

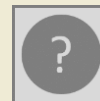
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About Us

Who We Are. The Arizona Council of Chapters (AZCOC), an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), is a dynamic organization of over 1,000 active, retired, and former officers of the United States uniformed services, and surviving spouses thereof. The AZCOC—comprised of [nine chapters](#)—was chartered on 6 Jun 1975 and incorporated in the state of Arizona on 30 Sep 1992.

Vision. MOAA is recognized as Arizona's most committed and effective advocate for the rights and benefits of—and service to—active duty, retired, former, and reserve component personnel of the uniformed services of the United States and their families and survivors.

Mission. To provide a unified voice and support for all MOAA members and chapters in Arizona in promoting and supporting National MOAA's goals, objectives, and advocacy for the rights and benefits of—and service to—active duty, retired, former, and reserve component personnel of the uniformed services of the United States and their families and survivors.



President *Page 1 of 4*

I've been the Arizona Council of Chapters president now for 5+ months and I continue to be amazed at the extent of community support provided by our MOAA chapters located throughout the state of Arizona. In April I attended the Tucson Chapter luncheon where the Tucson Chapter presented three scholarship grants totaling \$6,000 to three ROTC cadets/midshipmen. In May I attended a Luke Chapter meeting where 21 scholarship grants, totaling \$30,000, were presented to college-bound students. In May I also attended the Green Valley Chapter dinner where the chapter awarded three JROTC scholarships to graduating cadets from the JROTC programs at Nogales, Walden Grove, and Sahuarita High Schools. The chapter also awarded three military veteran students at the University of Arizona \$1,000 educational grants to help them complete their studies at the university.

I also attended the Coronado Chapter dinner in May where they awarded 12 scholarships totaling \$16,000 to college-bound high school seniors. Each student told a little bit about themselves and what they planned to study. At the Yuma Chapter luncheon in June the chapter president told me the chapter awarded a \$1000 scholarship this spring.

And these are not all of the chapters in Arizona but only those I was able to visit this spring.

And our—as in Arizona chapters—support is not limited to scholarships. In May I attended the Superstition Mountain's monthly luncheon where they prepared 200 hygiene kits that were donated to the Veterans Administration to be given to military veterans needing basic hygiene supplies—a toothbrush and toothpaste, →



President

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soap and a washcloth, a disposable razor, deodorant and a pair of socks. The Catalina Mountains Chapter gave out four laptops last fall to veterans living at Esperanza en Escalante who were getting ready to move to their own apartment. The Tucson Chapter supported a Tucson veteran's stand down in March with socks, underwear, and toiletries such as soap and shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Every fall the Yuma Chapter works with local quilting clubs to distribute lap quilts to veterans living in senior care homes. The Coronado Chapter provides monetary support of veterans in need of emergency funds and is active with the Arizona Coalition for Military Families in Cochise County.

This list is not all inclusive. This is community support I'm aware of first-hand from attending a chapter meeting or being a member of the Catalina Mountain or Tucson Chapter. There are three chapters I have not visited yet this year and I am sure they have also awarded scholarships and/or JROTC awards and provided other community support to their local communities.

I've very proud to say that the Arizona chapters are making an impact on people's lives.

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I'm very proud to say that the Arizona chapters are making an impact on people's lives.



President *Page 3 of 4*

Given the accomplishments of the chapters noted above, it should be no surprise that all nine of the current Arizona MOAA chapters were awarded 5 stars Level of Excellence awards by national MOAA this spring. National MOAA awarded 3-star, 4-star, and 5-star Level of Excellence awards to recognize the accomplishments of MOAA councils and chapters in legislative advocacy, community engagement, recruiting and retention, leadership succession, and training. The Arizona Council of Chapters was also awarded a 5-star Level of Excellence award for 2024.

National MOAA also awarded Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications awards for a council or chapter print/E-newsletter and for a council or chapter website. All nine chapters, and the AZ Council, were awarded 5 stars for their print/E-newsletter, and six of the chapters (only six submitted applications) and the AZ Council were awarded 5 stars for their website.

I am also pleased to announce that Lt. Col. Darren Venters, USAF, retired, of the Green Valley Chapter of MOAA, was awarded the Col. Steve Strobridge Legislative Chair/Liaison award for 2024 for his work at the chapter level. He was the only MOAA chapter legislative liaison to receive this award for his work in 2024. I'm especially looking forward to presenting his award to him at a Green Valley Chapter meeting later this year. Congratulations Darren!

There was, unfortunately, one disappointment at the Arizona Council of Chapters this spring. The Superstition Mountain Chapter ceased to exist at the end of May 2025. The chapter will be missed and the community →



President Page 4 of 4

support they provided to the veterans in the Phoenix; AZ area will be missed.

Chuck Vaughan
AZCOC President



Legislative Chair *Page 1 of 3*

"If you really want to thank them for their service, protect their earned benefits."

This powerful statement is not only MOAA's tagline for the 2025 Advocacy in Action (AiA) campaign—it's also a call to action for all members. You can play a vital role in protecting the earned benefits of our service members, veterans, and their families by becoming an active advocate for MOAA's legislative priorities.

One of the easiest and most effective ways to get involved is through the Legislative Action Center (LAC). It takes just a few minutes to make your voice heard by sending messages to our elected officials in Washington, D.C.

