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E-Connect Editorial Policy

E-Connect, the Central Ohio Electronic 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. We also publish a paper format newsletter which is available on our website (pdf format). Click [HERE](#) if interested. Join us - your membership helps us achieve the Mission. Visit our website www.moaa-centralohio.org to join.

Editors: [Col Pete Wilkinson USAF Ret.](#), [CDR Walter Rey USN Ret](#) Let us know how we can improve your Newsletter!



Need to contact a Board Member? Click [HERE](#) to go to our website for a complete listing and contact information!

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Give us feedback on our New E-Newsletter. Answer this quick survey. Click [HERE!](#)

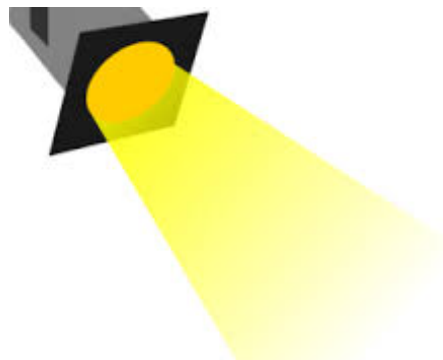
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Welcome New & Returning Members!

Mrs. Susan Geer (Surviving Spouse)
 CW4 Stephen Van Duimen USA (Ret) and his wife Sally (Supporting Member)
 LtCol Mark Hensen USMC (Ret) and his wife Elaine (Supporting Member)



[This Month's Spotlight:](#)

2018 Armed Forces Day Luncheon

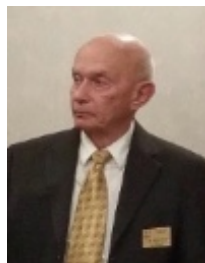


For over 20 years MILVETS (a 501(c)(3) organization) has sponsored the annual Columbus Armed Forces Day Luncheon to honor Americans serving in the five branches of the US Military. While all service members are celebrated; each year there is special recognition given to a specific branch. This year, that branch is the United States Marine Corps.

The luncheon will begin at 11:30 AM with the doors opening at 10:30 AM. Friday, May 18, 2018 at Villa Milano, 1630 Shrock Road, Columbus, OH ([map](#))

Activities include awarding of ROTC and JrROTC Scholarships, recognizing of Non-Commissioned Officers in Central Ohio who are not only outstanding within their military units by also in the efforts to support their local communities by the USO of Central and Southern Ohio, and a keynote speaker (yet to be announced).

Seating is limited! This year the Chapter has reserved two tables (of 10) for the luncheon. Select the appropriate Reservation Button below to make your reservation!



[President's Corner for May 2018](#)

I'm not sure how I had time to hold a full-time job before being elected President – we're staying busy and that's a good thing! The membership voted to approve the amended Chapter By-Laws at the 13 April 2018 luncheon/business meeting. Changes were made to

more clearly reflect how we conduct business. We're sending three people to Chicago 4-5 May for MOAA Regional Training. I'm sure we all need more training, but three is all MOAA will fund. At our board meeting in April, we achieved a milestone – completed the meeting in one hour and covered all the programs! We may never do that again, but it was nice to know it can be accomplished. We've also altered the format of our board meeting by using power point slides to focus on key points. We'll continue this for a while and then decide if the slides truly add value. It does take extra time to prepare slides and then assemble a slide presentation from 18 people. Ms. Kathy Lowery Gallowitz of Vanguard Veteran, LLC. spoke at our April luncheon. She provided an excellent perspective on improving civilian communities through better incorporation of veterans within the communities. We had a good turnout for the luncheon – I invite all to attend whenever possible. Coordination and preparation continues for the 2018 Central Ohio Stand Down and the Fairfield County Stand Down. The next Central Ohio Stand Down is October 16, 2018 at the Columbus Convention Center. Currently, over 600 Veterans are expected (555 last year were supported). The Fairfield County Stand Down is scheduled for 23 May 2018. Fairfield had 129 veterans supported last year and the number is expected to be higher this year. Both events need volunteers to help in a variety of ways so see Pete Wilkinson or Joe Machado! We're also continuing our Honor Flight support. Of special note, LCDR Nancy Rey, our Vice-President for Membership will participate as part of the Honor Flight scheduled for 28 April 18. Come welcome her back at 8:30 pm at the airport. As you can see – we've been busy and hope we stay that way!

