MOAA®
JUDGE ADVOCATE VIRTUAL CHAPTER

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Chapter News	1
Next Chapter Meeting	1
MOAA Looks Ahead	2
Chapter Legislation	3
Leaders & Website	4
After The JAG Corps	4
Upcoming CY Events	4

Happy New Year From MOAAJAVC!

We hope all our members are having a great start to 2026! There is lots to look forward to for MOAAJAVC and a ton of great issues and initiatives to engage on to improve the wellbeing of our servicemembers, veterans, and families.

We invite you to visit the Legislative Action Center as a way to keep pressure on Congress for a number of key items that would have an immediate effect on the welfare of our military community. Among them are:

Restoring full BAH

Major Richard Star Amendment

Improving access to Prenatal, OBGYN, GLP-1, and IVF medical care

Protecting surviving spouses' right to remarry.

Additionally, MOAAJAVC is focusing on advocacy in the judicial branch by forming a volunteer team of chapter members to assist the national organization advocate in federal and state courts with amici curiae and other methods on many novel military community issues facing our members.

Courtesy of Military Officers Association of America Government Relations Team

We need your help in 2026! Please stop by the Legislative Action Center and register as a MOAAJAVC (VC05) member. It takes only a few minutes and then explore the wide range of issues you can literally point, click, and push to your Congressional representatives.

If you have an interest in joining our judicial advocacy team, reach out to us at MOAAJAVC@gmail.com. We'd love to welcome you aboard!

January 27, 2026 Chapter Meeting 8pm

Our next chapter meeting will be Tuesday 27 Jan at 8pm EST/ 7pm CST/ 6pm MST/ 5pm PST on Zoom.

We will welcome COL(s) Jerrod Fussnecker, US Army Reserve and host of the Military Veterans in Law podcast to discuss his work in the Army JAG Corps, Private Practice and the great (and highly useful) content Military Veterans in Law provides out to the JAG Corps community.

We look forward to seeing you there to kick off 2026!

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87627908419?pwd=N2piU5Lti9CV2X6btw7n68Oro6asNA.1

Meeting ID: 876 2790 8419
Passcode: 332777

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

MOAA Looks Ahead: Building the Next Century of Service

By: Karen Ruedisueli

MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), and members of MOAA's Government Relations team met with senior military health system (MHS) leaders last month and urged them to reconsider the decision to revoke TRICARE For Life (TFL) coverage of some GLP-1 drugs.

MOAA requested the meeting after the White House announced agreements with pharmaceutical manufacturers Eli Lilly and Co. and Novo Nordisk to dramatically reduce the prices of GLP-1 drugs that help adults struggling with diabetes, heart disease, obesity, and other medical conditions.

TRICARE will benefit from the administration's newly negotiated lower prices for GLP-1 medications, Pentagon officials said. They indicated analyses are underway to determine how these reduced prices may affect the Defense Health Program budget and TFL coverage policy moving forward.

Kelly emphasized the extraordinary levels of engagement and outreach from both impacted patients who have lost GLP-1 coverage and other beneficiaries who fear future cuts to the retiree health care benefit. More than 600 TRICARE beneficiaries have contacted MOAA to share their feedback on the MHS decision to revoke coverage of certain GLP-1 drugs from TFL beneficiaries.

Under the administration's new pricing framework, Medicare costs for Ozempic, Wegovy, Mounjaro, and Zepbound will be $245, less than half the previous cost. State Medicaid programs also will have access to these medications at these prices. Lower negotiated prices for Medicare and Medicaid patients may prompt expanded access through pilot programs as early as this spring.

For Medicare patients, pilot program coverage of GLP-1 medications will be under Medicare Part D prescription drug plans.

Before the Aug. 31, 2025, policy change that revoked GLP-1 coverage for TFL, beneficiaries who met stringent prior-authorization criteria — including documented comorbid conditions such as hypertension, sleep apnea, or metabolic dysfunction — could be approved for GLP-1 medications. TRICARE Prime and Select users retain this coverage with prior authorization, and all beneficiaries still receive GLP-1 coverage when the drug is prescribed for Type 2 diabetes.

MOAA continues to be a steadfast advocate for restoring GLP-1 coverage under TFL. Creating separate pharmacy tiers for TRICARE and TFL beneficiaries sets a troubling precedent that could weaken the promise of lifelong earned benefits and is inconsistent with congressional intent for TFL and the TRICARE pharmacy program.

As MOAA continues its advocacy, we encourage affected beneficiaries and their families to share their stories and engage through MOAA's Legislative Action Center to support efforts to restore full GLP-1 coverage for TFL beneficiaries.

