



Houston Area
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~ Five Star ★★★★★ Chapter ~

President's Message...

August 2022

Greetings Friends,

Great news!! Your Chapter once again has been awarded MOAA National's Five Star Level of Excellence. I believe this makes it three in a row. Many thanks to all of the members who helped make this happen; particularly Dan Gutierrez who pulled all the moving parts together and created a winning application.



This month's Chapter lunch meeting will be August 26th at Rudy Lechner's German restaurant. Our speaker will be Judge Jason Luong. Judge Luong is the first Vietnamese American, elected to a county wide office in Harris County. Judge Luong is the presiding Judge for the felony Veterans Treatment court for Harris County, a specialty court that was created to handle felony criminal cases involving Veterans.

I also would like to call your attention to our scheduled September speaker, Vitalii Tarasiuk, the Consul General of Ukraine. Put both gentlemen on your calendars.

And as always, tell your colleagues about our Chapter. We would love to have them join us.

Respectfully,

Rob
 Robin P. Ritchie, COL, Infantry, USAR (Ret)

★★★★★

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August...Upcoming Chapter Events:

Tuesday, August 30th, 2022 @ noon

MOAA HA BOD Meeting

Rudi Lechner's German Restaurant
 2503 S Gessner Rd
 Houston, TX 77063

Saturday, August 27th, 2022 @ 11:30am-1:30pm

MOAA HA Chapter Meeting

Rudi Lechner's German Restaurant
 2503 S Gessner Rd
 Houston, TX 77063

RSVP to Rob Ritchie

Email: rpitchie@earthlink.net

2021 Levels of Excellence



For MOAA is pleased to announce the winners of the annual Council and Chapter Levels of Excellence (LOE) Awards for performance in 2021.

Out of just over 400 MOAA affiliates, 161 councils and chapters nominated themselves for LOE award recognition this year. Despite a difficult year of transition from the COVID-19 pandemic, these councils and chapters adapted and improvised when necessary to support and foster programs that directly support the MOAA mission and their communities.

All LOE nomination packages were independently evaluated by two members of the Council and Chapter Affairs Committee of the MOAA Board of Directors. Throughout the grading process, it was very clear that our councils and chapters didn't just maintain satisfactory performance but rather, excelled in their mission and determination.

Please join us in congratulating and thanking our selfless volunteers who work tirelessly within our affiliate network on behalf of this association. Learn more about the awards [at this link](#). Congratulations to the winners! ★

Retiree Appreciation Day

Ellington Field Houston

The 25th annual Military Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) will be held from 0800 until 1330 on 8 October 2022 at the Joint Reserve Center at Ellington Field. Retirees from all services, surviving spouses, and their families can greatly benefit by attending and will receive the latest information on changes in their retirement benefits and entitlements, and take advantage of the following: ID cards, wills and legal services, flu and COVID immunizations. Additionally, representatives will be there from the Fort Sam Houston Retirement Services Office, US Family Health Plan, USAA, TRICARE and Delta Dental, VA Healthcare, Veterans Services, VA Cemetery, VA Regional Benefits Office and others.

October 8, 2022
Joint Reserve Training Center
10949 Aerospace Avenue, Ellington Field
Houston, TX 77034

For more information:
Norris Posehn
COL (Ret) U.S. Army
281-935-6494
nposehn@att.net



Senate Confirms First Black 4-Star Marine General

AUGUST 03, 2022



Lt. Gen. Michael Langley, talks with Marines in the courtyard of Marine Corps Security Force Battalion barracks at Kings Bay, Ga., on March 30, 2022. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Zachary D. Behrend/Navy)

This article by Jonathan Lehrfeld originally appeared on [Military Times](#), the nation's largest independent newsroom dedicated to covering the military and veteran community.

On Monday the Senate officially confirmed Lt. Gen. Michael Langley as the nation's first Black four-star Marine general.

Langley, who will now lead U.S. troops in Africa as the commander of U.S. Africa Command, was widely expected [to land the confirmation](#) following a hearing by the Senate Armed Services Committee in late July.