What's on Your Mind – I want to hear what's on your mind, and if you have any concerns about our Chapter or suggestions to improve what we do, please get in touch and I'll make certain we consider your suggestions and try to correct any problem. Call me at cell phone 571-217-8897 or email me at SharTom123@AOL.com.

Upcoming Events

- Board of Directors meeting at noon on Wednesday, 2 May 18 at DSCC (Building 11, Section 9, Rm 906).
- Regional MOAA training in Chicago 4-5 May 18. Training is focused on President, VP for Membership, and the Legislative Affairs Chair.
- Armed Forces Day luncheon is 18 May 18 at the Villa Milano Banquet and Conference Center. This takes the place of our Chapter luncheon in May. Cost is \$25.00 per person, but well worth it. We will have reserved seats/tables. Either Walter Rey or Craig Harris can provide more details (and take your money!).



[Central Ohio News](#)

MEMBERSHIP



Notes from the Membership's Log, May 2018

We still have about 61 members who still have not renewed their dues for 2018.

We have 5 new members in our chapter to welcome this month. We say thanks for increasing our Number to:

CW4 Stephen Van Duinen (Member) and his wife, Sally (Supporting Member)

LtCol Mark Hensen (Member) and his wife, Elaine (Supporting Member)

Mrs. Susan Campigotto Geer (Surviving Spouse)

It was nice to meet Mark at our April luncheon.

Unfortunately we also had to play Taps for the following member:

COL Donald F. Friend USA/RET passed on 04/06/2018.

Have you asked someone to join our Chapter lately? Remember: "The LARGER our NUMBER, the GREATER our VOICE"

Thanks,

Nancy F. Rey LCDR, USN, RET

Membership VP



Legislative News

Federal News

The featured legislative alert on the MOAA website at <http://takeaction.moaa.org/?4> is entitled “End the pay reduction for medical retirees”. I would encourage everyone to go to the following site and take action by contacting Congress using the drafted message. Here is more information on this alert: “End the deduction of service-earned retirement pay to offset VA disability compensation for those servicemembers whose service-connected, non-combat related disability retirement under Chapter 61, 10 U.S.C. precluded them from serving at least 20 years.” Here's the link to the website to send your thoughts to Congress: <http://takeaction.moaa.org/app/write-a-letter?3&engagementId=458753> From here, you have to enter your zip code and then it will take you to the draft correspondence. Enter your name, address, and POC information and follow the simple directions to send the correspondence. The entire process takes about two minutes. A couple of the other legislative action alerts and updates on the website are “[Compensation is Crucial to Recruitment and Retention](#)”, “[Top 10 Solutions for Wounded, Ill, and Injured Veterans](#)”, “[Be Cautious with Compensation Reform](#)”, “[Fix Call Up Orders for Guard and Reserve](#)”, and “[Support full concurrent receipt for disabled military retirees](#)”. These alerts can be found here: <http://capwiz.com/moaa/home/>

There are also 19 key bills that MOAA is supporting listed at <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/> This is a great list if you're interested in learning more about the bills. You can click on the names of the bills and learn more about each of them. If you have any questions, please contact CDR Jen Travers at ericjen2001@msn.com.

State News

Listed below are the different legislative actions we've been following and supporting along with status:

- **SB 81** - Revise licensing rules for military personnel concealed carry- passed Senate as is in the House - popular but ignores all basic firearms currency requirements - IE your WWII shot card is still good for this as it is written.
- **HB158** - Receive unemployment compensation if civilian spouse ends employment in order to accompany military spouse - Passed House.
- **SB 116** - Receive unemployment compensation if civilian spouse ends employment in order to accompany military spouse – in Finance Committee. (A few letters or phone calls can get this moving - Sen Frank LaRose)
- **HB192** - Permit adding members to county veterans service commissions - in

Veteran Committee. (Big fight in the ODVS advisory meeting about this - more soon)

- **HB238**-Establish Veterans Fee Waiver Program - Introduced - no movement.
- **HB194**-Establish special license plates for military service and awards - Veteran groups supported but no one noticed the part that removed requirement to have veteran majority on the non-profit board for National Veteran Museum. This is law now.



