



# MOAA®

Military Officers Association of America  
PENSACOLA CHAPTER

THE BEACON  
MAY 2026

MOAA PRINTED  
NEWSLETTER  
5-STAR AWARD



MOAA 5-STAR CHAPTER  
2003-2019, 2021-2025



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone enjoyed Ms Stacey Porter telling us about services provided by the National Women's Memorial at Barrancas Cemetery. Please think about volunteering to assist with this dignified burial service for all veterans in Barrancas.

This month on Thursday, May 21st, thanks to LTC Karen Vinson-VanHouter, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, we have another outstanding program with Dr. John R. Dabrowski (COL, USA, Ret) giving a talk on "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP's): Are They a Threat to U.S. National Security?" John recently retired as Chief Historian for the Missile Defense Agency. I am hopeful

he will be able to also provide some historical context for the current conflict with Iran. Please sign-up ASAP on the website (pmoaa.org) under RSVP.

Oh, and maybe the most important nugget of information you need is the PLACE and TIME. We will be meeting at The Oaks Restaurant aboard NAS Pensacola, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor from 1100 to 1300 on May 21. Check out the great menu elsewhere in the Beacon. The meal will commence about 1130 with the Speaker to follow. Also, the Thursday, June 18 Picnic will be at The Oaks, again from 1100-1300. NO SPEAKER!! Just good times with friends and hopefully you will invite some new members to join us. Standard picnic fare including Fried Chicken and PIE (Cherry and Apple).

As I write this letter, I have just returned from an Awards Ceremony celebrating the work of local NJROTC cadets from Pine Forest High School, Escambia HS, Booker T. Washington HS, West Florida HS, and Northview HS. My purpose in attending was to represent you, our Chapter and MOAA, in presenting the winning NJROTC cadets with a certificate and medal from us. As I often do, I found the young cadets to be great representatives of their school, their families and themselves. We are truly blessed to have such programs as NJROTC to inspire and challenge our youth to think about serving our country for a purpose larger than themselves. Those young people give me hope that our country will be in good hands going forward. God Bless the USA!

And if you are in a generous mood, think about donating to both our Scholarship Fund and the JROTC Stipend Fund. The latter is a new program which we started in 2025 to provide a cash stipend to local JROTC units to help with their programs. Help us help them.

Keep our troops, their leaders and families in your prayers no matter where they are serving. The threats are real and their service is important. God Bless them all.

Your President, Ken Pyle

**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
Mark your calendar and enjoy the camaraderie:  
\* **May 21 Luncheon at the Oaks**  
\* **June 18 Picnic Luncheon at the Oaks**



## PROGRAMS

by Karen Vinson-VanHouter, 1st VP

**May 21 Luncheon at the Oaks** with guest speaker Dr. John R. Dabrowski (COL, USA, Ret) giving a talk on "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP's).

**Menu:** Buffet with Roast Beef, Fried Catfish, Veggies and Pie for dessert. **Cost: \$35 pp**

**To make your reservation, send email to [RSVP@pmoaa.org](mailto:RSVP@pmoaa.org).**

The Members Meeting on March 19th featured Mrs. Stacey Porter telling us about services provided by the National Women's Memorial at Barrancas Cemetery.

A few photos from the March 19th meeting with Stacey Porter:



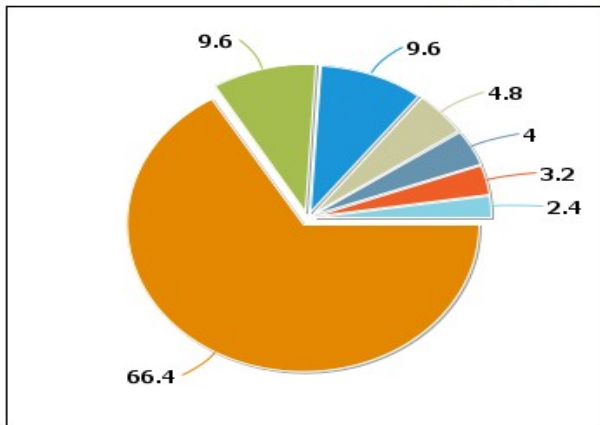
## MEMBERSHIP

by Sue Varenholt, 2nd VP

**TAPS:** LtCol Charles MacDonald, USAF (Ret) passed away March 19, 2026

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY**, updated, searchable and printable is available to "Members Only" on the [Chapter website](#) (login required to protect your privacy).

