



## WELCOME TO PPCMOAA NEWS

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### PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE TO CHAPTER MEMBERS

Welcome Chapter members and all interested parties. As your new chapter president, I want to take this opportunity to share some info – about myself, our chapter and, our plans for the coming year. Before that, however, I need to acknowledge the accomplishments of former president, Steve Lucks, in guiding the Chapter through the difficult COVID period and having us emerge as strong as ever! Well done, Steve!

My bio begins as a ROTC-Commissioned Air Force civil engineering officer, serving 23 years active duty including two tours on the faculty at the Air Force Academy. Following military retirement, I taught building construction at the University of Florida and Georgia Tech for fourteen years. Then, in retired-retired mode, my wife and I were caregivers to elderly/ill family members for about ten years. Finally, I entered the “Still Serving” phase and volunteered with our Home Owners Association(HOA), the Air Force Retiree Assistance Office (RAO) and, our Pikes Peak MOAA Chapter (PPCMOAA) and my wonderful wife of 54 years, Nancy, has been by my side for the whole journey!

Our Chapter has had a rich and distinguished history over the past 65 years and I am honored to play a part in its future. At one point, in the 1990s, our Chapter had some 3,000 members (on the books) and was regarded as the largest in the country. Like many organizations, however, membership has drastically decreased and with an average chapter member age in the mid-70s, attrition and “aging out” has brought our membership down to less than 400. Nevertheless, over the last five years, our Chapter has seen a resurgence in activity and has achieved Level of Excellence Awards (the highest, a 5- Star in 2023 and again in 2024) by MOAA National and I intend to “keep up the good work” produced by our excellent staff of elected and appointed officials.

Looking forward, we will continue with our luncheons, a dinner meeting, and possibly once again host a chapter golf tournament in the spring/summer. We will continue to interact with the community through our connection with the Mt Carmel Vet Center, the RAOs at Peterson and the AF Academy, including the Annual Retiree Appreciation Day and, our ROTC and JROTC units. We can always use more help so I welcome you to join us and take an active part as we continue to spread the MOAA message of strong advocacy for all military veterans and their families. I hope to see you at a future function and, bring along a friend or neighbor. God bless.

Felix Uhlik, Lt Col (Ret), USAF



## ELECTED OFFICERS

### President

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### Treasurer

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### Immediate Past President

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## APPOINTED OFFICERS

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Telephone: 303-647-0405

### Vacant Positions

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



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jun 12** Dinner at Colorado Springs Marriott. See Event Details below
- Aug 14** Luncheon at TBD venue. Look for updates on Website
- Sep 13** Retiree Appreciation Day at Air Force Academy. See Event Details below
- Oct 9** Luncheon at TBD venue. Look for updates on Website
- Dec 11** Holiday Luncheon at TBD venue. Look for updates on Website

## SELECT EVENT DETAILS

### DINNER AT COLORADO SPRINGS MARRIOTT

- When:** June 12, 2025, 6 pm
- Where:** Colorado Springs Marriott, 5580 Tech Center Drive, Colorado Springs, CO
- Speaker:** Inspirational & Motivational Speaker/Musician Craig Richard
- How:** Go to our website: [www.PPCMOAA.org](http://www.PPCMOAA.org) for details in May
- Cost:** TBD (check PPCMOAA Website)

### MILITARY RETIREE/SURVIVING SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY

- When:** September 13, 2025
- Where:** Falcon Club, US Air Force Academy
- Hosts:** Partnering with US Air Force Academy and Southern Colorado Retiree Activities Office (Ft Carson hosted in 2024)
- How:** Go to our website: [www.PPCMOAA.org](http://www.PPCMOAA.org) for details in July/August
- Cost:** Free!



## MOAA MEMBERSHIP

**As of 4/18/2025. Life Members: 200. Regular Members 150**

Chapter membership remains stable at about 350 active members of which about 200 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 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: \_\_\_ 2025 - \$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)

\_\_\_ 2025 - \$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

FOCUS ON US AIR FORCE:  
FROM AIRPOWER TO GLOBAL SUPERPOWER

DoD Source: <https://www.airforce.com/history>

Editor Note: Coordinated with USAF Recruiting and Public Affairs

For over a century, our Airmen have helped our nation remain a leading global superpower in air, space and cyberspace.



1912-1939  
CHANGING THE WAY OF WAR

Fixed-winged aircraft came onto the scene in ground attacks when WWI broke out in Europe on July 28, 1914. This marked one of the greatest evolutions in warfare-tactics technology, soon putting the U.S. in the lead.

1940-1945  
ESTABLISHING THE HIGH GROUND

With over 30 countries drawn into WWII, the skies marked the ultimate vantage point—starting with Japan bombing Pearl Harbor and ending with the U.S. dropping two atomic bombs nearly four years later.



1946-1949  
PUSHING THE ENVELOPE

The U.S. continued to advance its airpower and military structure, separating the Air Force into its own military branch, and in turn, became a leading superpower. Subsequently, the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve were established to expand our military presence, with Reservists ready to serve during wartime.



**1950-1953  
THE KOREAN WAR**

The U.S. was pushed into the war between North Korea and South Korea. Just as North Korea appeared to be on the brink of victory, the U.S. entered and turned the tables, shifting the war to end in a stalemate and reestablishing itself as a global military power.



**1954-1964  
BREAKING NEW GROUND**

Barriers in scientific exploration, airpower and equality were broken within the military. Man looked beyond the atmosphere and began to travel into space. Meanwhile, the Air National Guard accepted its first African American pilot, 1st Lt Thomas E. Williams, and female Capt Norma Parsons.

**1965-1973  
THE VIETNAM WAR**

The U.S. traveled back to Southeast Asia to halt the spread of communism. Over the war's course, air superiority became an ever-growing priority, leading to further needed leaps in development. Additionally, the Air Force fully integrated its Active Duty, Reserve and Air National Guard branches into an operational whole —sharing all resources and equipment and working side by side in battle.



**1974-1989  
NEW WAVES OF DEFENSE**

Following the Vietnam War, the Air Force experienced a relative peace from wartime, which sparked various new technological breakthroughs. Meanwhile, many women and minorities in the Air Force were being recognized for their service, opening new doors of opportunity.



**1990-1999  
MAKING OUR MARK**

At the close of the 20th century, the U.S. established itself as the most-advanced air force in the world during the liberation of Kuwait, activating the first GPS system and launching the first unmanned aircraft.



**2000-PRESENT  
21ST CENTURY AND BEYOND**

Following the attacks on September 11, 2001, the U.S. was plunged into the War on Terror, with unmanned aircraft serving as a prime mover in air attacks. In 2009, they released the Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Flight Plan, detailing their plans through 2047, which entailed that one third of the planes used were to be unmanned.

