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## 2024 CHAPTER OFFICER ELECTIONS

MOAAJAVC was founded on 27 October 2022 to career networking, professional education, and advocacy opportunities for current and retired Judge Advocates across the armed services. We have grown into a tremendous organization at the forefront of MOAA's work on behalf of military members, veterans, and families.

Our chapter constitution requires elections every two years. If you would like to serve as a chapter leader for the 2025—2027 term, please consider throwing your hat in the ring. Our chapter has made amazing gains building the infrastructure for an strong and enduring organization to be proud of. We



Courtesy of FCVA.org

are looking for leaders ready to take the next step with a vision for what's next.

If you would like to serve, please send in a nomination by **31 October 2024** to

[www.moaajavc.com](http://www.moaajavc.com) with a brief background for the candidate and indicating which leadership position the nomination is for: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Chair, or Surviving Spouse Liaison.

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## OCTOBER CHAPTER MEETING

Our next chapter meeting will be Tuesday 22 October at 8pm EST/ 7pm CST/ 6pm MST/ 5pm PST.

We will welcome Maj. Yuwynn Ho, USMC Judge Advocate and 2023-2024 White House Fellow to discuss the White House Fel-

lows Program and his experiences working in the Office of the First Lady, Dr. Jill Biden. For the past year. This was a great accomplishment for a member of our career field and will be a great talk, We look forward to seeing you there!

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82817386563?pwd=EZf7Y3Ce75v8lFt0lD2MnlpPkkW5jZ.1>

Meeting ID: 828 1738 6563  
Passcode: 573913

## MOAA Joins Surviving Spouses on Capitol Hill in Fight for Critical Legislation

*By: Jen Goodale*

MOAA recently joined more than 150 military survivors on Capitol Hill in support of the 2nd Annual Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) Gold Star Families Advocacy Week. This effort, backed by more than 35 military and veteran organizations, sought to address critical legislative needs that directly impact military survivors.

This year's Hill event focused on advocating for the passage of four bills:

- The Love Lives On Act (H.R. 3651/S. 1266) addresses the complex realities facing surviving spouses who remarry after losing a service-member. Currently, surviving spouses lose access to certain survivor benefits when they remarry before age 55. This bill would allow surviving spouses to retain these critical benefits regardless of remarriage.

- The Caring for Survi-

vors Act (H.R. 1083/S. 414) seeks to increase Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for eligible survivors. Currently, DIC paid by the VA is significantly lower than comparable benefits for other federal survivors, such as those in the civil service or law enforcement.

- The Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act (H.R. 1045/S. 956) would expand health care coverage under TRICARE to dependents of servicemembers up to age 26, aligning the program with civilian health care standards. Currently, military families often find themselves in a position where their children age out of TRICARE coverage at 21 (or 23 if they are full-time students).

- The CHAMPVA Children's Care Protection Act (H.R. 2414/S. 1119) addresses age limits like the Health Care Fairness Act, but focuses on young adult dependents of veterans who die from a service-connected disability who are eligible for

the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA). This bill would extend coverage to these children until age 26, ensuring that survivors of veterans have access to critical healthcare for their dependents.

Advocating alongside these military survivors, coupled with MOAA's endorsement of these bills, underscores our commitment to all service-connected families. The importance of honoring the sacrifice of these survivors must go beyond extending sympathy and translate into actions that support the financial well-being of those left behind.

Getting these bills across the finish line will require a push from the entire military and veteran community. Contact your lawmakers using MOAA's Legislative Action Center to express your support and urge Congress act to protect those who have already sacrificed so much.

*Advocating alongside these military survivors, coupled with MOAA's endorsement of these bills, underscores our commitment to all service-connected families.*

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## SPOTLIGHT: GWOT MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

The GWOT Memorial Foundation leads the efforts to build the National Global War on Terrorism Memorial in our nation's capital to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces who served in support of our nation's

longest war, especially those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Consistent with its mission, the Foundation will recognize and salute the service and sacrifices of all who served in defense of the nation in this con-

flict, as well as their families and friends.

To find out more, see:

<http://gwotmemorialfoundation.org/>

## Push to Retain Skilled Nurses at Military Facilities Moves Forward in NDAA

By: Karen Ruedisueli

Bipartisan, MOAA-supported legislation that would allow military treatment facilities (MTFs) to retain experienced civilian nurses is one step closer to becoming law with its inclusion in the Senate version of the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

The provision is also part of the House-passed NDAA, increasing the likelihood it will be included in the final bill. The legislation, which was introduced as a standalone bill in November as the Retain Educated Workers and Registered Nurses Developing (REWARD) Experience Act, would let MTF hiring managers waive certain regulations that drive many providers out of MTFs when they obtain a higher nursing degree.

The REWARD Act supports an updated strategy aimed at stabilizing the military health system (MHS). The deputy secretary of defense signed a memo Dec. 6 requiring the MHS add capacity to reattract patients and beneficiaries, improve access to care in military hospitals and clinics, and increase opportunities to sustain military clinical readiness for medical forces.

The memo addressed

the dual mission of the MHS: providing medical-ready forces while simultaneously delivering quality care to beneficiaries. As the memo states, doing so effectively “requires a stable, predictable workforce sufficiently staffed, trained, and routinely available to provide health care to our beneficiaries.”

