



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

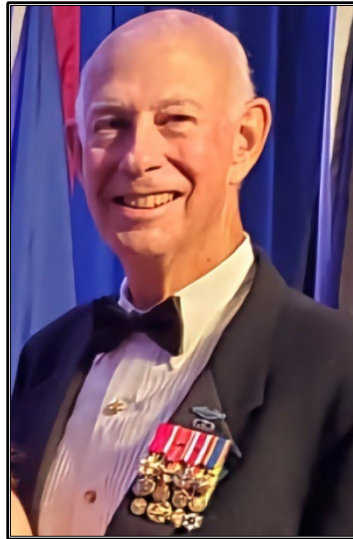
President's Message...

September 2024 Issue

Greetings Colleagues,

September 11, 2001... NEVER FORGET!

Another one of those days that will live in infamy. Twenty-three years later I sometimes fear that its memory is fading. In the words of Thomas Jefferson, "the price of freedom is eternal vigilance". Along those lines are two great articles in this newsletter addition, Dan Gutierrez's Let's Not Forget and David Essells' Chaplains Corner message.



I would like to call your attention to the fact that 2025 leadership elections will be upon us before we know it; so, if you are interested in serving in a leadership capacity, please let me or any of our current officers know. Another item of note is that our own Gene Tulich will be our featured speaker this month discussing the little-known role of the Coast Guard in the Vietnam War.

Finally, if you are not current with your 2024 dues, please help us out. We still need to hear from a few members.

Never Stop Serving!

Rob
Robin P. Ritchie, COL, USA (RET)
President

★★★★★

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September 2024...Chapter Events:

Tuesday, September 24th, 2024 @ Noon

MOAA HA BOD Meeting

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

Saturday, September 28th, 2024 @ 11:30am

MOAA HA Chapter Meeting

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



LET'S NOT FORGET!

*By: Dan Gutierrez
September, 2024*

The waters were calm, the skies cloudy, the weather warm; this was Tokyo Bay, September 2, 1945. On the veranda deck of the battleship, USS Missouri (Mighty Mo) gathered a glittering delegation of senior officers of all the nations warring against Japan. Thus the scene was set for the unconditional surrender of the Japanese Empire.

On the waters of Tokyo Bay, the war ships of the US 3rd Fleet and the United Kingdom's Pacific Fleet lay at anchor in an immense armada spread out around the Missouri, flag ship of the fleet. Mount Fuji loomed in the distance as small boats transferred high ranking officers from their ships to the "Mighty Mo." On the mast of the Missouri flew two flags each emblazoned with 5 stars. One on the starboard side was blue with five white stars. This was the flag of **Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz**, Commander, US Pacific Fleet and US representative to the ceremony. The flag to port had a red field with five white stars recognizing **General of the Army Douglas MacArthur**, Supreme Commander, Allied Powers.

In this dramatic setting, the representatives of the Japanese emperor, government and armed forces were shepherded aboard the flag ship and instructed to sign the instrument of surrender. Upon General MacArthur's announcement that "these proceedings are closed," the clouds parted and over the "Mighty Mo" came 450 aircraft from Halsey's 3rd Fleet followed by another contingent of 1,500 allied war planes of all types in an incredible display of allied power, unity and resolve – the Second World War was over.

The fascist powers of Germany, Italy and Japan had finally been crushed after six years of total war of a scale so vast it still, after 79 years, beggars the imagination. No one will ever know for sure, but it is estimated that over seventy million people died and immense national treasure expended. The horror of the conflict should never be forgotten and the sacrifice of those who fought to save the world should live in the glory and memory of people of good will forever. Take a moment, give thanks and remember.

Everyone who was alive on September, 11 2001, remembers where they were that fateful day. It was a day of terror, fear, heroism and anger. The twin towers in New York came down, a plane flew into the Pentagon and courageous passengers forced a fourth aircraft down in a field in Pennsylvania. The War on Terror had begun. For over twenty years the, United States and its allies would launch wars, track down terrorist leaders and expend vast resources in the unremitting effort to eradicate this plague of hate and ignorance that haunts the earth. The struggle goes on.