**MOAA MEMBERSHIP**

**U.S. AIR FORCE**

**U.S. ARMY**

**U.S. MARINE CORPS**

**U.S. NAVY**

**U.S. SPACE FORCE**

**U.S. COAST GUARD**

**NOAA**

**U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE**



## Lower Rates for VA Life Insurance Plans Will Take Effect in July

By: Kevin Lilley, MOAA Staff

FEBRUARY 28, 2025



Photo from DVIDS

Lower premiums for servicemembers and veterans with VA life insurance policies will be put in place beginning July 1, the department announced recently.

The rate cuts had been set to take effect in the spring, per a [December 2024 VA announcement](#). They will be made available thanks to a "sound financial" position held by both the Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI) and Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance/Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI/FSGLI) programs, according to the department.

For information about accessing existing policies online, [click here](#).

MOAA Source: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/finance/lower-rates-for-va-life-insurance-plans-will-take-effect-in-july/>

Details on the upcoming savings, which will benefit about 3 million policyholders:

### VGLI

**What:** Premiums will fall between 2% and 17% across all age brackets, with an average rate cut of 11%.

**How:** Policyholders do not need to take action to receive the new rates, according to the VA, but those who pay via credit card or an automatic payment through their bank may need to update their payment method to reflect the new amount. Those who make advance payments will receive a credit for any overpayments.

**Details:** Learn more about the rate cut from the VA [at this link](#). See the full VGLI payment chart, broken out by age and coverage amount, [at this link](#).

[RELATED: [MOAAInsurance.com](#)]

### SGLI/FSGLI

**What:** SGLI premiums will drop from 6 cents per \$1,000 of coverage to 5 cents, with the new maximum payment of \$25 (plus \$1 for traumatic injury protection coverage) for a \$500,000 policy. FSGLI coverage will fall between 11% and 22% across age brackets, with an average cut of 13%.

**How:** The lower premiums will be applied automatically for all policyholders. Servicemembers will see the new rates applied in their Leave and Earnings Statements.

**Details:** Learn more about the discounts [at this link](#). See the full SGLI and FSGLI premium charts [at this link](#).



## Defense Finance and Accounting Service Providing payment services for the U.S. Department of Defense

DoD Source: <https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/newsevents/newsletter/March2025-Partners-Real-ID-Act-and-NextGen-ID-Card/>

## News From Our Partners: Real ID Act and NextGen ID Card

*Provided by Air Force*

Passed by Congress in 2005, the REAL ID Act enacted the 9/11 Commission's recommendation that the Federal Government "set standards for the issuance of sources of identification, such as driver's licenses." The latest information indicates the Department of Homeland Security will start Real ID Act enforcement on 7 May 2025. This will affect what forms of ID/documentation people can use to access certain federal facilities, board domestic commercial flights or individuals visiting military installations.

Even after the Real ID Act is in effect, there is **no** change for military base access for individuals (military retirees/dependents/surviving spouses) who already possess military, or DoD issued credentials; non-DoD personnel without base access credentials will be the largest demographic affected by REAL ID requirements. If you don't have the NextGen ID card, but an "old style" ID card (DD Form 2, DD Form 1173, DD Form 1173-1 or DD Form 2765(blue, pink or tan ID)) you will still be able to access a base for now!

It's important for military retirees/dependents/surviving spouses to know, at some time in the future, these old forms of ID will **not** be valid to access a military installation, and you will **need** issuance of the NextGen ID card. This will be true even if your old ID card has an INDEF expiration date on it- the ID will still be **invalid**. DoD has not specified a date when this will happen, and we have no idea how much advance warning you will get before you must have the NextGen ID card. Social media and word of mouth, however, you receive information, we are hearing the deadline **may** be on 1 Jan 2026. We understand DoD will formally announce.

**Based on this, we strongly encourage everyone with an old-style ID card to get a NextGen ID card now!**

There are several ways to make an appointment to get a new ID card. **(1)**. You can visit the RAPIDS ID Card Office Locator website to find the closest office and either call them to make an appointment or **(2)**. schedule your own appointment using the website. <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/> To make an appointment using this site select the "ID Card Office Locator & Appointments" block. **(3)**. You **may** be able to renew your ID card online and have it mailed to you, no waiting in line! You select the "Family ID Cards" block on the website at the link above. Below are the requirements to renew a card online:

- Sponsor must be a CAC holder or have a DoD Self-Service Logon username/password
- Must be requesting a renewal of an active USID card
- Sponsor and Cardholder must have email addresses listed in DEERS that they have authorized DoD to use for contacting them
- Sponsor's personnel status must extend at least 30 days into the future
- Cardholder has a photo saved in DEERS taken in the last 12 years
- Cardholder's mailing address is present in DEERS and is in United States or Overseas.
- USID cards cannot be shipped to PO Boxes

If you have an old-style ID card, you can get the new NextGen ID at any time - do it now!



<https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/#/>  
RAPIDS ID Card Office Online

**Air Force**  
**USAF Academy**  
**ID/CAC Card Processing**

Military Personnel Section  
5136 Community Center Drive  
USAF Academy, CO 80840

**719-333-8766**  
**719-333-2547**

**Website:** <https://usafasupport.com/military-personnel-mpf/>

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 7:30 am – 3:30 pm. Hours may vary, please call. Wed 7:30 am – 12:00 pm Sat & Sun - closed Holidays - closed

**Space Force**  
**Schriever SFB**  
**ID/CAC Card Processing**

Identification and CAC Cards/DEERS  
Military Personnel Section  
210 Falcon Parkway, Bldg 210 Room 137  
Schriever SFB, CO 80912

**719-567-5901**

**WEBSITE** <https://50fss.com/military-personnel-flight/>

Mon, Tue, Thu and Fri - 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Wed – 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Sat and Sun - closed Holidays - closed

**Army**  
**Fort Carson**  
**ID/CAC Card Processing**

DEERS (ID and CAC Cards)  
1625 Ellis Street  
Bldg. 1218  
Fort Carson, CO 80913

**719-524-3704**  
**312-691-3704**

**Website:** [https://home.army.mil/carson/index.php/Directorate/directorate\\_human\\_resources/deers-id-card](https://home.army.mil/carson/index.php/Directorate/directorate_human_resources/deers-id-card)

**Space Force**  
**Peterson SFB**  
**ID/CAC Card Processing**

21<sup>st</sup> Force Support Squadron  
135 Dove Street  
Bldg 350, Suite 1066  
Peterson SFB, CO 80914  
719-556-0008 Option 1

