

Level of Excellence Award Winner:

2011 – 4 Star; 2012 – 5 Star; 2013 – 5 Star; 2014 – 5 Star; 2015 – 5 Star; 2016 – 5 Star; 2017 – 5 Star; 2018 – 5 Star; 2019 – 5 Star; 2020 – 5 Star; 2021 – 5 Star; 2022 – 5 Star; 2023 – 5 Star; 2024 – 5 Star

THE OUTBACK

NACMOAA
ESTABLISHED 1972



March/April 2026

NACMOAA STAFF & DIRECTORS FOR 2026

COL Steve Woods -

President/Director/Legislative Affairs Officer

LCDR Clyde Meade - Immediate Past President/Director

CPT Ray Jordan - Vice President/Coordinator for Awards/Director

Mrs. Sharon Douglas - NAC Surviving Spouse Liaison/Treasurer/Director

Lt. Col. Bob Wallace - Personal Affairs, Transition Liaison & Chairman, Director

LCDR Spencer O'Neal - Membership & PIO

LCDR Peter Jensen - Chaplain

Lt. Col. Alex Torrance - Secretary

Mrs. Mary Jonas - Ladies Lunch Coordinator & Photographer

Mrs. Kara Woods - Outback Editor

THE OUTBACK

newsletter is published by the Northern Arizona Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its Affiliate chapters and councils are Non-Partisan

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By: Steven G. Woods



I'd like to start this message with a thank you to our Chapter's members for their support and confidence in me by your election of me as the Chapter's President. For those of you that don't know me, I'm a 30-year Army Veteran who spent most of my career in Light Infantry, Airborne, and Special Operations assignments. I have lived here in Prescott since my Army retirement, working for the VA hospital as a manager and then as interim Associate Director, for about ten years, and retiring from VA in 2023. I come to this position with four priorities:

1. To boost membership through active recruitment and sustainability. People are the bedrock of all organizations.
2. Emphasis on legislative advocacy by our Chapter to all National and Arizona legislative bodies.
3. Sustaining and possibly growing our Chapter's visibility in our areas of operations with programs supporting the military and veterans like our ROTC/JROTC scholarship program and support to Veteran Service Organizations and Veteran care facilities within our communities.
4. To have as much fun as we can while achieving the top three priorities.

On Sunday, February 8, 2026, we lost a titan of this Chapter, LtCol (Ret) Dick Jonas. Dick held just about every leadership position of our Chapter at one time or another, to include president from 2012-2015. He will be greatly missed.

www.nacmoaa.org

For MOAA, this is an important time of the year. Our national Advocacy in Action (AiA) Week in Washington, D.C. will be April 13-16. This is a high priority week, when our MOAA National, Council, and Chapter leadership meets face to face with members of the House and Senate in Washington to garner their support for our Association's legislative priorities. I highly encourage you to write our Arizona federal legislators now, urging them to take meetings with our MOAA team during AiA week in April.

On March 11, 2026, I was privileged to provide a check on behalf of our Chapter to support the Embry-Riddle Air Force ROTC team which will be participating in the 26.2 mile Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico later this month. The presentation was on the parade field and viewed by the entire ROTC Wing of almost 250 cadets. These truly are great young Americans and the future of our military! On that note, in April we have two college ROTC and three high school JROTC scholarship awards to present. Unfortunately, over the last year, donations to our scholarship fund have not been as robust as they had been in some prior years, and we do have a shortfall for the upcoming awards. Our Treasurer, Sharon Douglas, has procured a box for scholarship donations for the check-in table of our luncheon, pictured below, or you can mail in donations to the Chapter's mailbox (NACMOAA, P.O. Box 95, Dewey, AZ 86327). I urge you to please donate generously so that we will be able to properly honor these five truly worthy cadets.