September 15 is POW/MIA Day. Let us remember, with respect and honor, those fellow Americans who spent time in enemy prison camps and those still missing. Let us remember the agony of their loved ones. The day is of particular notice to me. I had an uncle on my mother's side who spent two years in Japanese prison camps in the Philippines after experiencing the horrors of the Bataan Death March in 1942. He died young.

September 24 is Gold Star Mother's Day. Let us pay tribute to those who have borne the ultimate pain. A few years ago, I was at the annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the Houston National Cemetery. I was in uniform so a lady noticed my Purple Heart. She came over to me and said she too had a Purple Heart. It belonged to her son who had been killed in the second Iraq War. I had no words, so we both stared into each other's eyes; suddenly she embraced me and I still had no words. God bless them all.

LET'S NOT FORGET!



How DoD Must Protect Patients During the TRICARE Contract Changeover

By: Kevin Lilley



Proper DoD oversight of new TRICARE provider contracts will be “essential” to maintaining beneficiary access to quality health care, MOAA and other advocacy groups wrote in [an Aug. 9 letter](#) to a top Pentagon official.

“Past TRICARE contract transitions have been rife with challenges, presenting military families with increased barriers to access, disruptions in care, and excessive wait times for customer service to address these issues,” per the letter from [The Military Coalition \(TMC\)](#), an umbrella group which represents about 5.5 million members of the uniformed services community (and includes MOAA among its founding members), addressed to Dr. Lester Martinez-Lopez, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

[RELATED: [What the New TRICARE Contract Will Mean for Your Earned Benefit in 2025](#)]

About 4.5 million beneficiaries live in states where providers will change. The switch will not affect those using TRICARE For Life.

TMC identified four key factors DoD must address to ensure a successful changeover to the new provider contract, known as “T-5”:

1. Build Better Networks

The new contract offers an opportunity to “fix network shortfalls in areas where providers exist but aren’t currently part of the TRICARE network,” the letter states. Strong provider networks “are paramount to access and key to minimizing care disruptions” – offering beneficiaries more care options is a key part of ensuring the world-class care promised by DoD leadership.

2. Support At-Risk Families

The TMC letter identifies two programs – the TRICARE Autism Care Demonstration and the TRICARE Childbirth and Breastfeeding Support Demonstration – where special care must be taken to “minimize care disruptions.”

MOAA has been monitoring both of these programs and their effect on available care for military families. The association recently took part in a public workshop [addressing an upcoming report](#) on the Autism Care Demonstration.

[RELATED: [How MOAA Works to Support Maternal Mental Health for TRICARE Beneficiaries](#)]

3. Address Chronic Conditions

While DoD has confirmed TRICARE appointments made before the T-5 changeover [will be honored in the new year](#), many beneficiaries suffering from chronic conditions will need more than an extension under their current provider as the new contracts launch. DoD must ensure “warm handoffs” for these beneficiaries during this transition, the letter states, and allow for fast escalation of customer service complaints surrounding such care.

4. Solve Enrollment Problems

Despite all advance work to ensure those who’ve earned this coverage will continue to receive it, it’s likely some beneficiaries will slip through the T-5 cracks, losing coverage because of outdated records in the Defense Manpower Data Center, or because of issues with transitioning monthly fee payments, or other concerns. The Defense Health Agency (DHA) must prioritize call center support for these beneficiaries, per the letter, so such problems can be addressed without affecting access to care.

“[Government Accountability Office] evaluations of past TRICARE contract transitions have highlighted DHA’s essential role in transition guidance and oversight,” the letter states. It also calls for “ongoing engagement” between DHA and advocacy groups like those in TMC, allowing for problems to be identified and addressed in short order.

As part of this effort, MOAA asks its members to reach out with TRICARE feedback, especially concerns driven by the contract changeover, by emailing legis@moaa.org. Your input will help MOAA and TMC ensure all beneficiaries can navigate the T-5 transition and maintain the coverage they’ve earned. ★

[ACCESS THE GUIDE](#)

Newly Trained Air Force Pilots May Take on Jobs Outside Fighters and Bombers

SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

Editor's note: This article by Thomas Novelly, with contributions from Rachel Cohen, originally appeared on [Military.com](#), a leading source of news for the military and veteran community.