**WEBSITE:** [21fss.fsmps.cs.wf@us.af.mil](mailto:21fss.fsmps.cs.wf@us.af.mil)

Mon – Fri 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Closed on weekends, federal holidays, family days and SBD1 training days

**Editor’s Note: Military ID Card Offices in the Colorado Springs area have adopted different protocols for scheduling ID processing. Highly recommend calling your preferred Office to determine their current policy. Additionally recommend asking base security regarding their planned date for no longer accepting the old ID cards since Base Commanders may have different timetables.**



## ‘Politics Is a Contact Sport’: This MOAA Member Offers His Advocacy Approach

JANUARY 28, 2025

MOAA Source: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/member-spotlight/politics-is-a-contact-sport-this-moaa-member-offers-his-advocacy-approach/>

Col. Michael Kelly, USAF (Ret), is one of MOAA’s advocates who has come to Washington, D.C., to participate in the annual Advocacy in Action springtime event on Capitol Hill. In 2024, he made the visit as president of [MOAA’s Jayhawk \(Kan.\) Chapter](#).

As 2025 began, he was looking forward to starting his term as president of the Kansas Council of Chapters as well as continuing as state legislative lead for the Kansas council.

Kelly described for *Military Officer* his approach to advocacy and the work that is yet to be done:



Col. Michael Kelly, USAF (Ret), center, visits the office of Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) during MOAA’s Advocacy in Action event in Washington, D.C., in April 2024. (Photo by Sean Shanahan/for MOAA)

### Q. What motivates you to advocate for MOAA?

A. Few Americans commit to military service, and that commitment is substantial and, in some cases, eternal. Those currently serving and their families, veterans, and survivors have earned more than pay and benefits.

All those members of the military community deserve a special level of respect from the protected members of society. I want to make sure civilian leaders fully recognize the arduous nature of military service.

[RELATED: [MOAA Member Successfully Advocates for National Medal of Honor Highway](#)]

### Q. What approach works well for coalition-building?

A. Politics is a contact sport, and I attempt to make every contact informative and nonconfrontational. I emphasize: MOAA advocates for issues to benefit the military community. MOAA does not endorse partisanship or participate in partisan campaigns or elections for any public office except to individually cast our secret ballot according to law.

### Q. What is the best way to communicate your message to legislators?

A. I think testimony provided in person is very effective. Legislators sometimes ask for additional details, and when those accurate details are provided, legislators feel better about the logical foundation of the votes they cast. Further, it is important to speak with members of the executive branch so they can advocate within the formulation of the state budget.



When you achieve a common perspective on need between the legislators and the cognizant executive agency staff, the likelihood of success goes way up.

**Q. What issues in your state related to servicemembers and/or veterans should other states be aware of?**

A. I'm pleased that Kansas passed a law ([HB 2760](#)) that, among other provisions, requires Kansas officials to consider federal disability determinations to be probative and prohibited state agencies and municipalities from reconsidering a veteran's federal disability determination for benefits under state laws or local ordinances.

Until this bill became law, many Kansas statutes did not recognize disability determinations by the service secretary under Title 10, U.S. Code Chapter 61. Now under Kansas law, any active servicemember retired as a result of a physical evaluation board finding is considered a service-connected disabled veteran.

Other state advocates should make sure their service-connected veteran language refers both to Title 38 (VA) and Title 10 (defense secretary and other cabinet secretaries concerned) and not merely service-connected findings under the authority of the secretary of Veterans Affairs.

**Q. What accomplishments would you like to share?**

A. I've been gratified to work with the staff of the Defense-State Liaison Office (DSLO), which is part of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. We've jointly advocated for streamlined spouse occupational licensing, the addition of the U.S. Space Force to the definition of armed forces in Kansas law, and other issues.

Michelle Richart is our DSLO regional representative. Her lived experience as a spouse of a recently retired Air Force officer, as a parent, and as a licensed attorney needing to re-enter the legal bar in each new PCS location makes her especially well informed on military family issues.

**[RELATED: [DoD Agency Names Top Priorities for State-Level Family Support in 2025](#)]**

Kansas passed a law ([SB 431](#)) to create a memorial at the Kansas State House for Army Chaplain Emil Kapaun. Chaplain Kapaun was captured when his unit was overrun during the Korean War. His gallantry and spiritual leadership as a POW resulted in the Medal of Honor, posthumously. I testified in support of the legislation and serve on the [Kapaun Memorial](#) Committee to advance the privately funded memorial project.

**Q. What else would you like to get done?**

A. Kansas currently enjoys a surplus in the State General Fund of about \$2.4 billion. We need to reduce property tax on residences of veterans and active servicemembers.

I'd really like Kansas to reduce some, if not all, state income tax on active servicemembers. Kansas taxes everything on a servicemember's W-2 except reenlistment bonuses. Fewer than 10 states fully tax the military income of currently serving troops.

I'd like a formulation similar to the Combat Zone Tax Exclusion so that every enlisted member, warrant officer, and company grade officer would enjoy their Kansas income tax-free. I also hope the next Congress will have a member of the Kansas delegation on the House or Senate Armed Services Committee.



## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

### Social Security ‘Do-Over’: 2 Ways You Can Change Your Benefit Claim

MOAA Source: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/finance/social-security-do-over-2-ways-you-can-change-your-benefit-claim/>

By Lila Quintilliani, MOAA Staff  
**APRIL 08, 2025**

About 63% of retirees claim Social Security before their full retirement age (FRA), even though this reduces their monthly benefit as well as their survivor benefit. Perhaps they feel they might not live long enough to make the wait “worth it.” Or perhaps they need the extra income.

[SOCIAL SECURITY: [Know Your 'Full Retirement Age'](#)]

Then there are those who claim Social Security but end up going back to work. If they earn more than a certain amount, they are charged a penalty by Social Security until they reach full retirement age.

These retirees might later regret their claiming strategy. But once you have made the decision to claim Social Security, can you go back? In fact, there are two separate ways you can ask Social Security for a “do over” if you claim benefits and later change your mind.

#### Withdrawal of Benefits

You can cancel your benefits application up to 12 months after the Social Security Administration approves your benefit. You can only do this once.

If you received payments, you’ll have to repay them as well as any money that was withheld for taxes, payments made to spouses or children on your account, Medicare premiums, or garnishments.

[SOCIAL SECURITY: [How to Maximize Your Benefit](#)]

Once you withdraw your benefit, it’s as if you never filed in the first place. Your potential benefit will continue to grow, and you can refile for benefits at a later date. If you wait until your FRA to file, you will receive your full benefit; if you wait beyond retirement age, your benefit will continue to grow by 8% a year until you reach age 70.