Our next Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026. Doors open at 11:15 AM. Please RSVP before Thursday, April 2. You may RSVP by mailing in the form provided in this Newsletter with your check, or, if you wish to pay at the door, by replying to the email our membership chairman recently sent out or calling me at 928-227-2776 or 210-387-5055 to let us know you're coming. Once again, the luncheon will be at the Prescott Centennial Center, 989 Wineglass Dr., Prescott, AZ 86301. Our speaker for the luncheon will be former Prescott Mayor Phil Goode. His topic will be "Why we pronounce it Preskitt, not Prescott." It will cover the city's founding and its highly interesting connection to the Revolutionary War going back to the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Thank you for all you do to support our military, veterans, and their families and I look forward to seeing you over the coming months.

v/r

Steven G. Woods, COL (Ret), U.S. Army
President NACMOAA Chapter



UPCOMING SCHOLARSHIP EVENTS

The Bradshaw Mountain High School ROTC award ceremony will be on April 15 at 1700.

- The MOAA award will go to Savannah Williams.

The Embry-Riddle Air Force ROTC ceremony will be on April 15 at 1530 at the Davis Learning Center, Bldg. 20 ERAU.

The Embry-Riddle Army ROTC ceremony will be on April 21 at 1640 at the Davis Learning Center, Bldg. 20 ERAU.

The Prescott High School ROTC award ceremony will be on April 29.

REST IN PEACE



It is with sadness that I must inform you of the passing of Richard (Dick) Jonas. Dick lived in Prescott and was a active member of the veteran community. Dick passed away Sunday February 8th. Please keep his family in your prayers.

Born in Hildreth, Florida in 1939, Lieutenant Colonel Dick Jonas served in the US Air Force as a combat fighter pilot/instructor who retired in 1986 with 21 years of service. For 15 years Dick served as an aerospace science instructor at Cactus High School, Glendale; and Mohave High School, Bullhead City; during which time he volunteered the equivalent of a school year guiding the cadets to drill meets, field trips, and summer camps. An active lifetime member of the Military Officers Association of America and the Air Force Association, Dick advocated veterans issues to Arizona's Congressional delegation, increased scholarship donations, and actively supported several veterans StandDowns. A military folk musician, Dick Jonas has traveled to Germany, Japan, and Korea to entertain the troops and to perpetuate the legacy of the warrior musician.



Mike McShea, Clyde Meade, Dick

A long time member of our NAC family, Loraine Martin Groff has passed away at 95 years old. Loraine was very active in our chapter and attended the NAC Ladies luncheons for many years. Loraine stayed very active and loved to travel the world with her husband Peter Groff. They especially loved cruising. Loraine was a great cook and loved to entertain family and friends. She will be missed by all who knew her.



Loraine passed away peacefully at home on February 9th, surrounded by family. A memorial service will be held on March 20th @ 10 am in Prescott, AZ at American Lutheran Church. She asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Wounded Warrior Project or to the American Diabetes Association.

JOIN US AT OUR APRIL LUNCHEON: PRESCOTT CENTENNIAL CENTER

8 April 2026 - WEDNESDAY

GATHERING TIME: 11:15 AM

PLACE: 989 Wineglass Dr. Prescott, AZ 86301

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INTRODUCTIONS: 11:30 AM

BUFFET LUNCH: 12:00 PM

Menu

Grilled chicken breast in a lemon cream sauce and/or
Beef stroganoff over egg noodles
Wild rice pilaf;
Oven roasted vegetables;
Spring salad with cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, and carrots;
Warm rolls and butter.

COST: The Buffet Lunch is \$30.00 per person. **The reservation deadline is 2 April.**

IF YOU HAVE DIETARY RESTRICTIONS, PLEASE ADVISE Steve Woods!

Steve must have an accurate attendance count for the caterer by 2 April

DIRECTIONS: (From Prescott/Prescott Valley) Take exit 317 (off 89A) for AZ-89 toward I-40/Prescott/Chino Valley. Keep right at the fork, follow signs for Airport/Chino Valley. Merge onto AZ-89 N. At the traffic circle, take the 1st exit onto Perkins Dr. Turn left onto Wineglass Dr. The building is on your right. (From Chino Valley) Head south on 89 S towards Private Rd. At the traffic circle, take the 2nd exit and stay on 89 S. Exit the traffic circle onto 89 S. At the traffic circle, take the first exit onto AZ-89. At the traffic circle, take the 2nd exit and stay on AZ-89. Turn left onto Mac Curdy Drive. Turn right onto Clubhouse Drive. The center will be on your left.