Currently, four key AiA priorities are featured in the LAC:

1. Incentivize Military Spouse Hiring. Support the Military Spouse Hiring Act, which would add military spouses to the Work Opportunity Tax Credit program and help address persistently high unemployment rates among this group.
2. Improve Unaccompanied Housing. Urge Congress to require the Department of Defense to make installation housing reports publicly available, enabling greater transparency and accountability in addressing a \$137 billion maintenance backlog.
3. End the Wait for Toxic-Exposed Veterans. Advocate for legislation that shortens wait times for veterans exposed to toxic substances to receive their service-earned care and benefits.
4. Support Veteran Caregivers. Champion the passage of the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act to provide essential support to those who care for our nation's heroes.



Legislative Chair *Page 2 of 3*

In addition to the AiA priorities, I strongly encourage you to support the Star Act. While the bill has encountered resistance on Capitol Hill due to cost concerns, it remains an urgent fix for a longstanding injustice.

“This is not about ‘finding the money’ – this is about a long-overdue fix to an unfair financial burden faced by those who’ve served and sacrificed,” said Jeff Goldberg, MOAA’s Director of Government Relations for Veteran and Retired Affairs. “These veterans, and their families, deserve their full compensation, from both DoD and the VA, regardless of other budget considerations.”

I urge you to visit the LAC and send personalized messages to your lawmakers in support of these vital issues. Your voice matters; you can access the LAC here: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>

Arizona Legislative Update

We’ve had success with two of the bills we are tracking in the Arizona legislature! SB1021: In-State Tuition for ROTC Cadets and SB1424: Stolen Valor passed both the state senate and house and were signed into law by Governor Hobbs on 18 April 2025.

The Arizona Legislature has recently shifted its focus to the state budget, and unfortunately, there has been little movement on the bills we support. Despite this, I strongly urge you to contact our state legislators and ask them to support the three remaining veteran-focused bills.

Additionally, please reach out to the committee chairmen listed below and ask them to advance these bills in the current session. Our veterans deserve action—not delay.



Legislative Chair Page 3 of 3

Call to Action: Contact the Committee Chairs and Members today on these three bills that are still awaiting action from the Rules Committee in both houses:

1. HB2672: Property Tax Exemption for Disabled Veterans – Under review by the Senate Rules Committee, chaired by Senator Farnsworth - DFARNSWORTH@AZLEG.GOV
2. SB1155: Pay Equity for USPHS/NOAA – Under review by the House Rules Committee chaired by Rep. Hendrix - LHENDRIX@AZLEG.GOV
3. SB1704: VDF Monies for State Veterans Homes – Under review by the House Rules Committee, chaired by Rep. Hendrix - LHENDRIX@AZLEG.GOV

Grassroots advocacy works and thanks for supporting our legislative efforts both here in Arizona and in Washington. Keep up the great work!!!

Tom Waddell
AZCOC Legislative Chair



Treasurer

Council finances continue to be healthy. We received grants from MOAA National to cover renewing ZOOM and for travel reimbursements. Since all those activities have become as commonplace as in-person events, we have begun to see some drawdown of our finances. Notwithstanding, we continue to maintain a very sound balance. We will review the upcoming budget plan at the November meeting.

Charlie Bitner

AZCOC Treasurer



Secretary

Save the date. Our Fall Council meeting will take place on 7 November 2025 at the Colonnade (same place as the 2 May Spring Council meeting). There will probably be a social and dinner on the evening of 6 November. Further details will follow as the date gets closer.

Prior to the council meeting, CAPT Chuck Vaughn will be sending out a request for presentations from some of you. Please remember to send your presentations to both CAPT Vaughn and to me. This gives me time to run off copies of the presentations prior to the meeting and for CAPT Vaughn to organization the order of the presentations. We usually request receiving the presentations a week to 10 days prior to the meeting date.

Council officers & staff, past council presidents and chapter presidents - As most of you are aware, I maintain an AZCOC master roster which lists the council officers & staff, past council presidents, chapter presidents and the officers for each chapter. The information on this roster is only as good as the information given to me. I'm asking for your help in keeping the roster up-to-date. If you change your address, telephone number, email address or any other information, please send me the changes. Also, for chapter presidents, please send me changes if you have changes to officer positions.

I appreciate your assistance in keeping the master roster current. Thank you.

Pam Wojtas

AZCOC Secretary



Surviving Spouse Liaison Page 1 of 3

I would like to start by thanking Sharon Douglas for her years of service to the Arizona MOAA Chapters. Ms. Douglas represented all the state Chapter Liaisons at each AZCOC meeting. She shared information from the MOAA Virtual Liaison meetings with us, along with the link so that each of us could join the meetings as we wished. Along with her duties as the Northern Arizona Chapter Liaison, Ms. Douglas was always available with guidance to our personal Chapter SS group, answering question by both personal calls and emails. All of us, as the Chapter Liaisons, wish to thank her for her leadership.

