

MOAA REPORTER

MOAA Greater Dallas & North Texas Chapter

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General Membership Meeting 12 September 2020

Benefits of Membership



Jim Carman, MOAA Vice President, Council/Chapter and Member Support, will be our guest speaker at our September meeting. MOAA's mission is best captured in its two bylines: "One Powerful Voice" and "Never Stop Serving". MOAA is the leading advocate for a strong national defense and matters affecting active, former and retired members of the Armed Forces. MOAA also offers a myriad of services to its members and to the military community at large. CAPT Carman is a 25-year veteran of the Navy. He joined MOAA in 2012 and, after serving in several positions, now leads MOAA's Councils, Chapters and Member services activities. Carman's presentation will focus on how membership not only benefits us as individuals but the entire military community. He will also provide an update on MOAA's legislative and other initiatives. **Due to the COVID-19 crisis we will not be meeting face-to-face. Instead, we will meet via a Zoom video conference call. Instructions for joining the meeting will be sent via separate email in late August.** Contact Dave Schafer, 214-577-4107, if you have any questions.

Coming Soon – the MOAA Summer Storm



The House and Senate versions of the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) have been completed and have moved to the conference committee to negotiate a compromise version. Sections 715 and 716 of the House NDAA (H.R. 6395) provide the needed legislation to ensure both military treatment facility restructuring and proposed medical billet cuts allow for transparency, greater DoD reporting requirements, and congressional oversight. These provisions will take the needed steps to ensure any changes to military health care are in the best interests of the beneficiaries and promote military readiness as well. To learn more about this issue refer to the [Protecting Access to Medical Care](#) issue paper on the MOAA website.

Take Action Now - Contact your Senators and ask them to support H.R. 6295.

SEND AN EMAIL: Use MOAA's Take Action Center to send an email to Senators Cornyn and Cruz to halt closure of medical treatment facilities and cuts in medical billets. Use the following link to go to the MOAA Take Action Center: [MOAA Legislative Action Center](#). Follow the instructions to personalize and send your email.

MAKE A CALL: Phone calls from constituents are more memorable for staffers than emails, ensuring that an issue stays closer to the top of their mind when talking to their boss. Use the suggested message below to ask for their support for this important issue. You can use MOAA's toll-free Capitol Switchboard, 1-866-272-6622, to reach Senator Cornyn's and Senator Cruz's offices.

"My name is _____ and I live in _____. I stand with the Military Officers Association of America and urge you to support Sections 715 and 716 in the House-passed defense bill regarding DoD's military treatment facility restructuring and DoD medical billet reductions.

I need Congress to understand my concerns about DoD's ability to successfully transition beneficiaries to the civilian network – and that these concerns have been amplified by the coronavirus pandemic. DoD has repeatedly assured stakeholders all reductions to military medical capacity will be conditions-based, but a pause is not sufficient — we need the reductions halted. The provisions in the NDAA address my concerns – please do all you can to ensure the defense bill is passed with House Sections 715 and 716.

Thank you.

Additional MOAA Legislative initiatives the need your support;

- **A Strong Military Pay Raise.** Both the House and Senate have included a provision to provide a 3% raise for FY 2021. This success is heartening news to MOAA.
- **The New "Safe to Report" Provision.** This sexual harassment and assault program has made it through to conference. This program protects service members who make a report. MOAA also supports other measures in the NDAA that would improve accountability measures on sexual harassment and assault in the military.
- **Work to End the "180-Day Rule."** The House and Senate each have provisions to repeal the 180-day "cooling off" waiting period required for recent retirees who apply for DoD civilian positions. The Senate NDAA version includes language authorizing a three-year, DoD-wide pilot program allowing military retirees to transition to DoD GS-13 and below positions directly after retirement. The House version repeals the rule for all depot-level positions.
- **Preserve Commissaries and Exchanges.** While MOAA acknowledges reform of DoD business operations to improve quality and achieve efficiencies is important, the Defense Resale System – together with MWR and other quality-of-life programs it supports – represents a vital and fragile ecosystem. Section 633 of the House NDAA draft would require DoD to update its Business Case Analysis to address the concerns regarding the DoD's planned consolidation efforts.
- **Add Agent Orange Presumptives.** Bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinson's-like symptoms meet the scientific threshold to be associated with exposure to Agent Orange. Section 1090B of the Senate NDAA version (S. 4049) would add these three "presumptives" to the federal list of conditions linked to Agent Orange, extending crucial care and benefits to tens of thousands of veterans.
- **Establish Fair Hazardous Duty Incentive Pay (HDIP) for the Reserve Component.** Both the active and reserve components maintain the same standards for specialty codes qualifying for HDIP. Reserve component members only receive 1/30th of the monthly HDIP when they perform duty. These members often perform more hazardous duty in a month than their active duty counterparts, who still get the full month of pay. Section 613 of the House NDAA version would address this disparity so those who meet the same standards will be paid at the same rate for hazardous duty.