Please cut on the line below and mail with your check to NACMOAA



TO RECEIVE NO LATER THAN 1 APRIL

NACMOAA address is PO Box 95 Dewey, AZ 86327

You may call Steve at 928-227-2776 (leave a message) to place a reservation if you prefer to pay at the door.

LATE NOTICE CANCELLATIONS CANNOT BE REFUNDED

8 April Meeting: Please make checks payable to: NACMOA - All meals are \$30.00

My check for \$_____ is enclosed

Members: _____ Guest: _____

Lunch	\$
2026 Dues (\$30.00)	\$
Scholarship	\$
Total	\$



LUNCHEON SPEAKER

Phil Goode was born and raised in Sacramento, California. After graduation from high school he enlisted in the U.S. Army in May 1970 and served a full combat tour with the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. He received the Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal (for over 60 helicopter combat assaults), Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with palm, Vietnam Campaign Medal w/two bronze stars, and many others. After separation from active duty from the Army in 1972 (and five additional years of reserve duty) he received his honorable discharge in 1977. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from California State University, Sacramento graduating Magna Cum Laude in 1976. He had a 35-year career in the healthcare industry reaching Vice President positions with Medline Industries and Careview Communications and held management positions with Medivac Industries, Kinetic Concepts Inc. and Applied Medical.

Phil is a 35-year member of the American Legion (serving as past Judge Advocate for Post 6, Prescott) and a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (serving as past Sr. Vice Commander for Post 541, Prescott). He was the Co-Chairman of the Veterans Memorial Plaque Committee which in June, 2016 rededicated a bronze memorial on the Yavapai County courthouse grounds to the fallen Yavapai County veterans that lost their lives serving the United States in all of the nation's wars beginning with WWI. Phil was nominated as an Arizona Veteran of Distinction by Arizona U.S. Senator Martha McSally in 2019. He was elected to the board of directors of the Central Yavapai Hospital District in 2016 protecting the taxpayer's assets for Yavapai Regional Medical Center and its ancillary facilities. He has served as a Commissioner on the City of Prescott's Planning and Zoning Commission and was the Co-Chairman of Mayor Oberg's Ad Hoc Committee on Sober Living Rehab Homes. He serves on the board of directors of the Yavapai Republican Men's Forum and served as the Vice Chairman of the Yavapai County Republican Committee from 2016-2018. A big supporter of improving education, he's served on the Yavapai County Teacher of the Year panel and as a member of the Prescott BASIS School Advisory Council. Very interested in water resource management, he was the former Chairman of the Northern Arizona Municipal Water Users Association and a member of the Public Policy committee for the Citizens Water Advocacy Group. Phil was elected to the Prescott City Council in 2016 and was first elected as Mayor of Prescott in 2021 and reelected in 2023.

Phil has a deep interest in American History. He is a member of the Prescott Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. His ancestor Robert Goode served during the revolution with the Virginia militia rising to the rank of colonel and was named a judge by Virginia governor Patrick Henry. An avid golfer, he was the champion of the 1996 Ralph's Senior PGA Pro-Am Classic Tournament. Phil also appeared on the TV game show Jeopardy and was a four-time champion on the TV game show Tic-Tac-Dough in the 80s. Phil is married to his wife Toby, and they have four adult children.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER:

Members of NACMOAA may contact our Chaplain, Pete Jensen, anytime for prayer over the phone at (928) 830-3569, or to obtain confidential, Biblical counseling by phone or in person. No question you have is unimportant or "off limits". The Chaplain generously donates his time to our chapter members.

MINUTES OF NAC MOAA BOARD MEETINGS & TREASURER'S REPORT

You may now request a copy of the NACMOAA Board Meeting minutes and/or current Treasurer's Report available through the secretary.

NAC MOAA LADIES LUNCHEONS

We had a fun year trying all types of restaurants around the Prescott area. We have settled on **Gabby's Grill** in Prescott Valley for the foreseeable future. Our gathering dates will continue to be the 2nd Friday of odd-numbered months as follows:

May 8

Our meeting times continue to be 11:30 AM. We will order off the menu and pay individually as always. All ladies of NAC MOAA are welcome to join us for a social time.