A few legislative updates for the first quarter of the year:

- Caring for Survivors Act of 2025 (H.R. 680). This Act may be cited as the Caring for Survivors Act of 2025. Increase in amount of dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses from \$1,154 to an amount of 'equal to 55 percent' of the rate of monthly compensation in effect under section 1114(j) of this title. House passed the bill on May 23, 2025. The House referred the bill to Subcommittee on Disability.
- Assistance and Memorial Affairs. The bill would increase DIC from 43% of 100% of disability compensation to 55% to equal other compensation programs. This bill is in urgent need of co-sponsors. Currently only 87 have signed on. Please contact your lawmakers and ask for their help. Due to costs, this will be a prolonged campaign much like the repeal of the widow tax offset.
- Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act of 2024 (Public Law 118-210), enacted on January 2, 2025, aims to support Veterans and their families by addressing a →



Surviving Spouse Liaison Page 2 of 3

broad spectrum of issues including healthcare, homecare for veterans, economic opportunities, support for caregivers, would also provide for mental health care grants to caregivers, and Veteran homelessness. The law includes significant enhancements to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) education benefit programs through a set of 15 provisions.

- Respect for Grieving Military Families Act H.R. 3232 S.596. Would stop recoupment of the last month of the veterans pay. This bill died in Congress on January 3, 2025.

For more Surviving Spouse related information, go online to check out the following:

- MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter. The chapter meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Every other month as a business meeting with a speaker and the other months are an informal social gathering whose members share information and ideas with others in a virtual environment. Download a membership application at: mssvc02@gmail.com
- Facebook. I recommend that you visit MOAA Surviving Spouses and Friends on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/581427115240904>. You can learn from others' questions and answers and ask your own questions.
- DIC Surviving Spouses and Friends. This is where you can learn about more specific issues; such as - starting this month, VA's Office of Survivors Assistance has moved from the Veterans Benefits Administration to the Office of the VA Secretary, reversing a Biden-era decision that buried OSA under layers of bureaucracy.



Surviving Spouse Liaison Page 3 of 3

- Starting this month, VA will create a “white-glove” survivor outreach team to guide and assist eligible survivors throughout their Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) claims process.

I reiterate the good advice that Sharon Douglas shared with us - If you find yourself feeling down, stressed, or filled with anxiety at any time, don't ignore your feelings if they get overwhelming. Call a friend or family member, go for a walk read a new book, check out a movie at the theater where you can enjoy real movie popcorn. Join a group that shares your interests. Exercise or keep active.

For more help: contact TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors) 1-800-959-8277. VA Northern AZ mental healthcare 928-445-4860 ext. 7500. Contact your primary care provider, or the Crisis Line at 988.

Are you a caregiver? For more information check out: Luke Chapter webpage: Lukemoaa.org. There will be a blue ribbon with titles – see the third title Chapter Programs, click – go to bottom of menu for Surviving Spouses – click, there will be a table of contents that included helpful information for caregivers.

Happy Summer to all of you, Linda

Linda Wolverton

AZCOC Surviving Spouse Liaison



Transition Liaison

- The Transition Liaison program was established to provide:
 - All MOAA members and their Spouses with another venue for job research and placement during their transition.
 - Local networking contacts for MOAA members and spouses in job/career transition
- Each chapter:
 - Is viewed as a primary career and geographic resource
 - Provides needed “sponsor” assistance
 - Serves the membership with Networking Contacts
- Transition Resources
 - MOAA Career Center Website: www.moaa.org/careers
 - LinkedIn (Join MOAA Career Networking Group)
 - For more Information contact Darren Venters at dventers@msn.com / 520-490-4479

Darren Venters
AZCOC Transition Liaison



Chapter Affairs Page 1 of 2

As a reminder, our Council has two Chapter Affairs representatives to cover the northern and southern parts of the state. Below is the geographical distribution of our nine chapters, the respective Chapter Affairs representatives, and their contact info:

North

*Chapters: Arizona, Luke, Northern Arizona,
and Grand Canyon*

Col Pete Kloeber, USAF (Ret)

pkloeber@earthlink.net

928-890-7500

South

*Chapters: Catalina Mountains, Coronado,
Green Valley, Tucson, and Yuma*

LCDR Jim Clenney, USN (Ret)

j2k2c4@gmail.com

520-234-5286

The purpose of the two representatives is to help our chapters however needed (governance, administration, Committee Module, programs, policies, procedures, etc.). The intent is not to take the place of our chapters contacting MOAA Councils and Chapters, but to provide another and local source for assistance. You are certainly encouraged to always contact MOAA Councils & Chapters at any time. The idea is to simply learn from – and help – each other. We stand ready to assist you with any issue. If we do not have the answer or resolution, we will find it.



Chapter Affairs Page 2 of 2

Closing of the Superstition Mountain Chapter

The Board of Directors of the Superstition Mountain Chapter (SMC) voted to dissolve the Chapter effective the end of May 2025. As a result, Arizona now has nine chapters. The Council at its semiannual meeting on 2 May 2025 established a small committee to work the issue of reallocating the zip codes from the SMC catchment area to the most appropriate chapters. The following individuals worked this initiative:

- CAPT Bruce Kosaveach, Vice President, AZCOC, and President, Arizona Chapter
- Col Pete Kloeber, Chapter Affairs, AZCOC
- Maj Gene Wikle, President, Luke Chapter
- COL Kurt McMillan, President, Catalina Mountains Chapter

Pete Kloeber

AZCOC Chapter Affairs



Chapter Highlights *Page 1 of 8*

Arizona Chapter. The April membership meeting featured the presentation of \$2500 scholarships to three ROTC cadets/midshipmen enrolled in their respective service programs at ASU. The 2025 scholarship recipients were: Navy – MIDN Andrew Varadin, Army – CDT Ashlyn Shea Williams, Air Force – CDT Leila Balsiger. Command representatives attending from their respective ROTC units were CPT Justin Briggs, USA; CAPT Kati Hill, USN; and Lt Col D. Shane Richardson, USAF.