In the Marine Corps' 246-year history, more than 70 white men have risen to the four-star ranking, according to The Washington Post.

[MORE FROM MARINES.MIL: [Official Promotion Set for Saturday](#)]

The Senate unanimously [confirmed Langley and a series of other military leaders](#) to new roles Monday evening, [according to a Tweet](#) from the Senate cloakroom.

His confirmation was celebrated by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-New York, [on social media](#).

Before receiving his nomination to the new role by President Joe Biden in June, Langley, a native of Shreveport, Louisiana, held several leadership roles during his 37 years in both the Pentagon and Marine Corps, [according to his Marine Corps bio](#).

Langley will replace the outgoing commander of U.S. AFRICOM, Army [Gen. Stephen J. Townsend](#). In late July, Townsend shared that the threat of violent extremism and strategic competition from China and Russia remain the [greatest challenges to the combatant command](#), according to a Department of Defense news release.

"Some of the most lethal terrorists on the planet are now in Africa," said Townsend, according to the release.

Langley's promotion comes as U.S. troops are once again [operating in Somalia](#).

U.S. AFRICOM reported no new civilian casualties in its most recent quarter as of June 30 this year, according to a casualty assessment report released in July. ★

New VA Video Outlines Dangers of 'Pension Poaching'

AUGUST 03, 2022

By: Kevin Lilley

A new video from the VA warns veterans and their family members of the ongoing threat from "pension poaching" – efforts by scammers to separate beneficiaries from their VA benefits or entice them to apply for new benefits they didn't earn.

[RELATED: [What Is 'Pension Poaching,' and How You Can Avoid It](#)]

The video covers some of the more common types of poaching attempts, to include scammers who:

- Offer to reallocate your financial assets to make you eligible to receive new or expanded VA benefits.
- Claim (falsely) that benefits can be redirected into a caregiver's account.
- Charge a fee to file a new benefits claim.



Image via Social Security Administration's Office of the Inspector General

The above attempts, and other types of attempted fraud, often come with requests for personal or financial information, which can lead to additional security problems.

Scammers also frequently promise "guaranteed eligibility" for various benefits, according to a [VA news article](#) accompanying the video release. This should set off alarm bells – all veterans benefits must be approved by the VA and can't be guaranteed prior to submitting an application.

Those who've been targeted by scammers regarding VA benefits can file a complaint via the VA's national call center at (800) 827-1000, or by visiting the department's Office of Inspector General [online](#). For other types of pension fraud, contact the [Federal Trade Commission](#) or find your [state attorney general's office](#).

[VA's pension benefits website](#) includes application and eligibility information, details on tracking your claim or checking your payment history, pension rates, and more resources. ★

Former VA Secretaries Push for Day of Recognition to Prevent Veteran Suicides

AUGUST 10, 2022



Photo by Joshua J. Seybert/Air Force

Editor's note: This article by Patricia Kime originally appeared on [Military.com](#), a leading source of news for the military and veteran community.

For the second straight year, all seven former [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) secretaries are calling on Congress to designate a Sunday in November as a national day to raise awareness about suicides among the veteran population.

The secretaries sent letters last week to lawmakers urging them to approve a resolution officially naming the Sunday after [Veterans Day](#) as "National Warrior Call Day" to encourage all veterans and the general public to reach out to a veteran, either by phone or a meetup.

This year, the date would be Nov. 13.

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Former VA Secretaries Push for Day of Recognition to Prevent Veteran Suicides

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"With its simple mission imploring Americans -- but especially active-duty service members and veterans -- to connect with someone who has worn or is currently wearing the uniform and let them know they care -- Warrior Call can foster greater connectivity, compassion and better outcomes," the secretaries wrote.

[RELATED: [New National Suicide Hotline in Effect: Veterans Can Call 988, Press 1](#)]

At the urging of the former secretaries last year, Reps. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., and Elaine Luria, D-Va., proposed an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act to recognize "Warrior Call Day."

It was approved by the House of Representatives but removed during final negotiations over the bill. This year, the group is hoping to get a resolution through the Senate, where it is being shepherded by Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., with support from Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark.