If you know of any of our ladies who have moved or have health issues we should be aware of, please forward that information to Mary Jonas at mlgjonas.2012@gmail.com or call her at (928) 925-4674.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR YOUR DIRECTORS & STAFF

COL Steve Woods – President & Legislative Affairs Officer
stevewoods54@outlook.com

LCDR Clyde Meade – Immediate Past President & Director
navoff04@gmail.com

Mrs. Sharon Douglas – NAC Surviving Spouse Liaison & Treasurer & Director
sharon.douglas.nacmoaa@gmail.com

CPT Ray Jordan – Coordinator for Guest Speakers & Awards & Director
rginiray@aol.com

Lt Col Alex Torrance – Secretary
alextorrance@gmail.com

Lt Col Bob Wallace – Personal Affairs, Transition Liaison & Chairman, Board of Directors
wallacerm@cox.net

LCDR Spencer O'Neal – Membership & PIO
h_spencer_oneal@yahoo.com

LCDR Peter Jensen – Chaplain
chcpetercjensen@gmail.com

Mrs. Mary Jonas – Ladies Luncheon Coordinator & Photographer
mlgjonas.2012@gmail.com

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of Prescott

MLS

MEMBERSHIP & PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER CORNER

Happy Spring!!! Springtime is a time of renewal, rejuvenation, and hope for the days ahead. Winter was very harsh for much of the country, but all-in-all fairly mild for most of us in our area of AZ. I hope that you all had good and peaceful Winter and have plans for a robust and meaningful Spring. I pray that this newsletter finds you well and ready to pursue the new challenges that Springtime always brings.

Unfortunately, we have lost two of our prominent and stalwart members since our last newsletter. LtCol Dick Jonas, USAF (Ret) and Loraine Martin, surviving spouse. They will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved them. Please remember them and their loved ones in your thoughts and prayers.

As you may have noticed from the tittle page of this newsletter, we have a new Chapter President, Col Steve Woods, USA (Ret). Col Woods was our VP (elect), and kindly agreed to step up when President (elect) LtCol Tom Farrell, USA (Ret) found it necessary to resign before officially taking office. Capt Ray Jordan, USA (Fmr) agreed to remain in his previous position as VP for another term. We wish to give special thanks to both Steve and Ray for accepting these responsibilities with resolve, dignity, and a high degree of professionalism. Thank you both!

To those of you who have paid your 2026 Chapter Dues, thank you! If you are unsure if you've paid through 2026, please review your January 2026 Membership Directory. Look in the last column of the row of your entry. It contains the year through which our records show that your dues are paid.

Please consider supporting our charities. The main purpose of our charitable funds is to provide scholarships to our various Cadet programs. However, there are times when we contribute to other worthy causes such as the Memorial Bataan Death March held at White Sands, NM. Our Cadets participate in this memorable event – lest we forget. We also assist with funding for various other events for Veterans. Please consider contributing so that once our scholarship fund is secured, we have funds readily available for distribution as needs arise.

Please mail your donations by mail to:
NACMOAA
P.O. Box 95
Dewey, AZ 86327
(Make checks payable to: "NACMOAA").

Please RSVP soonest for our April membership luncheon. See elsewhere in this newsletter for details. Looking forward to seeing you there! Thank you!

As your Public Information Officer, I am continually looking for ways to let others know of our Chapter's activities and events and to locate prospective new members. Please invite any eligible prospective member to join our organization. We are gaining new members and want to make them feel appreciated and welcomed. If you see someone at our meetings that you don't recognize, please introduce yourself and welcome them to our NACMOAA family. Thank you.

