation, and even more. It’s a great place to go “spelunking”!

Remember that with only 100 veterans serving in Congress, it is important that the rest of the folks on the Hill hear from veterans – veterans who have Never Stopped Serving! That’s us!

Semper Fi – Bob Tyler



Tips for Meeting With Your Legislators

Start preparing now for upcoming August congressional recess meetings with your elected officials.

Every year, lawmakers return to their home states and districts for a monthlong recess. This year, they are scheduled to be back home from Aug. 5 to Sept. 6.

Council and chapter leaders are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to meet with their elected officials to help further MOAA's legislative objectives.

Your voice is essential because legislators want to hear from you, their constituents. Schedule a visit and meet face-to-face. Some elected legislators might even welcome an opportunity to address an entire chapter.

Preparation is key to a successful meeting. Here are some tips:

1. Familiarize yourself with MOAA's positions on significant issues that might arise. Visit [MOAA's Legislative Action Center](#) to find details about legislative campaigns, contact information for elected officials, pre-formatted letters to lawmakers, and much more. If this is your first time visiting the action center, you might see a prompt to fill out a sign-up form. You will need to complete this step before you can send messages to Congress.
2. Make sure a legislator understands the purpose of a visit before a meeting. Every lawmaker deals with a wide variety of legislative issues and cannot be expected to be an expert on every one of them.
3. Become acquainted with the legislator's local office staff, especially those with responsibility in areas of interest to MOAA members. Don't consider it a put-down if you don't get to visit a legislator in person. They are busy and rely on staff for advice.

If a meeting with a legislator involves a chapter visit, reserve time for a question-and-answer period. Provide a legislator with advance notice of the kinds of questions or issues he or she should be prepared to address during a visit. Key questions should be prepared in advance and given to designated chapter members to ensure the session is productive.

From The Survivor Outreach Services Coordinator



Survivor Outreach Services

*Many choose new goals for the beginning of the Year.
Organization is a great place to start. DFAS, BENEFEDS, MILCONNECT
and the VA are all great online resources and a great place to start.*

*As a reminder the Survivor Benefit Plan
Marital Status Update form (Formally Certification of Eligibility) is due annual-
ly*

*on the Annuitants' birthday. If you have questions,
contact Michelle Rutherford at
michelle.r.rutherford3.ctr@army.mil or 217-720-9574.*



Greetings from your Council Chaplain !!

By the time many of you have this issue in your hands, it will be close to Thanksgiving or even at it, or, it will be close to the Christmas Season. So, in the interest of saying something which would be suitable for both occasions, I would like to make this column about the Season of Advent which consists of about 4 weeks, the emphasis being on the first and second comings of Jesus into our world. We celebrate His first coming in that He came to complete God's Plan of salvation for us all by His suffering, death and resurrection, and the second to anticipate His Second coming to judge the world and to take the Church into Heaven. I've picked a hymn which I believe represents this Second theme of advent. "Watchmen, Tell us of the Night" by John Bowring, published in 1825, Based on Isaiah 21: 11.

The First verse reads:

Watchmen tell us of the night, what it's signs of promise are.

Traveler o'er yon mountain's height sees that glory beaming star.

Watchmen, doth its beautiful ray. Aught of joy or hope foretell ?

Traveler , yes, it brings that day, Promised Day of Israel.

Commentary by Dr. C.S. Robinson follows

Perhaps no piece can be found which is more familiar to American churches than this hymn. The brief prediction in Isaiah 11, 12 however on which it is based is one of the most obscure in the Bible. The entire prophecy is contained in two verses of the chapter and appears to bear no relationship to what goes before it, and what follows. But the image it presents is singularly dramatic and picturesque. A lonely watchman is in a tower and seems to be anxiously looking for someone to overtake the tower. The time is midnight. Then enemies are pressing hard. Suddenly an unknown voice pierces the air. The voice, unidentified, serves to bring an alert for what is sure to follow, the King of Kings returns, He defeats His enemies and a new order is established featuring peace and justice.

There is more commentary and the last sentences or two of the above is my summary of Dr Robinson's commentary.

We live in a world which loves torment and discord. They who cause it say they wish for a prosperous earth but their actions speak contrary - starting wars, starvation and poverty. Our Lord predicted all this would happen as signs of His Second Coming. St Matthew's Gospel says that when these things occur, we should lift heads for Our Redemption draws near.

