



WELCOME TO PPCMOAA NEWS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO CHAPTER MEMBERS

As we enter the Fall season, I hope each of you has had a rewarding year thus far. I'll keep my message short as I want to only highlight a few events of the past year and a few in the remaining months of 2025.

Our chapter again distinguished itself by being awarded the top MOAA 5-Star Level of Excellence (LOE) Award for the 2nd consecutive year. Only through the dedicated staff of our elected and appointed officials has this been possible. For example, our April Luncheon, featuring the 17 JROTC and UCCS ROTC units that our chapter supports with stipends and scholarships, exemplifies our chapter's commitment to our local community and, to our future leaders.

The Annual Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) took place on September 13, from 8am to noon, at the Falcon Club on the Air Force Academy. This event, which rotates each year between Air Force and Army hosting, attracted more than 400 military retirees from our area and our chapter again teamed up with the Southern Colorado Retiree Activities Office (RAO) to sponsor the event and helped to fund the breakfast and refreshments that were offered to retirees as a show of "Appreciation." Due to advanced planning and efforts of chapter and RAO members, led by Air Force Major Willie Haynes and TSgt Monica Thomas of the Air Force Academy, the RAD was a resounding success and I hope some of you were able to attend and take part in this memorable event.

Finally, our most recent and remaining events for the year was the successful "Octoberfest" Luncheon, held October 9 at the Edelweiss Restaurant and upcoming Holiday Luncheon, December 11, at the Antlers Hotel. As usual, flyers with details will be emailed a few weeks prior to event.

Please let me know if you'd like to take a more active role in our chapter as we welcome new faces and fresh ideas for further improvement and service for our members. I wish health and happiness for each of you and hope to see you at future chapter events.

Felix Uhlik, Lt Col (Ret), USAF
President, PPCMOAA



ELECTED OFFICERS

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Vacant Positions

Surviving Spouse Representative, Social Media Representative, Transition/Employment Mentor, Website Host



UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 11 Holiday Luncheon at Antlers Hotel. Look for updates on Website

SELECT EVENT DETAILS

PPCMOAA HOLIDAY PARTY

When: Thursday, December 11, 2025, 11:30am – 1:00pm

Where: Antler's Hotel, 4 S. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO
Summit I & II Room
Free parking (Bring Antler's garage stub to Front Desk for validation)



Clipartix.com (Free)

Features: Toys for Tots & Palmer H.S. Corale Group
Please bring an unwrapped child's toy to drop off (checks/cash also accepted)

How: Email Bunny Blaha (bunny_blaха@msn.com) or text (719) 233-1008

Cost: \$40/pp **Pre-payment Required (Go to www.PPCMOAA.org for details)**

OR Mail Check to: **PPCMOAA, Box 33, USAF Academy, CO 80840**

Consider paying for a JROTC Color Guard's Lunch

Menu: Choose Option below:

Mixed Green Salad/Garlic Mashed Potatoes/Vegetable Medley/Baked Rolls & Butter

Roast Chicken Breast with Artichoke Cream Sauce

Sliced Roasted Striploin / Port Wine Demi-Glaze

NY Cheesecake w/Whipped Cream & Berries -- Coffee/tea

Please email/text if a Vegan or gluten-free meal is needed when replying

IMPORTANT: WE NEED YOUR REPLY NLT THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4TH TO FINALIZE ARRANGEMENTS

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



MOAA MEMBERSHIP

As of 8/25/2025. Life Members: 225. Regular Members 125

Chapter membership remains stable at about 350 active members **BUT LESS THAN 20% OF OUR ANNUAL DUES PAYING MEMBERS ARE CURRENT ON THEIR DUES.** Please do your part and send in your dues as they are necessary to support our ongoing efforts of providing stipends to the 17 JROTC units that we support. Please consider becoming a Chapter Life Member so that you won't have to deal with dues renewal. A recent change to our membership categories is that the "Auxiliary" category has been replaced with "Surviving Spouse" to more accurately define this category of membership.

If you have questions about your membership status, please contact either our VP Membership, Willie, wk56wvu@gmail.com, or our Treasurer, Terry, emailbuoy@gmail.com

We have Chapter members who are Life members of MOAA and Life members of PPCMOAA as well as Annual dues-paying members of both MOAA and PPCMOAA.

Chapter Dues are required for all with the exception of PPCMOAA Life Members and Surviving Spouses of deceased PPCMOAA Life Members. If you are unsure about your membership status, please contact our Treasurer, Terry Boles, at emailbuoy@gmail.com.

Chapter dues are paid for the calendar year (Jan – Dec) and **do not include MOAA National dues.**

Mail the form below to:

PPCMOAA Attn: Membership PO Box 33, USAF Academy, CO 80840. Please make your check payable to: **PPCMOAA**

----- Clip and mail -----

Full Name _____

Rank: _____ Branch: _____

Circle one: Retired Active Duty Former Member (MOAA National # _____)

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Regular Member (Chapter and MOAA member) or **Associate Member** (Chapter member only)

Dues: 2026 - \$24 2 years - \$48 3 years - \$72 Life: Under 70 - \$300 70 & over - \$240 (Life membership cannot be extended to Associate Members.)

Surviving Spouse Member Dues: (unless deceased spouse was a Life Member)

2026 - \$12 2 years - \$24 3 years - \$36 Life - \$150

Life Memberships can be paid in 4 equal installments during the year. Amount this payment: \$ _____



VA/VETERANS ARTICLES



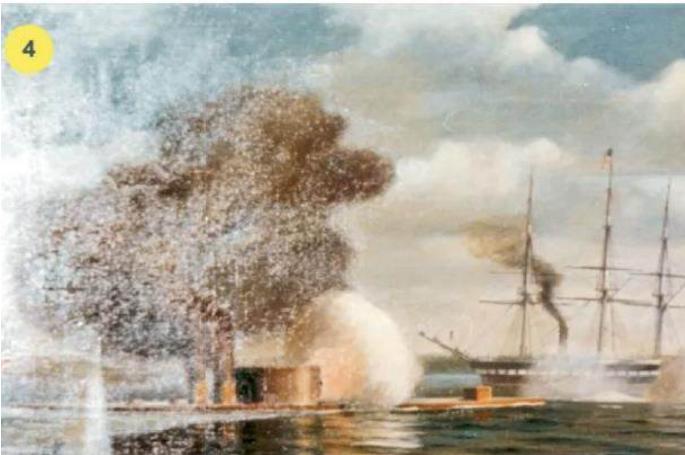
1 Source: MOAA Military Officer October 2025



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250 Years of the U.S. Navy

Oct. 13, 1775: It began with a call for “a swift sailing vessel, to carry ten carriage guns ... with eighty men, be fitted, with all possible despatch, for a cruise of three months.”

October 2025: A power-projecting global force and millions of veterans and family members honor 250 years of the U.S. Navy. From those who “go down to the sea in ships,” to a vast array of sailors in highly technical skills around the planet, they have stories to tell.

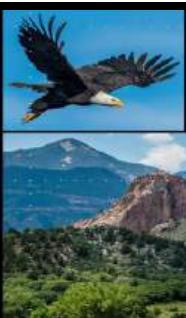
Across two and a half centuries, all of them have shared a common heritage, a legacy, a hope for “fair winds and following seas.” Here is a glimpse of the Navy’s legacy, then and now:

1. The Continental Navy ship *Bonhomme Richard* battles HMS *Serapis* during the Battle of Flamborough Head off the coast of England on Sept. 23, 1779, as shown in a painting by Thomas Mitchell.

2. American forces led by naval officer Oliver Hazard Perry faced British ships and gained control of Lake Erie in 1813. Perry was later promoted from master commandant to captain.

3. A Civil War-era lithograph depicts Confederate vessels under attack by the Union fleet under Adm. David Farragut in April 1862 on the Mississippi River near New Orleans. Farragut’s fleet captured the city.