LCDR H. Spencer O'Neal, USN, (Ret)
Membership Chair/Public Information Officer, NACMOAA
H_Spencer_ONeal@yahoo.com (760) 486-3855

The image displays three promotional posters for EROSONIC products. The left poster is green and features the title 'A Fighter Pilot Looks At the World Upside Down' and 'Book 4 of a Philosophical Memoir by Dick Jonas'. The middle poster is white and features the title 'The Light In The Window' and 'Album Thirty Two' by EROSONIC, LLC. The right poster is blue and features the title 'PTF Passing the Flame by DICK JONAS' and 'The songbook companion to seven albums of military ballads (mostly fighter pilot songs)'. Below the posters is contact information for EROSONIC: PO Box 1226, Chino Valley AZ 86323, 928-710-3742, www.erosonic.com, 40 CDs, Streams online, 8 books with song lyrics, stories, pictures.



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS UPDATE

by COL (RET) Steve Woods, U.S. Army

MOAA's Summer Advocacy in Action (AiA) Campaign



NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ACTION

MOAA's 2026 Advocacy in Action (AiA) campaign is scheduled to hit the hill on 15 April 2026. There are four primary legislative issues that will be the priority for AiA:

- 1. Shutdown Fairness Act (S. 3168)
- 2. Military Care Act (H.R. 6796)
- 3. Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 2101 / S. 1032)
- 4. Guard VA Benefits Act (H.R.1732)*
(*the GUARD VA Benefits Act restores enforcement authority and criminal penalties for unaccredited individuals and companies that illegally charge veterans and survivors for VA disability claims assistance.)

Priorities 1–4 are currently active in the MOAA Legislative Action Center (LAC).

In addition to your regular visits to the LAC, between now and early April I'm once again calling for an all-out campaign in support of MOAA's Advocacy in Action (AiA) effort ahead of the April 15 visits to Capitol Hill. This is not routine outreach—this is a coordinated push to ensure our Senators and Representative understand that Veterans and currently serving members are paying attention. In addition to using the Legislative Action Center, I ask each of you to personally write and request that they meet with MOAA's AiA team while they are on the Hill on April 15. As MOAA President and CEO Lt Gen Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), has emphasized, ***“Advocacy in Action is where MOAA's mission meets momentum—when members engage directly with lawmakers, we turn influence into impact.”*** Use the contact information below to send your message directly to our Members of Congress. If you have relationships with senior staff, reach out to them as well. Please take a few minutes to copy and paste the suggested note below into an email and make your voice heard.

Subject: Request to Meet with MOAA Advocacy in Action Team on April 15

Dear Senator/Representative [Last Name],

As an Arizona veteran and your constituent, I respectfully request that you take time to meet with the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Advocacy in Action (AiA) team when they visit Capitol Hill on April 15.

MOAA represents all who are serving and have served in the uniformed services, along with their families. The AiA teams will be discussing issues that directly impact service members, veterans, retirees, survivors, and military families here in Arizona and across the nation. These matters involve earned benefits and quality-of-life issues that are vital to those who have worn the uniform.

A meeting with the AiA delegation would demonstrate your continued commitment to Arizona's military and veteran community. I would greatly appreciate your consideration of this request and your ongoing support for those who have served our country.

Thank you for your service to our state and nation.

Respectfully,

CONTACT OUR U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

Your voice makes a difference! Reach out directly to your elected representatives:
(As our chapter now covers two U.S. congressional districts, please check your current voter registration card for your district)

U.S Representatives:

Senator Ruben Gallego -- www.gallego.senate.gov – (202) 224-4521

Senator Mark Kelly -- www.kelly.senate.gov – (202) 224-2235

Representative Eli Crane – www.crane.house.gov/ -- (202)225-3361 CD2 (Yavapai County/Payson Areas)

Representative Paul Gosar – www.gosar.house.gov/ -- (202) 225-2315 CD9 (Lake Havasu City/Kingman Areas)

ARIZONA LEGISLATIVE ACTION –

Supporting Arizona Veterans – 2026 Session

Several important veteran-related bills are moving through the Arizona Legislature. These measures directly impact disabled veterans, military families, and justice-involved veterans. I encourage members to review the summaries below and contact their legislators in support. I have included “cut and paste” comments to add to your emails for each Legislative action.

HB2165 – State Park Pass Fee Exemption

HB2165 advances additional improvements to Arizona statutes by allowing veterans free access to state parks. While narrower in scope, it continues the Legislature’s effort to reduce financial burdens on those who served. Incremental improvements matter – particularly for veterans living on fixed incomes.