The chapter's scholarship program is intended to help ROTC students with the cost of their education so that they can be commissioned into the U.S. Armed Forces. The Scholarship Luncheon gives chapter members a chance to see where the money they donated to the Scholarship Fund is going and to hear from the recipients about their plans for military service.



Chapter Highlights *Page 2 of 8*

Catalina Mountains Chapter. At the April 2025 Luncheon, the guest speaker was Paula Pedene, one of the primary Phoenix VA Scandal whistleblowers. In 2014, Paula became front-page news when she helped a doctor at the hospital expose the deceptive bookkeeping practices that were used to cover up how long veterans were waiting to receive medical care. She is also the co-author, with novelist Doug Williams, of the 2022 book on this scandal called *A Sacred Duty*.

At the luncheon, learned “the rest of the story” that started as early as 2010. According to Congressman Jeff Miller, Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee (Oversight and Investigations), “Paula Pedene is the invisible hero whose whistleblowing pioneered exposure of a national medical care breakdown for our nation's veterans.



Chapter Highlights *Page 3 of 8*

Coronado Chapter. This quarter the chapter awarded 12 scholarships to graduating seniors from Douglas, Bisbee, Buena and Tombstone high schools. The awards, were based on performance in the classroom, achievements on the athletic field, and involvement in charitable and volunteer organizations in the community. Their stellar achievements and contributions clearly shows they are the local area's best and brightest.

2025 Scholarship Awardees

- Bisbee High School: Naveah Serrano
- Buena High School: Lena Armstrong, Addison Gulick, Andres Bonilla, Autumn Young, Malia Tom, Leonidas Johnson, and Christina Gross Buena
- Douglas High School: Carolina Badilla, Jason Hurtado
- Tombstone High School: McKenzie Mazzanti, and Kyla Gross



Chapter Highlights *Page 4 of 8*

Grand Canyon Chapter. The chapter's Veterans Community Outreach Program had a highly productive spring, supporting three Northern Arizona Veteran Stand Down events. Under the leadership of Chapter Volunteer Coordinator Col Rebecca Seeger, USAF (Ret), GCC members prepared and distributed food bags to homeless and at-risk veterans. Additionally, they handed out hygiene kits provided by the Disabled Veterans National Foundation to all attending veterans. The chapter also staffed an information table to share details about MOAA membership and connect veterans with other local organizations.

The first-ever Page Regional Stand Down, hosted by the Page Elks Lodge on April 23, was a great success and laid the groundwork for future events in the area. The chapter was also pleased to welcome two new members recruited during the event!

The 4th annual Verde Valley Stand Down took place on March 26 at a new venue, the Cliff Castle Casino, and drew a strong turnout from the community.

The 13th annual High Country Stand Down was held on 15 May at the recently opened Arizona State Veterans Home in Flagstaff. This year's event set a new attendance record, highlighting the growing impact of this important initiative.



Chapter Highlights *Page 5 of 8*

Green Valley Chapter. During this past program year, the chapter continued its efforts in supporting military families at Davis Monthan AFB, local community families in the Green Valley area, homeless veterans in Tucson, JROTC students at the four area high schools, and selected University of Arizona Veteran Students through support to the Veteran Education and Transition Office at the university.

They presented sixty \$50 gift cards to 3 different reserve and National Guard units for Turkeys for Troops at DMAFB to enable the troops to shop at the commissary for items needed for a festive Thanksgiving dinner. They collected gifts for low-income teens at Christmas time and turned them over to the Sanat Rita Fire Department for distribution within the Green Valley/Sahuarita community. The chapter also held a food drive for homeless vets and

delivered the goods collected along with clothing to the VA Hospital in Tucson. At their annual Scholarship Awards Dinner, they provided four \$2500 Scholarships to deserving JROTC graduating seniors from our four area high schools and three \$1,000 Educational Grants to veteran students at the University of Arizona.

