



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

Our September luncheon was well attended with twenty-one in attendance. Our speaker was Mr. Jake Clark, founder and president of Save A Warrior Foundation. Following the events of 9/11 he reenlisted in the Guard, completed Officer Candidate School, and served multiple peacekeeping tours to the former Yugoslavia where he witnessed the aftermath of genocidal atrocities, greatly impacting his worldview. While an MBA student at Pepperdine University, he interrupted his studies to found Save A Warrior in 2012 in Malibu, California. Jake's novel and disruptive approach in the areas of reintegration and PTS-related suicide prevention, inspired the creation and informs the curriculums of several derivative resiliency programs across the country and abroad.



On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank two anonymous donors for their contributions to the Foundation. These contributions and others like them help to make possible the Chapter's annual ROTC scholarship awards and our support for our remote service members. One ROTC professor told me that the scholarship awarded to one of his students would help him stay in school after the student's Government scholarship was withdrawn due to lack of funding. The contributions you make to the Foundation do make a difference!

The Chapter continues to shrink. Please, if you know of an eligible retiree, see if they will join the chapter. Membership numbers are critical to helping us to maintain the Federal and state benefits we have earned—and that's a continuing fight because the money is allocated annually in the Federal and state budgets.

As always, if you have any suggestions on how we can do this better, please let me know. We value your input for the betterment of the Chapter. Thank you for your time.

Alex

Notes from the Membership Log

Twenty-one members attended our luncheon in September at the Rusty Bucket in New Albany where Mr. Jake Clark, founder and president of the Save a Warrior Foundation, presented a very motivating talk. Our 50/50 raffle winner was MAJ Chris Curry. Our next luncheon will be on Friday, October 17 at the Rusty Bucket in New Albany. If you are interested in joining us at the next luncheon, please contact LTC Jeff Collins at jmcwindsor@yahoo.com to make your reservation by 12 October.

Anyone is also welcome to attend our Board meetings, which are held at DSCC, Building 11, Section 9, Room 905. The October meeting is on Wednesday, 8 October, at 1 PM. Come join us, you might find out it is just the thing you might want to volunteer to do!

If you know of someone who would like to join the Central Ohio Chapter, please refer them to https://moaa-centralohio.org/member_application.cfm. For current members, expect to see Membership Renewal forms in your email or mailbox in October.

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

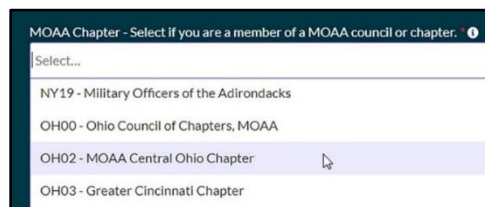
MOAA continues to advocate for active duty, reserve, and retired service members and their dependents. Click [this link](#) to learn more about MOAA's advocacy. MOAA's priorities in Congress include:

- Combat-injured veterans lose a dollar of earned DoD retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation, and the **Major Richard Star Act** would end that unjust financial offset. [Use this link](#) to urge your legislators to support the Star Act. In addition, amendments with the language of the Star Act are being considered in both legislative chambers.
- Administrative red tape and access delays continue to burden military families seeking routine and prenatal care. MOAA supports two bipartisan bills designed to streamline care delivery, reduce lost duty time, and ensure continuity during critical life events. Add your voice [here](#).

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 Web page](#)

[Capital U Army ROTC Facebook](#)

[OSU Naval ROTC Facebook](#)

[ROTC](#)



Last week, AFROTC and Army ROTC cadets at Ohio University honored the heroes of September 11th by participating in the 9/11 Stair Climb Challenge (left). The challenge was to climb the equivalent of 110 stories (~2,200 steps) of the World Trade Center that our heroes had to climb on 9/11. Each step represents the courage, sacrifice, and resilience of the first responders, service members, and civilians who made the ultimate sacrifice.

At Ohio State University, the Buckeye Battalion also honored the lives lost in the attacks of September 11, 2001 (right). They were accompanied by OSU's Naval and Air Force ROTC programs, athletic teams, and civilian organizations, with more than 1,400 individuals coming together to pay tribute.