"Support for our troops shouldn't end when they return home -- but it doesn't always take a new federal program. Sometimes all you need is a call from a friend, family member, or battle buddy," Cotton said in a press release.

The idea behind a Warrior Call is to reduce isolation, which is associated with suicide. According to the VA, 6,261 veterans took their own lives in 2019, nearly 400 fewer deaths by suicide than the year before after nearly a decade of steady increases.

The veteran suicide rate, when adjusted for age and gender, was 26.9 per 100,000 persons in 2019, nearly 50% higher than the rate for all adults in the U.S.

[RELATED: [How MOAA Members Can Assist DoD's New Suicide Prevention Effort](#)]

In 2021, 642 service members, including active-duty, Reserve and [National Guard](#) members, died by suicide.

"[Warrior Call] can help arrest the tragic suicide trends that are befalling veterans and active-duty personnel at a rate far more deadly than among civilians," the secretaries wrote. "The goal is to have individuals 'make a call, take a call and be honest.'"

Those signing the letter were Anthony Principi, Jim Nicholson, James Peake, Eric Shinseki, Robert McDonald, David Shulkin and Robert Wilkie.

Frank Larkin, chairman of Warrior Call whose son Ryan was a [Navy SEAL](#) who died by suicide, said there are no single solutions to reducing suicide, but addressing isolation is important.

"Greater connectivity will serve as a starting point for reaching veterans and service members who don't raise their hands, who are suffering in silence and might be spiraling into an abyss," Larkin said in a statement released by the Troops First Foundation, a group that provides programs for post-9/11 combat-injured veterans and sponsors the Warrior Call initiative.

Veterans and military personnel experiencing a mental health emergency can call the Veteran Crisis Line at 988, and press 1. They can also text 838255 or reach someone via chat through the [VA's crisis line website](#).



Surviving Spouse Corner:

Wall of Faces: Mission Accomplished

After more than two decades of effort, we are ecstatic to announce that at least one photo has been found for each of the 58,281 service members whose names are inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial!

When VVMF began this effort, the goal was to put a face with a name for each of the 58,281 service members whose names are inscribed on The Wall. We wanted to ensure that visitors to The Wall understand that behind each name is a face – a person with a story of a family and friends who were forever changed by their loss. Today, the Wall of Faces tells these stories through photos and remembrances left by both friends and family members. We couldn't have done this without the tenacious work of a small army of volunteers across the country. Their ingenuity, commitment and dedication are tremendous.

This phase of the Wall of Faces is now complete, but our team and many volunteers are continuing to seek better quality photos and adding remembrances to show the full story behind each name. We ask for all of you to look at the photos on the Wall of Faces and add additional higher-quality images as well as leave remembrances so that with the name, the photos and the remembrances – fuller stories will begin to emerge about each of these heroes.

To view and search the Wall of Faces, visit: www.vvmf.org/wall-of-faces



Since VVMF announced this call for photos, hundreds of volunteers and family members have submitted photos for the effort. Volunteers tracked down photos in many different ways.

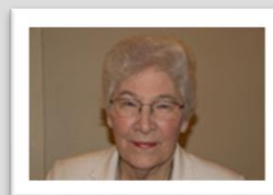
Volunteers such as Janna Hoehn. She began working on the project in 2011 and worked her way from where she resides in Maui, Hawaii to her hometown in Hemet, California to across the country looking for photos and spent many hours talking to family members of those on The Wall and learning more about their loved ones.

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Surviving Spouse Corner:

Wall of Faces: Mission Accomplished

(Continued from previous page...)



Judith Thomas
Surviving Spouse Liaison
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Andrew Johnson, a Gold Star father himself, started looking for photos and through his connection with the National Newspaper Association, got community newspapers across the country involved in the effort.

Many of our volunteers – like David Hine, Herb Reckinger, Norm Murray and John Thomstatter - started just with working on their state, and then spread out across the country searching for more.

Steve and Annie Delp started volunteering for VVMF, spending time going to Vietnam veteran reunions and spreading the word about the photo search and the Wall of Faces.

