



CENTRAL OHIO CHAPTER

A Joint Non-Partisan MOAA Affiliate

*Our Mission: Taking Care of the Troops
through Legislation & Support*



CONNECT Central Ohio News



CONNECT, the Central Ohio Newsletter, is published by the MOAA-Central Ohio Chapter, which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are non-partisan.

Our mission is to promote the purposes and objectives of MOAA; foster fraternal relationships among retired, active duty, and former officers of the uniformed services and their reserve and national guard components; protect the rights and interests of active duty, retired, reserve and national guard component personnel of the uniformed services, their dependents and survivors; provide useful services for members and their dependents and survivors; and serve veterans, community and the nation.

Your membership helps us achieve the Mission! Visit our website www.moaa-centralohio.org to join the chapter, or click on the shield at right to learn about National MOAA membership.

Editor: [CDR Bill Roberts USN \(Ret\)](#). Let me know how I can improve your Newsletter!



Need to contact a Board Member? Click [HERE](#) for a listing and contact information.

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President's Corner

Nine of us attended the annual MILVETS luncheon at Vila Milano—see the photo in Nancy's article below. It was nice to be among so many veterans and veteran supporters. The Fort Hayes JROTC cadets escorted us to our table and the Powell Community Band provided music for the National Anthem and the US Military Branch Medley. Our keynote speaker was BG Fred Hockett Jr., Deputy Commanding General, Support, USAR-EC. I was especially interested in General Hockett's discussion of the changes the Army has made in the recruiting process and the success they have had in meeting their recruiting goals. He stated the Army expects to meet their annual goal this year in the third quarter, a feat they have not accomplished in several decades!



Marston and I have finished awarding our ROTC scholarships to deserving cadets, and she has also finished awarding medals and certificates to the JROTC units. As you can imagine, handing out \$6,000 has depleted our checking account, so if you can, please contribute to the Foundation to replenish our account. The scholarships do a lot of good to so many deserving cadets. To maximize the benefit to you, consider making a contribution by withdrawing from your IRA—a direct charitable contribution counts toward your IRA's Minimum Required Distribution (MRD) but you don't have to pay income tax on the withdrawal.

As usual, I ask you to check the MOAA National website for items in the legislative hopper that support our enlisted and all other active duty and veterans. Now is a good time to keep our legislators focused by contacting them via the Advocacy in Action portal at the site.

Thank you for your time. As always, if you have any comments or suggestions, please let me know.

Alex

Notes from the Membership Log

Nine members attended the Armed Forces Day luncheon in May at the Villa Milano in Westerville (photo at right). Our next Chapter luncheon will be on Friday, 20 June, at the Rusty Bucket in New Albany. The speaker will be Judy Pearson, Col, USAF (Ret), Ambassador for the Military Women's Memorial.



On-line Payments

Our Chapter is now enrolled in MOAA's online payments system (at no charge to us). To pay dues or give donations, go to the DONATIONS page on the MOAA Central Ohio website (<https://moaa-centralohio.org/Donations>) and click on the orange PAY NOW button. Fill in your name and email on [the page that opens](#). Click the orange ENTER button to go to a page that will enable you to pay dues as well as donate.

Continually serving,

Nancy F. Rey, LCDR, US Navy (Ret)

Membership VP and Life MOAA Member

"The larger our number, the greater your voice!"



Legislative News

MOAA continues to advocate for active duty, reserve, and retired service members and their dependents. MOAA's priorities in the new 119th Congress include:

Combat-injured veterans lose a dollar of earned DoD retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation. The **Major Richard Star Act** would end that unjust financial offset. [Use this link](#) to urge your legislators to support the Star Act.

A decade-old law cut the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for all service members who live off base. The **BAH Restoration Act** (H.R. 1956) would reverse that cut so that BAH will again cover 100% of housing-related expenses. Ask your legislators to support BAH restoration by clicking [this link](#).

The caregivers who support aging and disabled veterans often sacrifice their own careers, financial stability, and personal well-being to fulfill their vital role. The **Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act** would provide assistance specifically tailored for veteran caregivers. This legislation is critical to ensuring caregivers receive the recognition, support, and financial security they have

earned through their service to veterans. Urge your Representative to support caregivers using [this link](#).

Writing takes about two minutes. Either click one of the links above, or from the “[Active Legislative Campaigns](#)” page, click on the “Write” button to the right of the title and description of each bill. Fill out your personal information and then click the “Submit” button at the bottom of the page. *(You can edit MOAA’s recommended wording if you want, but most legislators count their “issue mail” instead of reading it.—Ed.)*

You can find the bills MOAA supports on the “MOAA-Supported Legislation” page here: [MOAA Action Center](#) This is a great list if you're interested in learning more about the bills. You can click on the name of the bill and learn more about it.

When you fill out the “Act now!” information, the last item asks you to indicate your MOAA Chapter. When you see the “SELECT” prompt, scroll down or type “**OH02**” to get the Central Ohio Chapter.