4. Ironclad ships USS *Monitor* and CSS *Virginia* fired on each other at the Battle of Hampton Roads, Va., on March 9, 1862, in a painting by Rear Adm. John W. Schmidt, USN (Ret), 1967-68. The two ships’ engagement was considered a stalemate.



5. CSS

Tennessee is surrounded by Union warships in August 1864 in the artwork "Surrender of the 'Tennessee,'" Battle of Mobile Bay" by J.O. Davidson.



6. Armored cruiser USS Brooklyn (CA-3) took part in the Battle of Santiago during the Spanish-American War in 1898 and later carried the remains of John Paul Jones home from France.



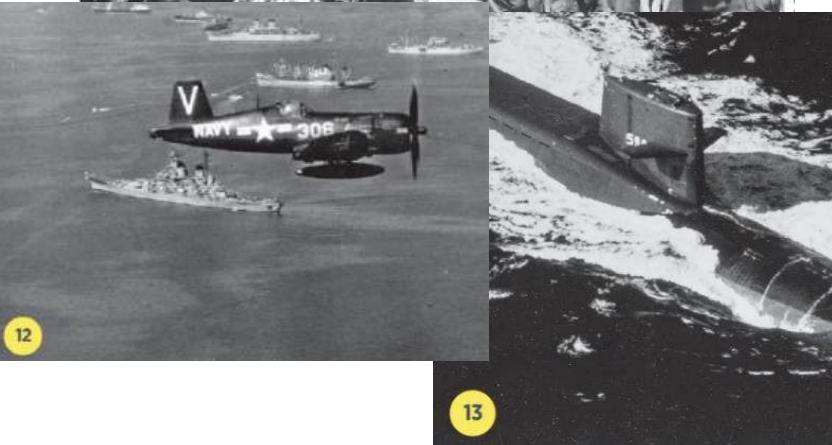
7. A 1917 poster by Albert E. Sterner calls Americans to serve during World War I.



8. "Arrival of the American Fleet at Scapa Flow, 7 December 1917" by Bernard F. Gribble shows the crew of HMS Queen Elizabeth greeting the U.S. Navy's Battleship Division Nine.



9. TBD-1 aircraft with Torpedo Squadron Six (VT-6) on USS Enterprise (CV-6) prepare to launch on June 4, 1942, for the Battle of Midway.



10. USS Augusta (CA-31) fired its guns during the invasion of Normandy in June 1944.

11. Air and ground crews of U.S. Navy Squadron VR-6 celebrate the end of the Berlin Airlift on May 12, 1949, at Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany.

12. An F4U-4B Corsair of Fighter Squadron 113 from USS Philippine Sea (CV-47) patrols near South Korea in 1950. USS Missouri (BB-63) appears below it

13. USS George Washington (SSBN-598), shown in 1960, was the first in class of nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines.



THE EAGLE

MOAA
Military Officers Association of America
Pikes Peak Chapter



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Editor: Mike McCoy



13. A P2V Neptune flies past a Soviet freighter in 1962. The Navy identified crates on deck as containing fuselages of Il-28 Beagle bombers being returned to the Soviet Union from Cuba around the time of the Cuban missile crisis.

14. F-4 Phantoms from USS *Midway* (CVA-41) and A-7 Corsair IIs from USS *America* (CVA-66) attack targets over Vietnam in 1973.

15. A-7E Corsair aircraft fly back to USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV-67) after a strike on Iraqi targets during Operation Desert Storm.



16. USS *Carl Vinson* (CVN-70) and combat support ship USS *Sacramento* (AOE-1) conduct a replenishment at sea during Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001.

17. SEAL team members train for desert operations in an undisclosed location in 2007.

18. An F/A-18 Hornet and an F/A-18F Super Hornet prepare to launch from USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN-75) during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

19. Virginia-class fast attack submarine USS *Montana* (SSN-794) is commissioned in Norfolk, Va., in 2022.

20. USS *Nimitz* (CVN-68) and USS *Carl Vinson* (CVN-70) operate in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility in July 2025.

21. The Blue Angels perform at the 2025 Pensacola Beach Air Show in Florida.

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MOAA Works to Protect ALL Servicemembers – and Retirees – From Shutdown Fallout

Source:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/recommended-reads/how-moaa-is-working-to-protect-pay-for-all-uniformed-servicemembers-during-the-shutdown/>

By: MOAA Staff

OCTOBER 22, 2025

While the Pentagon and Department of Homeland Security found temporary ways to provide paychecks to the armed services (Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force, and Coast Guard), thousands of others in uniform, as well as thousands of retired officers, may not be as fortunate.

No protections are in place for members of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Officer Corps (USPHS), who are paid on a monthly cycle. Members of the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps are paid biweekly and have already missed a check. And unlike armed services retirees whose compensation comes from the Military Retirement Fund (and is protected from discretionary-funding debates), retirees from those officer corps aren't guaranteed to receive their monthly checks as of the end of October.

"These officers serve and have served alongside those in the armed forces," said Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), MOAA president and CEO. "MOAA's 350,000-strong membership proudly includes past and present members of both the USPHS and NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps. They've flown through hurricanes and fought pandemics. They've deployed across the globe for missions vital to our national security. Yet despite their service, they continue to face uncertainty and unequal treatment. We urge lawmakers and administration leaders to come together to correct this inequity and uphold our shared commitment to all who serve in uniform."

MOAA's work on the issue has included regular communication with key stakeholders, including letters sent to Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Department of Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick on the need to match efforts by the armed services to find available funds to pay those in uniform. Another letter to key leaders of House and Senate committees outlines the need to pay USPHS and NOAA uniformed retirees, noting that "immediate congressional attention will prevent further harm to those who have dedicated their careers to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the American people."

MOAA Shutdown Resources

- **WRITE YOUR LAWMAKERS:** [Support the Pay Our Troops Act | Protect retiree pay for all who served](#)
- **MORE MOAA ADVOCACY:** [Joining forces to support servicemembers and their families](#)
- **SHUTDOWN FAQ:** [Ununiformed pay and retirement pay during the funding lapse](#)





MOAA Works to Protect ALL Servicemembers – and Retirees – From Shutdown Fallout (cont)

An Unclear System

USPHS and NOAA officers use the same pay table as members of the armed services, but that's where the similarities end. USPHS Commissioned Officer Corps members work under the Health and Human Services Department, while NOAA Corps members work under the Commerce Department.

Neither department has announced plans to continue paying these members, even though they are exempt from federal furlough. MOAA has pressed lawmakers in both chambers to add these officers to pending legislation that would ensure servicemembers in the armed forces are paid during the ongoing funding lapse, but the bills as structured would not provide such protections.

Retirees from these organizations are paid via the Coast Guard Pay and Personnel Center. Retirement pay for the armed services (including the Coast Guard) comes from the Military Retirement Fund and will be processed regardless of federal funding status. But USPHS and NOAA retiree pay comes from other funding sources dependent on the annual budget, meaning thousands of retirees could miss their next check, set to be issued Oct. 31.

One Powerful Voice

MOAA supported language in the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that required the Coast Guard to be included the Military Retirement Fund. The same protection should be offered to all who retire from uniform, but a shorter-term fix may be required to protect thousands of uniformed service retirees from potential financial hardship.

As MOAA works to ensure no servicemembers slip through the cracks of these emergency measures, we will continue to engage with lawmakers on the overarching problem – an ongoing inability to pass timely appropriations, and to provide [proper safeguards for uniformed personnel](#) during a lapse in federal funding.

Asking those in uniform to count on last-minute reprieves or seek assistance from relief organizations should never be the solution. Put simply, it isn't a solution; financial insecurity undermines our nation's readiness and jeopardizes our national defense. To remain engaged with MOAA's efforts on behalf of the total force, [register at our Legislative Action Center](#).