Those are just a handful of examples of our volunteers. Each volunteer had their own way of doing things and with everyone coming together for a common goal, success was within reach. You can learn more about each of these volunteers here: <https://www.vvmf.org/News/WALL-OF-FACES-MISSION-ACCOMPLISHED/> and over the next seven days we'll share their individual stories on our blog: <https://www.vvmf.org/blog/>

We cannot thank them – and all of you – enough. You made this happen. Every person who has posted a photo or a remembrance to the Wall of Faces has contributed to this moment.

So, what's next for the Wall of Faces? We aren't done. We will continue to search for more – and higher-quality photos – as well as remembrances to make sure that we put together the fullest possible story for each of the 58,281 heroes on The Wall so that we can make sure their faces and stories are never forgotten for generations to come. We hope you'll join us in that effort.

Jim Knotts
President and CEO
VVMF

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WALL

In 1982 a promise was made to **never forget** those who served and sacrificed in the Vietnam War.

This year marks **40 years** since that promise was made.

JOIN WITH US AND CELEBRATE THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WALL

Veterans Can Start Filing Claims Now for PACT Act Benefits

AUGUST 05, 2022



Senators, veterans, advocates and other supporters celebrate the passage of the PACT Act on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 2. (Mike Morones/MOAA)

Editor's note: This article by Patricia Kime originally appeared on Military.com, a leading source of news for the military and veteran community. It was originally published prior to the Aug. 10 signing of the [Honoring Our PACT Act](#).

The [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) has [established a website explaining the details](#) of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics, or PACT, Act, and encourages veterans to file claims and apply for health care coverage.

The bill, expected to be signed into law by President Joe Biden, provides health care and disability benefits for certain [deployment-related](#) diseases and conditions.

On Aug. 2, VA Secretary Denis McDonough encouraged affected veterans, their family members or survivors to apply for benefits by filing a claim.

"Once the President signs this bill into law, we at VA will implement it quickly and effectively, delivering the care these veterans need and the benefits they deserve," McDonough said in a statement to the press.

The [PACT Act was approved by the Senate in an 86-11 vote](#), the culmination of a monthslong congressional effort to bring the legislation across the proverbial finish line. In his State of the Union Address in January, Biden vowed to help veterans with exposure-related illnesses, calling it a "sacred obligation."

[RELATED: [PACT Act Passes Senate, Heads to President's Desk](#)]

Following Senate approval of the bill, Biden released a statement saying passage was a "decisive and bipartisan win for America's veterans."

"For the millions of veterans who may have been exposed to harmful toxins, this bill means quicker access to health care services and other benefits," Biden said. "This could be the difference between life and death for many suffering from toxic-related illnesses."

Terri Tanielian, special assistant to the president for veterans affairs, said Wednesday that the bill includes provisions and resources for the VA to process claims more quickly, including an automated system that will expedite claims filed for certain conditions.

Currently, the VA has 595,862 claims filed by veterans that are pending; that includes 164,743 considered backlogged, or pending for more than 125 days.

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Veterans Can Start Filing Claims Now for PACT Act Benefits

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[RELATED: [Your Questions, Answered: The Honoring Our PACT Act](#)]

The PACT Act is expected to add thousands of more claims, from former service members who were diagnosed with one or more of 23 illnesses listed in the new legislation as presumed to be related to airborne toxins. Those will range from Vietnam-era veterans with hypertension to monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance, to veterans exposed to Agent Orange who previously couldn't file a claim because they were assigned to locations that weren't identified as having stored or used toxic herbicides.

But Tanielian said the department will be ready.

"The department is planning to be able to lean in. They have been working on hiring more claims processors and looking at additional ways to do more to automate claims. If they can [do that], the timeline will be much shorter," Tanielian said in an interview with Military.com.

The bill could help roughly 3.5 million veterans access health care in the coming years.

The PACT Act extends the period for post-9/11 combat veterans to enroll in VA health care from five years to 10 and also includes a one-year open enrollment for combat veterans who fall outside that time frame.