**Pensacola Chapter MOAA Active Members by Membertype**  
Graph by Percent, Legend by Count



| Membertype   | Count      | Percent |
|--------------|------------|---------|
| Regular      | 83         | 66.4%   |
| Regular_Mail | 12         | 9.6%    |
| SSp          | 12         | 9.6%    |
| SSp_Mail     | 6          | 4.8%    |
| HLM_Mail     | 5          | 4%      |
| HLM          | 4          | 3.2%    |
| Admin        | 3          | 2.4%    |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>125</b> |         |



## Surviving Spouse Committee

by Judy Dickson

The death of a military spouse reshapes emotional wellbeing in ways that reach far beyond grief itself. It is a loss that touches identity, daily rhythm, and the quiet sense of safety that comes from sharing life with someone who understood both the burdens and the pride of service.

For many, the brain responds to this kind of profound disruption with a mix of numbness, hypervigilance, and deep fatigue — natural reactions to a heart trying to make sense of a world suddenly changed. Yet within that upheaval, emotional wellbeing becomes not just a hope but a necessity: a steadying force that helps the mind process sorrow, rebuild resilience, and slowly rediscover moments of connection, purpose, and peace. This journey is neither quick nor linear, but it reflects the same courage and endurance that military families have always carried.

Emotional wellbeing and brain health are deeply interconnected, shaping how we think, cope, and experience daily life. Strong emotional balance supports healthier brain function, while a well-nourished brain

strengthens our ability to manage stress, build relationships, and maintain resilience.

Chronic stress can harm key brain regions involved in emotional control, memory, and decision-making. When these areas are disrupted, people might experience anxiety, irritability, or difficulty concentrating. Purpose, connection, and calm — help regulate stress hormones and support cognitive performance.

Conversely, chronic stress elevates cortisol, making emotional regulation more difficult and increasing vulnerability to depression or anxiety.

Several habits support both emotional balance and neurological resilience:

**Regular physical activity** boosts serotonin and dopamine, improving mood and cognitive flexibility.

**Quality sleep** helps the brain detoxify and consolidate memories.

**Social connection** reduces stress responses and protects cognitive health.

**Mindfulness and gratitude practices** calm the nervous system and enhance emotional regulation.

**Balanced nutrition**, especially omega-3s and antioxidants, supports neural communication.

A healthier brain supports stronger emotional wellbeing, and emotional wellbeing protects the brain.

Edited from the MOAA March 27, 2026 article by Roy Yenchsky.

Judy Dickson, Chair, Surviving Spouse Committee

Karin Wiseman, Karen Vinson-VanHouter, Carol Olsen, Christine Cook, Bill Mayer, and Melinda Connell

Link to PMOAA Digital Asset & Quicklist files on our website:

<https://pmoaa.org/upload/Digital%20Estate%20info.pdf>

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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



*COMING SOON!*

Ed. Note: Our beloved Chaplain, CAPT Fred Zobel, will provide an “inspirational message” in future editions of the *Beacon*.

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## SCHOLARSHIPS



Our chapter had 11 applications for our annual scholarship program which the scholarship committee will be reviewing and recommending awards to those deserving.

