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## CONGRATS TO OUR ANNUAL AWARDEES!

A warm congratulations to our two annual award recipients! Lt Col Yuwynn Ho is the 2024 Maj Gen Joseph Lynch Award recipient. And Maj John Kalis is the 2024 CAPT Erin Stone Award recipient.

Maj Gen Lynch led a distinguished career as an Air Force Judge Advocate, Navy civilian attorney and served many years as MOAA's General Counsel. The Lynch Award recipient is for career accomplishment in the military legal field and/or advocacy on behalf of servicemembers, veterans, and families.

Lt Col Ho is a 2023-2024 White House Fellow and worked in the Office of the First Lady on the Joining Forces Initiative improving military spouse hiring and securing a significant pay raise for enlisted members.

CAPT Erin Stone led a distinguished Navy JAG Corps



Photo courtesy of Yuwynn Ho & John Kalis

career and served as MOAA's Director of Council & Chapter Affairs. The Stone Award is for Chapter Member of the Year and is awarded to the MOAAJAVC member recognized for noteworthy contributions to the team over the past year.

Maj Kalis served as Chapter

Treasurer from 2022-2024 securing the Chapter's non-profit status and secure financial footing. He also designed and built our outstanding Chapter website.

Many thanks to both recipients on a job well done!




**2025 MOAA  
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Sept. 14-21, 2025

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## MARCH 25, 2025 CHAPTER MEETING

Our next chapter meeting will be Tuesday 25 March at 8pm EST/ 7pm CST/ 6pm MST/ 5pm PST on Zoom.

We will welcome Cory Titus and Jennifer Goodale from MOAA's Government Relations team to discuss the upcoming 2025 Advocacy in

Action event. There are a wide range of issues expected to be covered including military spouse hiring, base housing, and veteran healthcare issues.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88197097621?pwd=PcNcaSx37s7LqBixzjx9o8esbFnD9S.1>

Meeting ID: 881 9709 7621  
Passcode: 034365



The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading nonpartisan organization protecting the rights of military servicemembers and their families.

To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country:

*Never Stop Serving.*

Join MOAA at:

<https://www.moaa.org>

Want to take action? Do it with a mouse click at:

[www.moaa.org/takeaction](http://www.moaa.org/takeaction)

## These MOAA-Backed Bills Protect the Value of Your Survivor Benefits

By: Kevin Lilley

Bipartisan legislation reintroduced this month in both the House and Senate would help protect and modernize survivor benefits, ensuring they keep pace with other federal programs and allowing survivors to retain benefits after remarriage, regardless of age.

MOAA supports both the Love Lives on Act and the Caring for Survivors Act, both of which address longstanding issues with survivor benefit eligibility and calculation. Here's a look at each piece of legislation.

### Love Lives On Act

Surviving spouses who remarry under age 55 risk losing Survivor Benefit Plan payments and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). This bill (S. 410 | H.R. 1004) – introduced in the Senate by Sens. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) and Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.) and in the House by Rep. Richard Hudson (R-N.C.) – would remove this age restriction. It also would allow survivors to regain TRICARE eligibility if a second marriage ends in death, divorce, or annulment.

The Senate version had 25 cosponsors as of Feb. 26. The bill has the support of 40 advocacy organizations alongside MOAA, to include Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) and the American Legion.

“Military service is family service, and our country owes a great debt to the surviving spouses of fallen servicemembers,” said Moran, who serves as chairman of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee. “As Gold Star spouses heal from their loss and choose to remarry, they should not have to worry about losing their survivors’ benefits provided by the VA and DoD.”

### Caring for Survivors Act

DIC benefit rates for survivors of those who die in the line of duty, or of veterans who die of service-connected ailments, have been only minimally adjusted since 1993. They now rest at 43% of a 100% disabled veteran’s compensation; this bill would raise that rate to 55%, resulting in about \$450 more per month and matching the compensation percentage offered by similar federal programs.

The bill also allows more survivors who have cared for a disabled veteran to claim DIC benefits. Current law requires a veteran to have been totally disabled by a service-connected condition for at least 10 years in order for a survivor to qualify for DIC. The Caring for Survivors Act would reduce this to five years.

Reps. Jahana Hayes (D-Conn.) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.) introduced the House version of the legislation (H.R. 680) on Feb. 6, while Sens. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) and John Boozman (R-Ark.) introduced Senate legislation (S. 611) on Feb. 18.

“Unfortunately, the outdated rules governing Dependency and Indemnity Compensation mean many surviving families do not receive the full benefits they are entitled to,” said Hayes, adding that the bill “ensures the federal government keeps its promise to fallen servicemembers by supporting their families.”

Supporters alongside MOAA include Disabled American Veterans (DAV), the Elizabeth Dole Foundation, and the National Military Family Association.

## SPOTLIGHT: ZEROMILS

ZeroMils is committed to creating a movement that helps military and Veteran-connected families thrive in the workplace and in communities

ZeroMils mission is a network of purpose-driven individuals and

organization who work and service together—to effect positive change where every family thrives together and makes our nation and the world a better place.

ZeroMils creates military thriving cultures and

communities To learn more, visit:

[www.zeromils.com](http://www.zeromils.com)

## MOAA on the Hill: Key Veterans' Priorities Outlined During Joint Hearing

By: MOAA Staff

Last year's passage of [expansive improvements to caregiver programs](#) showed what Congress could accomplish with broad stakeholder support ... but more work to help this often-overlooked part of the military community is needed, MOAA told lawmakers during a Feb. 26 hearing.

"These caregivers sacrifice their own futures – giving up financial security, career advancement, and personal well-being – to care for our nation's heroes," said Cmdr. René Campos, USN (Ret), MOAA's senior director of Government Relations, in front of a joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs committees. "Yet when caregiving ends ... many are left struggling to rebuild their lives."