It expedites claims for more than 20 specific conditions and removes a requirement that afflicted veterans and their survivors prove service connection for 11 specific respiratory conditions and several types of cancer, including reproductive cancers, melanoma, pancreatic cancer, kidney cancer and brain cancers.

[RELATED: [These Senators Still Aren't Supporting Concurrent Receipt Legislation](#)]

Survivors of veterans who died due to one of these conditions may now also be eligible for benefits, according to a White House press release.

In addition to expanding benefits for post-9/11 veterans, the agreement announced Wednesday broadens coverage for Vietnam-era veterans exposed to Agent Orange. Specifically, it would add Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Guam, American Samoa and Johnston Atoll to the list of places where veterans were exposed to Agent Orange and so can get coverage.

Tanielian said the legislation is going to draw more patients into the VA's health care system, where "they will receive high-quality integrated health care."

"The President has made specific commitments about ensuring that we can continue to deliver world-class health care to veterans by releasing additional rules and guidance to improve and expand access to services," Tanielian said.

The VA's new website for the PACT Act [can be found here](#). Veterans, family members and survivors also can call (800) 698-2411 to have their questions answered. The hearing impaired can access information through 711 via teletypewriter.

"We'll be communicating with you every step of the way to make sure that you and your loved ones get the benefits you've earned," McDonough said while announcing the new webpage and phone number.



New Defense Department ID Cards Are Finally Compatible With TSA Security

Patricia Kime
July 22, 2022

There's good news for military personnel with new Common Access Cards, as well as retirees and military family members who received the Defense Department's next-generation identification card during the past two years: The IDs now work at Transportation Security Administration security checkpoints at all U.S. airports.



For the past two years, those with the new cards have needed to produce an alternate form of identification at many airports, since the IDs' barcodes were incompatible with the TSA's scanning system. The problem was resolved in June, according to DoD spokeswoman Lisa Lawrence.

DOD and TSA worked to identify the source of the problem," Lawrence told Military.com in an email Wednesday. "TSA has implemented a software update and completed the distribution to the field to correct the problem in early June 2022."

While the problem has largely been an inconvenience, since many people also travel with a driver's license, passport or other form of ID, it has become more of an imperative as a May 3, 2023, deadline approaches for everyone who flies domestically in the U.S. or visits a government facility.

As of that date, travelers and visitors will need to have a REAL ID card from their state or a DoD ID card, which is acceptable as a REAL ID.

A REAL ID meets minimum security standards for identification and production, according to the Department of Homeland Security.

The Defense Department updated the new IDs, known as USID, for active-duty family members, military retirees and their dependents, reservists and Medal of Honor recipients in 2020, the first upgrade to the cards since 1993.

The new USID cards look similar to Common Access Cards, but don't have a built-in chip. They do have durable lamination, full-color photos and enhanced security features, making them less likely to be misused or counterfeited.

The cards are being phased in as the older versions expire; the DoD said earlier this month that retirees and family members who hold old cards that lack an expiration date have four years to get the new version. Any old cards with expiration dates must be replaced within 90 days of elapsing or they are subject to confiscation at installation gates.

Pentagon spokesman Army Maj. Charlie Dietz said those with cards with no expiration dates may replace them "at their convenience." The DoD recommends holders go to the ID Card Office Online, find a site that issues the new cards, and book an appointment.

-- Pentagon Bureau Chief and Deputy Managing Editor Travis Tritten contributed to this report. He can be reached at Travis.Tritten@Military.com.

-- Patricia Kime can be reached at Patricia.Kime@Military.com. Follow her on Twitter @patriciakime. ★

Chaplain's Corner...



Life On the Run

Everybody likes a good story. As grandparents we remember the stories our grandparents and parents told us. As parents and now grandparents we cherish the times when we can tell stories to our family members. Summer vacations often give us the opportunities to do so. Out in the woods or standing in a line at an amusement park or just watching our grandkids so our offspring can have a break will give us those opportunities. S'mores and campfires also give us those opportunities.