The award of scholarships will occur at our **July 30th dinner meeting!**

Dave Mitchell

Scholarship Committee Chair

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## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS



Compiled and Edited by CAPT Dave Mitchell, USN (Ret)

Already in the month of May, my how time flies. I've said that phrase many times but never really thought about where it came from, so I looked it up. The Roman poet Virgil in his work *Georgics* (circa 29 BC) penned the words “Sed fugit interea, fugit inreparabile tempus” (boy spell check loved that) which literally translated from the Latin means “but meanwhile, it escapes, irretrievable time”. Eventually this was shortened to “tempus fugit” which means “time flees”. Some English versions expand this to “time flies while you're having fun” while I have sometimes observed that it flies at

the same speed whether you are having fun or not, it just seems to take longer. In any event, this observation is sound when we are talking about taking legislative action. Currently there are several initiatives that MOAA is working for the benefit of all the uniformed services (See MOAA's 2026 Advocacy Playbook below) and unlike the old days where we would have to prepare a letter, find an envelope, buy a stamp and mail our input, today we can "click the button" and instantly send letters to our elected representatives. It's easy, fun and they always respond so if you are looking for a little interaction....take action now!

I have chosen a few articles from recent weekly MOAA newsletters, I hope you enjoy them and take action where appropriate.

You can support those efforts by being part of the action. A way to do that is to sign up for the MOAA legislative alerts visit [https://moaa.quorum.us/sign\\_in/](https://moaa.quorum.us/sign_in/) .

To help you stay informed about issues, please consider subscribing to the MOAA Newsletter which is sent out two to four times per month on Thursdays via email. You can sign up at [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org). Please let me know how you think I can make this column better for you by sending an email to me at [dave.mitchell@pmoaa.org](mailto:dave.mitchell@pmoaa.org) .

Also, if you are not aware, the Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC) publishes a newsletter every other month. It can be viewed here at <https://flmoaa.org/news/>

Your voice needs to be heard by our Florida Congressional Delegation. Please use some or all of the links available within this Legislative Affairs column and subscribe to the automatic notifications I mentioned above. The Pensacola Chapter of MOAA is a member of the Florida Council of Chapters, FCoC at [flmoaa.org](http://flmoaa.org) and an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) who together are the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. We are an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization. MOAA has several critical legislative issues they are championing. Become an advocate and **Take Action NOW!** at <https://moaa.quorum.us/>

In this issue:

- The Next Steps: 3 Upcoming Moments That Matter for Your Benefits
- Was Your VA Appeal Denied? You Could Be Part of a Class Action Settlement
- Advocacy in Action: States Need Support Protecting Veterans From Claim Sharks
- MOAA's 2026 Advocacy Playbook

## **The Next Steps: 3 Upcoming Moments That Matter for Your Benefits**

**By Kevin Lilley From April 23<sup>rd</sup> MOAA Newsletter**

The issues at the heart of MOAA's signature spring advocacy campaign will remain at the top of our priority list, but they are far from the only issues involving service-earned benefits on Capitol Hill.

And as the legislative calendar rolls ahead, it's critical that MOAA members remain engaged.

Here's a look at three upcoming touchstones for the 119th Congress and what each could mean for the wider uniformed services community.

### **Building the NDAA**

**What:** The must-pass FY 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) will be the year's largest legislative vehicle for critical defense issues, to include military pay rates, quality of life reforms, TRICARE changes, and much more.

**When:** Legislators and staffers already have begun crafting the legislation. House lawmakers reportedly are targeting early June for the official NDAA mark-up session, where much of the final bill takes shape.

**MOAA's Role:** With Congress passing fewer standalone bills than in previous sessions, the NDAA may provide the only practical path for some MOAA legislative priorities to become law. As negotiations continue and amendments move forward, we will look to key legislators to champion a range of issues, to include Advocacy in Action priorities and other benefits protections.

### **Passing a Budget**

**What:** The administration released its FY 2027 budget proposal in early April, including \$1.5 trillion for national defense and nearly \$490 billion for the VA.

**When:** The fiscal year ends Sept. 30, giving Congress about five months to pass a budget without relying on a continuing resolution to keep the government open. Lawmakers haven't passed a budget on time since 1997.

**MOAA's Role:** Not only will MOAA continue to advocate for the full funding of national defense and veterans programs, but we will continue to urge Congress to break the cycle of continuing resolutions, which result in wasted resources, misaligned funds, and financial uncertainty for servicemembers and their families. We will also push for passage of the Shut-down Fairness Act, an Advocacy in Action priority that would protect military servicemember pay during federal funding lapses.