Many scoff and say the idea of Jesus returning is fanciful and nonsense but what if it's true? Shouldn't our God given intelligence compel us to make reasonable inquiry? I would think so. If we look at all the predictions which tell what the Messiah was and is, they find fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth whose birth and Second coming we now celebrate.

And, so, from my house to yours, May the Blessings of the Seasons, be with you.

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.



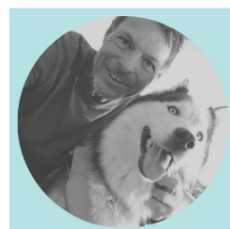
WHY CRISIS RELIEF?

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

Never Stop Serving

Lincoln Land Chapter MOAA

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[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

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.**

Our Chapter has a Facebook page presence on the web:

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

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: [take action.moaa.org](mailto:takeaction.moaa.org)

Reasons to join a MOAA Chapter

Joining a MOAA chapter offers a range of benefits and opportunities for military officers and their families. Here are some of the reasons to consider joining a MOAA chapter:

Make Yourself Heard: MOAA chapters provide critical grassroots support for MOAA's national legislative agenda, helping to protect the benefits of military servicemembers and their families.

Give Back to the Community: Chapter members serve as ambassadors in their communities, supporting various programs that positively impact the lives of others. Networking Opportunities: Chapters include second-career members in the workforce and retired servicemembers, providing valuable connections and networking opportunities. Stay Informed: Chapter newsletters, websites, and meetings offer the latest information on local, state, and national issues and changes to military benefits.

Influencing State Legislation: MOAA chapters can lobby for and pass state-level legislation that affects military members and their families. Joining a MOAA chapter is a way to contribute to the advocacy efforts of the organization and to support the rights of military service members and their families.

WHY JOIN?



As champions of the uniformed services community, MOAA is dedicated to protecting your hard-earned benefits while providing the resources, programs, content, and other support to make an active, impactful difference in your life and the lives of your family.

Our identity is defined by getting results on Capitol Hill, and we invite all officers and surviving spouses to join us in this critical fight. By becoming a dues-paying MOAA member, you will help fuel our ongoing advocacy efforts on your behalf.

For state and local issues, MOAA chapters lead the way. Find camaraderie with a purpose by joining your local chapter. Scan the QR code for more information or reach out to your local chapter.



A LEGACY OF ADVOCACY SUCCESS

Worked to establish TRICARE For Life in 2001 and to defeat multiple enrollment fee proposals since

Championed a historic pay raise for junior enlisted servicemembers in 2024

Celebrated passage of the Dole Act to provide needed support to veterans and caregivers in 2024

Other legislative wins we have played a critical role in accomplishing over the years — further demonstrating why MOAA has been named a Top Lobbyist by *The Hill* 18 years in a row:

- Modernized the GI bill for the 21st century
- Expanded benefits for veterans harmed by burn pits through the PACT Act
- Repealed the SBP-DIC Offset ('Widows' Tax')
- Enhanced protections for families residing in military housing
- Secured back pay for federal recognition of promotions
- Defeated the 'COLA minus 1 Percent' reduction in retired pay
- Halted military treatment facility downsizing
- Boosted compensation significantly for retirees with 50% VA disability or greater

STAY INFORMED ON LEGISLATIVE ISSUES AND MORE

Legislative Action Center

Our Legislative Action Center empowers you to engage with your lawmakers on issues impacting the uniformed services and veteran communities. Learn more at moaa.quorum.us.

MOAA Newsletter & Military Officer Magazine

MOAA offers a weekly e-newsletter with updates on legislation, benefits, finance, and more, plus a monthly magazine featuring in-depth coverage of military life and policy issues.

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER:

Lincoln Land Chapter

CHAPTER NAME

<http://lincolnlandmoaa.org>

CHAPTER WEBSITE

David W Knieriem, Maj, USAF (Ret)

CHAPTER LEAD

dknieriem@casscomm.com

CHAPTER LEAD CONTACT

MOAA's Key Goals for the 119th Congress

As the legislative slate resets for the 119th Congress, MOAA member engagement will become even more vital to achieving our advocacy objectives. Your advocacy ensures that MOAA and the broader community of military and veteran service organizations (MSOs/VSOs) maintain momentum for existing priorities such as the Major Richard Star Act, [which would benefit tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans](#). We also need your help to build support for new objectives and emerging issues, often via immediate action, to respond to the sporadic nature of the legislative process.