When MOAA Speaks, Congress Listens

Learn more about MOAA's key advocacy issues, and contact your elected officials using our messaging platform. [TAKE ACTION](#)



Shutdown FAQ: Servicemember and Retiree Pay

Source:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/finance/shutdown-faq-servicemember-and-retiree-pay/>

By: MOAA Staff

OCTOBER 21, 2025

Note from MOAA: We will continue to update our shutdown-related resources throughout the federal funding lapse. Click here for a [full list of impacts](#), ask your lawmakers to support the [Pay Our Troops Act](#), and see below for pay-related specifics. Last update: Oct. 21

Jump to [Retired Pay](#)

Q. BLUF: Will I get my next paycheck?

A. The Pentagon has been directed by the president to provide servicemembers their Oct. 15 paychecks, and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) had processed mid-month Leave and Earnings Statements as of Oct. 13, a precursor to sending out payments.

The [Coast Guard announced Oct. 13](#) that servicemembers would receive mid-month paychecks between Oct. 15 and 17, with funds secured by the Department of Homeland Security. The service had previously announced the checks would not be processed if the shutdown continued past Oct. 13.

There is no indication whether the stopgap measures to provide for military member paychecks would last through another pay cycle.

The Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Commerce have not announced plans for payments to members of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps or the NOAA Commissioned Corps, respectively. UPSHS members are paid monthly; NOAA Corps members missed their mid-month checks.

Q. Troops were paid during the last shutdown, right?

A. Yes, but with some significant caveats. The 2018-2019 shutdown was a partial funding lapse – money for the military had been secured through an appropriations bill [signed into law](#) Sept. 28, 2018. Members of the Coast Guard and the NOAA Corps did not receive their mid-January 2019 paychecks, as they fall under the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Commerce, respectively.

Some members of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps were paid depending on whether their assigned agency was part of the partial shutdown, and some HHS departments moved funds to cover salaries.

Website: https://home.army.mil/carson/index.php/Directorate/directorate_human_resources/deers-id-card



Shutdown FAQ: Servicemember and Retiree Pay (cont)

Q. Will I get back pay?

A. Yes. [Federal law](#) mandates all government employees required to work during a shutdown be “compensated on the earliest date possible after the lapse ends.” The Coast Guard expects its uniformed members to receive a delayed paycheck “about two days after the shutdown ends,” [per its website](#).

Q. Has this ever happened before?

A. The Coast Guard’s missed 2019 paycheck [was seen as a historic first](#) for a U.S. armed service, though soldiers [weren’t paid for much of 1877](#) until a November bill authorized funds for a 25,000-man Army.

Q. Can’t my bank/credit union front me the money?

A. Some financial institutions serving the uniformed services community – [USAA, for example](#) – will offer zero-interest loans and other support for those facing missed checks. Note: These programs are *not* automatic – you must apply for the assistance. Reach out to your bank or credit union to determine eligibility.

Q. Why does MOAA support the Pay Our Troops Act?

A. Even though the country is both politically and socially divided, it should be clear that under our nonpartisan approach at MOAA we will, have always, and should always support our uniformed servicemembers, veterans, family members and survivors regardless of what party controls each branch of government. We’ve been consistent in demonstrating that over the years. Irrespective of personal feelings or political affiliation, we hope all MOAA members can unite in support of that idea and the need to ensure our servicemembers get paid on Oct. 15 and every pay period after that.

[Our current call to action](#) reflects MOAA’s nonpartisan mission and long-standing commitment to the well-being of the uniformed services community. It does not represent a position for or against any current federal officeholder or political party, but rather a reaffirmation of our core purpose: to ensure that earned benefits are honored and protected.

Q. Has MOAA supported similar legislation connected to previous federal funding lapses?

A. Yes.

- With a shutdown looming in 2023, during the Biden administration, MOAA backed legislation to ensure all [servicemembers continued to be paid](#).
- The military services were funded during the 2018-19 shutdown, under the first Trump administration, but MOAA supported legislation to [pay others in uniform](#). (cont)

Website: https://home.army.mil/carson/index.php/Directorate/directorate_human_resources/deers-id-card



Shutdown FAQ: Servicemember and Retiree Pay (cont)

- MOAA supported the Pay Our Military Act of 2013, a bill which ensured continued pay for the military services when the government shut down in early October 2013, during the Obama administration.
- MOAA (then The Retired Officers Association, or TROA) supported similar initiatives during the 1995-96 shutdown under the Clinton administration.

[SHUTDOWN UPDATE: [MOAA, Fellow Advocacy Groups Join Forces](#)]

Retired Pay

Q. I'm a military retiree. Will I get my next check?

A. Yes. Military retirement is paid from the Military Retirement Fund, not from yearly appropriations.

Q. I'm a Coast Guard retiree. Will I get my next check?

A. Yes. Coast Guard retiree pay has been covered by the Military Retirement Fund since the passage of the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act.

Q. I'm a U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps retiree. Will I get my next check?

A. At present, no. While members of the USPHS Commissioned Corps are paid via the same personnel system as Coast Guard retirees, their pay does not fall under the Military Retirement Fund.

Q. I'm a NOAA Corps retiree. Will I get my next check?

A. At present, no. While members of the NOAA Corps are paid via the same personnel system as Coast Guard retirees, their pay does not fall under the Military Retirement Fund.

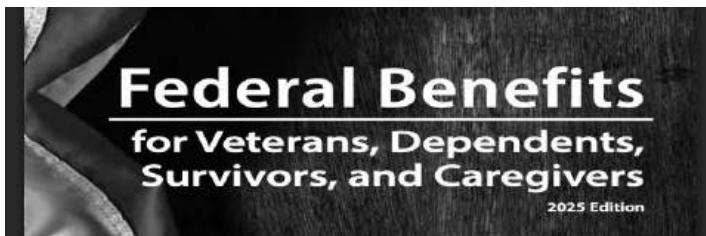
The More Members We Have, the More Influence We Have Over Our Benefits

MOAA is committed to protecting the rights of servicemembers and their families. Lend your voice and support these efforts today. Because the larger our voice is, the greater our impact will be.



Publicdomainpictures.net (Free)

Website: https://home.army.mil/carson/index.php/Directorate/directorate_human_resources/deers-id-card



Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents, Survivors, and Caregivers | i

Phone Numbers

Veterans Crisis Line	Dial 988, then Press 1
VA Hotline	800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411, option 9)
MyVA411	800-698-2411
Bereavement Counseling (through Vet Centers)	877-927-8387
Camp Lejeune Family Member Program	866-372-1144
Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA)	800-733-8387
Community Care Billing Questions	877-881-7618
Debt Management Center	800-827-0648
Education	888-442-4551
Foreign Medical Program	877-345-8179 or 303-331-7590
Headstones and Markers	800-697-6947
Health Care	877-222-8387
Homeless Veterans	877-424-3838
Home Loans	877-827-3702
Life Insurance, All Programs Other than SGLI, FSGLI, TSGLI, VGLI	800-669-8477
Life Insurance, Veterans' Group Life Insurance Program (VGLI), Claims for Service members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and Family SGLI	800-419-1473
National Cemetery Scheduling Office	800-535-1117
Native American Direct Home Loans	888-349-7541
Presidential Memorial Certificate Program	202-565-4964
Spina Bifida Program	888-820-1756
TTY, Federal Relay	711
VA Benefits	800-827-1000
Vet Center Call Center	877-927-8387
Women Veterans	877-222-8387
72-Hour Emergency Care Notification Line	844-724-7842

Websites

VA Home Page	www.VA.gov
Benefits and Services Overview	www.choose.va.gov
Burial and Memorial Benefits	www.cem.va.gov
Caregiver Support	www.caregiver.va.gov
Center for Minority Veterans	www.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans

