



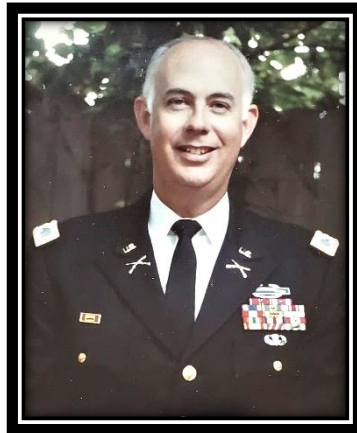
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September 2021 Issue – Newsletter to Members

President's Message...

Dear MOAA HA Members,

September marked the 20 year anniversary of 9/11 and as always, NEVER FORGET. This year's commemoration was particularly poignant given the Administration's decision to withdraw from Afghanistan. The chaos that followed included 13 killed in action and 18 wounded in action. Our prayers and thoughts are with all of these men and women and their families. Coincidentally, this month's newsletter includes an update on the proposed changes to internment at Arlington National Cemetery. Additionally, there are articles relative to the proposed federal budget. I would urge you to follow these budget proposals carefully.



Last month we had a great presentation from CDR Osvaldo Vera, USCG, Commander of the Coast Guard's Houston area Maritime and Security team. I am amazed at how much these folks do with so few people. CDR Vera left immediately after his briefing to join his team in providing assistance for Hurricane Ida. This month will feature two Bellaire high School JROTC Cadets and their Senior Instructor CW4 Jennifer Collins. They will provide the Chapter an update on the Youth Leadership Conference they attended this summer at Texas A&M University. The conference was sponsored by the Military Order of World Wars. Our own LTC Rollins Collins will share the vision for future

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September...

Upcoming Chapter Events:

Tuesday, September 18th, 2021 @ noon

MOAA HA BOD Meeting

Golf Crest Country Club
2509 Country Club Drive
Pearland, TX 77581

Saturday, September 28th, 2021 @ noon

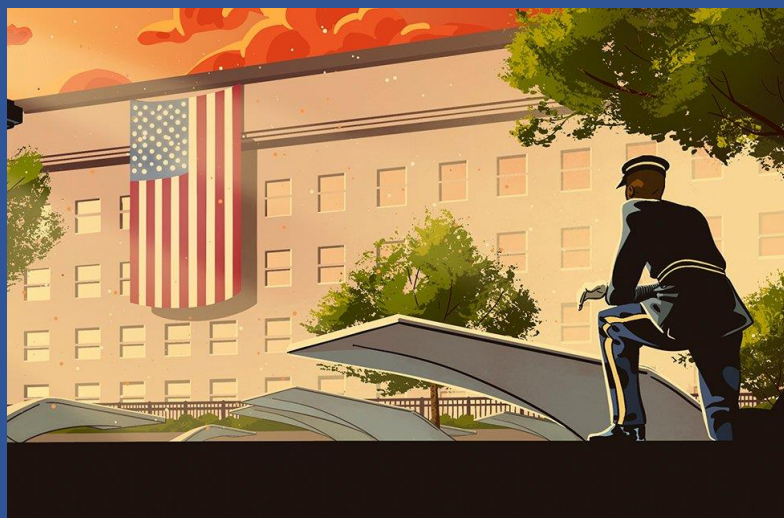
MOAA HA BOD Meeting

Rudi Lechner's German Restaurant
2503 S Gessner Rd
Houston, TX 77063
RSVP to Rob Ritchie

President's Message: Pause to Honor Service, Sacrifice on 9/11

By: Dana Atkins
SEPTEMBER 08, 2021

(Illustration by Steven P. Hughes)



This week we reflect on the 9/11 terrorist attacks, 20 years later. The images of the Twin Towers struck by two hijacked planes are burned into our country's collective memory. We remember New York City's first responders who ran into the smoke-plumed towers to rescue the people trapped inside. In Arlington, Va., hijackers crashed another plane into the western side of the Pentagon. Meanwhile, on Flight 93, passengers fought to retake the aircraft against hijackers, who had intended to crash the plane into a target in Washington, D.C., likely either the White House or the Capitol. The plane crashed near Shanksville, Pa., killing all 44 people aboard.