## **Election Season**

**What:** Voters will go to the polls to determine who holds every House seat and one-third of Senate seats for the 120th Congress.

**When:** Election Day is Nov. 3, but campaign season is in full swing in many parts of the country. After a lame-duck session, the new Congress will begin Jan. 3, 2027.

**MOAA's Role:** MOAA does not endorse candidates, but it's no secret that lawmakers on the campaign trail are more likely to listen to constituent concerns as they court votes. Members who engage their legislators on MOAA priorities – either through our Legislative Action Center or in person in their home districts – can show the importance of these issues as supporters of the uniformed services community head to the ballot box.

Keep up with the legislative timeline, and learn how you can help grow MOAA's influence on Capitol Hill, by visiting our [advocacy news page](#).

## **Was Your VA Appeal Denied? You Could Be Part of a Class Action Settlement**

**By Kevin Lilley From April 23<sup>rd</sup> MOAA Newsletter**

Tens of thousands of disability claims denied by the VA over 35 years are part of a class action case that could result in reactivation of previously closed files.

Claimants whose case was closed between Dec. 12, 1990, and Feb. 6, 2025, would be part of a proposed settlement under *Freund v. Collins*, a case which alleges the VA's automated system improperly closed appeal cases because veterans had not filed materials in time, and that veterans did not receive notification of the closures.

The proposed settlement is under court review, according to a [VA.gov](#) article outlining terms and eligibility. If approved, it would:

- Trigger a manual review of more than 28,000 closed appeal files that may have had “a timely substantial appeal.”
- Reactivate all files found to have such an appeal, and notify the claimant of the reactivation.
- Complete the review in 18 months, and “process the reactivated cases expeditiously.”

### **Am I Eligible?**

Along with the timeframe mentioned above, the suit applies only to cases decided before Feb. 19, 2019. Veterans whose case meets all the criteria will not have to take action; the VA will review the case automatically in line with the terms of the settlement.

However, 64,599 other appeal files “met most but not all of the parameters that VA used when searching for potential class members,” according to the [VA.gov](#) article. In these cases, claimants who believe their appeal was unfairly denied would need to request a review; these claimants would receive notices from the VA as part of the proposed settlement.

### **Learn More**

VA.gov includes more official resources regarding the case, such as contact information for further details and how to object to the proposed settlement.

While MOAA can provide general information regarding VA appeal processes, those who believe their VA appeal may be part of this class action and have any questions about their benefits should reach out to class counsel John D. Niles at [freundclass@carpenterchartered.com](mailto:freundclass@carpenterchartered.com). MOAA cannot determine official eligibility under the suit, nor can the association assist with VA document preparation.

## **Advocacy in Action: States Need Support Protecting Veterans From ‘Claim Sharks’**

**By Kevin Lilley From May 16<sup>th</sup> MOAA Newsletter**

Dozens of states have either passed or introduced legislation designed to address unaccredited VA claims agents, some of whom may charge veterans or survivors tens of thousands of dollars for support they aren't legally allowed to provide ... support already available from other sources at no cost to the claimant.

But this patchwork solution, triggered by a 2006 change in federal law that removed criminal penalties for unaccredited agents – also known as “claim sharks” – has led to predictable consequences.

“You left the speed limit sign up on the interstate, but you took away the highway patrol and the traffic courts,” said Col. Michael Kelly, USAF (Ret), president of MOAA's Kansas Council of Chapters and a 2022 recipient of MOAA's Colonel Steve Strobridge Legislative Liaison Award. “We don't want benefits to be diverted from those who earned them.”

Kelly joined fellow chapter leaders, MOAA members, and MOAA staff on April 15 in Washington, D.C., for Advocacy in Action, MOAA's signature spring advocacy event. On the agenda: Passage of the Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act (H.R. 1732), which would restore criminal penalties and protect veterans and survivors from predatory claims practices.