To cancel your application, you must either mail or bring in [Form SSA-521](#), Request for Withdrawal of Application, to your local Social Security office.

#### Suspend Your Benefit

If you took benefits before your FRA and you have now reached full retirement age but are not yet 70 years old, you can suspend your benefit and earn delayed retirement credits for each month they are suspended until you reach 70 years of age.



Photo from MOAA source



## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

For each month between FRA and 70, your benefit increases by 0.666 percent (the 8% annual rate). That's in addition to any cost-of-living adjustment there might be. If you were to suspend your benefit for three years between ages 67 and 70, your benefit would grow by 24% once you resume claiming benefits.

[RELATED: [Social Security Benefit Calculator](#)]

This strategy does not require you to repay any payments you've taken, although suspending your benefit does affect a spouse or minor child claiming on your record. Suspending your retirement benefits will also suspend Supplemental Security Income payments.

You can ask to suspend your benefits verbally or in writing, and it will take effect the month after you make the request.

Note that if your Medicare premiums were being deducted from your benefit, you'll have to pay the premiums separately or you might lose your Part B and TRICARE For Life coverage.

[FOR MOAA PREMIUM AND LIFE MEMBERS: [Transitioning Into Medicare and TRICARE For Life](#)]

If you suspend your benefit and find yourself missing the extra money, you can restart it at whatever the new payout amount would be. It restarts the month after you submit your request. Benefits will automatically restart at age 70.

### 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](#)

## MOAA's Military State Report Card and Tax Guide

MOAA Source: <https://www.moaa.org/content/state-report-card/statereportcard/>

MOAA has consolidated the annual State Report Card and State Tax Guide. The color-coded map below assesses each state on the taxability of military retired pay and survivor benefits. Information is current as of the dates noted below; consult state authorities for additional/more current information.



Access to *MOAA's State Report Card* has been temporarily granted to all members. If you are not already a **PREMIUM** or **LIFE** member, [join](#) or [upgrade](#) now to ensure your access to this and other valuable content from MOAA continues.

[JOIN NOW UPGRADE NOW](#)

State Tax Comparison Map for Military Retirement Pay and SBP. Click on each state to find detailed, specific state tax information.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Data regarding Colorado will be provided in following paragraphs. Unable to activate the "click on other states." Additional information can be accessed by going to the original website at <https://www.moaa.org/content/state-report-card/statereportcard/>**



**Map Legend**

- Green: Both military retired pay (MRP) and Survivor Benefit Plan payments (SBP) are fully exempt from state taxation.
- Yellow: MRP and/or SBP receive partial exemption from state taxation.
- Red: Neither MRP nor SBP is exempt from state taxation

Source: MOAA Communications; updated May 17, 2024

**Colorado Sales Tax**

- Statewide: 2.9%
- Counties can levy sales tax of no more than 8.3%.
- Current average sales tax (with local taxes included): 7.04%
- Common Exceptions at State Level:
  - Prescription Medicine: Exempt
  - Unprepared Foods: Exempt
- Gasoline Tax: 47.64 cents/gallon (Includes all state, local, and federal taxes)
- Diesel Fuel Tax: 52.45 cents/gallon (Includes all state, local, and federal taxes)



### Colorado Personal Income Tax

- Personal Income Tax Rate Range: 4.4%
- Standard deduction: Single Filing Status: \$14,600.
- Personal Exemption Allowance: None
- Itemized Deductions Allowed? Yes. Subject to limitations.
- Retirement Income
  - Social Security: Excluded if 65 and over. May be partially taxable if under 65.
  - IRAs: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates.\*
  - 401Ks/Defined contribution employer retirement plans: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates.\*
  - Private pensions: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates.\*
  - Public Pensions: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates.\*
- Military Pay
  - Active Duty Pay: Taxable to the extent included in federal Adjusted Gross Income. Exceptions available.
  - Military Retirement Pay: Up to \$15,000 can be excluded if under 55\*
  - Military Disability Pay: Exempt to the extent excluded from federal AGI
  - VA Disability Dependency & Indemnity Compensation Benefits: Exempt
  - SBP/SSBP/RCSBP/RSFPP: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates\*

\* Income tax comments:

Ages 55-64 can exclude up to \$20,000 from retirement income; age 65 and over can exclude up to \$24,000. State allows county- and city-level income tax.

### Property Tax

- Local municipalities average .49% of the property's assessed value.
- Calculation of assessed value: 7.2% of fair market value; revalued every odd-numbered year.
- Relief programs for:
  - Disabled Veterans or 65 and Over: 50% of first \$200,000 of assessed value exempt if meet requirements. Deferral programs available.



- Personal Property Tax: Yes, rates and exemptions vary. 65 and over and active military may be able to defer taxes. A property tax work-off program is available to taxpayers.

**Colorado Inheritance & Estate Taxes:** None

Premium and Life members can consult our financial staff for education and consumer advice

Department of Revenue website: [www.colorado.gov/revenueonline/](http://www.colorado.gov/revenueonline/)

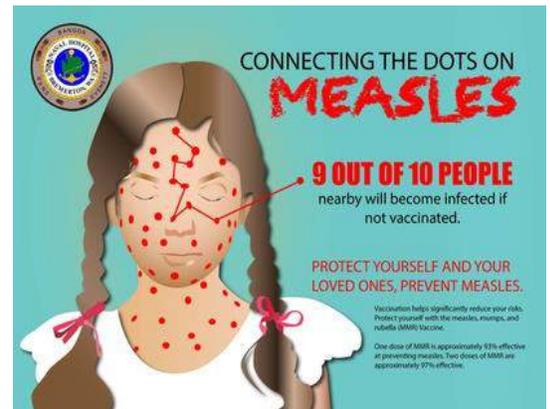
## TRICARE & MEDICAL ARTICLES

### Measles Symptoms and Complications

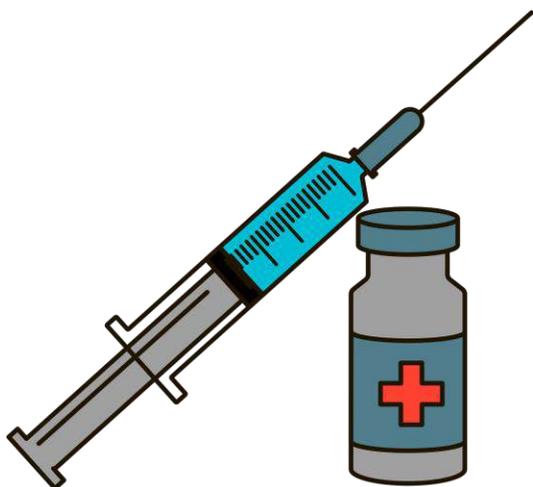
By: Terry Boles, CDR, USPHS (Ret)/PPCMOAA Medical Advisor

Generally, people born before 1957 are considered to have a natural immunity to measles. Those that do not have a documented history of immunization should consider getting a Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) vaccine; especially since those with compromised immunity systems the measles can be a severe problem.