Congress can address this issue by reintroducing and passing the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act, which would:

Allow caregivers access to retirement planning, employment assistance, and bereavement counseling services.

Reimburse caregivers for some professional licensure costs.

Continue health care coverage for caregivers who are no longer eligible for VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers

(PCAFC).

Require a series of studies on barriers to caregiver employment, establishing a caregiver retirement plan, and other topics of concern.

"This act fulfills our nation's promise to those who sacrificed so much," Campos said.

### Ending the Wait

Campos also stressed the need to reform VA's approach to caring for toxic-exposed veterans, which has resulted in an average delay of more than 30 years from a service-connected toxic exposure to receiving earned benefits.

[A 2024 report](#) by MOAA and Disabled American Veterans (DAV) proposed a series of improvements to this process, to include a new classification system for exposures and a clear outline of the steps needed to establish a presumptive condition, including timelines for VA decisions designed to speed the process. These improvements would continue the progress made on this issue via 2022's MOAA-supported [Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act](#).

MOAA's testimony came alongside testimony from the Jewish War Veterans of the USA, Minority Veterans of America, National Association of County Veterans Services Officers,

National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families, and Wounded Warrior Project. A previous panel Feb. 26 included representatives from the American Legion.

MOAA also addressed the need for Congress to:

Pass full appropriations for the current fiscal year and to ensure VA funding was in place for FY 2026 by Oct. 1. "Predictable, sufficient funding is vital to sustaining VA's health and benefits systems, meeting the growing needs of veterans and their families, and fulfilling congressional mandates without disruption," Campos said.

Improve transition services for veterans by reintroducing and passing the TAP Promotion Act, which would include veterans service organizations such as MOAA in the transition process.

Continue its work to serve women, minority, and other underserved veteran populations, to include passing legislation designed to improve VA's menopause care services and its work with military sexual trauma survivors.

Many of the MOAA-supported bills designed to address these priorities and others will be introduced in the coming weeks. Visit [MOAA's Legislative Action Center](#) to see the latest legislation and learn how you can send messages of support to your lawmakers.

*"These caregivers sacrifice their own futures – giving up financial security, career advancement, and personal well-being – to care for our nation's heroes..."*

## Board of Directors

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

### *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.*

*Join us at:*

*MOAAJAVC@gmail.com*

## 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 Professor James Kraska, retired Navy JAG and current Charles H. Stockton Chair of International Maritime Law and Department Head, Stockton Center for International Law, U.S. Naval War College

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/143-james-kraska-a-lifetime-devoted-to-supporting/id1602234623?i=1000698372267>



## UPCOMING EVENTS IN MARCH

### Concurrent Receipt Programs: What You Need to Know

19 March 2025

2-3pm Online

It has been over a decade since the last major legislative changes to concurrent receipt processes, yet numerous misconceptions about Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) and Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) persist.

Join MOAA's financial professional Capt. Paul Frost, USN (Ret), AFC®, for a comprehensive examination of each concurrent receipt program. Topics include:

A historical review of concurrent receipt programs.

How pay agencies implement each program.

Complex calculations for reserve and medical retiree concurrent receipt.

Eligible for both CRDP and CRSC? Learn how to determine which program is best for you.

To sign up please register at:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/events/healthcare-and-benefits/concurrent-receipt-programs-crdp-crsc-2025/>

### Why Veterans Should Consider Franchise Ownership

26 March 2025

2-3pm Online

Have you seen friends or colleagues launch and sustain a successful franchise, and wondered if you could follow suit? Curious about the ins and outs of this veteran-friendly professional path?

Well, look no further. Reg-

ister now and join MOAA and Tony Creed, owner of multiple franchises, as he shares insights, tips, and tools for successful franchise ownership. He will delve into topics like:

Franchising basics

Getting your business off the ground

Recruiting key talent

Managing operations

Don't miss this opportunity to deepen your understanding and enhance your opportunity for success in the world of franchising. Join us for trusted advice from an experienced practitioner drawing from his career credentials and franchise expertise.

To sign up please register at:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/events/transition-and-career/why-veterans-should-consider-franchise-ownership/>



Come River Cruising with MOAA's President & CEO Lt Gen Brian "BK" Kelly, USAF (Ret), his wife Garrety and your fellow MOAA members for a vacation to remember.

## 2025 MOAA SIGNATURE GROUP

### BURGUNDY & PROVENCE RIVER CRUISE

September 14-21, 2025 ✈ Rates from \$5,029 pp

*Follow in the footsteps of Van Gogh, Cézanne, and Gauguin on this exquisite journey through southern France.*

Explore unforgettable "Burgundy & Provence" where tradition is as deeply rooted as the historic grapevines on the hills. Cruise the Rhône and Saône rivers, enjoying the region's incomparable wine and cuisine, while discovering its many treasures. Stroll the very streets of Arles made famous by Van Gogh. Visit Avignon's majestic Palace of the Popes. Experience "Village Day" in enchanting Viviers. And for those who wish for a more active exploration of the area, you can hike the vineyards of the Rhône and pedal through Lyon, a city designed with bike riders in mind.

Our home during this cruise is Uniworld's Super Ship vessel, the *S.S. Catherine*. Uniworld is committed to building a fleet of ships that represents the absolute best in luxury river cruising, combining quality craftsmanship with high-tech innovations and custom-designed interiors. *Catherine* continues this proud tradition of excellence with sumptuous materials and meticulous attention to detail. The vessel's opulent interiors include a two-story lobby with a specially commissioned Murano glass chandelier and whimsical life-size glass horse.

**Save \$570 per person PLUS \$150 per person Onboard Credit. We hope you can join us!**

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For complete details, including detailed day-by-day itinerary, please visit us online