MOAA Levels of Excellence 5 Star Award

The MOAA Greater Dallas Chapter and MOAA North Texas Chapter each received MOAA's highest recognition for chapter best practices – the MOAA 5 Star Levels of Excellence award for 2019. The nomination was complicated by the fact that the chapters merged on 1 January 2020. Since the MOAA Board of Directors evaluates the nominations in the March-April timeframe, the award could only be granted to the current chapter, the MOAA Greater Dallas and North Texas Chapter. With help and guidance from MOAA Chapter's we were able to submit one nomination documenting the achievements of both chapters. Thanks to all of the officers, committee chairpersons, Board members, and chapter members for all of your hard work to enable the chapter be a positive force in our community. The chapter continues to be active in legislative and community support projects. If you would like to help, contact Ron McLeroy via email at 'rmcleroy@outlook.com or phone 214-415-5636.

MOAA Foundation Grants



The Greater Dallas and North Texas Chapter continues to provide assistance to veterans in need using the \$10,000 in grants provided by the MOAA Foundation. In August, we used funds from the MOAA COVID-19 grant to provide emergency shelter, emergency food, rental assistance, and utility assistance to 3 veteran families that lost their primary wage earner income due to the COVID virus. We are now working closely with the Veterans Center of North Texas to find living wage jobs for the families. We also used funds from the Community Outreach grant to provide utilities assistance to a Veteran family that incurred unexpected medical expenses. MOAA's generous grants have enabled the Chapter to **"Never Stop Serving"** our North Texas Veteran community. If you know of a military family in need of help, contact Chuck Kelley at 202-210-8336 or Dave Schafer at 214-577-4107.

Veterans Center of North Texas Needs Volunteers



Support for the Veterans Center of North Texas (VCONT) is the Chapter's primary Community Outreach Program. Six of VCONT's 24 volunteers are Chapter members. VCONT needs a minimum of 30 volunteers to fully staff all of its work shifts. If you can spare 4 hours per week and want to help Veterans in need, consider volunteering. Hearing "Thank You" when handing a family of four a week's supply of food or "I just got hired" from a Veteran who lost their job due to COVID-19 will bring a big smile to your heart. Let's get 6 Chapter members to volunteer to help VCONT reach its goal of 30 volunteers. If you are ready to help, contact VCONT directly by phone at 214-600-2966 or email at veterans@vcont.org. For more information on how they can help, visit the VCONT website www.vcont.org. If you have questions, contact Dave Schafer at 214-577-4107 or Paul Hendricks at 469-667-7750.

Chapter Membership Renewal Campaign

Heads Up! The Chapter will be sending out membership renewal letters in early September. We are starting the renewal campaign earlier this year in an effort to complete the campaign by the end of the year. Dues are still only \$20 for Regular members and \$10 for Surviving Spouse and Associate members. Dues are used to pay for printed newsletters, the Membership Directory, JROTC medals, Chapter insurance, membership meeting expenses gift, and support for the Veterans Center of North Texas. The renewal campaign also provides an opportunity for members to support the Chapter's JROTC scholarship program. The Chapter awarded six \$1,000 scholarships to JROTC high school seniors in 2020.