Cut-and-Paste Note of Support:

I respectfully ask you to support HB2165. Arizona should continue strengthening laws that reduce financial burdens and improve benefits for veterans and their families. Please vote YES as this bill moves forward.

SB1050 – State Park Fees Exception

SB1050 allows veterans free access to state parks. While technical in nature, these updates help modernize state policy and ensure statutes better reflect the realities facing today’s veteran population. Supporting these improvements reinforces Arizona’s commitment to those who served.

Cut-and-Paste Note of Support:

Please support SB1050. Modernizing and refining state statutes that impact veterans ensures Arizona continues to honor and properly serve those who wore the uniform. I respectfully request your YES vote.

HB2960 – Veterans’ Specialty Court Grant Program

HB2960 establishes the Veterans’ Specialty Court Grant Program and creates a Veterans’ Treatment Court Fund administered by the Attorney General. The program supports rehabilitation-focused court models that address PTSD, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse, and other service-related conditions. The bill also includes annual reporting requirements to ensure accountability and measurable outcomes. Veterans’ courts have proven effective nationwide in reducing recidivism and restoring veterans to productive community life.

Cut-and-Paste Note of Support:

I urge you to support HB2960 establishing the Veterans' Specialty Court Grant Program. Veterans' courts focus on treatment and rehabilitation, reduce recidivism, and strengthen public safety. Please vote YES on HB2960.

SB1365 – Remove Income Cap for Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption

SB1365 removes the statutory household income cap for veterans with service-connected or nonservice-connected disabilities seeking a property tax exemption. A veteran's disability rating – not their income level – should determine eligibility for this earned benefit. This bill corrects an inequity in current law and ensures disabled veterans are not penalized for modest financial stability.

Cut-and-Paste Note of Support:

Please support SB1365. Disabled veterans should not lose their property tax exemption based on household income once they have earned it through service-connected disability. I respectfully request your YES vote.

CONTACT YOUR ARIZONA CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS

Your voice makes a difference! Reach out directly to your elected representatives:
(As our chapter now covers three Arizona state legislative districts, please check your current voter registration card for your district)

Arizona Legislative District 1: (Yavapai County Area)

Senator Mark Finchem – mfinchem@azleg.gov – (602) 926-3631

Representative Selina Bliss – sbliss@azleg.gov – (602) 926-4018

Representative Quang Nguyen – qnguyen@azleg.gov – (602) 926-3258

Arizona Legislative District 30: (Lake Havasu City/Kingman Area)

Senator Hildy Angius – hangius@azleg.gov – (602) 926-5051

Representative Leo Biasiucci – lbiasiucci@azleg.gov – (602) 926-3018

Representative John Gillette – jgillette@azleg.gov – (602) 926-4100

Arizona Legislative District 7: (Payson Area)

Senator Wendy Rogers – wrogers@azleg.gov – (602) 926-3042

Representative Walt Blackman – wblackman@azleg.gov – (602) 926-3244

Representative David Marshall – dmarshall@azleg.gov – (602) 926-3579

**Grassroots advocacy works,
but only if you take the time to participate!**

UPCOMING MOAA EVENTS

April 3 – AZ Council of Chapters Roundtable Meeting, Virtual

April 13-16 – Advocacy in Action Week, Washington DC

May 18 – 22nd Annual MOAA Golf Tournament, Potomac, MD

May 28-29 – MOAA West Region Council and Chapter Leadership Conference, San Diego, CA

October 22 – Annual MOAA Meeting of Membership, Washington DC

NACMOAA SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON

By Sharon Douglas



***The VA's New Survivor' Benefits Rule**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has finalized a new rule that it says is designed to streamline certain decisions around veteran survivors' benefit claims—a move the agency says will result in "faster decisions and quicker payments" for survivors.

Previously, under existing regulations, the VA had to individually process survivors' claims for "Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)" and "Survivors Pension." This often slowed decisions, because each benefit required a separate formal review. Under the new rule, which will be effective from February 23, the VA will pay a surviving spouse or child claimant whichever benefit is higher—either the DIC or the Survivors Pension (the agency says the higher benefit is usually the DIC)—without delaying payment to fully process the lesser benefit.