Key activities of the Ohio National Guard:

- Rickenbacker has started a phase that is projected to continue for the next three years, of almost continuous deployments to the Pacific, Europe and Middle East.
- Toledo has returned from Estonia
- Mansfield has returned from Africa
- Ohio, in conjunction with the State Department, is exploring the possibility of a Partnership for Peace with Angola
- Ohio currently participates in a Partnership for Peace program with Hungary and Serbia

LT Colonel Victor Wilson 614-581-7300



Programs Report: LTC Collins

MOAA COC/Area University ROTC Program Partnership:

ROTC. Below are noted upcoming ROTC Activities for The Ohio State University and Capital University Cadets and Midshipman.

On May 5th The Ohio State University is holding their Air Force, Army and Navy ROTC Commissioning Ceremonies.

On May 5th Capital University is holding their Army ROTC Commissioning Ceremony. All of us at the Central Ohio Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) wish all of the Cadets and Midshipman attending these Universities continued success in their respective ROTC Programs and in their future as our upcoming Leaders. Congratulations to all of our new Second Lieutenants and Ensigns as they receive their Commissions.

If you plan on attending any of these Commissioning Ceremonies please contact the respective ROTC Department for further details for these events.

Thanks. LTC Jeff Collins 860-713-4463



Adopt a Service Member

Thanks to Board member Craig Harris, two boxes of Girl Scout cookies were sent to Chaplain Campbell who is in Yemen, the Sinai. Another box filled with snacks and greeting cards was also sent. Several Chaplains have asked for greeting cards that service people can send home to family and friends. I know many organizations send new greeting cards in the mail. If you do not use them, please consider donating them to us. Send them or bring them to the monthly luncheons. Maybe you can ask your neighbors to help out. It works for me. Thank you for all you do. Dorothy Williams, 614-423-7016



CEL Phones for Soldiers.

I am the voice for our Ladies Auxiliary. For all our new members we collect cell phones and send them to our soldiers that are deployed.

We have sent over 2000 so far. You can bring them to our Luncheon on the second Friday of the Month. Also call the number at the bottom.

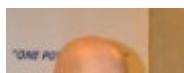
Linda Meadows 740 - 927- 6123



Fairfield County Stand Down

– The third annual Fairfield County Stand Down will be held at the Fairfield County Fairgrounds on Wednesday, May 23 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Setup will be on Tuesday, May 22 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. To volunteer for this event, please print the Volunteer Application form at: <https://www.togetherwemoveforward.org/pdf/2018-Stand-Down.pdf>, complete it and mail it to: Les Reynolds, 3044 Columbus-Lancaster Rd NW, Lancaster, Ohio 43130. For more information contact Fairfield County Veterans Service Commission, Phone (740) 652-7922 or visit: www.togetherwemoveforward.com.

The Honor Flight Columbus





Honor Flight Columbus – The next Honor Flight from Columbus will be on Saturday, 28 April. Our own LCDR Nancy Rey will be honored on that flight. Come down to the Southwest Airlines Ticket Counter area at 8:30 PM on April 28 to welcome Nancy home! Remaining Honor Flights from Columbus are published at: <http://www.honorflightcolumbus.org/flight-schedule.html>. To volunteer to support the Honor Flight mission, complete and submit the forms found at: <http://www.honorflightcolumbus.org/volunteer-application-form.html>. If you are an eligible WWII, Korean War, or Vietnam Veteran, to apply to go on an Honor Flight, download the application at: <http://nebula.wsimg.com/dc2bc3a53a5d7967e3c9b8391e74418a?AccessKeyId=8D27C581BA49121C8B9B&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>, complete it and send it to the address listed on the form. Remember Vietnam Veterans are required to submit a copy of their DD-214 with their application.

Joe

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[From National MOAA](#)





[MOAA Presses Congress to Pass Veterans Health Care Reform](#)

MOAA urged lawmakers to strike a bipartisan deal to replace VA Choice and consolidate existing community-care programs during a Wednesday joint House-Senate hearing on Capitol Hill.