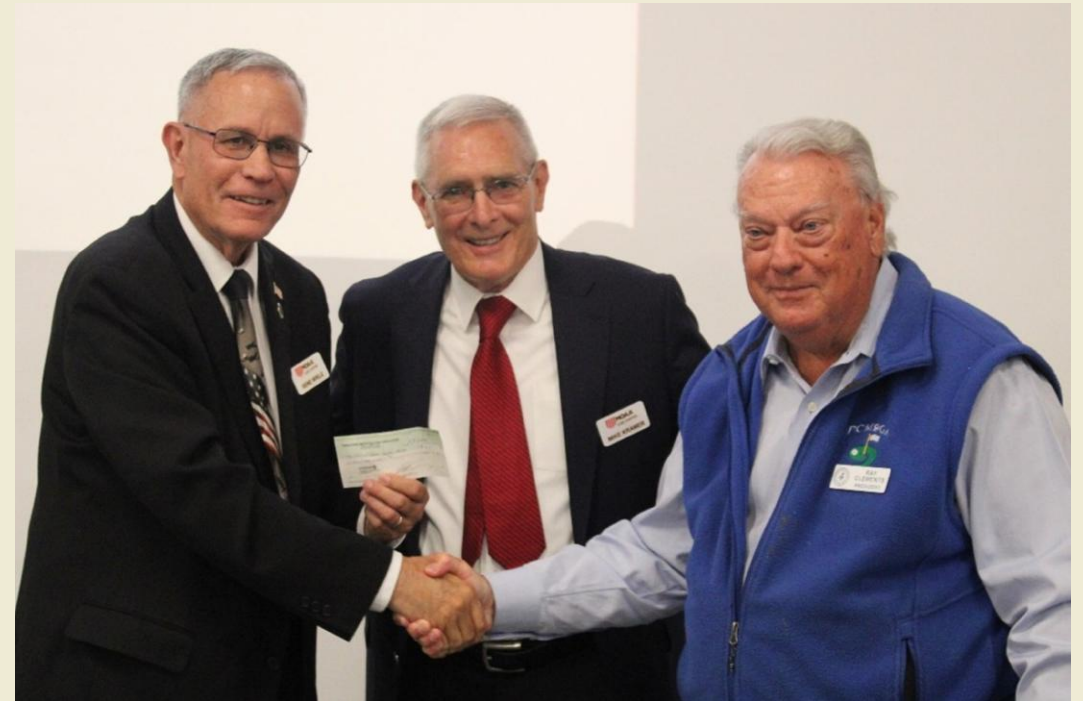


Chapter Highlights *Page 6 of 8*

Luke Chapter. The Pebble Creek Men's 9-Hole Golf Association donated \$10,000 to Luke Chapter which will go to the chapter's main initiatives: providing college scholarships to top graduating high school and continuing college students from military families; making emergency monetary grants to veterans needing housing assistance; and supporting West Valley JROTC programs at 13 local high schools.

Luke Chapter also furnished 21 college scholarships in 2025, totaling \$30,000, and provided emergency grants totaling \$40,000 to 19 veterans and families who needed help with rent, utilities, food, transportation and essential household needs.

At Thanksgiving, the chapter supported the Luke Air Force Base First Sergeants Association's "Turkey for Troops," program which provides turkeys and gift cards to junior enlisted families in need.



Chapter Highlights *Page 7 of 8*

Northern Arizona Chapter. The chapter supported Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University AFROTC cadets' participation in the Memorial Battan Death March (Pictured with the team are NACMOAA members Steve Woods, Bob Wallace, and Clyde Meade).

In March chapter members Bob Wallace and Clyde Meade were the guest speakers at the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System (NAVAHCS) Vietnam War Veteran Day Commemoration where they shared some of their experiences in Vietnam.

Most recently, in addition to awarding ROTC and JROTC cadets in the area with scholarship support, chapter members were honored to participate in the 2025 "[Imprints of Honor](#)" book signing.



Chapter Highlights *Page 8 of 8*

Yuma Chapter. In May, the Chapter presented their annual \$1,000 scholarship award to the Graduating Senior Scholarship (GSS) winner, Faith Voorhies. Faith recently graduated from Gila Ridge High School. She also graduated—in parallel—from Arizona Western College with an Associate's Degree. Faith plans to attend the University of Arizona in the Fall where she will begin her course work toward becoming a Veterinarian. She enjoys working with horses and cows and hopes to help fill the growing void in that field in the future.



Topics of Interest Page 1 of 11

What the Proposed \$1 Trillion Defense Budget Means for Servicemembers, Families, and Retirees by MOAA Government Relations Staff

The first-ever proposed \$1 trillion defense budget includes [\\$150 billion in new spending](#) that addresses key MOAA priorities, including \$2.9 billion to restore the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) and end the need for servicemembers to pay 5% of their anticipated housing costs out-of-pocket.

The House Armed Services Committee's budget reconciliation draft would also fund improvements to unaccompanied housing, address childcare and spouse employment concerns, and add \$2 billion to the DoD health care budget, along with the temporary BAH increase. The legislation passed the panel April 29 by a 35-21 margin and heads to the House Budget Committee, but as it moves forward under the budget reconciliation process, the final bill remains uncertain while Congress seeks to capture \$1.5 trillion in spending cuts across the government.

Other key provisions addressing MOAA priorities found in the \$150 billion spending increase:

- Active Component
 - Unaccompanied Housing Funding: Over \$1.2 billion in increases for facilities sustainment, restoration, and modernization.
 - Tuition Assistance: A \$100 million boost to tuition assistance programs.



Topics of Interest *Page 2 of 11*

- Temporary Lodging Expense (TLE) Expansion: \$590M to extend the time to house-hunt from 14 to 21 days.
- Families
 - Childcare Fee Assistance: As DoD continues to find solutions to address childcare shortages, the bill includes \$100 million to provide fee assistance to more military families.
 - Military Spouse Licensure: The development of interstate compacts is a key component of ensuring military spouses working in licensed or credentialed fields can PCS across state lines with minimal interruptions. The bill includes \$10 million for continued efforts to enhance license portability.
- DoD Health Care
 - Defense Health Program (DHP) Funding Increase: DHP will see \$2 billion more in funding, designed to address challenges across the military health system. However, the funds will not address TRICARE parity gaps or otherwise expand the military health care benefit.