The VA identified one exception: if the claimant is the veteran's surviving spouse, has no dependents, is residing in a nursing home, and has applied for or is receiving Medicaid, then the Survivors' Pension will be awarded instead of DIC. Under the new rule, when a surviving spouse stops Medicaid-covered nursing home care, DIC may become effective, as of the date Medicaid coverage ended, if a claim is filed within one year. Conversely, if a spouse receiving DIC begins Medicaid covered nursing home care and otherwise qualifies for Survivors Pension, the pension may take effect on the first day of the month after DIC ends, provided a claim is filed within one year.

For questions, or help and support with the new regulation, the VA advises survivors call the VA benefits hotline at 800-827-1000 or email the media to the Office of Media Relations at vapublicaffairs@va.gov.

***MOAA -Backed Caregiver Bill takes a major step forward**

The progress of the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement (3R) Act (H.R. 2148) highlights growing bipartisan commitment to strengthening support for caregivers, families, and some of the most severely wounded, injured, and disabled veterans in the country.

The legislation represents a major step forward for the caregivers who form the backbone of veterans' long term care. By expanding access to education, easing reemployment barriers, and enhancing retirement planning resources, the bill helps ensure caregivers have the tools they need to maintain stability while supporting those who served.

Without targeted reforms like those in the 3R Act, caregivers could be left to rely on public assistance, shifting costs between government agencies rather than reducing them.

Now that the bill has passed out of both the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees, it is more important than ever to keep the pressure on this priority. We encourage you to continue urging your elected officials to bring H.R. 2148 and S. 879 to the floor in both chambers and ensure it becomes law before the end of this year. Go online to www.MOAA.org/caregiverbill and send a letter or make a call your lawmakers.

***From DFAS**

Calling customer service for help can be a chore! To make it easier to get straight to the heart of the matter, we've added a new option for confirming your identity when you call DFAS. Customers who opt in can now use a verification one-time PIN sent to the mobile phone number registered in myPay to securely and quickly complete verification.

ACTION: Check your phone number in MyPay – make sure it is the one you want to use. The next time you log into MyPay, you will be prompted to review your verification methods and opt in. If you have questions about this communication, you may contact a customer service representative by calling 1-888-332-7411.

***Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter Information**

Learn more about who we are, our purpose, and when we meet!
MOAA (Military Officers Association of America) Surviving Spouses Virtual Chapter is open to MOAA members who are Surviving Spouses of uniformed services officers and/or are Council/Chapter Surviving Spouse Liaisons.

To provide:

- a national forum for military Surviving Spouses;
- a common space to communicate with each other;
- information about concerns pertinent to each of us and our families;
- a platform to advocate for the protection of rights for our members and our dependents;
- a reliable source for Surviving Spouses who live in remote areas, who are housebound, who have jobs and children, or who might be unable to participate at the chapter level.

Meetings are held on monthly on the third Tuesday, January–October, via Zoom, either with or without video, or by phone. Members participate to the degree that they are able. There are no dues.

Membership MOAA Surviving Spouses Virtual Chapter Members:

We have 292 Registered Members for the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter, with 41 states represented. Here are our demographics.

234 Surviving Spouses

73 Surviving Spouse Liaisons

36 Surviving Spouses that are also Surviving Spouse Liaisons

3 MOAA staff members are MOAA Board of Directors members.

Email for more information . mssvc02@gmail.com.

*I look forward to seeing all of you at the next NAC Luncheon Weds 8 April.
All the best; Sharon Douglas*



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Office of Information and Technology
Product Delivery Service

VETERANS SUICIDE PREVENTION LINE

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (now known as the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline) is now active across the United States. When people call or text 988, they will be connected to trained counselors who are part of the existing Lifeline network. These trained counselors will listen, understand how their problems are affecting them, provide support, and connect them to resources if necessary.

The previous Lifeline phone number (1-800-273-8255) will always remain available to people in emotional distress or suicidal crisis.

