

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Chapter News</i>	1
<i>Next Chapter Meeting</i>	1
<i>Veteran Infertility</i>	2
<i>Get to Know</i>	2
<i>Chapter Legislation</i>	3
<i>After The JAG Corps</i>	4
<i>Upcoming CY Events</i>	4



## ADVOCACY IN ACTION NEXT MONTH!

MOAA's annual Advocacy in Action kicks off 13-16 April on Capitol Hill. Our Chapter will be well represented with multiple members participating with state delegations to advocate for quality of life improvements for military members, veterans, and families.

This year the issues are the Shutdown Fairness Act, Military CARE Act, GUARD VA Benefits Acts, and Major Richard Star Act. The Shutdown Fairness Act (S. 3168) ensures members of the armed services receive their pay during any future lapse in appropriations. MOAA will also advocate that USPHS and NOAA be added to the bill before it moves to a vote.

The Military CARE Act (H.R. 6796) requires the Defense Health Agency to establish a digital system allowing beneficiaries to report and track access challenges they encounter at MTFs and require annual reports to Congress on systematic problems along with plans to address them. The GUARD VA Benefits Act (H.R. 1732) restores enforcement

### MARCH 31, 2026 CHAPTER MEETING 8PM

Our next chapter meeting will be Tuesday 31 March at 8pm EST/ 7pm CST/ 6pm MST/ 5pm PST on Zoom.

We will welcome The MOAA Government Relations Team to discuss the 2026 Advocacy in Action event planned for Capitol Hill.



Courtesy of Military Officers Association of American

authority and criminal penalties for unaccredited individuals and companies that illegally charge veterans and survivors for VA disability claims assistance.

The Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 2101/ S. 1032) authorizes combat-injured veterans to receive their earned DoD retirement pay for years of service and their VA disability compen-

sation for lifelong injury doing away with the current offset these veterans face.

Many of these bills are very close to passing. Our chapter members will work hard on Capitol Hill and we invite all our teammates to press these issues at the Legislative Action Center at:

<https://moaa.quorum.us/>

MOAA has selected some outstanding topics that will do some real good once they are passed.

We invite you to come out and learn about this signature event for the organization and see how you can help!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85219388437?pwd=CyYaGyZvS5nV01byJaoNHjnI4RCYiI.1>

Meeting ID: 852 1938 8437  
Passcode: 147698



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)

## MOAA-Endorsed Bill Would Support Veterans Facing Fertility Challenges

By: Jen Goodale

Bipartisan legislation introduced March 5 would expand access to fertility care for veterans whose reproductive health may have been harmed by toxic exposures during service.

The MOAA-backed Warrior Infertility Act ([H.R. 7841](#)), led by Rep. Kelly Morrison (D-Minn.) and co-led by Rep. Jay Obernolte (R-Calif.), seeks to make infertility a presumptive condition tied to toxic exposure under the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

Establishing infertility as a presumptive condition would alleviate the burden veterans face when seeking to prove a direct link between their infertility and military service. Coverage for treatments such as in vitro fertilization (IVF) can take months or even years to resolve and is further delayed by the lack of an established presumptive.

“The risks taken by those in uniform last far longer than their time in service,” said Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), president and CEO of MOAA, in [a press release from Morrison’s office](#) announcing the legis-

lation. “The Warrior Infertility Act recognizes one of these risks — how exposure to toxins can create problems for those looking to build a family. MOAA thanks Reps. Morrison and Obernolte for this commonsense legislation that will allow these warriors to receive the support and care they’ve earned.”

The new bill would recognize the growing body of research connecting infertility with occupational hazards and toxic exposures experienced during military service. According to studies cited by lawmakers, active duty women experience fertility issues at significantly higher rates than their civilian counterparts, highlighting the long-term health impacts of service.

Morrison, an OB-GYN who has spent more than two decades practicing medicine, emphasized the importance of ensuring veterans can access the reproductive care they need.

“When service members put their lives on the line for our country, it’s our duty to make sure they’re supported when they come home. That includes essential and life-changing reproductive health care,” Morrison said in the release.

“Service members are more likely to struggle with infertility but still face burdensome hurdles to getting treatment. Recognizing infertility as a service-connected condition will help ensure veterans do not fall through the cracks.”

Obernolte echoed the concern that the effects of toxic exposures can follow veterans long after their military careers end. “For too many veterans, exposure to toxic substances during military service can have lasting effects on their health, including their ability to build a family,” he said, noting the bill aims to remove unnecessary barriers to care.

The legislation has drawn strong support from a wide coalition of veterans and medical organizations, including MOAA, the American Legion, the Elizabeth Dole Foundation, and the National Military Family Association.

If enacted, the Warrior Infertility Act would represent an important step in recognizing the full scope of health challenges associated with military-related toxic exposure and ensuring veterans receive the care they deserve.