Measles is highly contagious and can spread incredibly rapidly as we have seen in early 2025. There is a 90% chance of obtaining measles if you are not vaccinated. Especially with elderly adults who are not vaccinated, the measles can lead to pneumonia, encephalitis, and even death.



Slide from DVIDS



Symptoms of fever, a cough, runny nose, and red watery eyes usually begin 7 to 14 days after infection. Early symptoms after 2 to 3 days can be tiny white spots inside the mouth. A rash can occur after 3 to 5 days and usually starts with the face and spreads to the entire body, with a fever which can spike more than 104 degrees.

The best defense against measles is vaccination. If you have received 2 vaccine doses which is the norm, then you have a 95 percent lifetime chance of being protected. Some adults born after 1957 and vaccinated between 1968 and 1989 usually received only 1 vaccine dose and should consider getting revaccinated.

Should you have concerns with your vaccination status, or live with someone who has compromised immune systems, please consult your physician for guidance.

<https://creazilla.com/search/clipart/medical> Free Clipart Images



## TRICARE Changeover Update: Another Extension for West Region Beneficiaries

By Kevin Lilley, MOAA Staff

**MARCH 31, 2025**

MOAA Source: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/health-care-and-earned-benefits/tricare-changeover-update-another-extension-for-west-region-beneficiaries/>

TRICARE beneficiaries in the West Region will have more time to set up payment plans and to access specialty care without a contractor-approved referral, according to [a March 27 press release](#).

The payment setup had been set to expire March 31, as had the referral waiver. Beneficiaries now have until April 30 in both instances. Learn more about the changes below (Note: TRICARE For Life, US Family Health Plan, and TRICARE overseas plan users, as well as those in the East Region, are not affected.)

[FROM TRICARE.MIL: [How TRICARE Regions Are Changing in 2025](#)]

### Payment Plan

- What:** Beneficiaries must make a payment to TriWest by April 30 or they will be disenrolled from TRICARE dating back to Jan. 1.
- Who:** Those who pay by allotment or who have already established a payment plan with TriWest should check to ensure their payments are being processed. Those who have not established a payment plan can do so via the [TriWest web portal](#) or by completing and submitting [this form](#).
- Questions:** TriWest beneficiaries can contact TriWest customer service at 888-TRIWEST (888-874-9378) for answers to their questions or to provide payment information over the phone.

### Referrals and Waivers

- What:** Beneficiaries who receive a referral for specialty care from a primary care provider do not have to wait for TriWest approval to see the specialist. This policy will remain in place until April 30. Waivers do not apply to inpatient care, lab tests, applied behavior analysis or [Autism Care Demonstration](#) services, or services under the [Extended Health Care Option](#) (ECHO). The specialist must be TRICARE-authorized.
- What Else:** TRICARE Prime users seeing a provider who is no longer in the TRICARE network – but is a TRICARE-authorized provider – may continue to see that provider and pay regular TRICARE Prime copayments instead of higher [point-of-service fees](#). This fee waiver also expires April 30.
- Questions:** Unsure whether your provider is authorized, or whether they are in or out of the TRICARE network? Learn more about how providers are classified [at this link](#), and check out the [TriWest provider directory](#). Contact TriWest customer service (888-TRIWEST) for further information.

### MEDIPLUS® TRICARE Supplement

Works hand-in-hand with your Select or Prime Plan. Count on valuable protection.

[ENROLL NOW](#)



## My HealtheVet on VA.gov

In the past, you've needed to go to many different online places to manage VA-related tasks. The new My HealtheVet experience on VA.gov allows you to manage your health care needs in the same place that you manage your other VA benefits and services. We encourage you to start using the new My HealtheVet experience on VA.gov to manage all of your health care needs.

[Go to the new My HealtheVet experience on VA.gov](#)

### What to expect

The current My HealtheVet is transitioning to the new My HealtheVet experience on VA.gov. Here's what you can expect today and in the future:

- Today, when you sign in to VA.gov and select My HealtheVet in the main navigation, you'll start on the new My HealtheVet on VA.gov home page. This page will have links to the same health tools you use today and more.
- Today, when you sign in to the current My HealtheVet and visit the appointment feature, we'll redirect you to appointments on VA.gov.
- In June, when you sign in to the current My HealtheVet, you'll notice that we've moved over to the new experience on VA.gov. To access pharmacy, health records, or secure messaging you'll need to go to My HealtheVet on VA.gov.
- Veterans who receive care from a VA health facility that uses the My VA Health portal will still need to go to that portal to manage their health care needs for now.

## EMPLOYMENT / TRAINING

### MOAA Again Recognized Among Top Employers for Veterans, Military Spouses

By: Kevin Lilley, MOAA Staff

APRIL 11, 2025

**MOAA Source:** <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/recommended-reads/moaa-again-recognized-among-top-employers-for-veterans,-military-spouses/>

MOAA earned its second consecutive four-star honor from the VETS Indexes Employer Awards, an annual program highlighting organizations that recruit, retain, and support veterans, military spouses, and Guard and Reserve members.

Nearly 350 employers applied for recognition by VETS Indexes – the most since the awards launched in 2021. MOAA has been honored every year, beginning with “recognized” employer status in 2021 and 2022 before moving to three-star status in 2023 and reaching the four-star level last year.

Award levels are set by survey responses gauging retention, promotion, and seniority levels of employed veterans, veteran and military spouse hiring efforts, support for veteran and Guard/Reserve hiring and employment programs, and other factors. MOAA's 82 employees include 18 former or retired servicemembers and five spouses of currently serving members.



"Employers of veterans, reservists, and military spouses aren't doing it out of charity," said MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret). "This group brings a set of skills and a resilient attitude that benefits any employer, not just those in the military and veterans space. We are excited to be recognized for leading by example."

**[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Support Military Spouse Hiring](#)]**

USAA was among the five-star awardees recognized by VETS Indexes, which released the award list April 10 – two days after USAA was honored by MOAA during an event in Washington, D.C., with [a Distinguished Service Award](#) for its work supporting the military and veterans' community.



From [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil)

Alongside MOAA, four-star awardees included General Motors, Leidos, The Home Depot, and T-Mobile.

In addition to MOAA's veteran-friendly staffing efforts and its [career and transition resources](#) designed to assist all members of the wider uniformed services community, the association also takes part in DoD's [Military Spouse Employment Partnership](#), which helps connect spouses with potential employers.