CHAMPVA	www.va.gov/communitycare/programs/dependents/champva
Community Care	www.va.gov/communitycare
Dental Care	www.va.gov/dental
Disability Claims and Appeals	www.va.gov/claim-or-appeal-status
Education Benefits	www.va.gov/education
Environmental Exposures	www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures
Federal Recovery Consultant Office	www.va.gov/vadodhealth/frcp.asp
Geriatrics and Extended Care	www.va.gov/geriatrics
Health Care Eligibility	www.va.gov/health-care
Homeless Veterans	www.va.gov/homeless
Home Loan Guaranty	www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans
Life Insurance	www.benefits.va.gov/insurance
Memorial Certificate Program	www.cem.va.gov/pmc.asp
Mental Health	www.mentalhealth.va.gov
My HealtheVet	www.myhealth.va.gov
National Resource Directory	www.nrd.gov
PACT Act	www.VA.gov/PACT

Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents, Survivors, and Caregivers | iii

Post 9/11 Veterans	www.va.gov/post911veterans
Transitioning Service members	benefits.va.gov/transition/tap.asp
Service Records	www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/military-personnel
State Departments of Veterans Affairs	www.va.gov/statedva.htm
Welcome Kit	www.va.gov/welcome-kit
Women Veterans	www.womenshealth.va.gov
	www.benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-women.asp
VA Forms	www.va.gov/vaforms
VA Health Connect	mobile.va.gov/app/va-health-chat
VA Solid Start	www.benefits.va.gov/transition/solid-start.asp
VA Vet Centers	www.vetcenter.va.gov
Veteran & Military Spouse Talent Engagement Program (VMSTEP)	www.vaforvets.va.gov
Veteran Readiness and Employment	www.va.gov/careers-employment/vocational-rehabilitation
Veterans Crisis Line	www.veteranscrisisline.net
VHA Notice of Privacy Practices	www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=9946
72-Hour Emergency Care Notification Portal	emergencycarereporting.communitycare.va.gov/request



Check Out Your Lower VA Life Insurance Premiums

Source:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/finance/check-out-your-lower-va-life-insurance-premiums/>

By: Kevin Lilley, MOAA Staff

JULY 01, 2025

Lower premiums for VA life insurance plans took effect July 1, with the savings set to benefit millions of policyholders.

The discounts will be automatic for Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI), Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI), and Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (FSGLI) policyholders. Savings vary across plans.

A brief breakdown of each policy type is below. For information about accessing your VA life insurance account online, [visit VA.gov](#).

[RELATED: [MOAA Insurance](#)]

VGLI

- **Savings:** Between 2% and 17%, depending on age bracket and coverage amount. The average premium will fall 11%.
- **Premiums:** See [the full chart here](#).
- **Questions:** Visit the [VA's FAQ page](#), call (800) 419-1473, or email osgli.osgli@prudential.com.

SGLI

- **Savings:** Policyholders will pay 5 cents for every \$1,000 of coverage, down from 6 cents. A monthly \$25 premium will result in the maximum \$500,000 coverage.
- **Premiums:** See [the full chart here](#).
- **Questions:** Visit the [VA's FAQ page](#) or call the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) at (888) 332-7411. (cont)



Check Out Your Lower VA Life Insurance Premiums (cont)

FSGLI

- **Savings:** Between 11% and 22%, depending on age bracket and coverage amount. The average premium will fall 13%.
- **Premiums:** See [the full chart here](#).
- **Questions:** Visit the [VA's FAQ page](#) or call the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) at (888) 332-7411.

Find more financial resources – including member-exclusive publications, tax and investment articles, and more – at [MOAA's Financial Resources page](#).

MOAA's Financial Calculators

Whether you're planning for retirement, buying a home, managing your investments, or more, these tools can help you make informed decisions.

[ACCESS NOW](#)



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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

3 Priorities, 1 Mission: PPCMOAA's Summer Advocacy in Action (AiA)

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/advocacy/3-priorities,-1-mission-moaa-s-summer-advocacy-in-action-topics/>

By: Terry Waters, MOAA Staff

AUGUST 05, 2025



With lawmakers home for their summer recess, now is the time for MOAA members to raise their voices to make a difference.

We need you to help ensure these legislators hear a clear, unified message: Support for servicemembers, veterans, and their families must remain a national priority.

MOAA's Summer Advocacy in Action (AiA) campaign focuses on three legislative priorities that directly affect readiness, retention, and the well-being of our nation's all-volunteer force. Your advocacy can make the difference in moving these bipartisan efforts over the finish line.

Support Combat-Injured Veterans: Pass the Major Richard Star Act

Combat-injured veterans who were medically retired before reaching 20 years of service are being unfairly penalized by an outdated policy that offsets their service-earned DoD retirement pay dollar-for-dollar against their VA disability compensation. The Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 2102 | S. 1032) would eliminate the so-called "wounded veteran tax."

Nearly 54,000 combat-injured veterans would be impacted by this legislation. The bill has broad bipartisan support and is among the most-cosponsored bills in the 119th Congress.

When servicemembers see that promises made will be promises kept — especially in the event of injury — it builds trust and reinforces long-term service. Addressing this inequity sends a powerful message to today's force and future generations alike.

Support Military Families: Pass the Military Spouse Hiring Act

Military spouse unemployment remains stubbornly high — hovering above 20% for years. Frequent relocations and hiring stigma often keep qualified military spouses from securing and maintaining gainful employment. The Military Spouse Hiring Act (H.R. 2033 | S. 1027) would incentivize businesses to hire military spouses by adding them to the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) program.

Many employers avoid hiring military spouses due to concerns about relocation and turnover. Two incomes are essential for many military families; lack of spouse employment can derail long-term financial stability. A 2016 study estimated \$710 million to \$1.07 billion in societal costs from military spouse un- and underemployment. The WOTC has already proven successful with veterans, resulting in nearly 600,000 veteran hires from 2020 to 2024. Dual-income stability is critical to both readiness and retention. When military families can count on financial security, servicemembers can stay focused on their mission — and are more likely to stay in uniform.

Improve Access for Families Using TRICARE

Administrative red tape and access delays continue to burden military families seeking routine and prenatal care (cont)



3 Priorities, 1 Mission: PPCMOAA's Summer Advocacy in Action (cont)

-- especially through TRICARE Prime. MOAA supports two bipartisan bills designed to streamline care delivery, reduce lost duty time, and ensure continuity during critical life events.

The TOTAL Care Act (H.R. 1699) would eliminate the TRICARE Prime referral requirement for OB-GYN care. Civilian plans already allow patients to access OB-GYNs directly – TRICARE families should not face additional barriers that delay preventive and pregnancy-related care.

The Improving Access to Prenatal Care for Military Families Act (H.R. 4381 | S. 2239) would make pregnancy a TRICARE qualifying life event, enabling families to switch plans outside of open season. This flexibility helps families avoid being trapped in under-resourced military treatment facilities where access to timely care isn't guaranteed.

Both bills are included in the House version of the FY 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), and your advocacy can help ensure they remain in the final version.

Servicemembers should not lose duty time or focus because their families are navigating preventable health care delays. These bills provide common-sense flexibility that keeps the force ready and families supported during key transitions.

[TAKE ACTION: [Support Access to Care for Military Families](#)]

How You Can Help

During the August recess, lawmakers are listening closely to their constituents — and we need your help to deliver this message in every district and every state. Along with sharing the link to our [Summer Advocacy in Action landing page](#), you can:

- Sign up for the [Legislative Action Center](#) to send messages directly to your lawmakers. Signing up will also enable you to receive priority alerts on breaking issues on Capitol Hill that affect those in uniform.
- Call your elected officials today directly via MOAA's Capitol Hotline at (866) 272-MOAA (6622).
- [Get in touch](#) with your local MOAA chapter to engage and drive forward grassroots legislative advocacy at the local level.

As always, MOAA remains a nonpartisan voice advocating for a strong national defense and support for those who serve. These three issues — fair pay for combat-injured veterans, employment opportunities for military spouses, and access to care for TRICARE families — are all directly tied to the health, strength, and readiness of the all-volunteer force.