First step: Register as an advocate in [our Legislative Action Center](#). If you're already registered, send the link to a family member or friend. Remember, the Legislative Action Center is open to all who support the uniformed services community. While our advocacy team remains active on many issues not listed here, our priorities are shaped throughout the year depending on policy developments or emerging issues that necessitate an all-hands approach. Additionally, we share many interests with [The Military Coalition](#) and other stakeholders. MOAA leverages those relationships to expand our reach on Capitol Hill.

These are among MOAA's priorities for this year:

Currently Serving

Military housing: Recent reporting from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reveals the myriad challenges servicemembers in unaccompanied housing are facing. The health, safety, and privacy concerns outlined by GAO show the need for action. MOAA seeks to improve funding and condition transparency for unaccompanied housing by requiring an annual, publicly available report, which will highlight areas that require the most attention from both DoD and Congress.

Retirees/Veterans

Toxic exposure: MOAA will focus on capitalizing on our recently released report, [Ending the Wait for Toxic-Exposed Veterans](#), to advocate for veterans exposed to toxic materials during their service. While the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act has made major improvements to how toxic exposures are treated by the VA, additional measures are required. In cooperation with other VSOs, MOAA will advocate for Congress to pass legislation that shortens the time veterans must wait before their toxic exposures are acknowledged and conceded by the VA.

Family/Survivors

Spouse employment: Rates of unemployment for military spouses continue to be four to five times higher than the national average. This persistent challenge requires not only providing education and employment resources for spouses, but also incentivizing businesses to hire someone who will likely move in two to three years. The Work Opportunity Tax Credit program was established to support populations who face significant barriers to employment, and adding a military spouse target group is long overdue. Passing the Military Spouse Hiring Act will provide another important lever needed to address the critical issue of spouse unemployment.

DoD Health Care

Access to care: DoD has acknowledged that congressionally directed reforms to the Military Health System (MHS), together with U.S. medical workforce volatility, exacerbated long-standing access challenges and led to a destabilized MHS that does not consistently deliver timely care to beneficiaries. Current patient resources for reporting access problems and getting assistance navigating the MHS are inadequate. Also, it is unclear if there are mechanisms for reporting up to the Defense Health Agency so systemic access challenges can be identified and addressed. MOAA seeks a digital MHS assistance platform allowing beneficiaries to report access-to-care challenges and receive help navigating the MHS, including reporting requirements to increase visibility on barriers to access so fixable issues can be addressed.

VA Health Care

Support for caregivers: MOAA has long advocated for legislation that would improve caregiving support for veterans' families. This includes enhancements to the VA Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) and expansion of home health and long-term care services to meet current and future needs of veterans, their caregivers, and families. This year, MOAA strongly supports the reintroduction and enactment of the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act. This legislation acknowledges caregivers' invaluable contributions while addressing the significant economic and emotional burdens they face. By offering education, employment, and retirement opportunities, the legislation empowers caregivers to achieve financial security while potentially reducing the federal government's long-term economic burden.

Persistent Efforts

There are certain issues that MOAA will always advocate for until they are passed. Among these are concurrent receipt for combat wounded (Major Richard Star Act), Arlington National Cemetery access, and cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs).

MOAA will also continually monitor certain issues and will immediately mobilize the entire association, our membership, and VSO/MSO allies to ensure these issues are not negatively impacted. These issues include:

- Decrements to scheduled pay increases.
- New TRICARE or TRICARE Pharmacy Program fees.
- TRICARE cost-sharing increases that exceed military retired pay COLA or TRICARE Pharmacy Program cost sharing that exceeds common industry practice.

Unequal decrements of compensation and benefits based on rank, age, family composition, retirement status, or disability benefits.

As the work of the 119th Congress gets underway, MOAA will continue its efforts to advocate on behalf of our members and the entire uniformed services community. We will leverage our experience and our relationships on Capitol Hill and with our partners to navigate an increasingly partisan environment.

Through our efforts, MOAA will seek to ensure that servicemembers, veterans, and retirees and their families — who have sacrificed so much — continue to receive benefits earned through their service.

When MOAA Speaks, Congress Listens

Learn more about MOAA's key advocacy issues and contact your elected officials using the MOAA messaging platform.