A year has passed [without an agreement](#) in Congress to replace the VA Choice program, which allows some veterans to seek care closer to home. Competing bills addressing reform have languished on the Hill - one in the House and one in the Senate - and veterans are ready to see resolution, said Cmdr. René Campos, USN (Ret), MOAA's senior director of Government Relations for veterans and wounded warrior care.

“Veterans and their families sacrificed so much during their service,” Campos told lawmakers. “To ask them to continue giving after service by funding their earned benefits or cannibalizing benefits to pay for another ... program is asking them to go above and beyond what we expect.”

Rep. Tim Walz, Minnesota Democrat and retired Army sergeant major, and Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., stressed the importance of hearing from VSOs as lawmakers consider new VA legislation. Congress takes direction from VSOs “every step of the way,” Tester said.

MOAA was one of nine military and veterans service organizations to provide remarks during the hearing. In addition to community-care reform, MOAA also advocated for caregiver support, attention on women's health issues, and continued toxic-exposure research. Here's how Campos defined some of MOAA's top legislative priorities.

Reforming health care. Congress has never been closer to reconciling the differences in the community care bills: the [Caring for our Veterans Act of 2017](#) in the Senate and the [VA Care in the Community Act](#) in the House.

MOAA and most other VSOs support the Senate version of the bill, which includes provisions to expand VA support and services for full-time caregivers and builds on VA Secretary David Shulkin's [Community Access for Rewarding Experiences](#) (CARE) proposal.

“We urge the committees to strike a bipartisan, bicameral agreement on legislation to enact community-care reform and ensure full funding for Veterans Health Administration resources,” Campos said.

Expanding caregiver support. MOAA would like to see caregiver benefits extended to veterans who served prior to 9/11. The need for caregiver support is great among all generations, Campos said. She shared the story about one MOAA member named Peter, an 81-year-old blind veteran who's 100 percent disabled.

“Peter recognizes the toll caregiving is taking on his wife,” Campos said. “He says, 'She's

been my caregiver for over 20 years, and the burden is wearing on her but VA told me they don't have support services to help her.”

Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., said VSOs like MOAA help Congress “make decisions critical to VA.”

“On blue-water Navy and caregiver [benefits], we got the message loud and clear and we are working on it,” the committee chairman said. Blue-water Navy refers to the 90,000 servicemembers [exposed to Agent Orange](#) while operating off the coast of Vietnam.

WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE

*You served, you deserve
★ the best care anywhere.*



Women's health needs. Roles for women in uniform continue to evolve, and Campos said the VA and Defense Department must prepare to serve their health needs. MOAA recently teamed with United Health Foundation [to study](#) some of the health challenges facing female veterans. They found that women who served in the military were [more likely to suffer](#) from mental illness, cardiovascular disease, and other problems compared to female civilians.

Sen. Bill Cassidy, a Republican physician representing Louisiana, said he agrees. “Women have the privilege as men do to serve in some of these roles that were once just for men,” he said. “Our VA should respond to that.”

As part of this effort, Campos said MOAA recommends Congress pass the [Deborah Sampson Act](#), which calls on the VA to carry out a three-year pilot program to assess peer-to-peer assistance for women leaving the military - especially for those who suffered sexual trauma or are at risk of becoming homeless.

Researching toxic exposures. Campos said Pentagon and VA officials must continue working together to study servicemembers' exposure to toxic materials in order to determine whether it's responsible for illnesses.

“It's unreasonable to require veterans to provide the scientific and medical evidence for their claim when that expertise resides within the government itself,” Campos said.

MOAA would like to see investment in federal resource on servicemembers' exposure to hazardous toxins so health care benefits can be provided when appropriate.

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6 Military Deals You Might Be Missing Out On

Custom Banners

Are you looking for the perfect way to welcome home your loved one? Build A Sign offers free, 100-percent-customizable banners for families celebrating the homecoming of their deployed servicemember. This is the perfect way to show your loved one how much you have missed them.

Amusement Parks

Many amusement parks across the country offer discounts for military families. Places like Busch Gardens, Sea World, and Sesame Place provide military members one free admission a year. Learn more at wavesofhonor.com. Find additional attractions and vacation ideas for your family — all with military discounts — in “Kid-Friendly Vacations.”