When MOAA Speaks, Congress Listens

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

[TAKE ACTION](#)



MOAA-Backed Caregiver Aid, Plus Other VA-Focused Legislation, Moves Through Key Committee

Source:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/advocacy/moaa-backed-caregiver-aid-plus-other-va-focused-legislation-moves-through-key-committee/>

By: Rene Campos, MOAA Staff

AUGUST 18, 2025

A legislative lifeline for veteran caregivers who face an uncertain future as their caregiving duties end was among six MOAA-backed bills advanced through the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee late last month.

[TAKE ACTION NOW: [Urge Your Lawmakers to Support Veteran Caregivers](#)]

The committee's efforts will result in progress across critical areas of veteran and caregiver support. The bills moving forward as of July 30:

- **S. 879, Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement (3R) Act:** Provides job training, professional licensure support, retirement planning, and bereavement counseling to family caregivers who are enrolled in VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC), which will assist them after their caregiving duties conclude.
- **S. 275, Veterans' Assuring Critical Care Expansions to Support Servicemembers (ACCESS) Act:** Expands residential rehabilitation treatment program for veterans with mental health and substance use disorders, particularly in geographic areas where VA services are limited or not available. It also enhances veterans' access to community care.
- **S. 607, Improving Veteran Access to Care Act:** Requires VA to establish an interdisciplinary patient team to modernize scheduling, coordinate services, and cut wait times.
- **S. 1245, Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act:** Strengthens health care and benefits for survivors of military sexual trauma and assault.
- **S. 1383, Veterans Accessibility Advisory Committee Act:** Creates an independent advisory body to improve accessibility for veterans with disabilities.
- **S. 2392, Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act:** Authorizes an annual cost-of-living adjustment to protect the value of veterans' compensation and benefits.



MOAA-Backed Caregiver Aid, Plus Other VA-Focused Legislation, Moves Through Key Committee (cont)

These measures reflect MOAA's longstanding commitment to protecting earned benefits and expanding services for those who have served.

[RELATED: [\\$455 Billion VA Spending Bill Clears Final Hurdle in Senate](#)]

Why Caregiver Support Matters, Especially Now

Two caregivers [recently filed a federal lawsuit](#) challenging the VA's practice of automatically denying appeals to PCAFC caregivers after their veteran's death. These caregivers argue they deserve benefits retroactive to their application date, even if the veteran has passed away.

This development highlights the deeply troubling challenges caregivers must overcome when their caregiving duty ends — either due to the veteran's death or separation from the program. Many caregivers face financial instability, limited bereavement support, and barriers to employment or retirement planning.

Your Voice Matters – Take Action Today

MOAA has been a strong advocate for the Caregiver 3R Act, which addresses many of these challenges head-on. By providing education and retraining assistance, employment support, retirement counseling, and transition resources, the bill would give caregivers the tools they need to rebuild their lives when caregiving ends. It ensures the nation honors caregivers' sacrifices and recognizes the vital role they play in the health and recovery of our veterans.

[Support the Caregiver 3R Act](#) by visiting MOAA's Legislative Action Center. Join us in urging lawmakers in both chambers to pass legislation (S. 879 and H.R. 2148) that would ensure caregivers receive the long-term resources and recognition they've earned.



Tips for Lifelong Caregiving

MOAA has partnered with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation to provide an online resource outlining legal and financial support available to multiple generations of caregivers.



TRICARE & MEDICAL ARTICLES

More than Medicine: Understanding the Value of VA Health Care

Source:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/advocacy/more-than-medicine-understanding-the-value-of-va-health-care/>

By: Rene Campos, MOAA Staff (Extract)

APRIL 14, 2025

For generations, the VA health care system has embodied the nation's promise to those who have served. Operated by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), it provides not only medical care, but also critical support to veterans, families, caregivers, and survivors while advancing the broader health of the nation through education, innovation, and emergency response.



Photo via VA.gov

The far-reaching contributions of the VHA, and its importance to the nation, stem from its four core missions: delivering health care, training and educating health care professionals, conducting groundbreaking research, and responding to national emergencies. Together, these missions make the VHA a cornerstone of veteran support and a vital national asset.

Delivering Health Care

Serving more than 9 million veterans across more than 1,300 facilities, the VHA offers a full spectrum of health care services — from primary and mental health care to cutting-edge specialty treatments and services. To improve the quality of care and expand its services, the VA has in recent years:

- **Reduced Wait Times:** Improved [access to primary and mental health care](#), often outperforming private-sector benchmarks.
- **Expanded Community Care:** Used the [MISSION Act of 2018](#) to bolster its ability to refer veterans to non-VA providers when needed to access timely, specialized care closer to home.
- **Grown Telehealth Services:** Experienced a significant expansion in its remote programs, with dramatic increases in access for rural and homebound veterans.
- **Adopted a Whole Health Model:** Developed [a new approach](#) which helps veterans design personalized wellness plans including acupuncture, yoga, and nutritional counseling, allowing them to live fuller lives.
- **Supported Caregivers:** Expanded caregiver support programs including its specialized [Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers](#), offering home-based services, training, respite care, stipends, and more to those caring for veterans with serious injuries.



More than Medicine: Understanding the Value of VA Health Care (cont)

Training the Nation's Health Workforce

The VA is not just a provider of care — it is a vital educator. Through academic partnerships with over 1,400 institutions, the VA trains the next generation of health care professionals.

Each year, approximately 120,000 medical trainees — including physicians, nurses, psychologists, and social workers — gain clinical experience by working in VA facilities. An estimated 70% of practicing U.S. physicians have trained in the VHA.

This hands-on training prepares providers for complex, team-based care environments and enhances the nation's overall health system capacity. These education programs equip providers to serve veterans from all backgrounds and communities.

VHA's mission also extends to continuous learning and professional development for its workforce. VA clinicians benefit from ongoing access to advanced training, cutting-edge research, and academic partnerships — ensuring they remain at the forefront of medical innovation and best practices to better serve veterans.

Driving Innovation Through Medical Research

The VA has long been a leader in advancing medical knowledge with discoveries that benefit both veterans and the general population.

• **Pioneering Breakthroughs:** VA research has led to [major innovations](#) including the first successful liver transplant, the cardiac pacemaker, and computer tomography imaging technologies. The VA was also a trailblazer in using barcodes as part of medication administration, a widely adopted tool to reduce medication errors.

• **Precision Medicine and Genomics:** The VA delivers [cutting-edge cancer care](#) through genetic sequencing. In tandem with the [Million Veteran Program](#) — one of the world's largest health-genomics databases — VA researchers are uncovering connections between genes and chronic conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), diabetes, and cardiovascular disease.

• **Mental Health Leadership:** VA research has led to the development of evidence-based therapies like prolonged exposure therapy and cognitive processing therapy for PTSD. These treatments, first validated within the VA, are used widely throughout the U.S. mental health system.

Protecting the Nation in Times of Crisis

The VA's "Fourth Mission" serves all Americans — mobilizing department resources to aid in emergencies, disasters, and public health crises. Examples include:

• **COVID-19 Pandemic Response:** During the pandemic, the VA provided critical support beyond its veteran patient base, treating non-veterans, deploying more than 4,000 staff, and distributing millions of vaccine doses through federal and community partnerships.



More than Medicine: Understanding the Value of VA Health Care (cont)

- **Disaster Response Teams:** Using a [specialized personnel system](#), the VA is able to rapidly mobilize clinical staff to respond to wildfires, hurricanes, and other large-scale emergencies.
- **National Health Infrastructure:** VA medical centers serve as [federal coordinating centers](#) as part of a larger [national disaster medical system](#) response, ensuring surge capacity for mass casualty or pandemic scenarios — a role crucial to U.S. preparedness.