[ROTC/JROTC Update](#)

Here are links from our college ROTC programs:

[OSU AFROTC DET 645 Facebook](#)

[Ohio U Army ROTC Web page](#)

[OSU Army ROTC YouTube commercial](#)

[Capital U Army ROTC Facebook](#)

[OSU Naval ROTC Facebook](#)

[ROTC /JROTC Awards Ceremonies](#)



At left, Cadet Joshua Shevy, Ohio University AFROTC, receives the MOAA Award scholarship on 23 April 2025. Cadet Shevy wrote, *I am honored to have been selected as the recipient of the MOAA award and generous scholarship. Recognitions such as these reinforce within me a renewed sense of motivation as I prepare to commission into the United States Air Force. Additionally, your organization's support of our program is an excellent reminder that we as cadets are being recognized and encouraged from the outside. Thank you once again for your continued support of the development of future military leaders here at Ohio University.*

I also received a card from MIDN 2/C Grace Campbell, OSU Naval ROTC:

Thank you for choosing me as a recipient of the Military Officers Association of America Award. I am honored to be a recipient of this generous scholarship. Your support plays a vital role in helping me pursue my education and commission as a Naval officer. I am

truly grateful for your investment in my future and commitment to the next generation of leaders. Thank you again for your generosity.



At left, JROTC cadet Isaac Holland, Delaware City Schools, receives the MOAA Award on 7 May 2025.

At right, JROTC Cadet Makayla Kershaw, Grove City High School, receives the MOAA Award on 30 April 2025.



At left, JROTC Cadet Caden Martin, Logan High School, receives the MOAA Award on 28 April 2025.

Central Ohio Stand Down

Save the date for the 2025 Central Ohio Veterans Stand Down: **Friday, 3 October, 2025**, from 0830-1330. Set-up day will be Thursday, 2 October, 2025. Stand Down Event Registration will open in August.

How Can I Donate to ROTC, JROTC, or Standdown?

If you want to donate online, the instructions are in the Membership column [here](#). You can also send a check to MOAA Central Ohio Chapter, P.O. Box 361632, Columbus, Ohio 43236-1632. The MOAA Central Ohio Chapter Foundation is approved by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) foundation for tax purposes.

Marston McKeon
Lt Col, USAF (Ret)



June Luncheon

The next luncheon will be 20 June at the Rusty Bucket in New Albany. If you plan to attend, please contact LTC Jeff Collins at jmcwindsor@yahoo.com by 13 June so that we can give the restaurant a headcount. We order off the menu and pay individually. The speaker will be Judy Pearson, Col, USAF (Ret), Ambassador for the Military Women's Memorial.

Upcoming Events

June 2025 Chapter Board Meeting.....4 June 2025, DSCC, Room 905
 June 2025 Chapter Luncheon.....20 June 2025, Rusty Bucket
 July 2025 Chapter Board Meeting.....9 July 2025, DSCC, Room 905
 July 2025 Chapter Luncheon18 July 2025, Rusty Bucket
 August 2025 Chapter Board Meeting6 August 2025, DSCC, Room 905
 August 2025 Chapter Luncheon.....15 August 2025, Rusty Bucket
 September Chapter Board Meeting.....10 September 2025, DSCC, Room 905
 September 2025 Chapter Luncheon19 September 2025, Rusty Bucket
 October Chapter Board Meeting8 October 2025, DSCC, Room 905
 October Chapter Luncheon17 October 2025, Rusty Bucket
 November Chapter Board Meeting.....5 November 2025, DSCC, Room 905

Adopt A Serviceperson

From a Chaplain in Egypt comes this report: *Chocolate is always a big hit. We do not have access to chocolate from home and when it arrives, everyone seems to be a bit happier. Interestingly, crayons and colored pencils are an item we cannot get here, and a number of Soldiers have been asking for either, as they use coloring to mitigate stress and as an outlet for creativity. Thank you for your amazing support to our team.*

From Syria, a Chaplain reports: *Sunscreen is needed here. The troops like Pringles and sudoku books as well as dried fruit. Thanks for all you do.*

I have nine contacts that are in Harm's Way. The units range from 40 to 1000 military personnel. Thank you for your support.

I sent a special THANK YOU to Fouse Elementary School in Westerville. The students made over 70 pieces of art (like that shown at left) and wrote notes to our deployed military. Starting this month, I'll put 10 notes and pieces of art in each box that I send out. Those troops will love them!



Dorothy Williams
861-423-7016



Central Ohio Chapter Board

The Chapter Board needs new people with fresh views. Two big opportunities to learn by doing are:

- **National Legislative Affairs:** Our National Legislative Affairs board member keeps track of current MOAA legislative priorities and provides monthly updates through the CONNECT newsletter.
- **Outreach:** Your Foundation depends upon contributions to achieve its mission. The Outreach Director will oversee our fundraising efforts and will also serve as a member of the Foundation Board of Directors.

If you are interested, please contact Alex at abetting2@gmail.com.

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