Any person who has ever held a commission or a warrant in any of the eight uniformed services is eligible for membership in the Military Officers Association of America

HELPFUL INFORMATION & NOTICES

See MOAA on the web at www.moaa.org
See NACMOAA on the web at www.nacmoaa.org

SPECIAL ONLINE ACCESS INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS TO STAY CONNECTED

TAKE ACTION Page: <https://moaa.quorum.us/> or moaa.org/takeaction

Web Page for NACMOAA: nacmoaa.org

Facebook: NACMOAA

Veterans Handbook - <https://www.va.gov/welcome-kit/>

Northern Arizona Chapter MOAA Mission

NACMOAA's mission is to promote the purposes and objectives of the Military Officers Association of America; to foster fraternal relations among retired, active and former commissioned and warrant officers of the eight U.S. uniformed services, including the National Guard and Reserve Components; to protect the rights and interests of our members and all U.S. military veterans, their dependents and survivors; and to serve the community and the nation

All NACMOAA Chapter members are encouraged to be members of the National Military Officers Association of America.

MOAA MISSION:

To advocate for our military community and connect it to the nation we serve.

MOAA VISION:

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Regular Membership Application Northern Arizona Chapter MOAA

Name _____ MI _____ Last _____

Rank _____ Service _____ Component _____

Status: Active Retired Former Reserve NG DOB(optional): _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Cel _____

E-Mail _____

Spouse Name: First _____ Last _____

Member of National MOAA: Yes No (circle one). You do not have to be a National member to join our chapter. If you are, circle membership type: Basic Premium Life and provide your National MOAA Membership # _____

If you're not a National member, can we enroll you in a National Basic (no cost) Membership _____?

Dues (choose the one which applies to you):

New Regular member who signs up in the 1st qtr - \$30; 2nd qtr - \$25; 3rd qtr - \$20. If you sign up in the 4th qtr it's \$30, but that covers your 4th qtr in the current year, plus dues for the entire follow-on year.

Amt enclosed: \$ _____ (make check payable to NACMOAA)

Signature _____ Date _____

SURVIVING SPOUSE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: First _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____ CEL (_____) _____

E-mail address: _____

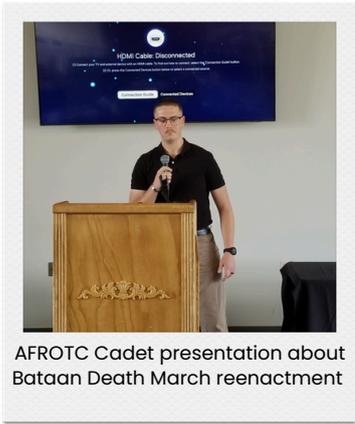
Your deceased spouse Rank / First / M Int / Last Name / MOAA Member # _____

Dues for Surviving Spouse is \$5/yr

Amount enclosed: \$ _____ (Make check payable to NACMOAA)

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail check and application to: NACMOAA Treasurer, PO Box 95, Dewey AZ 86327



AFROTC Cadet presentation about Bataan Death March reenactment



Embry Riddle ROTC Color Guard



CPT Ray Jordan
Chris Torrance
Lt Col Alex Torrance



Chairman of the Board swearing in new Pres and VP



New Pres Steve Woods
and VP Ray Jordan



NAC members and Col Russell Davis

Bataan Memorial Death March Presentation:

On March 11, 2026, NACMOAA President Steve Woods presented a check on behalf of NACMOAA to the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Special Operations Forces Prep Club (SOFPC). The 11-member AFROTC team will be participating in the 26.4 mile Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico from March 19–22, 2026. The event challenges participants to complete a 26.4-mile ruck march carrying a 35-pound rucksack within a 12-hour time limit. This historic march honors the courage and sacrifice of the service members who endured the Bataan Death March during World War II. The Embry-Riddle Air Force ROTC team's participation in this event provides a meaningful opportunity to pay tribute to the legacy of these WWII heroes while strengthening the cadets' physical endurance, mental resilience, and commitment to teamwork and service. The presentation was made on the ERAU rec field with a backdrop of an USAF Sikorsky HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter and viewed by the entire ERAU AFROTC Wing of almost 250 cadets.



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