MOAA FAQ: TRICARE For Life and Weight Loss Drugs

Source:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/health-care-and-earned-benefits/moaa-faq-tricare-for-life-and-weight-loss-drugs/>

By: MOAA Staff

APRIL 14, 2025

Weight loss drugs [will no longer be covered for TRICARE For Life \(TFL\) beneficiaries](#) as of Aug. 31 – a policy change that has left many beneficiaries with questions regarding their care.

Answers to some of the more common questions can be found below. This page will be updated as more information becomes available, or should the new rule be revised. Keep up with the latest on this issue and others via [MOAA's news page](#).

Q. Will I lose coverage for my medication?

A. TFL beneficiaries who have been prescribed a GLP-1 medication *for weight loss* – such as Zepbound, Wegovy, or Saxenda – will no longer have that medication covered as of Aug. 31. They must pay 100% of the cost of the weight loss drug as of that date, even if they have an approved prior authorization.

TFL beneficiaries who have been prescribed a GLP-1 medication *for Type 2 diabetes* – such as Ozempic, Mounjaro, or Victoza – will maintain their coverage.

Q. Why has my coverage changed?

A. The change is part of the Defense Health Agency's implementation of "regulatory controls on weight loss medication coverage," according to [an Aug. 5 TRICARE.mil article](#). [Direct-care recipients](#) and some other, smaller, coverage pools also saw their coverage removed as a result of the implementation.



MOAA FAQ: TRICARE For Life and Weight Loss Drugs (cont)

- [TRICARE Young Adult](#)
- [TRICARE Reserve Select](#)
- [TRICARE Retired Reserve](#)
- [Continued Health Care Benefit Program](#)

Q. Who should I contact with follow-up questions about my coverage, diagnosis, or prescription?

A. Your provider may be able to offer alternative treatment options. Questions about specific medicines or prescriptions [can be directed to Express Scripts](#).

Q. What is MOAA doing about this change to my coverage?

A. MOAA is researching legislative and regulatory history on TRICARE's weight loss medication restrictions as a first step in developing a response.

Share Your Story

MOAA's advocacy relies on the testimony and experiences of service members and families impacted by changes to TRICARE policy. Will you, or someone you know, be affected by this change in TRICARE For Life coverage? Please share your story through Legislative Action Center at the link below.

[TELL MOAA](#)

Q. How much will my weight loss drug cost if I have to pay for it out of pocket?

A. Costs vary widely based on a variety of factors, to include dosage size, drug type, where the drug is being purchased, and whether the user is eligible for any savings plans or other insurance products. MOAA cannot recommend a specific provider or retail outlet, but the manufacturers of GLP-1 weight loss medications do provide some pricing information.

- Wegovy: Manufacturer [NovoCare offers an online form](#) to check potential pricing.
- Zepbound: Manufacturer [Eli Lilly outlines pricing options and possible savings plans](#).
- Saxenda: Manufacturer [NovoCare offers an online form](#) to check potential pricing.



EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING

5 Reasons to Visit MOAA's Brand-New Job Board (Extract)

Source:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/transition-and-career/5-reasons-to-visit-moaa-s-brand-new-job-board/>

By: Kevin Lilley, MOAA Staff

AUGUST 15, 2025

Transitioning servicemembers, veterans, and family members seeking employment can find high-tech support through [MOAA's brand-new job board](#), powered by Oplign.

This job board is more than just a list – founded by veterans, Oplign's skill-alignment engine moves job-seekers beyond old-fashioned aggregations of mismatched, outdated offerings.

[Visit the MOAA Job Board platform](#) and create your user profile. Don't miss this chance to maximize the perfect tool for your job search!

[REGISTER NOW](#)[LEARN MORE](#)

Once you visit [MOAA.org/jobboard](#) and click the button that best matches your background, you'll get:

- Personalized Results:** No résumé required – simply provide some basics about your experience (in and out of service) and get matched with positions tailored to you.
- Skill Suggestions:** Insight on how to add to your qualifications and make even more employers take notice.
- An Active Process:** You can update your profile, modify your targets, add to your skill set, and see what new opportunities arise. The platform has more than 400,000 profiles (and growing).
- Efficient Targeting:** An array of filters allows you to weed out unwanted positions and focus on the perfect fit.
- Service-Friendly Setup:** Your military skills won't be lost in a sea of jargon or misunderstood by a hiring manager (or imprecise algorithm).



Illustration by Meghan Aloshen/MOAA

"We are grateful to Oplign for their partnership and collaboration on this platform – a free resource that will help members of the uniformed services community and their families find success," said Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), MOAA president and CEO. "MOAA and The MOAA Foundation are committed to supporting all who serve and have served – across all ranks and services, and not just MOAA members – in their next professional steps."



Veteran Employees Are in High Demand, Especially at These Types of Companies (Extract)

Source:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/transition-and-career/veteran-employees-are-in-high-demand,-especially-at-these-types-of-companies/>

This article is sponsored by [VETS Indexes](#).

AUGUST 07, 2025

Employers are hiring more veterans now than ever before – but your chances of landing a job can vary dramatically depending on the type of organization to which you're applying, new data shows.

In some industries, nearly half of employees are veterans; in others, vets represent 5 percent or less of the workforce, according to data from the annual VETS Indexes Employer Awards survey.

Overall since 2018, the percentage of new hires that veterans make up has risen steadily in organizations' survey responses. That year, military veterans represented just 8 percent of new hires among all organizations participating in the VETS Indexes survey. The next year, that number rose to 13 percent, then 15 percent in 2021. By 2024, the most recent year for which data is available, a whopping 18 percent of all hires were veterans.

This consistent positive trend line – continuing despite volatile economic conditions, global instability, and even a worldwide pandemic – demonstrates the remarkable progress made in veteran employment in recent years.

Our team at VETS Indexes has taken a unique, data-driven approach to help build a more inclusive employment market for veterans, and the insights we have unearthed can help veterans looking for jobs, as well as the organizations seeking to hire them.



ar.inspiredpencil.com (Free)

For employers that are new to the veteran space, our [Employing U.S. Vets Conference](#) is an invaluable resource. This day-long event, held twice a year, features veteran employment thought leaders discussing best practices and pitfalls to avoid when building veterans programs.

The [Veteran Employment Benchmarking Service](#) is another essential tool for employers to improve their recruiting and retention of veterans. This provides custom analysis of an organization's strengths and weaknesses, showing how the employer compares to its peers and suggesting particular policy and program changes that can have a big impact.

And for organizations that are leaders in veteran employment, the [VETS Indexes Employer Awards program](#) recognizes and broadcasts their achievements far and wide.

If you're a veteran in the job market, our Employer Awards program can help you figure out which organizations might be the best fit.



Veteran Employees Are in High Demand, Especially at These Types of Companies (Extract) (cont)

Start with our latest list of [VETS Indexes Employer Award recipients](#). The 5 Star Employers listed at the top are our most highly rated awardees, but every organization on the list has demonstrated a commitment to hiring veterans.

In addition, VETS Indexes' research has uncovered data that can help veterans decide which industries and organization profiles to target when scouring job listings.

Vet Employees by Industry

- Educational Services (NAICS #61): 48%
- Management of Companies and Enterprises (NAICS #55): 47%
- Computer Systems Design and Related Services (NAICS #54151): 41%
- Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (NAICS #54): 34%
- Engineering Services (NAICS #541330): 23%
- Public Administration (NAICS #92): 20%
- All Other Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (NAICS #541990): 19%
- Finance and Insurance (NAICS #52): 13%
- Other Services (except Public Administration) (NAICS #81): 12%
- Information (NAICS #51): 11%
- Construction (NAICS #23): 10%
- Transportation and Warehousing (NAICS #48): 9%
- Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services (NAICS #56): 8%
- Utilities (NAICS #22): 8%
- Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (NAICS #53): 8%
- Health Care and Social Assistance (NAICS #33): 6%
- Manufacturing (NAICS #33): 6%
- Retail Trade (NAICS #44): 5%
- Wholesale Trade (NAICS #42): 4%



Veteran Employees Are in High Demand, Especially at These Types of Companies (Extract) (cont)

If you have skills that are relevant to multiple industries, you might want to start with employers in the education, management, or computer systems industries, which posted the highest veteran employee populations. Employers in the wholesale and retail trade industries charted the lowest proportion of veteran employees.

