



NEVER STOP SERVING

TIMELY TOPICS

Capitol Area Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
Chapter Website: www.cacmoaa.org

Vol 2024 No 1

IN THIS ISSUE

- JANUARY PROGRAM
- VOLUNTEERING IDEAS
- COMMANDERS GROUP
- MOAA PRIORITIES
- VETERANS CRISIS LINE

January Program

Please join us for our January program! Our featured speaker this month is Edward Pocock. Edward is an architect with the Smith Group of Detroit. His program will discuss the planning, construction and development of new hospitals, recently, that of the new McLaren Greater Lansing Hospital. His discussion will include trends in the development of healthcare facilities, and how they impact both the hospital and patients utilizing them. Come join us as we bring in the new year of excellent and informative programs!



January 2024 CAC MOAA Dinner Meeting

When: Thursday, 11 January 2024

Our dinner meeting will take place at Coral Gables, located at 2838 East Grand River Avenue, East Lansing, MI, Thursday, 11 January. Social hour begins at 5:30 and dinner begins at 6:30. The meal is buffet style which includes: Baked Buttered Scrod, Meat Lasagna, Mixed Vegetables, and Oven Browned Red Skin Potatoes. All dinners include a Tossed Salad and Ice Cream with Chocolate Sauce. Please RSVP by Monday, 8 January to www.cacmoaa.org or contact: Tony Kruckeberg at (517) 575-9386, or email at armyblkhawk@yahoo.com



**** Volunteering Ideas Wanted ****

Are you volunteering somewhere? Do you belong to service groups or organizations? Is there somewhere you would like to volunteer? As a Chapter, we have many members who fall into these categories and we'd like to help connect people to volunteer opportunities. We will be collecting ideas from Chapter members at the January meeting. We will then compile these ideas and distribute them along with Points of Contact. So, come to the January meeting ready to give your input to help our Chapter give back to our communities. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please email Joe Mika at jmika@wayne.edu with your volunteer interests/organization affiliations.

State of Michigan Commanders Group

The Michigan Commanders Group is the coalition of Michigan's congressionally chartered Veterans Service Organizations. Collectively, these organizations represent Michigan's 550,000+ veterans and their families, and have been the state's leaders in successfully advocating for this population for nearly 100 years. The following link takes you to state and federal legislative priorities as well as the ability for you to contact your State and Federal legislatures: <https://michigancommandersgroup.org/Contact.php>

****REMINDER****

Bring your cleaned and bagged bottles and cans to our next meeting to support chapter initiatives!

7 MOAA Legislative Priorities for Veterans in the New Year

Congress has been racking up veteran-related bills and hearings throughout 2023, but to date, no major pieces of legislation have been signed into law this session. MOAA and other veterans organizations have been working nonstop to keep pressure on lawmakers, ensuring they don't let important bills languish so veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors are not forgotten. Click on the bill topics below to urge your lawmakers to do all they can to support these MOAA-backed veteran measures, and to make them a top priority when they return in January:

Protect Veterans From 'Claims Sharks': The GUARD VA Benefits Act ([H.R. 1139](#) | [S. 740](#)) will impose criminal penalties on those who seek to collect unreasonable and unauthorized fees for assisting with service-connected disability claims. A veteran should never be charged to file an initial claim, and if an appeal is necessary, a veteran should not be charged excessive fees for that service.

Preserve Earned Burial Benefits: The Expanding America's National Cemetery Act ([H.R. 1413](#)) ensures our nation keeps its sacred promise to past, present, and future veterans and their families. Arlington National Cemetery eventually will run out of room, and proposed eligibility reductions will end the benefit some veterans and their families have planned on for years. The bill would authorize the transformation of a VA-run national cemetery into the next location that affords military honors as Arlington reaches capacity.

Support Children of the Fallen and Disabled Veterans: The CHAMPVA Children's Care Protection Act ([H.R. 2414](#) | [S. 1119](#)) would expand coverage under the VA program for children of eligible veterans so they can have health care until age 26. The goal of this legislation is to close the age parity gap for vulnerable members of our community who need support: Young adult children of veterans who are permanently and totally disabled, have died of a service-connected disability, or lost their life on active duty and did not qualify for DoD's TRICARE program.

Improve Survivors' Benefits: The Caring for Survivors Act ([H.R. 1083](#) | [S. 414](#)) aligns payments of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) – a monetary benefit paid to the survivors of servicemembers who die while serving on active duty, or of service-connected disabled veterans – with other federal programs. DIC is paid at a monthly rate of \$1,562.74, with additional allowances in certain circumstances. That works out to 43% of what a veteran with a 100% service-connected disability rating receives from the VA. However, federal survivor programs provide up to 55% of a civil servant's pay, computed as if the employee retired on disability at the date of death.

