



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

A number of our members recently attended the 40th Annual MilVets Armed Forces Day Luncheon and Scholarship Presentation at the Villa Milano Banquet and Conference Center. The comradeship among the different organizations and their members was outstanding! It is nice to be among those who have traveled the same career path and adventures that we all have.



What struck me the most was the dedication shown by the ROTC and Junior ROTC students. Most of them are about to embark upon the journey of a lifetime. There will be moments of joy, frustration, grief and happiness in their near future—feelings and emotions that we have all experienced! I sat there wondering how we could make it better for them. As individuals, we can give them kind words, but as an organization, our help can be more tangible—we, and other organizations, can provide scholarships that demonstrate our respect for their choice to serve and provide a helping hand to those just starting out.

My focus in this article is to encourage you, as an individual, to consider contributing to our organization and our scholarship fund. Our biggest expenditures come at this time of year, when we award six scholarships and reward distinguished JROTC units, and we need to rebuild our funds for the upcoming Franklin County Veterans Stand down and the next graduating classes. You don't need to give a staggering amount—a group bound together in a common purpose will meet our expected needs. If you contribute, I encourage you to accompany our representative to the respective ceremonies, so you can experience firsthand the joy and relief that our recipients display. Let's pitch in as a team and continue our charitable work for these fine men and women.

Please let me hear your suggestions, and thanks again for the opportunity to serve.

Chris

Notes from the Membership Log

Eight members attended the Armed Forces Day luncheon in May at the Villa Milano in Westerville. In some years past we had two full tables, and we would love to see that again! Our next Chapter luncheon will be Friday, 19 June at the Rusty Bucket in New Albany. The speaker will be Dan Willis, Director, Central Ohio Stand Down. If you plan to attend, please contact LTC Jeff Collins at jmcwindsor@yahoo.com by 12 June so that we can give the restaurant a headcount.

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2026, please send a check, or use [MOAA's online payment system](#). This year, the Chapter had nine military members, 76 surviving

spouse members, and one supporting member who did not renew. If you know of someone who might like to join the Central Ohio Chapter, please refer them to https://moaa-centralohio.org/member_application.cfm.

Hope to see you at the June board meeting or luncheon. Everyone is welcome at either gathering.

[On-line Payments](#)

Our Chapter is 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](#)

[Help MOAA continue 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 key priorities for 2026 include:

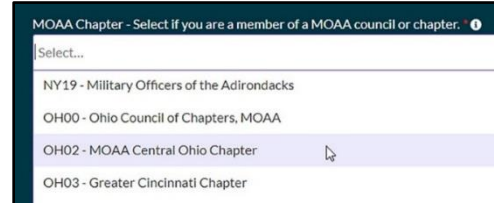
- **End the “Wounded Veteran Tax”:** The Major Richard Star Act would end the unfair pay offset faced by combat-injured veterans who lose a dollar of retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation. The Act has been derailed by procedural and rules issues in recent sessions. [Ask Your Lawmakers to Support Combat-Injured Veterans](#)
- **Support Duty Status Reform for Guard and Reserve.** The Duty Status Reform Act (H.R. 6976) enables members of the National Guard and Reserve to receive the same pay and benefits as active duty military members when performing full-time duty. [Ask your Representative to co-sponsor the Duty Status Reform Act](#)
- **Restore Full BAH.** Two-thirds of servicemembers live off-base, but Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) covers only 95% of rent and utilities. [Urge your legislators to support the BAH Restoration 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 customize MOAA's wording, but legislators*

tend to 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](#)

All of our 2026 ROTC awards ceremonies are completed. Each of our six scholarship awardees received a \$1000 scholarship check, a certificate, and a medal from our chapter.

Check out the ROTC Instagram pages for more photos and updates:

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

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

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

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

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

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

[JROTC](#)

Congratulations to Grove City High School and Central Crossing High School, first and second place winners of the 2026 MOAA JROTC award! The awards were based upon the JROTC principles of citizenship and leadership, community service, personal growth, and academic/life skills.

[Central Ohio Stand Down](#)

Dan Willis, executive director of the Central Ohio Stand Down, will be the guest speaker at our **19 June luncheon**. Join us at the New Albany Rusty Bucket to hear all about the great things that Stand Down does for our veterans in need, and how you can help.

The 2026 Central Ohio Stand Down will be on Friday, **23 October 2026!**

[How Can I Donate to ROTC, JROTC, or Stand Down?](#)

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)



[Luncheon Notes](#)

Our next Chapter luncheon will be Friday, 19 June at the Rusty Bucket in New Albany. The speaker will be **Dan Willis, Director, Central Ohio Stand Down**. If you are interested in attending the luncheon and hearing the speaker, please contact LTC Jeff Collins at jmcwindsor@yahoo.com by 12 June so that we can give the restaurant a headcount. We order from the menu and pay individually.

[Upcoming Events](#)

- June Chapter Board Meeting 10 June 2026, DSCC, Bldg 11, Bay 9
- June Chapter Luncheon and
Juneteenth National Holiday 19 June 2026, Rusty Bucket
- July Chapter Board Meeting 8 July 2026, DSCC, Room 905
- July Chapter Board Meeting 8 July 2026, DSCC, Room 905
- July Chapter Luncheon 17 July 2026, Rusty Bucket
- August Chapter Board Meeting 5 August 2026, DSCC, Room 905
- Ohio Department of Veterans
Services Convention 8 August 2026, Ohio Union
- August Chapter Luncheon 21 August 2026, Rusty Bucket
- September Chapter Board Meeting 9 September 2026, DSCC, Room 905
- September Chapter Luncheon 18 September 2026, Rusty Bucket
- Central Ohio Veterans Stand Down 23 October 2026

[Adopt A Serviceperson](#)

From Chaplain Abbott aboard a ship in an undisclosed location:

Right now what we could really use are Bibles to hand out to the crew. They like the NIV because they are easier to read. I would like more rosaries and crosses

to hand out on the deck plates as well. Daily devotional books and prayer cards or saint cards might also be popular for people wanting to grow in their faith. We could also use snacks (gum, candy, etc.)

From Chaplain Rondon in Poland:

We can use the encouraging care packages for our Soldiers. During our deployments, that has indeed been the best way of expressing to them how much we care. The ratio for our troops is 3,709 males and 526 females.

Many of the ZIP code bans have been lifted, so boxes can once again be sent to troops in harm's way. My Bible study at St. Paul's Church in Westerville helped fill a box to send to Chaplain Abbott with 68 rosaries, ten Bibles, five devotional books, and 97 prayer cards. I also included many USA 250th birthday items from Dollar Store. *[Packages are still banned for 13 military ZIP codes—you can find them [here](#).—Ed.]*

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

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