These events shocked America and swiftly changed the course of our global military posture and geopolitical outlook, ultimately entangling the U.S. in a 20-year war in Afghanistan where terrorist groups had been harbored by the Taliban-led government.

Operation Enduring Freedom put troops into action in early October 2001, beginning air and ground campaigns alongside Afghan forces retaking Taliban-controlled territory. Years later, after also orchestrating the invasion of Iraq and ultimate capture of Saddam Hussein, the U.S. asserted some justice for the 9/11 attacks. On May 2, 2011, Seal Team 6 killed Osama bin Laden, the world's most wanted terrorist and mastermind of the 9/11 attacks.

[MORE 9/11 ANNIVERSARY COVERAGE: [MOAA Member Reflects on 2001 Afghanistan Mission](#)]

While the end of the Afghanistan combat mission was declared in 2014, a force of thousands of servicemembers tasked with training and supporting Afghan soldiers remained engaged in a war that carried on. More than 2.7 million troops have served in the war zones of Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001.

MOAA worked with other associations and Congress to support the families of the 125 casualties from the Pentagon attack and endeavored to bring some financial stability to the families of those servicemembers who lost their lives. The effort,

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From left, Member Service Representative Kayla Dailey, MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret), MOAA Board Chairman Gen. Walter "Skip" Sharp, USA (Ret), and Director of Government Relations for Military Family Policy and Spouse Programs Jen Goodale place a wreath at the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial on Sept. 8. (Photo by Mike Morones/Staff)



Youth Leadership conferences and will report on what the Houston chapter has been doing to support ROTC and JROTC.

That's all for now.

Respectfully,

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

★★★★★★

Pause to Honor Service, Sacrifice on 9/11 Continued from Page 2...

resulting in legislation, provided Survivor Benefit Plan coverage for the families of servicemembers killed while on active duty, effective Sept. 10, 2001.

[MORE 9/11 ANNIVERSARY COVERAGE: Memories of a Generational War]

But there is still work to be done. The continuing tragedy in Afghanistan has left many of us thinking of those we have lost and those still suffering. Though the long war in Afghanistan has come to a close, it is time to care for our servicemembers, their families, veterans and surviving spouses. In the coming months there will be an opportunity for Congress to support our uniformed community and address injustices many from the Vietnam era still endure. The Sept. 11 anniversary and the end of the war in Afghanistan is a time for us to reflect on keeping promises to our currently serving and retired personnel — especially those we lost and those who were injured in combat.

Please join us in remembering 9/11 as we pause to honor that tragic day two decades ago.

★★★★★



TRIBUTE IN LIGHT

PHOTO BY GIN LEE

Tribute in Light is a commemorative public art installation first presented six months after 9/11 and then every year thereafter, from dusk to dawn, on the night of September 11. It has become an iconic symbol that both honors those killed and celebrates the unbreakable spirit of New York.

Beyond Arlington: It's Time for Congress to Consider Our Next National Cemetery

By: Mark Belinsky
SEPTEMBER 01, 2021

The proposed eligibility change for Arlington National Cemetery has progressed through the federal rule-making process, and it is time for Congress to intervene.

The Military Coalition (TMC), a group of 35 military and veteran service organizations (including MOAA) with a combined membership of nearly 5.5 million, is concerned the changes could be published in the Federal Register sometime this fall. The proposed changes to eligibility are service and mission discriminatory and do not account for all-important military honors for those who would be forced to use a different cemetery. This shortsighted proposal also represents one more reduced benefit for those currently eligible and for future servicemembers.

[TAKE ACTION: Ask Your Lawmakers to Preserve the National Cemetery Benefit]

These changes are designed to extend the life of Arlington National Cemetery, but no matter what criteria are used, Arlington will run out of room one day. For that reason, it is necessary to designate the next national cemetery that will afford full military honors while maintaining current eligibility standards.