Cellphone Discounts

Most major cellphone providers — including AT&T, Boost Mobile, Sprint, U.S. Cellular, and Verizon — offer military discounts on wireless plans to current and former servicemembers. To find the best deal for your family, do some shopping and focus on the plan that is right for you.

Athletic Apparel and Shoes

Nike offers a 10-percent discount to servicemembers. Registration is quick and easy. All you need is a valid military ID card. To find how you can get your discount, visit nike.com.

Wedding Dresses

Brides Across America is a nonprofit that is committed to gifting weddings and wedding gowns to military and first-responder brides. Founded in 2008, the organization has gifted over 20,000 dresses. Their “Operation Wedding Gown Event” is held twice a year: in July (around Independence Day) and in November (around Veterans Day). Check out more deals for your big day in “Discounts on Wedding Packages.”

Event Tickets

The Veteran Tickets Foundation offers free tickets to currently serving military members of

all branches of service and veterans. The foundation's goal is to support troops by providing positive family and life experiences. Tickets are provided for events, concerts, performing arts, and educational and family activities across the nation. To receive your free tickets, sign up at vettix.org.

Visit the websites listed above to ensure eligibility. Plenty of other organizations and companies offer discounts for members of the military, so be sure to always inquire about deals at the time of purchase.

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Monument Honors Female Veterans

A new monument at Veterans Memorial Park in Las Cruces, N.M., places a much-deserved spotlight on the nation's female veterans.

Architect Patricia Grumet Decker designed the monument, which was dedicated March 10 and features six life-size bronze statues representing Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Army National Guard female recruits in detailed uniforms from World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, and current eras. The statues were created from detailed maquettes sculpted by artist Matt Glenn.

The nonprofit United Military Women of the SouthWest (UMWSW) initiated the project and received funding from the state for its construction. The original estimated cost was \$306,200, but the legislature ended up providing \$406,200, notes former Marine Corps Capt. Carol Gaines, past president of the UMWSW.

Gaines pushed for the monument because she felt all women who have served deserve to be recognized, whether they served in uniform or helped the war effort by assuming jobs traditionally held by men. "Women took office jobs, they took welding jobs - they did

whatever needed to be done,” Gaines says.

Christine Sautter, USAR (Ret), a member of MOAA and of the Women Veterans of New Mexico, says the monument is important because it gives a voice to the women who went unrecognized for their military service upon returning home.

“I know many nurses who served in Vietnam, came home, and quietly went about their lives,” Sautter says. “No one really recognized them. It was the same for women who served in World War I and World War II. This monument speaks to our dedication to our nation and to our service. It's important that women are now being heard, and that they receive recognition for a job well done.”



How to Take Control of Your Financial Life

As you would expect, the overwhelming majority of people who join the uniformed services do not retire from their respective service. That being the case, while the new blended retirement system is still in its infancy, it will come to have much greater importance in the future. (Download MOAA's Retirement Guide to learn how changes to military retirement will affect you and your family.)

Most employees in the corporate sector also rely on 401(k)s for their future retirement income. This means most people have to trust their investment skills to retire comfortably. Social Security benefits were not designed to provide a comfortable retirement, only supplement it.

To start down the road to investment success, you must assume responsibility and control over your future. Living for the present day, to the detriment of the future, is a significant setback under financial rules of engagement. Time is your greatest asset, so it's in your best interest to start immediately.

In addition to adopting a future focus, you must recognize the widespread messaging we receive daily is a form of destructive indoctrination. As I see it, the financial service industry and the media do not properly educate consumers on how to invest and create wealth. Messages about house-flipping schemes, lotteries, precious metals speculation, stock

options, cyber-currencies, and conservative savings programs will not lead to success. Too many of us are looking for a get-rich-quick plan. No such plan exists, even though daily messages keep telling us an easy way to achieve wealth is out there.

To succeed in investing requires a little knowledge and a lot of discipline. To paraphrase investor Warren Buffet, the risk is in what we don't know. We are smart people, and we just have to apply some of our energy and time to our financial futures. You can do this!

Read about strategies, products, services, your benefits, and more on MOAA.org.

Explore [MOAA's financial blog](#) to build your knowledge base further as you invest wisely in 2018 and beyond.

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