What Is Budget Reconciliation?

Budget reconciliation is a limited, but expedited, legislative process for Congress to align spending with the budget resolution. In early April, Congress adopted a budget resolution agreeing to a reduction in federal spending. Now, lawmakers are using the budget reconciliation process to conform with the budget resolution they passed.



Topics of Interest *Page 3 of 11*

This process can only be used to pass provisions that directly affect federal spending, revenues, or the debt limit – discretionary spending remains subject to the annual appropriations process. Additionally, this process cannot be filibustered, meaning a simple majority is needed in the Senate. And any adjustments cannot be in perpetuity – no permanent changes for issues like concurrent receipt, for example, can be made through this process. Even with these guardrails, lawmakers have a lot of latitude to reshape spending for the next decade.

The \$150 billion increase in defense spending has answered the call on many MOAA priorities, which will have positive effects for servicemembers, their families, and retirees. However, the potential impact on the network of services our community relies on through other departments and agencies remains uncertain. MOAA will continue advocating for improvements to our community's quality of life while striving to preserve the benefits we have earned.

What REAL ID Rules Mean for Military-Connected Travelers by Kevin Lilley

All DoD-issued identification – to include IDs with indefinite expiration dates – will remain valid for airline travel after new REAL ID compliance rules take effect May 7, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officials confirmed with MOAA.

DoD IDs, including those issued to dependents, are [on the official TSA list of acceptable identification](#) “and will still be an acceptable form of ID following the implementation of REAL ID,” an official said via email. VA-issued →



Topics of Interest *Page 4 of 11*

[Veteran Health Identification Cards](#) (VHICs) are also on the approved list.

MOAA has fielded concerns from members who have encountered long delays or other challenges when using DoD-issued IDs at airports. Military.com first reported on issues faced by holders of IDs with [“INDEF” expiration dates](#) in 2024; at the time, TSA reportedly was considering removing “INDEF” IDs from the approved list because of issues with screening technology.

A [recent Military.com report](#) noted confusion surrounding the issue, including a since-deleted social media post from an Army installation falsely stating retiree and family member IDs would no longer be accepted after the REAL ID changeover.

Rejected ID?

Asked what a military-connected traveler should do if their ID card is rejected, a TSA spokesman told MOAA via email that “[a] military ID should not be rejected, as it’s an acceptable form of ID. If this does happen, they should ask for a Supervisory Transportation Security Officer (STSO).”

For more about the REAL ID changeover, travelers can:

- [Access state-specific guidelines](#) and other REAL ID implementation information.
- Get [answers to frequently asked questions](#) about the REAL ID process.
- Contact [TSA Customer Service](#).



Topics of Interest Page 5 of 11

More ID Card News

The REAL ID card move comes months before DoD completes an unrelated phase-out of its paper-based ID cards in favor of the Next Generation Uniformed Services ID Card.

“Replacement of all paper based USID cards with 4- or 5-year expiration dates will occur by December 31, 2025,” according to a March email to MOAA from the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), which stated that replacement of “INDEF” cards, such as those used by retirees and incapacitated dependents, “must be completed at the customer’s convenience prior to the paper-based card [form’s] termination in 2026.”

DoD has not announced a specific date when the paper cards would no longer be accepted. Those with older “INDEF” cards seeking a replacement can do so using the guidance available at [MOAA’s ID Card page](#).

MOAA Strengthens Ties With Pentagon Officials to Advance State-Level Advocacy by Jen Goodale

MOAA council and chapter leaders met with key DoD representatives recently to explore ways to deepen coordination on issues affecting servicemembers and their families.

Members of MOAA’s State Legislative Exchange Forum spoke with Lee Kelley, acting deputy assistant secretary of defense for [Military Community and Family Policy](#) (MC&FP), and Geraldine Valentino-Smith, director of the Defense-State Liaison Office (DSLO). Discussions focused on how MOAA’s 400-plus nationwide councils and chapters could enhance MC&FP’s advocacy impact—particularly as DSLO continues to advance →



Topics of Interest Page 6 of 11

key legislative goals in all 50 states.

Valentino-Smith praised MOAA state leaders: “Who’s influencing the legislators? MOAA members have relationships with state lawmakers who trust their expertise,” she said. “This should complement our efforts.”

Each year, DSLO publishes a list of [10 state legislative initiatives](#) that serve as focal areas for the regional liaisons. In turn, legislative leaders within MOAA’s councils and chapters are empowered to work these initiatives at the local level. This engagement helps expand the reach of DSLO, which has just eight [regional liaisons](#) who each cover no less than five states each.

MOAA forum leaders expressed appreciation for MC&FP’s efforts and shared concerns about potential cuts to quality-of-life programs that support military families. Kelley highlighted the direct ties between MC&FP programs and readiness of the total force – along with DSLO, MC&FP oversees child and youth programs; morale, welfare, and recreation efforts; and casualty and mortuary affairs.

Shaping Longer-Term Priorities

Valentino-Smith acknowledged the challenges presented by DSLO’s battle rhythm, which involves identifying legislative priorities for each calendar year. While many priorities are retained in follow-on years, approximately four new priorities are added annually.