Finding the next national cemetery "is a matter of national conscience," the coalition wrote in a recent letter to key lawmakers on the House and Senate Armed Services committees. You can read the full letter [at this link \(PDF\)](#).

MOAA and the coalition want Congress to require a DoD/VA joint report on the location of the next national cemetery that will afford full military honors (administratively run by the VA) within a year of the passage of the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), and to sustain current eligibility standards for Arlington National Cemetery until the next location is operational.

The VA runs 155 national cemeteries, but only the DoD-run Arlington National Cemetery affords full military honors. Our nation began using Arlington during the Civil War when the Soldier's Home cemetery in Washington, D.C., was running out of room. As Arlington reaches capacity (estimated in 2050), it is logical to designate the next location and maintain standards rather than reduce the benefit through eligibility restrictions.

What Is Next?

This week, members of the House Armed Services Committee are marking up their version of the NDAA. During this process, it is important for constituents to reach out to their lawmakers in both chambers; hearing from constituents affects the process and informs future conferees who will resolve the differences between House and Senate NDAA language.

Continued on next page...



Meet the Men and Women Bringing Aviation History to Life

By: Amber Monks
SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

A Curtiss P-40 Warhawk heads down the runway at the Culpeper Regional Airport in Virginia on Sept. 24, where more than 60 vintage military aircraft conducted a practice flight for the Arsenal of Democracy flyover in Washington, D.C. The flyover, was canceled due to poor weather. (MOAA staff)



The [Arsenal of Democracy](#) organized a flyover in the skies of Washington, D.C., to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. The MOAA-supported event was to feature multiple flying formations over the National Mall, with each formation honoring a prominent battle during the war.

Unfortunately, the pilots never got the weather they needed to embark on their journey. But MOAA spoke to several of them as they prepared for the flight, catching a glimpse into what it takes to fly a vintage plane and bring history to life through the maintenance of these special aircraft.

While the planes may appear in the sky as they did 75 years ago, their mechanics are updated to meet all modern-day Federal Aviation Administration standards and are outfitted with GPS navigation systems. Keeping these planes in flying condition is not only a labor of love but a costly endeavor, requiring hours of work and thousands of dollars. Pilots must become specialized in working from a cockpit that looks different than any you'd find in a 21st-century aircraft.

[LEARN MORE: [MOAA Presents Wings of World War II](#)]

To many enthusiasts, this is a small price to pay in order to give others a sense of the sacrifices made during the war and pay tribute to the pilots that came before them.

Vintage plane pilots come from many backgrounds, some civilian, some military, but all are drawn to the history, novelty, and excitement of listening to the satisfying hum of a radial engine, rebuilding downed aircraft of the past, and showing off their thoughtfully painted wings to aficionados from thousands of feet above the ground. ★

Beyond Arlington... Continued from previous page...

Be sure to send a copy of TMC's letter along with your own to your lawmaker, and copy all correspondence to the leaders (chairman and ranking member) of the House and Senate Armed Service committees. Because time is short on the NDAA, a phone call is also warranted; 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. Visit our [Take Action website](#) to send a letter now.

MOAA will continue to work with members of the Armed Services committees throughout the NDAA process. You can keep up to date on the latest NDAA developments at [MOAA.org/advocacy-news](#). ★

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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!

Chaplain's Corner...

Thoughts on 9/11, 2021

This month we remembered 9/11 and the Americans who lost their lives on the attack of the Twin Towers. It was one of the most tragic days in American History. 9/11 reminds us of people who were loved and lost, of families which were shattered by hatred and jihad. But it was also a day when Americans came together to love and support one another by selfless heroism, acts of bravery, kindness and support of our country. The tragedy united our country which hatred tried to divide.

Many of our members remember where we were, what we were doing and what we did once we heard and followed the news. Many of us prayed, sent money and communicated with our loved ones as we debriefed the event and our actions and reactions. We currently are receiving Afghan refugees even as we did after the Vietnam War. These are Muslim people who fought beside our soldiers as both fighters and interpreters. They deserve our love and support.