Jesus, Mohammad and other religions all took opportunities to tell their stories as well. The main difference is that they didn't have to contend with gameboys, switches and playstation (6)? The other difference is that our religious stories usually always have a moral lesson to learn. Many of us have heard a parable defined as "an earthly story with a heavenly meaning". Many parables contained the lesson in such a manner as the listeners had to be part of the "in crowd" in order to receive the code. Often the hiding was not obtuse. It just took a little bit of thought. Our literature classes also taught us what to look for in the story.

The Prodigal Son is just such a story. Jesus told it to his followers to help show us how to live and what to do. The full story is in Luke 15:11-31 in the New Testament. Here is the Essells' summary:

Two sons had finished their schooling and the younger one asked his father to give him his inheritance early so he could go off on his own. His father decided he would do that and gave him his inheritance...so off he went. Long story short, he went off and spent his wad as a profligate. Basically, he lost it all. Naturally he couldn't find work, help or food and finally found a job as a slave feeding pigs (Not a good living for a Kosher Jewish Boy)! As he fed the pigs he decided they were eating better than himself so he decided that maybe he should go back home. He would tell dad he's sorry and offer to become one of dad's slaves if he'd have him back. Maybe he would eat better than the pigs. Once back home his father recognized him on the road and was overjoyed at his return. He ran to him, embraced him, listened to his story and threw a big party for him. (Did I say he was glad to see him again?)

Enter, the older son who was coming back to the party after another hard day in the field. He heard the celebrating and another servant told him the party was because his brother had returned. He was jealous because dad had never thrown him a party. (Maybe he was assuming now that his inheritance would be shorted after his brother had blown his part). Big brother complained to dad, "He gets this party because he's back after he'd received his inheritance and I never got a party!

His father replied, Yes son, you've worked hard all these years and everything you have here is yours but your brother has returned. He was dead and now he's alive he was lost but now he's found.

The parable is called "The Prodigal Son" and the meanings and thoughts involved in the parable are both simple and complex. The feelings in the parable can be applied to all of us...how to divide the inheritance?...How to treat both of the sons after the lost son's return?...How the sons will treat one another?... One of the bottom lines however is to rename this as "The Love of the Prodigal's Father". The main points are that God's love is Forever and Forgiving. The Bible explains the Christian story and how God loves all mankind and offers eternal life to all people because of Jesus sacrifice on the cross. God wants a relationship with all mankind because He loves us. He asks us to freely ask forgiveness for our sins (wrongdoing) and ask Him to enter and lead us in our lives. This is done by our request, prayer, and God answers. The part of the parable which is the response of the sons and the Father and its complexity is also the complexity of faith. That complexity is part of any major religion.

Our religious walk is the way we live our lives. Every religious faith I have studied teaches us how we should live our lives. Most of them involve the way we think, talk and act. Some involve strict rules and regulations, Christianity included. But again the bottom line is that our faith is judged by other people and deities, God included. Morality, ethics, our honesty and our actions determine what others think of us and our religion. All religions ask us to look at our lives, what we have been taught and how we use our resources and abilities in our jobs, our homes and our relationships. The story of The Prodigal Son shows us that God is always there with His arms wide open ready to accept us back no matter where we have gone or what we have done. Many of us have a hard time believing and accepting that.

~ David Essells, USAR, MAJ, RET

These Senators Still Aren't Supporting Concurrent Receipt Legislation

By: Mark Belinsky
JULY 27, 2022

Support for the Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282 /S.344) has grown to over [60 in the Senate](#) and [272 in the House](#). The Star Act would support over 50,300 combat-injured with concurrent receipt of service-earned retired pay for longevity and VA disability who are subject to an offset where their retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of VA disability received. Even with a majority of Senators in support, it faces an uphill battle to be included in this year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), with some Senators concerned about cost to the Defense Department. But our combat injured have paid a greater price and deserve fair compensation for their time in service *and* their lifelong injuries.



(Photo by Andrey Denisjuk/Getty Images)

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Major Richard Star Act](#)]

Sens. Jon Tester (D-Mont.), Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) and Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) have long supported concurrent receipt legislation and the Star Act will be submitted, again, as an amendment to the Senate version of the NDAA. Submitting the Star Act has become an annual effort that started in the 116th Congress three years ago. The House this year again failed to vote in favor of the Star Act amendment, despite a majority of support as recently highlighted by Shepard Smith on CNBC [watch here: [Disabled-veterans-feel-left-out-by-congress](#)].