DSLO is working on a process to identify priorities that will span a two-year period to allow regional liaisons



Topics of Interest Page 7 of 11

and supporting organizations, like MOAA, to achieve more progress, Valentino-Smith indicated.

This proposed change was well-received by MOAA leaders, as new issues typically may require nearly a full year worth of research and lawmaker-education efforts. MOAA leaders also stressed the desire to be proactive rather than reactive, which a two-year cycle would enable.

Get Involved

Bringing MOAA State Legislative Exchange Forum leaders to the Pentagon signals an enhanced effort to find opportunities for our councils and chapters to engage with all levels of the process. We appreciate all those who have worked tirelessly on behalf of MOAA and the greater military and veteran community to advocate for changes and improvements at federal and state levels.

If you are a MOAA affiliate legislative leader and looking to get involved, email chapters@moaa.org.

Senate Hearing Spotlights MOAA-Backed Bill to Support Veteran Caregivers by Terry Waters

A recent Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing highlighted growing interest in a MOAA-supported proposal designed to provide critical transitional support for military caregivers.

The committee reviewed and discussed the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement (3R) Act alongside other legislation in a May 21 meeting, which featured testimony from the VA and various veterans service organizations (VSOs), including MOAA.



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“Despite their vital role, caregivers face significant financial, professional, and emotional burdens,” MOAA told the committee in written testimony. “Many forgo careers, retirement savings, and personal well-being to provide care.”

The 3R Act addresses key concerns raised by caregivers transitioning out of the VA’s [Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers](#) (PCAFC), including job reentry, retirement planning, health care access, and financial stability. These caregivers often sacrifice income, career advancement, and long-term financial security to care for their loved ones ... and are met with significant gaps in support.

The bill proposes a comprehensive package of support tools, such as job training assistance, counseling, continued health care coverage, and help with professional relicensing costs, all aimed at easing the shift into post-caregiving life.

What’s Next

With congressional interest building, the 3R Act represents an opportunity to ensure caregivers are recognized and supported long after their caregiving duties conclude. As this legislation progresses, MOAA continues to work closely with lawmakers to ensure the bill’s provisions reflect the real needs of military families.

“By offering education, employment, and retirement opportunities, it would empower caregivers to achieve financial security while potentially reducing the federal government’s long-term economic burden by decreasing their future reliance on government assistance programs,” MOAA told the committee in written testimony.



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What's Next for the Budget, the NDAA, and More From Congress by Terry Waters

The [historic trillion-dollar defense budget proposal](#) marked an initial step in a lengthy appropriation and authorization process, one that will serve as the backbone for funding critical programs and services that support our nation's uniformed services and veteran communities.

As Congress makes headway on the FY 2026 budget, it's essential to know where we are in the annual process, both for the overall funding bill and for measures like the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which often serves as a vehicle for [key MOAA legislative priorities](#). Here's a look at the overall timeline:

The President's Budget Proposal: The process begins with the president's budget request, usually released in February or March, which outlines proposed funding levels for all government agencies. It's not uncommon for this request to be delayed during the first year of a presidential term and new Congress; this year's so-called "skinny" budget request [was announced May 2](#).

Congressional Budget Resolution: After receiving the president's request, Congress creates a budget resolution, which sets the overall spending limits for the government. This resolution acts as a framework for future spending decisions, specifying how much money should be allocated for defense and non-defense programs, including military personnel, benefits, and VA health care.

Authorization Bills: Once the budget resolution is in place, Congress begins working on authorization bills, like the NDAA. The NDAA authorizes policies, programs, and funding levels for defense-related programs, ranging →



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from military readiness and modernization to benefits for military families and survivors. It often incorporates many pieces of defense-related legislation, making it a useful vehicle to advance MOAA-supported bills and priorities, as evidenced by [last year's "quality-of-life" NDAA](#).

Appropriations Bills: While the NDAA sets policy, appropriations bills, such as the Defense Appropriations Act and the Military Construction, Veteran Affairs, and Related Agencies (MilCon-VA) Act provide the funding to implement those policies. Appropriations bills must be passed by both chambers of Congress and signed into law by the president before agencies can access the funding.

Where Do Things Stand for FY 2026?

We can expect a more detailed budget request from the administration in the coming weeks. This will act as an essential input for Congress and lawmakers in both chambers.

Both the House and Senate are well into the process of shaping the authorization and appropriations bills for FY 2026, with amendments from advocates and constituents now under review in committees and subcommittees.

Each chamber has passed its own budget resolution. While they haven't been reconciled, they are crucial to guiding ongoing budget negotiations. [More detailed legislation](#) – known as a reconciliation bill, in conjunction with the initial resolution – passed House by a 215-214 vote [early May 22](#) and will move to the Senate, where leaders reportedly hope to have a vote [before the July 4 holiday](#).



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While the NDAA and other authorization bills were passed and signed into law in 2025, they're funded through a full-year continuing resolution enacted to ensure government operations continue without disruption. Despite the [challenges associated with continuing resolutions](#), the practice has become increasingly common.

With a compressed timeline for debating, amending, and reconciling the NDAA this year, there remains a significant risk of further stopgap funding measures.

How Can Advocates Help?

