



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.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- [President's Corner](#)
- [Notes from the Membership Log](#)
- [Legislative News](#)
- [ROTC/JROTC Update](#)
- [Central Ohio Stand Down](#)
- [Operation Second Chance](#)
- [December Luncheon](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Adopt A Serviceperson](#)
- [Chapter Board Positions](#)
- [Taps for Military Member](#)
- [COLA for Veterans' Benefits](#)

President's Corner

Joe Machado, a member of the Board, reminded me that the Viet Nam war ended 50 years ago. He provided some interesting statistics. I find it amazing that 2,709,918 Americans served in the war, of whom fewer than 850,000 are still alive today. Of the nearly three million who served, 58,202 never came home. Despite all the negativity, only 25% of those who served in-country were draftees.

It's that time again, so please pay your Chapter dues. You can mail your check or use the MOAA National web site MOAA.org using the "Cheddar Up" portal—there's a [link](#) in Nancy's article. Remember that 100% of the dues are used for Chapter business.

The luncheon on January 16, 2026, will be our annual membership meeting, at which we will elect new officers. All positions are open, but we especially need a treasurer to relieve Walt Rey. If you have the time—less than 15 minutes per day for Treasurer—please consider stepping up.

To conclude my next-to-last President's Corner, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Alex

Notes from the Membership Log

Seventeen members attended our luncheon in November. Our speaker, CAPT Bill Tate, presented a talk on the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and Korea. Our 50/50 raffle winner was CDR Bill McNeer.

Our next luncheon will be Friday, 12 December, 2025, at the Rusty Bucket in New Albany. If you are interested in joining us, please contact LTC Jeff Collins at jmcwindsor@yahoo.com to make your reservation by 5 December.

Everyone is welcome to attend Board meetings, which are held at DSCC Building 11, Section 9, Room 905. The next meeting is on Wednesday, 10 December. Come join us—you might find it's something for which you want to volunteer!

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, you should have received a request for renewal in late October—if you haven't yet renewed, I'll remind you in early December.



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:

- Military spouses face a 21% unemployment rate, five times the national average, due to frequent moves and challenges tied to military life. Congress must incentivize employers to hire military spouses by adding them to the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) program. [Write your lawmakers](#) about the importance of continuing this credit for veterans and making military spouses a target group for WOTC.
- 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. The Star Act is currently stalled in the US Senate—[use this link](#) to urge your legislators to support the Star Act.

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 place to learn more about the bills, including the current status of each one.

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

Here's the latest [OSU AFROTC video](#).

The OSU Army ROTC Alumni Society Hall of Fame welcomed 2025 honorees COL (Ret) Sherrie Bosley (Class of 1989), MG (Ret) Walt Duzzny (1989), COL (Ret) John Stahl (1990), BG John Dreska (1992), and LTC (Ret) Nicole Gabriel (1992). See the video of the ceremony at the veterans appreciation game [here](#).



[Ohio University cadets](#) distinguished themselves in the Bobcat Full and Half Marathons. Click the link above for more photos.

Abby Rolfe (right), last year's MOAA Central Ohio Chapter scholarship winner, won the Marathon First Place female trophy!



From Ohio State Army ROTC comes a little [Buckeye motivation](#).

More pics can be found on the ROTC Instagram pages:

OSU Army: [Instagram.com/theosuarmy/](#)

Capital: [Instagram.com/capitalrotc/](#)

OSU AF: [Instagram.com/osuafrotc/](#)

OU Army: [Instagram.com/ohiouarmyrotc/](#)

OSU Navy: [Instagram.com/osu_nrotc/](#)

OU AF: [Instagram.com/detachment_650/](#)

JROTC

I attended a 19 November Association of the US Army (AUSA) webinar presented by COL (Ret) Arthur T. Coumbe, USA, former Historian, US Army Cadet Command. He spoke about his book *Soldiers in the Schoolhouse: A Military History of the Junior ROTC*. His talk traced the history of military-civil engagement, beginning after the American Revolution and continuing through Army JROTC's founding in 1916, JROTC's expansion to all services in 1964, the program's admitting women in 1972, Defense Secretary Robert McNamara's unsuccessful attempt to eliminate it, and its later

expansion. He explained how a strong society bolsters a strong military and the benefits of civil-military engagement.