## Get to Know: National Veterans Legal Services Program

The NVLSP is an independent, nonprofit, veterans service organization that has worked since 1981 to ensure that the government delivers to our nation’s 22 million veterans and active duty personnel the benefits which they have earned because of disabilities resulting from their se-

-vice to our country. NVLSP accomplishes its mission by: providing VSOs, service officers, and attorneys with training and education to enable them to help veterans and dependents obtain their benefits. NVLSP also represents veterans and dependents se-

-eking benefits before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and in court.

To learn more, please see:

[www.nvlsp.org](http://www.nvlsp.org)

## MOAA Advocates for Child Care Provider Expansion

By: Stephanie Rose

Access to childcare is a nationwide issue that impacts both civilians and military families. Buffett Early Childcare Institute at the University of Nebraska in collaboration with Child Care Aware and Bipartisan Policy Center completed a [Child Care Gaps Assessment](#) that found that there is a 4.1M gap in childcare access, representing a significant national gap of 28.2%. Military families have reported even higher gaps in access at **43%**, most likely due to the transient lifestyle that places military families lower on the waitlists, non-traditional hours of military duty, and living in rural locations.

Despite millions in investments by Congress and the Pentagon in child development centers (CDC), family child care (FCC), and fee assistance programs, a [2023 GAO report](#) accounted for only 20%\* of active duty child care

needs being met through these programs, leaving 80% of families to make other arrangements for their child care needs.

These gaps in access have left both civilians and military families to turn to the Federal Au Pair program to meet their child care needs. In fact, [10% of families using the Federal Au Pair program are active duty military families](#). Au pairs not only help fill the childcare access gap when local providers are not available, but they can also accommodate non-traditional work hours and move with military families when they PCS. Another benefit of using an au pair is the cost. The monthly fee to use an au pair is usually right at the benefit allotment of the Child Care in Your Home (CCYH) program, which provides fee reimbursement for child care to military families.

Unfortunately, the Federal Au Pair program is not an approved program of

CCYH, but MOAA is working alongside Congress and au pair organizations to make that a reality. This year, a provision is being introduced for FY27 NDAA to add the Federal Au Pair program to the CCYH pilot program. If passed, service members will be able to receive fee reimbursement when using au pairs to meet their child care needs.

\*The [2021 Military Demographics Report](#) states that there were 390,053 children of active duty members ages 5 and under. The 2023 GAO Report states that 49,300 children were enrolled in the child development centers (CDC), 2,700 child received care through in DOD family child care (FCC) homes, and 25,800 children were provided with fee assistance, totaling 77,800 children.  $77,800/390,053 = 20\%$

### Take action now!

Share your support for these bills with your lawmakers, using **MOAA's Legislative Action Center**:

### Love Lives On Act

[moaa.org/loveliveson](https://moaa.org/loveliveson)

### Maj Richard Star Act

[moaa.org/staract](https://moaa.org/staract)

### Enhance Support for Women Veterans

<https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/153532/>

### GUARD VA Benefits Act

<https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/154789/>

### Shutdown Fairness Act

<https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/142300/>

### Military CARE Act

<https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/151857/>

## Stand with MOAAJAVC and MOAA to Enhance Support for Women Veterans

Congress is considering several bipartisan bills that would improve veteran's benefits, protect service members and families from financial and administrative harm, and ensure fair treatment for those who have served. These proposals address long-standing inequities, modernize outdated systems, and reinforce the government's commitment to those who wear—and have worn—the uniform.

One of these bills, H.R. 2201, has already passed the House and is well-positioned to move quickly through the Senate. Lawmakers must ensure these reforms are enacted without delay.

MOAA encourages you to contact your members of Congress and ask them to support and advance the following legislation:

Servicewomen and Women Veterans Menopause Research Act (H.R. 2717/ S. 1320)

Improving Menopause Care for Veterans Act (H.R. 219)

Building Resources and Access for Veterans' Mental Health Engagement (BRAVE) Act (H.R. 6024/ S. 609)

Improving VA Training for Military Sexual Trauma Claims Act (H.R. 2201)

Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support (SAVES) Act (H.R. 2576/ S. 1245)

## 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](mailto: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 former Air Force Judge Advocate Bill Rogers who talks about his very diverse legal career in everything from private practice to government, to farming.



<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/169-truckin-with-bill-rogers/id1602234623?i=1000752085762>

## UPCOMING MARCH 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/>

### Register for the Judge Advocates Association & Judge Advocates Foundation Awards Dinner

7 May, Army Navy Country Club

The Judge Advocates Association and Judge Advocates Foundation Awards Dinner will honor the 2026 recipients of the Chief Justice John Marshall Lifetime

Achievement Award, the Robinson O. Everett Distinguished Life Service Award, the Major General William K. Suter Distinguished Judicial Service Award, and the Outstanding Career Judge Advocate Awards. There will be a cocktail reception at 5:30pm and dinner at 7pm. All are welcome and you do not have to be a JAA, JAF, military, or Army Navy Country Club member to attend. Attire is Class A or Service Dress for military and business attire for civilian.

For more information and to register, please visit the Judge Advocate Association's website where you can also join JAA or renew your membership:

[www.jaa.org](http://www.jaa.org)