Support Military Sexual Trauma Survivors: The Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support (SAVES) Act ([H.R. 2441](#) | [S. 1028](#)) will improve military sexual trauma survivors' access to essential care and services in the Veterans Health Administration, and ensure greater assistance when veterans are applying for disability benefits through the Veterans Benefits Administration. A series of audits by the VA Office of Inspector General revealed the VA was falling short on its support to this group of veterans.

Expand and Support Services for Aging and Disabled Veterans: Two pieces of legislation, the Expanding Veterans' Options for Long Term Care Act and the Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act, would provide the VA with critical flexibility to support a rapidly growing population of aging veterans needing long term care services outside the home, and to improve home- and community-based services for veterans and their caregivers.

Allow Surviving Spouses to Remarry and Retain Benefits: The Love Lives On Act ([H.R. 3651](#) | [S. 1266](#)) would reverse penalties faced by surviving military spouses who remarry prior to age 55. These survivors lose entitlement for DIC and survivor benefit pay, forfeit access to the Fry Scholarship, and lose commissary and exchange privileges.

MOAA and veteran organization partners are grateful for the ongoing and open communications with the staffers on the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs committees; we appreciate their good faith efforts in negotiating a veterans' package this year. However, veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors do not want another year to pass without action on these critical issues. They want Congress to make a veterans' package a priority ... and get it signed by the president sooner rather than later.

Executive Board Meeting

Thursday, 11 January 2024 @ 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm @ Coral Gables restaurant, 2836 E. Grand River Ave, East Lansing

2024-2026 EXECUTIVE BOARD of DIRECTORS

President

CW4 Anthony Kruckeberg

1st Vice President

Col Lawrence Reedy

2nd Vice President

COL Joe Mika

3rd Vice President

CPT Dan Delmerico

Secretary

Liz Sigmon

Treasurer

Maj DeLee Dankenbring

Director-at-Large

MG James Pocock

Past Presidents

COL Bruce Bahr

LTC Jim Sigmon

COL Dave Herring

Newsletter Editor

COL Bruce Bahr

Website

Administrator

LTC Jim Sigmon

Surviving Spouse

Program

Christina Bahr

Support our Sponsors

The individuals and companies below provide support for our Capitol Area Chapter. We encourage you to support them through your patronage. When doing so, please mention that you saw their advertisement in our monthly newsletter!!



Docs Automotive Inc
Quality Automotive Repairs

Jose Alvarado
Owner

2939 Jolly Rd
Okemos, MI 48864

517-324-5487 phone
517-324-5425 (fax)
docsauto.okemos@gmail.com




H & H Mobil
FUELS, SERVICE & TOWING

1500 Haslett Rd • East Lansing, MI 48823 email: contactus@hnmobil.com

24 Hour Towing
517-332-6335
www.hnmobil.com



MOAA
VACATIONS



Lake Lansing Road Mobil Service, Inc.

Complete Auto Service
Touch-Free Car Wash

Find us on Facebook

2704 Lake Lansing Road
Lansing, Michigan 48912
(517) 484-2300
Fax (517) 484-1462
www.lakelansingrdmobil.com

RICH BRATSCHI
Owner
rich@lakelansingrdmobil.com



The Angela Averill Team

Angela 517.712.5949 Dalanie 517.896.4033
Kylie 517.420.6936 Frank 517.819.5888

Email: angelaaverill@aol.com
7200 W Saginaw, Lansing MI 48917

CAPITOL AREA CHAPTER MOAA
992 PENNINE RIDGE WAY
GRAND LEDGE, MI 48837

Now and Always
We'll be There.



1-800-247-2192 • www.moaainsurance.com

Membership

For membership inquiries please use this link: www.cacmoaa.org. For eligibility or other questions regarding membership please contact Bruce Bahr at (517) 526-2406. **Why join?** <https://youtu.be/42YD9d8W15Q>

CAC Mission Statement

Our mission is to support legislative and charitable initiatives at the local, state, and national levels to enhance our families, communities and country.

Support our Scholarship Program with a Kroger Card!!

We continue to increase our enrollment in the Kroger Community Rewards Program! Thank you for all of your support in signing up and shopping with Kroger. For those interested in beginning the program, our chapter non-profit organization number is: JR311, use this number when contacting Kroger for admission to the program and Kroger will donate a portion of your purchase to the CAC MOAA chapter scholarship fund.

Veterans Crisis Line

The Veterans Crisis Line connects veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call (800) 273-8255 and press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available.

Your local Capitol Area Chapter and National MOAA are nonpartisan groups representing all members regarding legislative issues and current events affecting you and your community! For more information regarding issues that affect you and your family members please use this link: <http://takeaction.moaa.org> or call (800) 234-6622/(703) 549-2311

Newsletter

Help the chapter reduce newsletter costs by requesting an email version in lieu of a printed copy. If you are able to and would like to get this via email, or if you need some help with it, contact me at moaaeditor@gmail.com or call (517) 526-2406