### **[TAKE ACTION: Ask Your Lawmakers to Stop Predatory Claims Agents]**

#### **State-Based Protections**

While some states have passed legislation designed to offer these protections, others have moved forward with bills empowering the unaccredited agents.

In Kansas, a package of veteran-related legislation included a measure supported by for-profit claims agents “positioning themselves as the good guys,” Kelly said – promising regulations, but providing legal status to operate in the state despite federal guidance.

“The whole thing is to create legitimacy,” Kelly said.

Gov. Laura Kelly expressed overall support for the package but said the legislature “added a provision to this bill that would allow for-profit entities to prey upon unsuspecting veterans, charging them hefty fees for services those veterans can receive at no-charge from state-supported veterans' service organizations.”

She called it a “poison pill provision” and vetoed the bill April 8. Michael Kelly said the bill was a single vote away from a veto-proof supermajority, and a follow-up measure that would've required state veterans services to coordinate with a group representing unaccredited claims agents died in committee by a similarly slim margin.

“This isn't over,” Michael Kelly said. “They're going to come back. They're paying lobbyists.”

Legislation in Louisiana to support unaccredited claims agents was declared unconstitutional by a federal court in February. States like California, Maine, New Jersey, and New York have passed legislation designed to curb predatory practices, in some cases based on state consumer protection law, but millions of veterans remain unprotected nationwide.

“Some states have moved in positive directions to support their veteran populations, and MOAA members have been at the front of some of those fights,” said Jen Goodale, MOAA's director of Government Relations for Veteran and Retired Affairs. “But this is a federal issue involving the VA, and it needs a federal fix. That's why we're here backing the GUARD VA Benefits Act.”

Forty-four state attorneys general put their voices behind the legislation in a 2023 letter to lawmakers. No matter your state, you can add your voice to the cause at MOAA's Legislative Action Center. Looking to find out more about state-level advocacy? Reach out to a nearby MOAA chapter.

## MOAA's 2026 Advocacy Playbook

**By MOAA Staff From May 9<sup>th</sup> MOAA Newsletter (originally published in the April 2026 issue of Military Officer)**

Philip Sweet, commissioned into the Air Force in 2017 after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He went on to serve as a special agent in the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and served in multiple assignments, including a tour in a combat zone. Six years later, he decided it was best for his family to separate from active duty and finish his career in the reserves.

But, in June 2024, the Air Force captain's "life was upended" when he was medically retired for combat injuries.

When filling out the paperwork to set up his military retirement account, he learned he would now be among the approximately 54,000 combat-injured veterans subject to a cost-saving offset where their retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of VA disability received. This offset costs Sweet and his wife and two young children over \$4,500 a month.

"Financially, we miss out on some of the money we should be receiving for my service and sacrifice," Sweet said. "We feel as though my service is lessened because of my medical retirement."

### [RELATED: **Star Act Stories**]

The Major Richard Star Act would remedy this injustice. Sweet has been writing to his lawmakers and sharing his story to raise awareness about why the legislation needs to pass.

"If I received the full benefits I earned, my family's life would be completely changed," he said. "It's time for Congress to honor the contract I signed at 18 years old."

The Star Act is one of the four priorities MOAA advocates will take to Capitol Hill during the association's 2026 Advocacy in Action campaign.

On April 15, MOAA members from across the nation will join association leaders and staff to visit congressional offices and meet in person with lawmakers and their staff. But all MOAA members and their networks, whether in Washington, D.C., or remote and at home, are encouraged to join in the effort. Visit our Advocacy in Action page to learn more and download issue papers on each topic, and be sure to register in MOAA's Legislative Action Center to receive timely calls to action.

Here are this year's four key advocacy topics, why they matter, and what actions MOAA is asking for:

### **Major Richard Star Act**

**Why it matters:** Medically retired servicemembers injured in combat lose some or all of their earned retirement pay because of an outdated offset, despite having earned retirement through service and disability compensation through sacrifice. Correcting this policy restores fairness, honors commitments made to wounded warriors, and strengthens trust in the all-volunteer force.