As Congress gets further into the process of shaping the FY 2026 budget, it's critical to stay informed of the latest updates regarding the NDAA and other relevant legislation.

You can review MOAA's legislative priorities on [our spring Advocacy in Action page](#). In addition to these issues, MOAA remains fully prepared to adapt our focus and leverage every available resource to ensure promises made to those who serve and have served, along with their families and survivors, are honored.

Grassroots advocacy is critical to determining what will make its way into final authorization and appropriation bills, and lawmakers want to hear what's important to their constituents. To support these efforts, stay up to date with [MOAA's advocacy news](#), and register and take action using the [Legislative Action Center](#).



AZCOC Meeting Information

Fall 2025: The meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, 7 Nov 2025 with a social/or dinner the evening prior.
Location: The Colonnade in Surprise, AZ (To Be Confirmed)

Spring 2026: The meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, 1 May 2026 with a social/or dinner the evening prior. Location: TBD



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Photo Gallery images provided by Kaylee Nix-Wozniak, Nicholas Knight, Mary Jonas, Rebecca Seeger, & National MOAA



AZCOC Meeting
3 May 2019



AZCOC Meeting
7 May 2021



Arizona State
Veterans Home
(Yuma)



National MOAA
LOE Presentation
15 Oct 2021



AZCOC Meeting
8 Nov 2019



AZCOC Meeting
6 May 2022



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**National MOAA
LOE Presentation
28 Oct 2022**



**Advocacy in Action
26 Apr 2023**



**AZCOC Meeting
4 Nov 2022**



**AZCOC Meeting
12 May 2023**



**Catalina Mountains
Charter Ceremony
5 Nov 2022**



**MOAA Western
Region Chapter
Leaders Workshop
17-18 Nov 2023**



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Photo Gallery images provided by Kaylee Nix-Wozniak, Nicholas Knight, Mary Jonas, Rebecca Seeger, & National MOAA



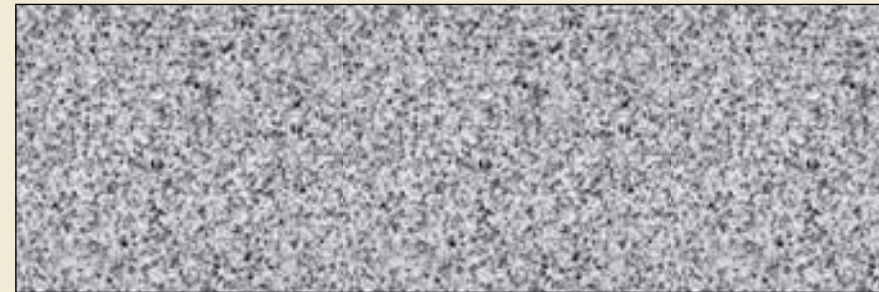
Advocacy in Action
17 Apr 2024



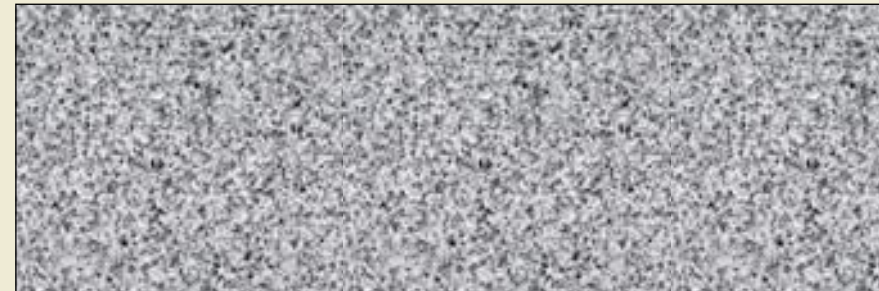
AZCOC Meeting
2 May 2025



AZCOC Meeting
5 May 2024



AZCOC Meeting
8 Nov 2024



Helpful Links Page 1 of 2

- [AZCOC Chapter Position Responsibilities Guide](#)
- [MOAA Legislative Action Center](#)
- [MOAA National Homepage](#)
- [MOAA Publications](#)
- [MOAA Councils and Chapters](#)
- [MOAA TOPS Arizona](#)
- [MOAA Newsletter - Opt-in Page](#)
- [MOAA Council and Chapter Policies and Procedures Guide](#)
- [Arizona Department of Veterans Services \(AZDVS\)](#)
- [Arizona State Veterans Home - Flagstaff](#)
- [Arizona State Veterans Home - Phoenix](#)
- [Arizona State Veterans Home - Tucson](#)
- [Arizona State Veterans Home - Yuma](#)



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- [VA Northern Arizona health care \(Bob Stump Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center\)](#)
- [VA Phoenix health care \(Carl T. Hayden Veterans' Administration Medical Center\)](#)
- [VA Southern Arizona health care \(Tucson VA Medical Center\)](#)
- [VA Benefits Administration Links](#)
- [Unified Arizona Veterans \(UAV\)](#)
- [Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society \(AVHOFS\)](#)
- [AVHOFS Copper Sword / Copper Eagle Nomination Criteria and Forms](#)
- [Arizona Be Connected](#)
- [Arizona Military Family Relief Fund](#)
- [How to obtain a copy of DD-214 on the Internet](#)
- [Veterans Asbestos and Mesothelioma](#)



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