Christ said "Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One
and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.
This is the first and greatest commandment
And the second, like it, is this,
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment
greater than these." (Mark 12: 29-31)

Today as we remember 9/11 I would like to call us as MOAA Members to pray for peace, love and understanding between us and our neighbors whoever they are or whatever their beliefs, race, religions or political identity. Jesus requires that we do so as do the Torah and the Quran. Peace is far better than the alternative.

The unity which the 9/11 attacks brought to our country is a reminder to us Americans that we should continue to pray for peace and unity and that we once again become The United States. It is time that each of us pray, speak and act toward one another in the American unity in which God would have us live.



~ David Essells, USAR, MAJ, RET

NDA Update: Where Pay Raise, TRICARE Changes, and Other Priorities Stand

By MOAA Government Relations Staff
SEPTEMBER 08, 2021

Marine Corps officer candidates participate in the Montford Point Challenge at Officer Candidates School at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., last month. Both the House and Senate versions of the National Defense Authorization Act include a 2.7% military pay raise, keeping pace with the Employment Cost Index. (Photo by Tia Dufour/Marine Corps)



The latest step in the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDA) process offers a clearer picture of what MOAA priorities will make the bill's final version, what fights will continue in upcoming sessions, and where MOAA needs your help in pressing legislators to include much-needed reforms.

The House Armed Services Committee (HASC) finished marking up its version of the NDA in the early hours Sept. 2 – a 14-hour session with a record-high 780 amendments introduced that resulted in a 57-2 committee approval. While the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) completed its markup of the NDA earlier this summer, bill text from both committees is not publicly available, and limited changes could come via floor amendments and the conference process before the bill is finalized.

Here are some highlights of the FY 2022 NDA so far (**Jump to: [What's In](#) | [What's Out](#) | [What's Next](#)**):

What's In

Pay Raise: Both the House and Senate versions include a 2.7% military pay raise. While MOAA is happy to report this raise remains tied to the Employment Cost Index (ECI), it fails to address when pay raises fell below ECI in 2014-2016, resulting in a pay gap of 2.6%. This shortfall is increasingly important for servicemembers' families who face soaring costs for rent, extremely high spousal unemployment rates compounded by the lack of with DoD child care capacity, and growing out-of-pocket PCS costs. Making up the 2.6% shortfall remains a problem for Congress to correct.

Basic Needs Allowance (BNA): This [Advocacy in Action](#) topic has overcome several obstacles thanks to MOAA member engagement. Pending any surprise outcomes from the NDA conference, BNA will be included in the final NDA. This provision supports young military families with multiple dependents who have struggled with food insecurity - many relying on food banks on or near installations. Members of the HASC and SASC have included language from the [Military Hunger Prevention Act](#) in both versions of the NDA.

Reserve Component Pay Parity: There are provisions in the House and Senate versions providing parity for National Guardsmen and Reservists for aviation and hazardous duty incentive pays. The move comes as 2020 marked the largest mobilization of the reserve component since World War II; it shows great progress on improving benefits for the stretched force, though Congress still must address further reform of the component's [complicated duty status](#).

Continued on next page...

[RELATED: [Always Ready: A Year in the Life of the National Guard](#)]

Medical Billet Reductions: The House version of the NDAA contains a provision extending the halt of proposed medical billet reductions for a year after the bill's passage. Maintaining quality medical care is more important than ever. Recent medical personnel deployments to local hospitals, the uncertainty around COVID-19 variants, and the plan to cut children's hospital outpatient service reimbursements (a threat to network participation/access to civilian care) are all areas of concern for MOAA.

Arlington National Cemetery: The House bill includes ANC language that voiced concern over those who could be forced to a different cemetery and required DoD and the VA to submit "a joint report on the location of the next national cemetery." The amendment, approved with unanimous consent via the "En Bloc" process, comes amid concerns over proposed eligibility changes. This impactful report language signals intent from Congress to DoD to continue the benefit of full military honors like those provided at Arlington. MOAA has reached out to staff at ANC and the draft eligibility changes are still on track to be published (as directed in the 2019 NDAA) in the late fall of 2021. Stronger language is still required for congress to intervene. MOAA continues to advocate for language that would require DoD and the VA to maintain current eligibility standards at ANC until the next location is operational.