## Complete Guide to Military Spouse Employment

[www.moaa.org/spouseguide](http://www.moaa.org/spouseguide)

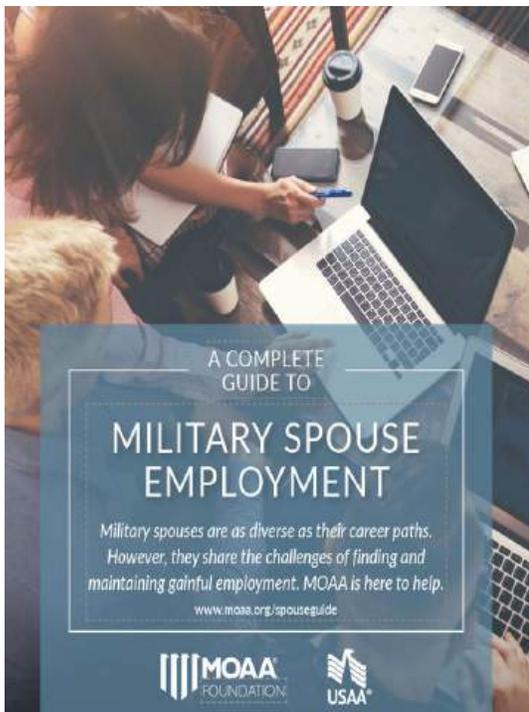


THIS IS A GUIDE FOR MILITARY SPOUSES WITH INPUT FROM MILITARY SPOUSES. ITS GOAL IS TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE YOUR NEXT TRANSITION AND ASSIST YOU IN KEEPING YOUR CAREER AS YOU MOVE.

You will find this guide is packed full of information about job hunting and ways to manage your career. It outlines the basics while focusing on creative strategies and approaches that tackle some of the complex challenges military spouses face.

The information provided is not designed as a one-size-fits-all approach, so be sure to select what is applicable to your journey. Each chapter has an accompanying activity sheet to help you better understand the main points of the chapter as well as guide your planning and execution efforts.

If you are just launching your career or need additional information about job-search basics, consider the Syracuse University's Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) career transition programs. MOAA's Spouse Programs, in partnership with IVMF, developed content specifically geared toward military spouses. For additional information, visit <http://vets.syr.edu>.



Contact MOAA Spouse Programs for more resources and information.

- Email [moaaspouse@moaa.org](mailto:moaaspouse@moaa.org).
- Visit the MOAA website at [www.moaa.org/spouse](http://www.moaa.org/spouse).
- Call the MOAA Member Service Center at (800) 234-MOAA (6622).
- Mail MOAA Spouse Programs  
201 N. Washington St.  
Alexandria, VA 22314



Become a part of the MOAA spouse community. Follow [@MOAA\\_MilLife](#) on Twitter or MOAA Spouse on Facebook.



## Beyond TAP: Finding the Right Transition Support (From Dozens of Choices)

By Kevin Lilley, MOAA Staff

APRIL 07, 2025

MOAA Source: [https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/transition-and-career/beyond-tap-finding-the-right-transition-support-\(from-dozens-of-choices\)/](https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/transition-and-career/beyond-tap-finding-the-right-transition-support-(from-dozens-of-choices)/)

Servicemembers, spouses, and veterans take part in a Boots to Business workshop at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, in January. (Photo by David Hernandez/Army) Transition Assistance Program seminars are far from the only federal resource available to servicemembers seeking success after leaving uniform. And while some of the other offerings may be common knowledge – GI Bill benefits, for instance, or service-specific [credentialing and licensing support](#) – there are dozens more ways to get ahead.

Check out a few examples below. Note: Not all programs are available to all servicemembers, so be sure to confirm eligibility.

### Industry-Specific Support

**Diplomatic Careers:** The [Veterans Innovation Partnership \(VIP\)](#) offers a 12-month, veteran-exclusive fellowship program in the State Department. A master's degree is required.

[RELATED MOAA WEBINAR RECORDING: [Exploring Diplomatic Career Opportunities at the State Department](#) (Premium/Life Member Login Required)]

**Energy Careers:** The Department of Energy (DOE) [Scholars Program](#) offers participants a paid internship with the Federal Energy Management Program, which could provide valuable experience for many science, technology, engineering, and mathematics-based career paths. Learn more about the application process, which includes veteran's preference, [at this link](#).

### Small Business/Entrepreneurship

No shortage of programs, including:

- [Boots to Business](#), a no-cost, two-day course available to servicemembers, veterans, and military spouses on military installations that covers business basics and resources.
- Not near a base? Consider [Boots to Business Reboot \(B2BR\)](#), which offers classes nationwide, including virtual options.
- [Veterans Business Outreach Centers \(VBOCs\)](#), which can help with everything from launching a business to finding a mentor to securing federal contracts.



## Education Support

Move beyond GI Bill benefits with other VA offerings, such as:

- The [Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership](#) (VITAL) program, which helps veterans adjust to campus life and ensure continued access to service-earned benefits.
- [VetSuccess on Campus](#) (VSOC), which provides counselors at partner schools to assist student-veterans with all manner of education- and transition-related topics.
- The [VA work-study program](#) helps veterans using certain VA education benefits find part-time employment during their time at school.



(Photo by David Hernandez/Army)

## Get More From MOAA

Federally provided programs are only part of the transition picture. [MOAA.org/Careers](https://www.moaa.org/Careers) is your one-stop source for a range of support, including upcoming MOAA transition and career events, informative articles, and member-exclusive transition resources.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Take a Deep Breath: Don't Overreact to Market Moves

By: Lila Quntiliani, MOAA Staff

**MARCH 17, 2025**

MOAA Source: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/finance/take-a-deep-breath-dont-overreact-to-market-moves/>

If you've been anywhere near a television, computer, or phone these last few weeks, you'll have noticed a rather volatile stock market. Last week, the S&P 500 dropped 1.4% and entered what is known as a [market correction](#) – a 10% drop in stock prices that occurs after a recent high.

People are concerned, and rightly so – no one likes seeing their retirement and investment accounts suddenly shrink.

It's normal to feel some anxiety about your finances. But take a deep breath – there is no need to rush into any decisions. Thoughtful planning always leads to better outcomes in the long run.

**[MOAA PREMIUM/LIFE MEMBER EXCLUSIVE: [The MOAA Investor's Manual](#)]**



For those who have 15 or more years until retirement, it's important to understand that you have plenty of time for the market – and your investments – to recover. History has shown that recoveries inevitably follow declines.