Get to Know: The U.S. Military Spouse Chamber of Commerce

The U.S. Military Spouse Chamber of Commerce aims to ensure that all active duty and veteran military spouse business owners have the tools and resources they need to strengthen their families, communities, and our economy. The Military Spouse Chamber of Commerce offers the only Military Spouse-Owned Enterprise Certification (MSEC) accepted by Fortune 500 companies and was founded by military spouse entrepreneurs. Check them out at:

www.milspousechamber.org

From MOAA's Chairman: Building On Strength

By: Thomas Waldhauser

As your chairman, I am so proud of what MOAA continues to accomplish on behalf of the entire uniformed services community. Every day, MOAA's members, volunteers, and staff demonstrate that commitment through advocacy, outreach, and action.

In 2025, MOAA sharpened its legislative strategy with clear priorities and disciplined strategies that continue in the new year. Our Government Relations team has been hard at work on Capitol Hill — building new relationships and strengthening existing ones across the new Congress.

Our Advocacy in Action event once again brought MOAA members from across the country to Washington, D.C., to meet directly with lawmakers — an impressive demonstration of unity and professionalism that continues to set us apart.

Our grassroots network remains one of the strongest in the nation; amplifying our message through our constituent contacts makes a real difference in legislative outcomes.

We were named in The Hill's "Top Lobbyist" list for the 19th straight year, a mark of our sustained influence and the trust in our advocacy.

That same spirit of service was on full display at our inaugural TotalForce+ conference, where leaders from across the uniformed service, civilian, industry, and academic sectors came together to strengthen the all-volunteer force. The conversations and ideas shared there will shape our efforts in the years ahead, including as we look toward a number of smaller TotalForce+ events in 2026, with the full conference returning Feb. 1-3, 2027.

Please share the good work of our association throughout your network and in your local communities. Remind potential members of our greatest achievements.

From a personal perspective, I find my service on this board over the past five years, and especially now as your chairman, incredibly rewarding and gratifying. I want to express my gratitude to MOAA's dedicated council and chapter leaders, staff, and every member and volunteer who keeps our association strong. Your leadership, advocacy, and generosity drive our success.

Together, we will continue to protect what's been earned, champion solutions that strengthen the community we serve, and advance a future worthy of those who defend our nation.

"We were named in The Hill's "Top Lobbyist" list for the 19th straight year, a mark of our sustained influence and the trust in our advocacy."

Chapter Legislation Focus: The Work Opportunity Tax Credit for MilSpouses

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) has played a key role in keeping veteran unemployment rates closer to civilian levels. Originally designed to support "job seekers who have consistently faced barriers to employment," this definition clearly applies to military spouses, who have faced sustained unemployment rates of 20% or higher for over a decade.

Continuing to offer this tax credit to employers while enhancing the program will ensure the veteran unemployment rate remains low, and expanding this benefit to military spouses will improve financial stability for the currently serving military family and increase military readiness and retention rates.

Please take a moment to write your lawmakers about the importance of continuing this tax credit for veterans and making military spouses a target group for WOTC.

Check out the Legislative Action Center for this issue at:

https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/148732/

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Chapter Website
https://moaajavc.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. In this episode, we hear from Army Reserve judge advocate and National Security attorney Rachel Flannery about how she 'pivoted with intention" from active duty to civilian practice.

https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/165-rachel-flannery-pivoting-with-intention/id1602234623?i=1000743592787

Upcoming January Events

Nominees for MOAA's National Board of Directors

1 Jan - 31 March, Online

MOAA is seeking dedicated, forward-thinking leaders who are passionate about advancing our mission and strengthening our organization's impact.

As a board member, you will play a vital role in shaping strategic direction, ensuring strong governance, and championing initiatives that support our long-term success. Like the military services and the veteran communities MOAA represents, we draw our strength and influence from the wide array of backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives of our membership. It is essential that our Board of Directors reflects that same breadth in its composition to ensure we remain responsive to our members, inclusive of their interests, and always mission focused. Eligibility requirements and additional details can be found in the January issue of the Military Officer magazine.

https://moaa-board.smapply.us/

Applications for the 2026-2027 MOAA Educational Assistance Program are now Open!

1 Jan - 1 March, Online

Students apply for the Education Assistance Program through a single, streamlined application process. The application includes questions about the student's academic achievements, extracurricular activities, military affiliation, and financial background. Additionally, applicants are invited to share their post-graduation plans and college aspirations through an essay question.

Unlike traditional programs where students apply for specific funding types, our approach allows us to match each student with the most suitable funding opportunities based on their eligibility. This way, students won't miss out on any funding opportunities they're qualified for.

To participate in the Education Assistance Program, students must submit an application during the November 1 - March 1 window. Our program has two applications: New Student Applications and Renewing Student Applications. Once a student is accepted into the program and receives funding, they have the opportunity to reapply for funding each year of their undergraduate studies.

For more information and to apply:

https://charities.moaa.org/scholarship-fund/loan-programs/