A new [Air Force](#) policy may require recent T-38 Talon pilot training graduates to fly aircraft other than fighters or bombers, even if those are their preferred options, in an attempt to fill the ongoing aviator shortage.

A section of a memo, which was shared on social media and verified as authentic information by the Air Force, detailed that the service is "1,848 pilots short, with 1,142 of those being fighter pilots." Lt. Col. Phil Ventura, a Department of the Air Force spokesman, said that the memo mirrored similar information issued internally by Air Force Headquarters last month.

The Air Force unveiled what it called in the memo a "significant but necessary policy change" in which all career options will be open to graduates of T-38 training, not just fighter and bomber roles. So, instead of waiting as long as a year for openings in their chosen units, new pilots will go into other jobs, such as working with mobility and refueling aircraft.

"While we would prefer to send every qualified T-38 graduate to a fighter [Formal Training Unit], circumstances dictate that we utilize available capacity to maximize pilot production," the memo reads. "In the near term, in addition to traditional fighter/bomber assignments, T-38 graduates will be matched to additional [T-6](#) First Assignment Instructor Pilot assignments and opted for non-fighter/bomber aircraft."

[RELATED: [One-Third of the Military Could Be Robotic by 2039, Former Top Officer Says](#)]

The memo explained that "T-38 students will include and prioritize all aircraft (not just fighter/bomber) on their dream sheets to ensure we can accommodate preferences." T-38 graduates can also volunteer for non-fighter or bomber roles.

The Air Force has struggled with [recruiting](#), training and retaining on and off for roughly a decade, often dangling significant bonuses as a way to tackle the shortage, which has ranged from 1,500 to 2,000 pilots. Last fiscal year, which ended in late September 2023, the service was short on the new pilots it hoped to train by roughly 120 aviators, [Military.com](#) previously reported.

That shortfall was attributed to maintenance issues with the T-38 Talon, a shortage of instructors, and long wait times to get new students into classrooms and then the next phases of training.

The Department of the Air Force did not have the latest pilot production numbers for this fiscal year, but expects to have them once it ends after Sept. 30.

The memo detailed that the delay from the end of undergraduate and graduate pilot training to joining a formal training unit "now exceeds one year."

In response to [Military.com](#) questions regarding the issue, Brig. Gen. Travolis Simmons, the director of training and readiness for Headquarters Air Force Operations, said the delays in fighter Formal Training Unit start dates are "due to a combination of sustainment and manpower challenges."

Continued on next page...



14th Flying Training Wing T-38 Talons sit under a hangar on Jan. 7, 2022, at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. (Photo by Senior Airman Davis Donaldson/Air Force)

Newly Trained Air Force Pilots May Take on Jobs Outside Fighters and Bombers ...Continued from previous page

[RELATED: [Air Force Warrant Officer Training Returns to Action for First Time Since the 1950s](#)]

While the Air Force has always given aircraft assignments based on the service's needs, Simmons said this change in policy is necessary to eliminate delays in getting pilots into jobs where they can start helping out.

"The aircraft assignment policy change is helping manage breaks in training by matching available pilots to aircraft with training capacity," Simmons said. "This policy shift optimizes use of our available resources and results in mission-ready pilots who are prepared to contribute sooner."

Should the pilot shortage situation become less dire and if the delays in fighter Formal Training Units are curbed, those T-38 Talon grads who didn't get to pursue jobs they wanted can volunteer in the future to transfer into those other aircraft.

"We will continue to fill all available fighter Formal Training Unit seats," Simmons said. "As Fighter Formal Training Unit capacity improves and Air Force needs dictate, pilots affected by this policy change will have the option to voluntarily crossflow to fighter/bomber aircraft."★

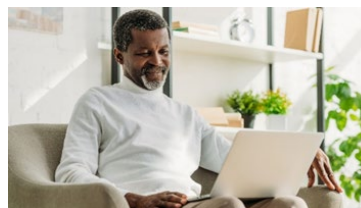
VA Enhances Claim Status Tool for Improved Veteran Experience

Veterans can now easily view their VA claim status online with the upgraded Claim Status Tool on VA.gov

June 19, 2024

Automated Benefits Delivery, Veterans Benefits Administration

Appears In
[BenefitsTop Stories](#)



VA's Claim Status Tool allows Veterans to quickly [view the status of their VA claim](#), [decision review](#) or [appeal online](#) through VA.gov. This free service allows Veterans the flexibility to access and monitor their claim online or from their mobile device 24/7. Veterans can select the time of day that best suits their schedule.