The Star Act would allow concurrent receipt of earned longevity pay and VA disability for our combat-injured. These individuals, often seriously disabled, are subject to an offset where their retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of VA disability received. In some cases, their retirement pay is completely eliminated.

To reduce DoD retirement pay for earned years of service because of a VA disability rating is an injustice and we will continue to build support for this long-term campaign.

The following Senators, at the time of this article, have not yet signed onto the Star Act and your calls and messages are needed to influence them to cosponsor S.344. Use MOAA's Capital Hotline – 866-272-MOAA (6622) – a toll-free line to the U.S. Capitol switchboard, to connect with your legislators' offices.

Texas (The most combat injured out of all 50 states)

Sen. Cruz and Sen. Cornyn



Perks Marketplace

To log in to Perks Marketplace, [click here](#).

[Click here](#) to access the Perks Marketplace page and start saving!

Having problems logging in, or have other questions?

Email msc@moaa.org or call our Member Service Center at 800-234-6622.

MOAA HA Chapter Meeting Saturday, July 30, 2022



**Bob Bening, COL (Ret),
Guest Speaker
And Dan Gutierrez**



Dan Gutierrez



Stancie Chamberlin



**Frank and Barbara
Tricomi**



Kathy and Rick Frank



Gene Tulich



Joan Tulich



Red O'Laughlin



Mike Martin



Ken Jayne



**Peggy Mondy,
Guest of Ken Jayne**



Norris Posehn

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*We need YOU...
to remain a
MOAA HA Member!*



Debating whether to renew your chapter membership?

Talking to a potential new member?

Benefits to belonging to a chapter:

- Camaraderie and Connections: when you attend chapter functions, actively serve on a committee, or take a prominent leadership role, you forge lasting ties with other MOAA members.
- Community Involvement: Membership provide opportunities to contribute to your community in a variety of ways, from providing scholarships to local students, to supporting causes that support wounded warriors and their families.
- Legislative Advocacy: We advocate for the entire military community-all ranks. Members play a critical role in advancing legislation in both Austin and Washington, D.C. This grassroots advocacy is key to MOAA achieving its legislative goals.

Chapter dues reminders will be emailed/sent out in November to those members needing renewal. We are on a calendar year for our chapter dues.

Annual renewal is \$30 for one year, \$20 for each additional year paid with renewal. Surviving Spouse \$15 initial membership; \$10 annual renewal.

Membership Application on the last page!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

MOAA's Core Mission

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of uniformed servicemembers and their families. MOAA's constituents proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country: Never Stop Serving.

MOAA's greatest mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families, which is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's capital. For more than 90 years, MOAA has supported legislation that benefits the uniformed services community and has remained equally vigilant when fighting to stop legislation that threatens our livelihood. The larger our numbers, the greater our voice. For more detailed legislative actions see [MOAA | Take Action Center \(quorum.us\)](https://www.quorum.us)

Name: _____
(Please print) Last First Initial Rank

Branch _____ Status _____ MOAA Nat'l ID _____ *

Spouse's First Name: _____ Tel. for Directory _____

Home Address: _____

Email: _____

Dues: Regular Membership – \$30 first year; annual renewal \$30 (Discount for multiple years if paid with renewal: \$20 for each add'l. year **paid with renewal**)
Surviving Spouse – \$15 first year; annual renewal \$10 (same discount for multiple years)

Chapter Assistance Fund

\$100.00 \$50.00 \$25.00 Other _____

Make check payable to MOAA-HA and mail to:

MOAA-HA
PO Box 18372
Sugar Land, TX 77496



For more information, call COL Robin Ritchie, 713-818-0408

**If not a MOAA national member, another benefit of chapter membership is the opportunity to become a national MOAA member at the BASIC LEVEL for free! If you would like to do so, please indicate here:*

YES NO

Signature: _____