The NDAA language was submitted by Rep. Lisa McClain (R-Mich.) and supported by work from Reps. Anthony Brown (D-Md.) and Marc Veasey (D-Texas) as well as members of the [For Country Caucus](#). MOAA members have made a significant impact on Congress through letters and calls to their representatives and senators; it remains important to ask your senators to include the ANC language in the final NDAA.

[RELATED: [Beyond Arlington: It's Time for Congress to Consider Our Next National Cemetery](#)]

Parental Leave and Child Care: The HASC included language to expand parental leave to 12 weeks for qualified servicemembers, including the long-term placement of a foster child. MOAA and The Military Coalition submitted a [letter](#) to HASC and SASC leadership supporting legislation like this to bring parental leave rights of servicemembers in line with those of the federal sector and many civilian employers.

The House bill would expand the pilot program for in-home child care and requires a report on the status of license applications for in-home care providers, including numbers applied for and granted, length of the process, and recommendations for improving the process.

Impact Aid: The House bill would authorize \$50 million to support local educational agencies with military dependent students and an additional \$20 million to support military children with severe disabilities.

Military Justice Reform: The House and Senate will update the Uniformed Code of Military Justice this year and address disturbing trends in rates of sexual harassment and assault, and notable personnel and capacity shortfalls in the investigatory and legal functions identified by DoD's independent review committee. Provisions adding sexual harassment as a punishable offense, creating specialized military prosecutors, and placing decision authority to refer a case to courts-martial with a military prosecutor are likely for inclusion into the final version of the NDAA. There are also provisions that would authorize commanders to provide victims with results such as general officer letters of reprimand, relief for cause evaluations and separation actions that result from an incident of harassment or assault.

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NDAAs Update: *Continued from previous page...*

There are provisions that differ between the Senate and House on military justice reform, with the Senate proposing a wider role for special military prosecutors. MOAA will continue to follow this reform closely through the conference process.

Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Open Season: An amendment submitted by Rep. Michael Waltz (R-Fla.) would authorize an SBP Open Season for VA-rated service-disabled veterans who withdrew prior to the "widows tax" repeal in 2020, allowing them to catch up on any missed premiums. The open enrollment period, as defined in the adopted amendment, would begin the day the NDAA took effect and end Jan. 1, 2023.

[ENDING THE WIDOWS TAX: [MOAA President Reflects on Making the Repeal a Reality](#)]

Selective Service Enrollment for Women: The National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service recommended to Congress last year that women should register for selective service. This year, that provision is likely to be included in the final NDAA. With only 20% of 18-to-21-year-olds in the U.S. able to meet the physical and psychological standards for service, it is difficult to ignore half of the population in the event of a national emergency. MOAA remains committed to protecting the all-volunteer force and not returning to the draft.

What's Out, for Now

Concurrent Receipt: The Major Richard Star Act, a piece of [concurrent receipt legislation](#) supported by more than half the Senate and nearly 120 House members, is a pending NDAA floor amendment. The Star Act amendment is timely, as the news is replete with tragedies in Afghanistan, leaving many veterans thinking of sacrifices and those we lost. Servicemembers forced to retire because they were injured in combat – like Maj. Richard Star, USAR, who [passed away earlier this year](#) – had their retirement pay reduced for every dollar of VA disability compensation they were awarded.

Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-Fla.) are expected to propose the Star Act as an amendment; contact your lawmakers and ask them to support this effort:

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

TRICARE Young Adult: [Legislation that would expand TRICARE eligibility to young adult dependents](#) up to age 26 (military kids lose TRICARE coverage at age 21 or 23 if a full-time college student.) to bring TRICARE in line with commercial plans, another of MOAA's Advocacy in Action topics, did not make it into the SASC or HASC bills. Military kids face extraordinary challenges throughout their childhoods – as they transition to adulthood, we must ensure they have the same health care protections as their civilian peers.