To begin, simply create a secure, personal online account on VA.gov using the free Login.gov or ID.me services. You can also sign in your account with your existing Login.gov, ID.me, DS Logon, or MyHealtheVet account.

Once online, you have instant access to view your claim, upload any required information and download available decision letters without having to wait for a person to process your request.

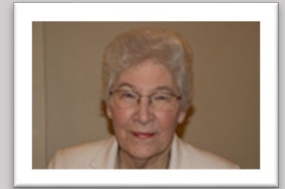
Some new features include:

- User-friendly interface: Easier to navigate and find what you need.
- Real-time notifications: Get up-to-date information about your claim status instantly.
- Mobile optimization: Manage your claim on your phone or tablet, from anywhere.
- Clearer information: See your claim details presented more clearly, making it easier to understand the status and next steps.

This is one of several recent updates aimed to improve the digital self-service experience of the VA Claim Status Tool, making it easier to view and manage your VA claim and quickly locate the information you need online.

These updates are part of VA's commitment to provide Veterans with the best possible service and support.

Please visit the [How to check your VA claim, appeal, or decision review status online page](#) on VA.gov for step-by-step instructions on using the tool. ★



Surviving Spouse Corner:

September Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter Newsletter

This is a great resource for Surviving Spouses! Please contact me if you want more information about the MOAA Surviving Spouse virtual chapter. We meet monthly via Zoom or phone. We also have a book club.

~Judith Thomas



MOAA – Houston Chapter Luncheon
September 28, 2024
1130am - 1330pm

Speaker
Commander (Ret) Eugene Tulich, United States Coast Guard
President, Houston Military Affairs Committee



Meal Options: Chicken Schnitzel, Pork Schnitzel or Sausage Sampler
Meal includes: Main, sides, dessert and coffee/tea
Cash Bar
Price: \$30.00 per person

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

Please RSVP to Rob Ritchie
Email: rpitchie@earthlink.net
Phone: 713.818.0408

Veteran, Caregiver Compensation at Stake as VA Budget Shortfall Looms

By: Tony Lombardo
September 11, 2024



MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), flanked by disabled veterans, speaks during a Sept. 11 press conference hosted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Mike Morones/Staff)

The VA is just days away from [a large budget shortfall](#) that would halt critical benefits payments for millions of veterans, caregivers, and survivors.

MOAA joined fellow veterans service organizations (VSOs) at a Sept. 11 press conference on Capitol Hill, imploring Congress to set aside partisan finger-pointing and pass legislation to close the funding gap for the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), which provides benefits assistance for programs that range from pensions to rehabilitation, education assistance to survivor benefits.

“Our veterans should never have to doubt the delivery of benefits that they earned through their service and their sacrifice,” MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret) said at the press event. “Fulfilling that obligation is absolutely the most sacred duty we have as a nation.”

[ACT TODAY: [Urge Congress to Pass Legislation to Address the Impending VBA Funding Gap](#)]

VA officials notified Congress in July the VBA would be \$2.9 billion short in mandatory funding for pensions and benefits for the final month of the fiscal year. Without congressional action by Sept. 20, approximately 7 million veterans will not receive their benefits.

A congressional staffer told MOAA [a legislative solution](#) led by Rep. Mike Garcia (R-Calif.) to address the immediate shortfall is likely to see floor action in the House as early as this week. But the shortfall stands to be much larger when fiscal year 2025 begins Oct. 1.

The VA anticipates needing an additional \$12 billion in FY 2025, a correction to earlier estimates that did not adequately address the influx of beneficiaries stemming from passage of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act. This landmark legislation, signed into law two years ago, has enabled millions more veterans exposed to harmful toxins while serving to get the benefits they need and earned.

[FROM 2022: [President Signs Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform Legislation](#)]

When VSOs fought for the PACT Act, leaders stressed to Congress the VA must have the necessary funds and staff to meet the need, said Jose Ramos, the Wounded Warrior Project's vice president of government and community relations.