Investing for the long term is the way to go. The adage “time in the market is better than timing the market” is true: You can't predict when markets will rise and fall, but if you stay invested, then you can ride out the volatility and take advantage of the dips, treating them like fire sales.

Investments are inherently risky, but you can mitigate the risk by diversifying and holding a mix of different types of stock funds, bonds, and cash.



[alluwanted2know.blogspot.com](http://alluwanted2know.blogspot.com) Free Images

**[MORE FROM MOAA: [3 Steps to Stay Sane in a Volatile Market](#)]**

If your employer has “target date” retirement funds, like the [Lifecycle Funds in the Thrift Savings Plan](#), then the fund managers are making appropriate adjustments to your portfolio allocation based on your age and your retirement horizon.

Those within 15 years of retirement who haven't adjusted their allocations to account for aggressive investments have harder decisions to make. You have less time for a comeback. Take a deep breath, think through the best way ahead, and seek help if needed.

If you have a financial advisor, reach out: This is what you are paying them to do – provide educated financial advice. If you don't have a financial advisor, consider finding one before taking any drastic action.

**[MORE FROM MOAA: [How to Find a Financial Planner](#)]**

If you are active duty military, every [family readiness center](#) has an accredited financial professional on staff. They can't create a financial plan for you, but they can help educate you and (hopefully) ease your worries. Some installations may have the bandwidth to see retirees, as well.

Above all, don't panic. Don't check your portfolio every day. And maybe stay away from the news channels for a bit.

**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](#)**



## Surviving Spouse Corner: Improve Your Mental Skills With These Brain Exercises

By: Pat Green, MOAA Staff

APRIL 01, 2025

MOAA Source: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/member-spotlight/surviving-spouse-corner-improve-your-mental-skills-with-these-brain-exercises/>

Most of us have noticed a mental decline in a close friend or family member. Perhaps they don't seem as sharp, witty, or speedy as they once were.

You might wonder whether others are noticing this with you as well.

Mental decline is not just a phenomenon of aging. Stress, emotions, and poor diet and sleep reduce cognitive skills and affect all ages.

If you have had a stroke or a brain injury, or if you are concerned about a perceived mental decline, speak to your family doctor. If the doctor recognizes an issue, a neurologist can provide a detailed cognitive skills evaluation.



[RELATED: [More Surviving Spouse Resources From MOAA](#)]

[istockphoto.com](https://www.istockphoto.com) Free Images

Physical health and emotional health correlate with mental health. If you are consumed with grief or anxiety or dealing with a disease, deal with that first. If serious grieving extends more than two years, seek grief counseling for help. Complicated grief is seen in 9% of widows ages 60 to 75. A smaller percentage of men are affected.

If you want to improve your mental skills, try adding mental strengthening exercises into daily activities, such as:

- Recall.** Practice memorizing names, phone numbers, vocabulary words, baseball standings, NCAA March Madness lineups, or TV program schedules. Look at a magazine photo for a few seconds, close your eyes, and try to recall items in the photo.
- Analysis.** Read a newspaper article. Set it aside, then try to write a recap or summary of the article. Try to remember the who, what, when, where, and why.
- Spatial.** Rearrange a linen closet, pantry, or garage. Look for the most pragmatic and yet economical use of space. Do the same exercise with drawers in kitchen, bed, or bath. While you're at it, set aside some donation items and throw out expired items.
- Social.** Have a conversation every day. If you live alone, this might be a challenge. Practice small talk at the checkout line of stores. Initiate a phone call or an invitation. This is a must. Accept any invitations you receive. Try to remember a joke you can tell at your next social event.



•**Focus.** Stay focused on whatever activity you are engaged. It might be a conversation, gardening, dancing, chores, or workouts at the gym. Focus on listening, strength, the number of repetitions, muscles involved, posture, and breathing. Be in one with your thoughts. Meditation and prayer are very good options of mental focus.

•**Fun and games.** This can be all manner of social get-togethers. But there are some good solitary options. Jigsaw puzzles provide color and form discernment. Manipulation of the pieces is also good hand-eye coordination practice. Sudoku uses number grids, but it is not a math game. It is a logic exercise. Start with easy grids, and progress to expert status. Using computer sites, you can play Bridge, Gin Rummy, or Hearts with robots. These games require a memory of cards played and the counted.

### Send Us Your Feedback

We'd love to hear from you. Please let us know if this article was helpful by emailing to [sscomm@moaa.org](mailto:sscomm@moaa.org).

### [MORE SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER ARTICLES](#)

## MOAA NATIONAL/LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS

### MOAA on the Hill: Key Veterans' Priorities Outlined during Joint Hearing

FEBRUARY 26, 2025



Cmdr. René Campos, USN (Ret), MOAA's senior director of Government Relations, testifies Feb. 26 before a joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs committees in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Mike Morones/MOAA)

*By MOAA Staff*

MOAA Source:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/advocacy/moaa-on-the-hill-key-veterans-priorities-outlined-during-joint-hearing/>

Last year's passage of [expansive improvements to caregiver programs](#) showed what Congress could accomplish with broad stakeholder support ... but more work to help this often-overlooked part of the military community is needed, MOAA told lawmakers during a Feb. 26 hearing.

“These caregivers sacrifice their own futures – giving up financial security, career advancement, and personal well-being – to care for our nation's heroes,” said Cmdr. René Campos, USN (Ret), MOAA's senior director of Government Relations, in front of a joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs committees. “Yet when caregiving ends ... many are left struggling to rebuild their lives.”



Congress can address this issue by reintroducing and passing the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act, which would:

- Allow caregivers access to retirement planning, employment assistance, and bereavement counseling services.
- Reimburse caregivers for some professional licensure costs.
- Continue health care coverage for caregivers who are no longer eligible for VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC).
- Require a series of studies on barriers to caregiver employment, establishing a caregiver retirement plan, and other topics of concern.

"This act fulfills our nation's promise to those who sacrificed so much," Campos said.

[[READ MORE: MOAA's Written Testimony](#)]

### Ending the Wait

Campos also stressed the need to reform VA's approach to caring for toxic-exposed veterans, which has resulted in an average delay of more than 30 years from a service-connected toxic exposure to receiving earned benefits.

[A 2024 report](#) by MOAA and Disabled American Veterans (DAV) proposed a series of improvements to this process, to include a new classification system for exposures and a clear outline of the steps needed to establish a presumptive condition, including timelines for VA decisions designed to speed the process. These improvements would continue the progress made on this issue via 2022's MOAA-supported [Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act](#).

MOAA's testimony came alongside testimony from the Jewish War Veterans of the USA, Minority Veterans of America, National Association of County Veterans Services Officers, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families, and Wounded Warrior Project. A previous panel Feb. 26 included representatives from the American Legion.