Learn more about the next stage of this legislative fight, including MOAA's work with the National Military Family Association, [at this link](#).

What's Next?

Now that both the HASC and the SASC have passed their respective versions of the legislation, the bills will be voted on in each chamber. However, no dates have been released for when these votes will take place.

The coming weeks and months will be critical as key legislators work to pass this pivotal piece of legislation. Floor amendments and a conference to resolve differences between the House and Senate versions of the NDAA are the next steps for this bill in the legislative process.

MOAA will continue to engage with Congress as the NDAA moves forward and will provide our members with important updates via [The MOAA Newsletter](#) and [MOAA.org](#). ★

MAGEE DESIGNATED CHAPLAIN EMERITUS

By Daniel M. Gutierrez, Major, USA (Ret.)
March 5, 2021

I am glad to announce that the chapter's board of directors has granted the designation of "Chaplain Emeritus" of the Houston Area Chapter of MOAA to Captain Kerry B. Magee, USN (Ret.) during its monthly meeting of August 28, 2021. The honor was given in recognition of Kerry's honorable and unbroken service to the chapter as a past president (2014), board of directors member and chapter chaplain for over ten years. National records show him as a "LIFE" member of MOAA since 2001.

Captain Magee enlisted in the naval reserve in 1953. He received enlisted training as a submariner and had sea duty on destroyers. Upon completing his enlisted tour, he went to college at Georgia Tech and applied for Officer Candidate School. He received his commission as an ensign in the naval reserve in 1957 and went on to serve on destroyers in ever increasing levels of responsibility and rank. He culminated his service as captain of the USS Robert A. Owens (DD-827) stationed at Galveston, Texas. He commanded the Owens for three years.

In his role of chaplain of the chapter, Kerry served with distinction, care and concern. Chapter members came to rely on Chaplain Magee as a source of inspiration and sympathy. Concurrent with his role as chaplain of the chapter, Kerry also offered his spiritual services to the Military Officers Wives Association (MOWA) of Houston and became a regular speaker in its meetings.

Kerry has been attended and assisted in all his endeavors by his partner and wife of nineteen years, Solange Ann.

★★★★★

Chapter Luncheon Photos

Golf Crest County Club – August 28, 2021



**CDR Vera &
Rob Ritchie**



**CDR Osvaldo Vera
Guest Speaker**



**Kathy Frank &
Rob Ritchie**



Rob Ritchie



Frank Tricomi



Kathy & Rick Frank



Paul & Dee Brennan



**Rollins & Pat
Collins**



Melinda Morris



Frank Urbanic



David Essells



**Dan Guiterrz &
Stancie Chamberlain**



Judith Thomas



Vernon Gillette



Gene & Joan Tulich



Rhee Haun



Ken Tamberg



Mike Martin





Could Congress Come for Your COLA?

Here's Why MOAA Stands Ready to Fight

By: Dan Merry
SEPTEMBER 01, 2021

Congress has an enduring history of tapping into COLA at the expense of your retired pay, and it could very well happen again.

As we inch toward what could be the largest growth in COLA since 1982, when it came in at 7.4%, we remain guarded as to any current attempts by Congress to reduce, in any fashion, the legislated protections of the purchasing power of retired pay, survivor and veteran benefits, and Social Security. We have many reasons to be wary of such covert efforts. As we shared late last year, [the history of COLA attacks is well documented](#).

With projected CPI increases leading to a COLA that might top 6%, the significance of this annual adjustment warrants a close look on two fronts:

1. As noted above, Congress could channel some of the increase into their efforts to control outlays in response to the growing national debt.
2. The high COLA holds broad personal implications -- after all, the increase is tied directly to inflation, which results in higher costs across the board, [including your TRICARE benefits](#).