#### **Key facts:**

- Medically retired, combat-injured servicemembers often lose retirement pay due to a dollar-for-dollar offset with VA disability compensation.
- Congress previously authorized concurrent receipt for retirees with 20-plus years of service and a 50% or higher disability rating, leaving medically retired veterans behind.
- Approximately 54,000 combat-injured veterans receive Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) but are not eligible for Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP).
- Nearly 28,000 of these veterans have 10 or more years of service and would financially benefit from the option to choose CRDP.

- The Congressional Budget Office estimated the cost at \$9 billion over 10 years, assuming full participation, though actual costs are likely lower due to the continued use of tax-free CRSC by many veterans.
- Nearly three-quarters of both chambers of Congress currently support the Major Richard Star Act.

**The ask:** Pass the Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 2102/S. 1032) and phase in implementation over five years, while leveraging the existing CRSC/CRDP open season to responsibly manage costs. This corrects a long-standing injustice for combat-injured retirees and restores fairness in military compensation.

### **Shutdown Fairness Act**

**Why it matters:** Members of the uniformed services continue to serve even when government funding lapses, often without timely pay or benefits. This creates financial stress for servicemembers and their families, disrupts retirement credit accrual for reserve component members, and threatens mission readiness. A permanent legislative solution ensures those who commit to public service are not subject to the uncertainty of political negotiations or repeated shutdowns.

#### **Key facts:**

- During a lapse in appropriations, active duty servicemembers perform their duties without guaranteed pay or benefits.
- Reserve members have to suspend inactive duty training, affecting both mission readiness and retirement service credit.
- Servicemembers must still cover essential family expenses, including rent/mortgage, utilities, child care, and commuting, often relying on loans or outside assistance, which incurs long-term costs.
- Government shutdowns are frequent: The first FY 2026 shutdown marked the 208th continuing resolution since FY 1977, highlighting the chronic nature of this uncertainty.

**The ask:** Pass the Shutdown Fairness Act (H.R. 7317/S. 3168) to ensure members of the armed forces will continue to receive pay and benefits while Congress determines relevant appropriations for the remainder of government operations. This legislation also enables drill-status reservists to continue performing inactive duty training. MOAA supports the addition of an amendment that extends this protection to all members of the uniformed services.

### **Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA BENEFITS ACT**

**Why it matters:** Predatory, unaccredited companies exploit veterans navigating the VA disability claims process, charging thousands of dollars for services that are legally available for free through accredited representatives. These actors use misleading contracts, aggressive marketing, and contingency-based fees, eroding trust in the VA system and harming veterans and their families. Restoring accountability ensures veterans receive professional, ethical assistance while protecting the integrity of earned benefits.

#### **Key facts:**

- Federal law allows only accredited representatives, including attorneys, claims agents, or veterans service organizations, to assist veterans with VA disability claims for compensation.
- In 2006, Congress removed the VA's enforcement authority over unaccredited actors charging unauthorized fees, creating a regulatory gap exploited by predatory companies.
- Over 40 unaccredited companies actively market themselves as "consultants" or "coaches," charging contingency-style fees that can total tens of thousands of dollars.
- Veterans report aggressive, targeted marketing; misleading contracts; and long-term payment obligations, often with minimal or no added assistance.
- Aging veterans and newly eligible claimants under the PACT Act are particularly vulnerable to these sophisticated predatory practices.

- VA enforcement is limited to cease-and-desist letters, which have proved largely ineffective, allowing most companies to continue operating and charging unauthorized fees.

**The ask:** Pass the Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act (H.R. 1732) to reinstate fines on individuals for soliciting, contracting for, or receiving any unauthorized fee or compensation with respect to the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of any claim for VA benefits. Take steps to enhance awareness of reporting tools that allow claimants to submit complaints about individuals or organizations assisting with VA claims.


## Military CARE Act

**Why it matters:** Patients at military treatment facilities (MTFs) often face appointment shortages, unanswered calls, and referral delays, making it difficult to access earned medical care. These access barriers disproportionately affect active duty members and their families who rely on MTFs. A standardized, transparent system for reporting access issues would provide new data on beneficiary challenges, allowing leaders and Congress to identify and resolve systemic problems, ultimately strengthening the health and readiness of the force.