More pics can be found on the ROTC Instagram pages:

OSU Army: [Instagram.com/theosuarmy/](https://www.instagram.com/theosuarmy/)

OSU AF: [Instagram.com/osuafrotc/](https://www.instagram.com/osuafrotc/)

OSU Navy: [Instagram.com/osu_nrotc/](https://www.instagram.com/osu_nrotc/)

Capital: [Instagram.com/capitalrotc/](https://www.instagram.com/capitalrotc/)

OU Army: [Instagram.com/ohiouarmyrotc/](https://www.instagram.com/ohiouarmyrotc/)



OU AF: [Instagram.com/detachment_650/](https://www.instagram.com/detachment_650/)

You can also check out the video link below:

https://www.instagram.com/reel/DOdmAnqjZ38/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

JROTC

Curious as to where our JROTC high schools are located? Check out the map at the following link:

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Military-Resources/Students-and-Families/Junior-Reserve-Officer-Training-Corps-JROTC>

Central Ohio Stand Down

We received this note of thanks from Dan Willis:

Dear Marston and longtime MOAA Friends:

Your support of our Veterans deserves a special recognition after all these years of encouragement and financial sponsorship. You truly understand our mission while “walking the walk.”

Your gift of \$1,166.00 will be used to help us provide a Stand Down that meets the needs of our Veterans.

Also, we are pleased to be able to celebrate 30 years of offering Stand Down to our Veteran community. As a 501c3, 100% of all donations serve our Veterans and we continue to be a proud Volunteer run organization.

Together, we recognize and value the efforts of all our Veterans. Again, thank you!

With regards,

Dan Willis

Executive Director, Central Ohio Stand Down

Stand Down 2025 Details

Stand Down is Friday, 3 October, 0830-1330, and set up day is Thursday, 2 October.

To volunteer, register at: www.centralohiostanddown.org –volunteer registration closes September 24, 2025. Volunteers are still needed in these areas:

- Set Up: Thursday October 2 from 9:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
- Stand Down: Friday, October 3 from 7:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
- Tear Down: Friday, October 3 from 1:30–2:30 p.m.

Lunch on 3 October is free for our volunteers! Coffee and Donuts will be available both days. Invite your friends/club members/church groups to help!

[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)



[October Luncheon](#)

The next luncheon will be 17 October at the Rusty Bucket in New Albany. If you plan to attend, please contact LTC Jeff Collins at jmcwindsor@yahoo.com by 13 October so that we can give the restaurant a headcount. We order off the menu and pay individually.

[Upcoming Events](#)

October Chapter Board Meeting	8 October 2025, DSCC, Bldg 11, Bay 9
October Chapter Luncheon	17 October 2025, Rusty Bucket
November Chapter Board Meeting	5 November 2025, DSCC, Bldg 11, Bay 9
November Chapter Luncheon	21 November 2025, Rusty Bucket
December Chapter Board Meeting	10 December 2025, DSCC, Bldg 11, Bay 9
December Chapter Holiday Luncheon	12 December 2025, Rusty Bucket
January Chapter Board Meeting	7 January 2026, DSCC, Bldg 11, Bay 9
January Chapter Luncheon	16 January 2026, Rusty Bucket
February Chapter Board Meeting	4 February 2026, DSCC, Bldg 11, Bay 9

[Adopt A Serviceperson](#)

I want to give you an update on the units we have been serving in Harm's Way. Our contact on the USS CARL VINSON in the Med is returning home. When we get a new contact, we will continue supporting this ship. We have a new infantry unit, from Wisconsin, that is in Jordan, with personnel also spread all over the Middle East. I just sent them a box filled with many kinds of cookies. That box has Fall/Halloween cookies. We sent a box of hygiene supplies sent to troops in Djibouti, Africa—it is a U.S. Navy led installation and a new group for us to support.

From Syria comes this note:

It is a plus knowing we have people back home who support us in ways we could not so easily support ourselves. You've proven that we are not forgotten, and we do not wish to forget the tradition and standards you all set for us as we traverse these troubled waters. Words cannot express how thankful we all are.

For submitting names of deployed personnel and donations, please contact Dorothy Williams, 614-423-7016.



Dorothy Williams
614-423-7016

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.

Sailor for Life

Sailor for Life is the Navy's biannual magazine for veterans, retirees, and their families. Download a PDF of the Fall-Winter 2025-2026 issue [here](#).



2025

VETERANS DAY RALLY

SPONSORED BY

COLUMBUS

Franklin County
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 9th | 11:30 - 3:30

MILVETS 2025

VETERANS DAY RALLY

NATIONAL VETERANS MEMORIAL MUSEUM

300 WEST BROAD STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215

Join us at the MILVETS Veterans Day Rally on November 9th to celebrate and honor our Veterans. The Free event will feature entertainment, a free meal and Veteran-related vendors while you visit the National Veterans Memorial and Museum.

MOAA Central Ohio Chapter
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