Another key factor to consider is employer size.

Vet Employees by Company Size

- 1-99 employees: 51%
- 100-499 employees: 28%
- 500-999 employees: 14%
- 1,000-2,499 employees: 16%
- 2,500-4,999 employees: 6%
- 5,000-9,999 employees: 8%
- 10,000-14,999 employees: 12%
- 15,000-29,999 employees: 8%
- 30,000-49,999 employees: 8%
- 50,000 or more employees: 9%

Smaller companies responding to our survey tended to have a greater proportion of veteran employees than did larger companies.



COMMUNITY NEWS

2025 Retiree Appreciation Day Hosted by US Air Force Academy

By: Mike McCoy, CDR, USCG (Ret), Eagle Editor

SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

2025 was the Air Force's turn to host the Annual Military Retiree/Surviving Spouse Appreciation Day (The Army hosted it at Ft Carson in 2024). Robust planning by a team of USAFA representatives, PPCMOAA members and RAO volunteers led to a highly successful execution during the large event held on September 13th at the Air Force Academy Falcon Club. As in previous years, PPCMOAA partnered with the Host (USAFA) and Southern Colorado Retiree Assistance Office (RAO) while featuring:

- Hot Breakfast/Refreshments for Attendees
- Medical Wellness Check
- More than 60 local Vendors
- Academy Falconry
- Raffle Prizes
- Guest Speakers on topics including:
 - VA
 - Estate Planning
 - Pikes Peak National Cemetery
 - Tricare
 - Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center

Over 53 local business' and PPCMOAA donated \$7,000 to offset the cost of food and drinks. With over 400 participants and vendors in attendance, exit surveys documented the event as a success which was broadly enjoyed. It was exciting and rewarding to provide this recognition for our retired military community!





Key Supporter of Southern Colorado Military Veterans Passes Away

Editor's Note: Skyler Holmes was a very strong advocate for ensuring that veterans were given the grace and dignity they deserved as they were laid to rest at Pikes Peak National Cemetery. He presented during a PPCMOAA dinner on 13 June 2024 as our guest speaker. Skyler left us too early and will be missed.

By [Lindsey Grewे](#)

Published: Aug. 4, 2025 at 10:05 AM MDT

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (KKTV) - The Pikes Peak National Cemetery is grieving the loss of its cemetery director, who died unexpectedly last month at the age 43.

Skyler Holmes served with the Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration since June 2020. During his time with the Pikes Peak National Cemetery, ensured every veteran within its walls was given respect and dignity, whether through a traditional funeral, through allowing volunteers to place thousands of flags on graves, or by ensuring even veterans without family were given a ceremony befitting their military service. 11 News spoke with Holmes in March when he was organizing the latter type of funeral, which is known as an unclaimed veteran service.

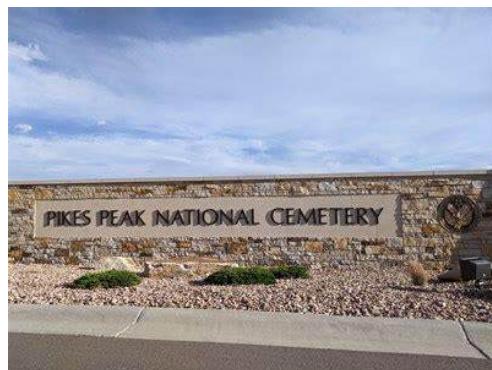
“Once we receive remains that are unclaimed, we go through a typical check. If those come back negative, then we’re not able to find any next of kin, we have an entire media contact sheet that we put out. We email everybody knowing about the ceremony, try to get the word out the best possible. We also make Facebook post and let a lot of our local partners know so they can come by as well,” he told 11 News of how the cemetery works to ensure those veterans still have people at their funeral to pay their respects.

The cemetery did not say how Holmes died, only that it was sudden.

“Although not a veteran, he honorably served our nation’s veterans in all his positions. He will be greatly missed by his colleagues and leaders alike,” Pikes Peak National Cemetery said.



Skyler Holmes during a March 2025 interview with KKTV.(KKTV)





MOAA NATIONAL/LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS



2024 STAKEHOLDER'S REPORT

In 2024, MOAA remained steadfast in its mission to support and advocate for the uniformed services community. From championing key legislative priorities to providing vital resources for servicemembers, veterans, and their families, MOAA continued to drive meaningful change and uphold its mission to Never Stop Serving.

The MOAA Scholarship Fund awarded a record

\$4.5 million

in grants and **more than \$6 million** in interest-free loans to nearly **1,100** students.

MOAA celebrated passage of the **Dole Act**, legislation we have long advocated for that **provides needed support to veterans and caregivers**.

MOAA selected to continue delivering the career transition and benefits education portion of the Army's and Navy's flag and general officer transition programs in a multiyear contract.



MOAA led the charge to secure the **largest targeted pay raise** in over four decades for junior enlisted members.

New chapters:

Greenville, S.C. and
Public Affairs and Communication
Professional Virtual Chapter



1,100
Total MOAA members in Virtual Chapters

AWARD WINNERS:

Strobridge Award: Col. Thomas Waddell, USAF (Ret), Grand Canyon, Ariz., Chapter; and Capt. Lynn Nash, USPHS (Ret), Maryland Council of Chapters. **Excellence In support of surviving spouse programs:** 1st Lt. John Glenn, USMC (Ret), Missouri Council of Chapters, and Ms. Linda Wolverton, Luke, Ariz., Chapter.



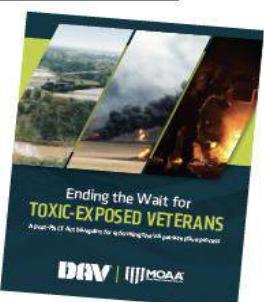
The MOAA Newsletter continues to be an Industry leader boasting open rates that average 43.36%, well above the industry average for nonprofits, which sits at 38.56%.

Welcomed New York Life as our new life insurance partner that will **deliver member value through a robust life insurance portfolio**.

20th Annual MOAA Charities Golf Classic **raised \$200,000 to support MOAA Foundation programs and services**.



MOAA partnered with DAV to release Ending the Wait, a way forward to improve the process for toxic-exposed veterans seeking earned benefits.



TOTAL FORCE+

ADVANCING SOLUTIONS FOR THE MILITARY & VETERAN COMMUNITY

- + Designed and built first-ever conference name, logo, branding guide
- + Hired vendors for key functions
- + Jumpstarted connections to sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, etc.
- + Launched marketing website
- + Assembled key staff to plan and execute TF+

MOAA officially launched TotalForce+, a first of its kind event focusing on the importance of the PEOPLE who make our uniformed services successful and a strong national defense possible. This event provides the environment to collaborate, converse, and advance solutions for recruiting, retention, talent management, leadership development, quality of life, transition, health care, mental health, pay and benefits, and more.