“Congress has an obligation to provide oversight, as we still need to understand how this [shortfall] happened,” Ramos said. “However, a long-term [continuing resolution], or frankly any CR, that does not address the challenge that VA is facing now, to fully fund the health care system, is unjust to veterans.”

Kelly expressed gratitude to Congress and the VA for approving and implementing the PACT Act, but noted this success means the VA needs more money ... and veterans need their benefits paid out.

“Any interruption in the VA’s ability to pay veterans may have devastating consequences on this community and may erode trust and confidence in the institutions who have pledged to support and care for those who have served and given and sacrificed,” Kelly said. ★

VA Awards \$52.5M to Community Organizations Working to Prevent Veteran Suicide

September 12, 2024

WASHINGTON — Today, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced several new steps in VA's ongoing fight to prevent Veteran suicide — including awarding \$52.5 million in grants to community organizations implementing tailored suicide prevention programs and services for Veterans and their families.

This fiscal year's [grantees](#) of the [Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program](#) include 85 organizations across 41 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, American Samoa, and Puerto Rico to fund services in FY 2025. Eight additional [previous grantees](#) will also continue services into FY 2025. VA prioritizes awards for organizations that focus on providing services in rural communities, Tribal lands, U.S. territories, medically underserved areas, areas with a high number or percentage of minority Veterans or women Veterans, and areas with a high number or percentage of calls to the [Veterans Crisis Line](#).

These grants are a part of VA's [National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide](#) and the Biden-Harris Administration's [strategy to reduce military and Veteran suicide](#). Since 2021, VA has worked aggressively to expand support for Veterans in crisis, including offering [no-cost emergency suicide prevention care](#), [launching Dial 988 then Press 1](#) to streamline Veterans' access to the Veterans Crisis Line, [expanding firearm suicide prevention efforts](#), and more.

"It takes all of us, working together, to prevent Veteran suicide," said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough**. "By working together with these organizations in the community, we'll be able to save more lives and get one step closer to our goal of ensuring that no Veteran is ever alone in their time of need."

In addition to awarding these grants, VA has taken many additional steps during this fiscal year to expand Veteran suicide prevention efforts, including:

- **Offering free emergency suicide prevention care, regardless of enrollment status.** VA now provides free emergency care at VA and non-VA facilities for Veterans in acute suicidal crisis, regardless of VA health care enrollment status. As of Aug. 14, 2024, VA has provided care to over 74,000 Veterans through this policy.
- **Streamlining access to the Veterans Crisis Line via Dial 988 then Press 1.** Since [the launch of Dial 988 then Press 1](#) as the shortened Veterans Crisis Line number in July 2022, more than 2 million contacts have been fielded. This includes over 1.6 million calls, with an average speed to answer of 9.17 seconds. Increases in daily text messages (76.7%) and online chats received (27.5%) over the two years since Dial 988 then Press 1's launch are evidence that the hotline is working — Veterans in crisis are getting the help they need in the moment they need it.
- **Conducting outreach to Veterans in need.** Since October 2021, VA and the Ad Council's national "[Don't Wait. Reach Out.](#)" campaign has encouraged Veterans to reach out for help if they are struggling and provides resources for common life challenges. This year's campaign introduces "[The Bravest Thing](#)", a new PSA on how — in the eyes of loved ones — seeking help is an act of bravery. Since 2021, the campaign has reached more than 9.2 million Veterans, including 4.5 million visits to the resource webpage.
- **Collaborating with local partners to prevent Veteran suicide.** Due in part to efforts by VA's Community-Based Interventions for Suicide Prevention program, all 50 states and five territories are now participating in the [Governor's Challenge](#) to prevent Veteran suicide. In a coordinated effort to implement the [National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide](#), each state and territory has developed a strategic action plan focused on suicide prevention. VA is also now working with more than 2,000 community-based coalitions on efforts to prevent Veteran suicide. More than 60% of Veterans now live in a community where a coalition has implemented at least one strategy for suicide prevention.
- **Supporting Veterans experiencing financial stress.** Because economic and financial uncertainty can increase the risk of suicide, VA [launched the National Veterans Financial Resource Center](#) in March 2024 to provide Veterans and their families with a one-stop website to locate trustworthy financial tools, information, videos, calculators, and worksheets from across more than 25 government agencies.
- **Informing suicide prevention actions through enhanced data.** VA [announced \\$10 million in new funding](#) in FY 2024 to better inform Veteran suicide prevention strategies through suicide mortality review committees. Additionally, the VA's latest [National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report](#) provided the largest national analysis of Veteran suicides through 2021. VA will release the 2024 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report later this year.