### Meeting the Staffing Mission

Both MHS and civilian medical centers across the U.S. have been plagued with staffing challenges since the COVID pandemic, which led to many nurses leaving clinical roles.

Further issues stemmed from the congressionally directed MHS reorganization shifting authority, direction, and control of all MTFs to the Defense Health Agency.

The transition has been characterized as “the largest reorganization and transformation in DoD since the establishment of the Air Force in 1947,” according to a Defense.gov article announcing the stabilization strategy.

### How the Legislation Helps MTFs Retain Experienced Nurses

An example under the current system: A li-

censed practical nurse (LPN) starts in the federal General Schedule (GS) system at an MTF and earns a diploma or bachelor’s degree in nursing while working. By the time the nurse graduates, they have been promoted to a GS-6 position.

If that nurse wants to move into a registered nurse (RN) role, they would only be qualified for a GS-5 position because they don’t meet the requirement for qualifying experience in an equivalent position. They would effectively be taking a pay cut for increased responsibility within an institution they are already likely more well-equipped to support than an outside hire with more experience.

NDAA language from the REWARD Act would allow hiring managers to waive this requirement, giving them a path to retain skilled personnel.

MOAA appreciates the REWARD Act addressing civilian staffing challenges, and we thank the lawmakers who have led this effort on Capitol Hill, including Sens. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and Ted Budd (R-N.C.), and Rep. Marilyn Strickland (D-Wash.). Keep up with the latest on this issue and others included in ongoing NDAA discussions by visiting MOAA’s Advocacy News page.

*The Retain Educated Workers and Registered Nurses Developing (REWARD) Experience Act, would let MTF hiring managers waive certain regulations that drive many providers out of MTFs when they obtain a higher nursing degree.*

## Board of Directors

Maj Brooks Rose, USAFR, President

CAPT Ted Fowles, USCG (Ret.), Vice-President

Col Dan Rogers, USAF (Ret.), Membership Chair

Col Carol Hatstrup, USAF (Ret.), Bylaws Chair

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Col Frank Yoon, USAF (Ret.) Chapter Relations

CAPT Chris Mora, USN (Ret.) Legislative Liaison

**Chapter Website**  
<https://moajavc.org>

Contact us at: [MOAAJAVC@gmail.com](mailto:MOAAJAVC@gmail.com)

### *Who We Are*

*We provide opportunities for career networking, professional education, and advocacy. Our organization is non-geographic and can go with you worldwide anywhere you are stationed.*

*The Military Officers Association of America Judge Advocate Virtual Chapter is here for you. Membership is free and is open to current and former judge advocates on Active Duty, Reserve, Guard, Retired, or Honorably Separated.*

*As an affiliate of the nationwide MOAA organization, we actively participate in non-partisan advocacy on issues of key importance to military members, veterans, and their families.*

## AFTER THE JAG CORPS: Navigating Your Career Progression

*After The JAG Corps: Navigating Your Career Progression*, is a podcast for separating and retiring Judge Advocates. CAPT Tom Welsh talks to former Judge Advocates and others to learn about their respective career journeys after military service and gain insights into marketing the skills developed while in uniform. The Podcast is available on Apple, Google, and Spotify and is published each Saturday morning. This week, CAPT Welsh welcomes Air Force Judge Advocate Abhishek Kambli to discuss his work protecting states' rights in the federal system.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/132-abhishek-kambli-special-litigation-division-office/id1602234623?i=1000671861116>



## OCTOBER UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

### Judge Advocates Association Judge Advocate to Government Attorney Panel

Zoom, Wednesday 16 October 2024

Please join JAA for a discussion with a panel of former Judge Advocates who practice as government attorneys. This no-cost virtual program will be on Wednesday 16 October 2024, from 1200 to 1315 (EDT) on Zoom.

An esteemed panel will discuss the experience of transitioning from being a judge advocate to practicing as a government attorney in a variety of agencies. We will also hear from a judge advocate who just successfully set up a Skillbridge internship with a government agency.

Register for this no-cost virtual program by **15 October** at:

<https://jaa.app.neoncrm.com/event.jsp?event=92&>

### 2024 Veterans' Legal Career Fair

Washington D.C., 25 Oct. 2024

Registration is open for Orrick's 9th annual Veterans' Legal Career Fair on October 25th in Washington, DC. Orrick created this event to connect lawyers who are veterans or active-duty service members and military spouses with top legal employers.

There is expected to be over 35 companies, law firms and federal agencies who share our appreciation for the skills and grit that our military talent brings to the table, including [Microsoft](#) and [Morgan Stanley](#), who have been part of VLCF since launch.

Register here:

[https://law-veteranslcf-csm.symplicity.com/students/?signin\\_tab=0](https://law-veteranslcf-csm.symplicity.com/students/?signin_tab=0)

### Air Force Civilian Service Attorney-Adviser (Environmental, GS-13)

Luke AFB, Arizona

The primary purpose of this position is to serve as a senior legal advisor to the 56th Fighter Wing Commander, Staff Judge Advocate, Wing staff, and subordinate organizations on critical and specialized professional legal matters to include: Environmental, Real Estate, Land Use, Labor, Contracts, Ethics, and Legal Assistance.

Applications close **18 October 2024**.

For more information please see:

<https://airforce.usajobs.gov/job/812569400>