MOAA also addressed the need for Congress to:

- Pass full appropriations for the current fiscal year and to ensure VA funding was in place for FY 2026 by Oct. 1. "Predictable, sufficient funding is vital to sustaining VA's health and benefits systems, meeting the growing needs of veterans and their families, and fulfilling congressional mandates without disruption," Campos said.
- Improve transition services for veterans by reintroducing and passing the TAP Promotion Act, which would include veterans service organizations such as MOAA in the transition process.
- Continue its work to serve women, minority, and other underserved veteran populations, to include passing legislation designed to improve VA's menopause care services and its work with military sexual trauma survivors.

Many of the MOAA-supported bills designed to address these priorities and others will be introduced in the coming weeks. Visit [MOAA's Legislative Action Center](#) to see the latest legislation and learn how you can send messages of support to your lawmakers.



## From the Desk of CAPT Dick Stapp, PPCMOAA Vice President

By Dick Stapp, CAPT USNR (Ret), PPCMOAA Staff

The following are thoughts and some of my ongoing observations during the last half year. How time flies when you're involved with so many interesting activities. As Vice President of PPCMOAA, I've had the privilege to continue being involved with many events, not only at PPCMOAA, but with the "RAO" Retiree Activities Office and Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center. There was a very well attended and colorful PPCMOAA Christmas Luncheon at the Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs on December 12, 2024.

Special entertainment was provided by a Choral Group from Palmer High School in Colorado Springs, in addition to Russ Miller from Toys for Tots making a presentation as to what's going on locally and Nationally with his organization.



We also had a visit from MOAA's Senior Director for Affiliated Councils & Chapters, Frank Michael, who made a presentation on what's happening at the Washington DC level. Providing a very interesting overview of National activities, he reviewed lobbying efforts at MOAA and their continuing efforts to maintain viable and active contact with local Chapters.

PPCMOAA and RAO continue an ongoing relationship with Mt. Carmel and their activities. A recent critical effort focused on helping veterans during the preparation of their personal income taxes. Additionally, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month a table containing various brochures is manned by volunteers from local PPCMOAA and RAO Chapters. These representatives provide information and answer questions posed by military personnel and their families who are visiting Mt. Carmel.

A Podcast originating at Mt Carmel's Veterans Voice studio took place on 17 April 2025, with PPCMOAA President Felix Uhlik and Past-President Steve Lucks being the featured speakers. This is a well-known Podcast in the Colorado Springs and Pueblo Colorado area. It provides military and local information to a broad southern Colorado audience that otherwise would be unavailable to many area veterans.

On October 26 2024, the annual Stand Down for Homeless veterans was held at Mt. Carmel with many PPCMOAA and RAO members assisting. On September 13 Mt. Carmel hosted its 9<sup>th</sup> Patriot Day with assistance from several local and military organizations. There are many more activities going on at Mt. Carmel that local chapters of PPCMOAA and RAO will continue to be support.



# Passing of PPCMOAA Chaplain

Robert Earl Mossey  
 May 30, 1923 – November 23, 2024

By Felix Uhlik, LTCOL, USAF (Ret), PPCMOAA President

Hello Chapter Members,  
 It is with a sad heart that I share the passing of Col (Ret) Bob Mossey on Nov 23, 2024. Bob was a member of our MOAA Chapter since 1990 and served as our Chapter Chaplain for more than 30 years. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife, Lee Ann, and the rest of the Mossey family. I've attached his obituary link from the *Gazette* regarding his memorial services held on January 10, 2025 at St Patrick's Church in Colorado Springs.



<https://obits.gazette.com/us/obituaries/gazette/name/robert-mossey-obituary?id=57033934>

# Pikes Peak Chapter MOAA Survey

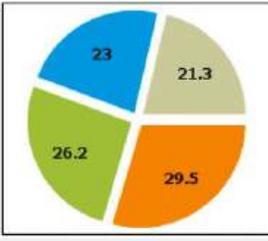
2025 MEMBER'S SURVEY Results Chart as of 2025-02-13  
 Total Respondents: 58

By Felix Uhlik, LTCOL, USAF (Ret),  
 PPCMOAA President

We conducted a survey earlier in the year to get feedback from Chapter members on: meetings, newsletter (Eagle), website and other Chapter activities. To see a summary, visit the Chapter website at [www.PPCMOAA.org](http://www.PPCMOAA.org) and click on "Chapter Info" and scroll down to "Surveys."

Q1: How often to you attend our PPCMOAA chapter meetings?

Replies:  
 A1: Always A2: Sometimes A3: Rarely A4: Never

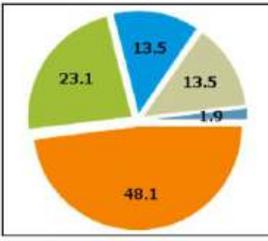


Answer	Count	Percent
A2	18	29.5%
A4	16	26.2%
A1	14	23%
A3	13	21.3%
Total	61	100%

No definite answer for this question.

Q2: Why don't you attend any of our meetings?

Replies:  
 A1: The dates or times conflict with my schedule. A2: The location is not convenient. A3: The venue is not appealing. A4: I don't find the topics to be interesting. A5: I just have no interest in attending the meetings.



Answer	Count	Percent
A1	25	48.1%
A5	12	23.1%
A2	7	13.5%
A4	7	13.5%
A3	1	1.9%
Total	52	100%

Almost half of respondents say the dates/times conflict with their sched

**SAMPLE SURVEY RESULTS**



## PPCMOAA February 2025 Luncheon

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

Our annual luncheon, held to recognize our ROTC and JROTC units, was held on April 10 at the Air Force Academy Falcon Club. The UCCS ROTC unit provided the color guard and 14 of the 17 JROTC units were in attendance. A total of 91 attended and heard student members of each of the units provide a summary of their accomplishments over the past year and their plans for the future. Guests included Lt Gen (Ret) Rod Bishop, Maj Gen (Ret) Joe Arbuckle and Dr Richard Ducharme.





## Pikes Peak Chapter MOAA Awards

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



We are pleased to announce that, for the second consecutive year, our Chapter has received the 5-Star Level of Excellence (LOE) Award. According to 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](http://www.PPCMOAA.org), select “Chapter Info,” then “Awards.”



CAPT Adolf (Max) Borysko, USA (Ret), Chapter Sergeant-at-Arms, received The Outstanding Service Award for his steadfast dedication to PPCMOAA since 1989. As one of our most senior active members, Max has also held positions as Public Affairs, Asst Treasurer, Photographer and Historian. He attends every meeting and leads the Chapter in the Pledge of Allegiance.