### Key facts:

- MTF patients, including servicemembers, retirees, families, and survivors, regularly encounter delays and obstacles in receiving care.
- TRICARE policies limit plan changes to annual open enrollment or qualifying life events, which can trap beneficiaries in MTFs that do not meet their needs.
- Existing complaint systems (like the Interactive Customer Evaluation application) are inconsistent and underused.
- The Military CARE Act requires a standardized digital platform for beneficiaries to submit and track MTF access-to-care issues.
- Submissions will be routed to the appropriate patient advocate and aggregated for use by the Defense Health Agency to address systemic and fixable problems.
- The bill mandates MTFs to report on the most common access complaints and to document steps taken to reduce them, increasing transparency and accountability.
- Bipartisan support and backing from MOAA and other military and veterans' organizations emphasize its importance to military families and overall readiness.

**The ask:** Cosponsor the Military CARE Act (H.R. 6796) to improve access to care at military hospitals and clinics through enhanced data, transparency, and accountability.



**MOAA**<sup>®</sup> **PMOAA BOARD MEETING MINUTES AND  
TREASURER'S REPORTS:**

Military Officers Association of America \* Now restricted to "*Members Only*" for security and privacy.  
PENSACOLA CHAPTER Login to the [Chapter website](#) and select "My Account" to view  
Board Minutes.



# AMERICA

## America250FL - Florida's Celebration



America250FL is an invitation to every Floridian to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding. As we journey toward July 4, 2026, we hope you'll reflect on the unique and influential role that Florida played in the establishment of our country. Together, let's celebrate the nation of freedom and opportunity that our Founders set into motion with the Declaration of Independence.

Through inspiring events, educational programs, and civic engagement, we seek to spark pride in our shared American values, honor the courage and service of our veterans, revere our republic, and encourage neighbors to come together in the spirit of patriotism. America's semi quincennial is Florida's opportunity to shape our nation's next chapter.

### MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS AT BARRANCAS NATIONAL CEMETERY.

Memorial Day Ceremony will be held on Monday, 25 May at Barrancas starting at 0900 hours. During the ceremony, all veteran organizations will read the names of their deceased members since May 2025.

PMOAA will remember the following:

CAPT Royal W. Connell, USN

1<sup>st</sup> LT Elizabeth Mayhugh, USAF

COL Manuel Siverio, USA

LtCol Charles W. MacDonald, USAF



This is a very moving ceremony and your attendance is encouraged.

Warm regards, RADM Joan Engel, USN (Ret)

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**WHO WE ARE:** The Pensacola Chapter of MOAA is a member of the Florida Council of Chapters, FCoC and an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) who together are the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. "Never Stop Serving"

We are an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization and Veterans Service Organization incorporated under IRS 501(c)(19) rules. Visit our website, [PMOAA.org](http://PMOAA.org) and click MEMBERSHIP to learn more and join us.

**FEEDBACK:** We welcome your comments/suggestions. Please email your response to [Beacon@pmoaa.org](mailto:Beacon@pmoaa.org).



**PENSACOLA CHAPTER—MOAA**  
**PO BOX 17728**  
**PENSACOLA, FL 32508**



**PMOAA-MEETING-PLANS-for-2026¶**

| DATE □   | EVENT □              | VENUE □       |
|----------|----------------------|---------------|
| APR-16 □ | DINNER □             | PYC □         |
| MAY-21 □ | LUNCHEON □           | OAKS at NAS □ |
| JUN-18 □ | PICNIC/LUNCHEON □    | OAKS at NAS □ |
| JUL-30 □ | SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS □ | PYC □         |
| AUG □    | (no meeting) □       | □             |
| SEP-17 □ | DINNER □             | PYC □         |
| OCT-15 □ | LUNCHEON □           | OAKS at NAS □ |
| NOV-19 □ | BUSINESS-MTG □       | PYC □         |
| DEC-3 □  | CHRISTMAS GALA □     | PYC □         |