Central Ohio Stand Down

This year's stand down served upwards of 600 veterans in need. Thank you to everyone who donated and helped in any way!

Mark your calendars for Friday, 23 October 2026 for next year's program!

Operation Second Chance

Operation Second Chance makes a difference in the lives of veterans and their families—across the country and right here in Central Ohio. Find out more on the website at operationsecondchance.org or on Facebook at [Operation Second Chance – National](#).

In Central Ohio, OSC offers a wide range of free programs, retreats, and events designed to support healing, connection, and community. They prioritize combat veterans, Purple Heart recipients, and those with service-connected disabilities—but if we have space available, they welcome all who have served.

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)



December Luncheon

The next luncheon will be 12 December at the Rusty Bucket in New Albany. If you plan to attend, please contact LTC Jeff Collins at jmcwindsor@yahoo.com by 5 December so that we can give the restaurant a headcount. We order from the menu and pay individually.

Upcoming Events

December Chapter Board Meeting10 December 2025, DSCC, Bldg 11, Bay 9
December Chapter Holiday Luncheon12 December 2025, Rusty Bucket
January Chapter Board Meeting7 January 2026, DSCC, Bldg 11, Bay 9

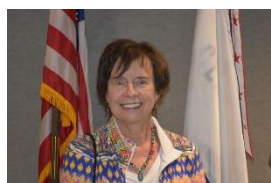
January Chapter Luncheon	16 January 2026, Rusty Bucket
<i>Annual Membership Meeting and Election of Officers</i>	
February Chapter Board Meeting	4 February 2026, DSCC, Bldg 11, Bay 9
February Chapter Luncheon	20 February 2026, Rusty Bucket
March Chapter Board Meeting	4 March 2026, DSCC, Bldg 11, Bay 9
March Chapter Luncheon	20 March 2026, Rusty Bucket
April Chapter Board Meeting	8 April 2026, DSCC, Bldg 11, Bay 9

[Adopt A Serviceperson](#)

From troops in harm's way, a message from SFC Reynolds:

Thank you so much for the Holiday care box. You planned it perfectly for my Section. My group of soldiers and I were just talking about prepping for Christmas. Your oatmeal, ramen noodles, crackers, and popcorn were amazing pick-me-ups for our Section. Thank you for the great care package and the efforts you put forth to make this deployment more manageable. We are getting into shorter days. I'm not sure we are ready for the time change either. Thank you again!

Another thank you I received was from Addison (right) who is an Air Force pilot. One of our members who knows her grandmother forwarded her name to me. She has about 4 months to go in this Middle East deployment. To submit names of deployed personnel, please contact Dorothy Williams at (614) 423-7016. Donations may be sent to the MOAA COC Foundation—the instructions for donating online are in the Membership column [here](#).



Dorothy Williams
614-423-7016

Central Ohio Chapter Board

The Chapter Board needs new people! Two opportunities to learn by doing are:

- **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.
- **National Legislative Affairs:** Our National Legislative Affairs board member keeps track of current MOAA legislative priorities and provides monthly updates through the CONNECT newsletter.

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

Taps for Military Member

Colonel David E. Jackson, US Army (Ret), 94, of Columbus, passed away peacefully on August 20, 2025. Born April 9, 1931, in Gallipolis, David was the beloved son of the late Joseph and Bess Jackson. He graduated from Ohio University in 1953 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education.

David had 37 years of service to the Defense Logistics Agency, Defense Supply Center Columbus. He was a life member of the Military Officers Association of America.

David is survived by sons Michael and Miles; grandson Michael; great-granddaughters, Oliva Cudgel, Maranda Jackson, and Madilyn Jackson. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Pauline; daughter Elizabeth, grandson James E Jackson; and great-granddaughter Janielle Jackson.

Congress Approves COLA for Veterans' Compensation

The Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2025, passed by the House and Senate, requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide the same cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to certain veterans' benefits as Social Security recipients will receive on December 1, 2025. Under this bill, the VA will increase:

- Wartime disability compensation
- Additional compensation for dependents
- The annual clothing allowance for eligible disabled veterans
- Dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) for surviving spouses and children

The bill has been sent to the President to be signed into law.



MOAA Central Ohio Chapter
P.O. Box 361632
Columbus, Ohio 43236-1632