OCTOBER 28-29, 2025 | TOTALFORCEPLUS.ORG



Pikes Peak Chapter Membership and MOAA Award

By: Felix Uhlik, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), PPCMOAA President

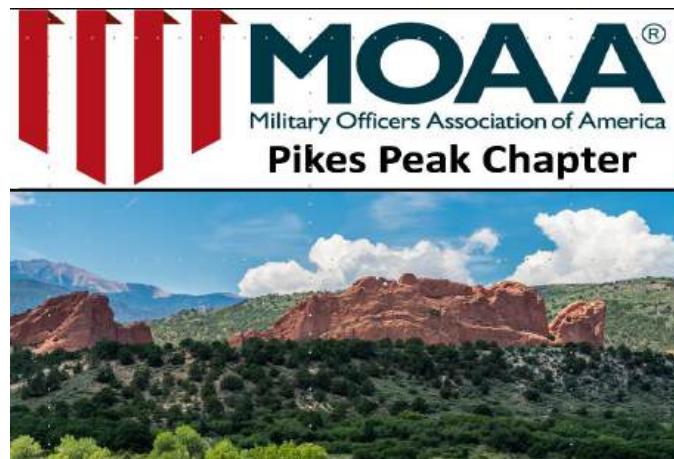
Pikes Peak Chapter Membership Focus

By: Felix Uhlik, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), PPCMOAA President

Chapter membership remains stable at about 350 active members of which about 225 are Chapter Life Members. Note: MOAA has been re-working their membership database over the past year and has just made it accessible to our chapter. Membership Vice President Willie Kalaskie has recently gotten access to the database and will continue the work of member verification to clear up discrepancies between the MOAA and chapter membership rosters. It should also be noted that as of April 15, we have added 3 new members but have only received 7 dues renewals. Please consider becoming a Chapter Life Member so that you won't have to deal with dues renewal. If you have questions about your membership status please contact either Willie, wk56wvu@gmail.com, or our Treasurer, Terry, emailbuoy@gmail.com.



We are pleased to announce that our Chapter has again received the 5-Star Level of Excellence (LOE) Award. As stated last year by Felix Uhlik, Chapter President, "This award from MOAA is affirmation of the hard work, being conducted on a regular basis, by our dedicated staff of officers and appointed officials." For a complete list of awards won by our Chapter go to our website, www.PPCMOAA.org, select "Chapter Info," then Awards."





Pikes Peak Chapter MOAA Support to JROTC/ROTC Units

By: Jack Gillett, CDR, USN, (Ret), PPCMOAA JROTC/ROTC Coordinator

With summer over and area high schools back in session, JROTC cadets will again be available to support our events. Our August 21st luncheon was just too close to the day most area high schools resumed classes, August 15th.

Our first collaboration with JROTC cadets this year was this year's Retiree Appreciation Day on September 13th at the Air Force Academy Falcon Club. We saw over 400 retirees/vendors in attendance and the Widefield High School NJROTC program supported this event with eight cadets who helped direct and escort the retirees to the various venues. Our first color guard presentation, provided by Pueblo West H.S. Army JROTC, was at our annual Oktoberfest Luncheon at the Edelweiss Restaurant on October 9th.



You may not be aware, but JROTC is just one of several military oriented youth programs sponsored by the US government. In addition to JROTC, which encompasses all the military services, there are also the Young Marines, Sea Cadets, and Civil Air patrol. While none of these programs were established as, or meant to serve as, military recruiting programs, it turns out that a very large percentage of the young men and women who participate in these programs do wind up joining the military. That should come as no surprise. Young people who are naturally attracted to discipline and structure are the ones participating in these programs and these people are naturally attracted to military service. How many of our readers were even aware of these other military related programs? In future additions we will be highlighting these other programs.





Pikes Peak Chapter MOAA Fall Events of Interest

By: Steve Schultz, LtCol, USAF (Ret), PPCMOAA Event Coordinator

10 Apr 2025 Luncheon. PPCMOAA hosted its annual JROTC Appreciation Luncheon at 1100, on Thursday, April 10th, at the Falcon Club, USAFA. The Chapter presented stipends to each unit (medal/certificates presented at Spring Award ceremonies of each school). After the completion of the meal a cadet from each JROTC unit gave a 3–5-minute presentation summarizing their collective goals, activities and accomplishments throughout the school year.

12 Jun 2025 Dinner. The PPCMOAA held a dinner-social event at 1800, on Thursday, Jun 12th, at the Mariott Hotel, Colorado Springs. The guest speaker was Mr. Craig Richard. He provided a motivational testimonial titled “Got Home Alive.” His narrative and video documented his leg shattering fall, while free climbing Black Canyon National Park. After the fall it took his cousin and him 18 hours to first repel 1,000 ft of sheer rock cliff and then hike out of the canyon without food or water. Through his ordeal he discovered that the key to a fulfilling life lies in a profound love for living fully in the present and pursuing what truly matters. He believes that especially in our darkest moments, we can emerge with powerful insights that illuminate our path forward.

21 Aug 2025 Luncheon. The PPCMOAA held a luncheon-social at 1100, on Thursday, August 21st, at the Eisenhower Golf Course Club House, U.S. Air Force Academy. The guest speaker was Sean Sindler, Maj, USAF (ret). He is the current Colorado Military Outreach Director of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) program. He provided a detailed presentation on the ESGR, a Department of Defense office, which was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component Service members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment. A lively question and answer period followed the formal presentation.

9 Oct 2025 Luncheon. The Fall luncheon was once again scheduled at the Edelweiss Restaurant, Colorado Springs. Former Naval aviator, LT James “Jim” R. Lloyd provided his personal testimonial of being shot down by a North Vietnamese surface to air missile (SAM) during a night road reconnaissance mission and his subsequent rescue by a USN search and rescue helicopter the following day. Meal options were available via an abbreviated entrée and dessert menu.

11 Dec 2025 Luncheon. The Christmas Holiday Party will again be held at the Antlers Hotel, Colorado Springs. Russ Miller will be collecting gift (or monetary) donations for Toys for Tots. The Palmer H.S. Choral Group, led by Choir Director Ms. Elena Zarecky, will be providing the entertainment. There will not be a guest speaker.



From the Desk of CAPT Dick Stapp, PPCMOAA Vice President

By Dick Stapp, CAPT USNR (Ret), PPCMOAA Vice President

The following are my thoughts and observations of activities over the past several months. I continue being active in the local MOAA Chapter and maintaining an association with Mt. Carmel. Our Pikes Peak Chapter had a very well attended evening dinner at the Colorado Springs Marriott this past June. The Speaker was a very interesting Motivational speaker, Craig Richard. Not only is he a musician, but continues to be a mountain climber sharing his experiences and how these insights have led to becoming a very positive and encouraging public speaker.



The MOAA Chapter continues having an ongoing relationship with Mt. Carmel in Colorado Springs. A table with MOAA and Retiree Assistance Office (RAO) volunteers is manned twice a month with information, brochures, enrollment applications, etc. These volunteers enjoy welcoming visitors to Mt. Carmel and providing them with help and answering questions about the Military plus the many assets available through not only Mt. Carmel but also RAO and PPCMOAA. A Podcast is scheduled in the near future with a focus on local MOAA activities. Two Chapter members plan on speaking at this event. More information is yet to come.

Abbi Greggor, who was the Mt. Carmel Public Relations Coordinator, has moved on to other venues. James Harrington, Mt Carmel Director of Development, is now filling that position and continues helping the Chapter in many ways. Chapter personnel continue to assist in food distribution activities and other functions supporting the local community. A very enriching and satisfying program.

On September 13th the local Colorado Springs MOAA Chapter, along with other Agencies such as, USAF Academy personnel, joined together and sponsored a Retired Appreciation Day "RAD" at the Falcon Club. This yearly event includes food, many booths, medical tables, as well as formal presentations from various area agencies such as Pikes Peak National Cemetery. All Military Retirees were encouraged to attend regardless of service or rank. Over 400 participants/vendors attended!

Col James Waddle, PPCMOAA Member, Passes Away

By: Mike McCoy, CDR, USCG (Ret), Eagle Editor

We received the sad news that Col James Waddle, PPCMOAA member, passed away in Colorado Springs on June 16, 2025 at the age of 87. Born in Orange County, CA, he was surrounded by family at the time of his death.

Col Waddle graduated with the second-ever USAF Academy class in 1960. He flew the McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom II fighter jet in the Vietnam War. Our hearts go out to the family of this distinguished veteran.