[RELATED: [MOAA's COLA Watch \(Updated Monthly\)](#)]

Thankfully, MOAA and [The Military Coalition](#) (TMC) have a long history of watching out for our service members, their families, and survivors especially when it comes to ensuring protection from inflation. In fact, landmark legislation in 1985 served as the impetus to create TMC and established a blueprint of how leadership and followership can be leveraged to change a law before it has a chance to degrade or eliminate or reduce a service-earned entitlement.

Joining Together

This particular assault on COLA started with the passing of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act, otherwise known as 1985 Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act. At the heart of this legislation was the suspension of automatic, indexed increases such as those tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Congress enacted a five-year halt to COLA increases in federal outlays with exceptions for Social Security, veterans' benefits, and some other programs – but not for military retiree pay. President Ronald Reagan signed this legislation Dec. 12, 1985.

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Could Congress Come for Your COLA?

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Treating retirees as non-veterans was unacceptable to two particular leaders who organized other like-minded advocates to overturn this legislation. Thus became TMC, founded by Col. George F. Henrikus, Jr., USAF (Ret), from The Retired Officers Association (now the Military Officers Association of America) and Sgt. Maj. C.A. "Mack" McKinney, USMC (Ret), from the Non Commissioned Officers Association. TROA and NCOA joined 14 others to form The Military Coalition and fight to reverse the legislation omitting military retirees from the exemptions protecting COLA:

- Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)
- Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS)
- Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service (COA)
- Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)
- Marine Corps Reserve Officers Association (MCRA)
- National Association for Uniformed Services/Society of Military Widows (NAUS/SMW)
- National Military Family Association (NMFA)
- Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)
- Naval Reserve Association (NRA)
- Reserve Officers Association of the United States (ROA)
- The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)
- U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA)
- U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA)
- U.S. Coast Guard Chief Warrant and Warrant Officers Association (CWOA)

Showing Strength

How did the coalition tackle this beast of a project, getting a brand-new law reversed? First, the people making up this new coalition came to the table with years and decades of experience. Of note, Robert W. Nolan, the senior registered lobbyist with the Fleet Reserve Association and a retired Navy chief petty officer, leveraged his 25 years' experience on the Hill to guide and fuel the efforts. Paramount was the need to stay on message and rely on their strength of 1.3 million active, reserve, and retired members among those associations.

[RELATED: [More Advocacy News From MOAA](#)]

The coalition inundated Congress with 50,000 mailgrams highlighting the projected 22.5% lifetime loss in pay, and the overall inequity of treating retirees as though they were not veterans. The coalition went public at the National Press Club to gain wide awareness of the COLA disparities. Its members and staff visited over 60 Senators and other key leaders on the Hill – and even held a breakfast to honor the cosponsors and supporters. (MOAA – then TROA – kept its members up to date on these activities via *The Retired Officer* magazine; the information above came from an article in the September 1988 issue by [the late Col. Paul Arcari, USAF \(Ret\)](#), then-deputy director of Legislative Affairs.

The strength of the message, delivered by an organized body of experienced representatives from our uniformed services communities representing over a million constituents, carried the day; President Reagan signed legislation Oct. 21, 1986, exempting all federal government civilians and military from cuts to their COLA increases.

Today, the coalition has 35 associations, representing nearly 5.5 million members, families, and survivors.

Today's COLA Fight

The 1985-86 legislative cycle was far from the last time elected officials have looked to decrease your earned COLA to cover other budget gaps. Look for more details on what those plans would've meant to your benefits in the coming weeks as MOAA continues its work to defend the buying power of your benefits.

Stay tuned for updates and potential calls to action. MOAA will continue to work with TMC to ensure all of our eight uniformed services continue to receive COLA increases per current legislation. ★

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Military Officers Association of America – Houston Area

Membership is available to Officers who have held a Federal Warrant or Commission in any of the seven uniformed services of the United States or to the surviving spouse of such a person. Please use this form for application for membership, renewal or changes to the current directory of members. Additionally, The Chapter always welcomes donations to assist the Chapter's operating expenses and supporting our ROTC and JROTC programs.

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: _____