If you're a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive 24/7 confidential support. You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect. To reach responders, **Dial 988 then Press 1**, chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](#), or text **838255**. ★

Chaplain's Corner...

DRIVING ON



Last Monday my wife and I were driving on an errand when we noticed that the flags were flying at half-mast. We are usually caught up on current events but she asked me why half-mast? I didn't have the answer. As we went into the library we asked staff members at the desk who told us that it was Patriots' Day. We were embarrassed that we hadn't known it was September 11th. I often tell friends that since I'm retired, "Every day is Saturday, except Sunday because that's when we go to church." We often don't know the date. We can, however, usually keep up with our commitments and appointments.

As we age we continue to be aware of our forgetfulness. That seems to be an ongoing concern for us. The goal is that we remember that which is important and the people and events that occur around us. September 11th is the date. The remembrance for us is to honor the memory of all those lost in that tragic, terrorist event. We pray for the families and friends who continue to have that huge hole in their heart as they remember their loved ones and the times which were lost. We pray for God to continue to give them good memories and stories for which they can share their loss with those that are part of their circle of friends. We can also pray for ourselves and remember the grief and the losses in our own lives.

All of our lives are marked by thoughts, memories and stories of those whom we have lost even as we reflect on our own mortality. We can share our grief no matter how many years or decades have passed. Empathy and understanding are important parts of our human and spiritual experience. Most different faiths of the members of our nation have an explanation and belief of the hereafter whether it be heaven, Nirvana or some other belief and name. Our shared spirituality brings both hope and judgement. Our hope brings joy and comfort. Judgment brings fear.

Both the Old and New Testaments tell us, "The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom." They and many other holy writings speak of both eternal joy and warn of eternal condemnation. Our many faiths provide all of us forms of guidance, morality and ethics which help us move toward what our forefathers called, "A More Perfect Union."

As I share my thoughts, motives and actions with God in prayer and self-reflection I am guided by Him. As I share my life with my community of faith we collectively support one another, hold one another accountable and grow in our faith and our walk together. God's goal for us is that we grow closer to Him tomorrow than we are today. He desires that we all recognize the gifts of love, forgiveness and reconciliation that He has given us. Fear is what keeps us from putting our hand on a hot burner. His warnings, discipline and wrath at judgement are all part of those gifts he offers. He wants us to accept his love and reconciliation and live in the peace that He offers. Other faiths also give us the direction and motivation both through promise, instruction, fear, discipline and understanding. Most direct us toward peace, love and enlightenment.

As members of the Military Officers Association of America we enjoy meeting and working together to improve both our military communities and our own lives. Our nation is founded on our freedom of religion. Tolerance, communication and understanding are important tenets of our Constitution. We are a United Nation of diverse cultures, ethnicities and beliefs. Our motto of "E Pluribus Unum" (Out of many, one) gives us both a tolerance as well as the challenge to enjoy the peace and liberty of which our nation's founders dreamed. As military leaders we will continue to move toward that peace together.

~ David Essells, USAR, MAJ, RET

MOAA – HA Chapter Meeting Augus 31, 2024



**Rob Ritchie and John D. Royalty, Senior Area
Operations Manager USO Houston**



Gene Tulich



J.C. Nicholson



Linda Nicholson



Barb and Frank Tricomi



**Jeff Hokett, Rob
Ritchie, and Ivan
Santiago**



**Pat Collins, Judith
Thomas, Dan Gutierrez
and Rollins Collins**



**Frank Tricomi, Jennifer
Collins and Jeff Hokett**



Randy Elms



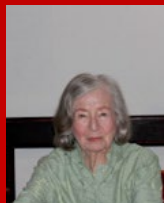
Rick Miller



**Jennifer Collins and
Peggy Jayne**



Ken Jayne



Peggy Jayne



Ed Memi



Harry Stevenson

2024 Officers

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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 December 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: _____