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MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD IN MOAA!

It's not too late, **join members of the JAG Virtual Chapter** to cast your vote for our open MOAA Board of Directors positions and weigh in on a number of resolutions to direct the future of our organization.

Every two years, one-third of MOAA's board members complete their six-year term of service. MOAA's members vote on candidates selected by an independent Board Nominating Committee to fill these vacancies.

Among the eight nominees is former Air Force TJAG, Lt Gen Jack Rives, USAF (Ret) and many other well qualified individuals with decades of military and prior board service.

Additionally, there are five resolutions and one amendment for consideration. Resolution 1 is a commitment by MOAA to direct its efforts to protecting *People First* in the eight uniformed services. Resolution 2 is a commitment to advocate for full and timely appropriations, avoiding shut-



Courtesy of Brooks Rose.

down and CRs. Resolution 3 is a commitment to providing our growing membership with the products and services they need to keep MOAA a strong force for advocacy.

Resolution 4 is a commitment to grow our chapters and councils and Resolution 5 affirms MOAA's focus on growing the

effectiveness of MOAA Charities. There is one final bylaw amendment normalizing proportional representation to add the Space Force and transition from 36 to 24 Board seats.

Voting ends soon! Check your emailed ballot and make your voice heard!

AUGUST 25, 2026 CHAPTER MEETING

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

We will welcome Mr. Peter Cohen presenting on: Understanding Presidential Power and the Rule of Law: A Citizen's Guide to Presi-

dential Power and the Rule of Law: A Nonpartisan Constitutional Perspective.

We appreciate Mr. Cohen's time with our Chapter and look forward to an interesting and very educational perspective. We hope to see you all there!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87120343280?pwd=baFTx64brmEtBctcklisUtA6Sl1un.1>

Meeting ID: 871 2034 3280

Passcode: 636204



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

Army May Revisit Arlington National Cemetery Eligibility Rule

By: Jen Goodale

Veterans and military families who have been following the future of Arlington National Cemetery should prepare to engage.

The Army intends to revisit [a proposed rule](#) that would significantly narrow eligibility for in-ground burial and inurnment at the ceremony, Karen Durham-Aguilera, executive director of the Office of Army Cemeteries/Army National Military Cemeteries, said during a [June 30 hearing](#) before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. Among those who could lose eligibility under the proposal are many retirees who served honorable careers but did not receive certain valor awards or meet other newly established criteria.

The Army is reviewing the proposal, first published in response to [section 598 of the FY 2019 National Defense Authorization Act](#), in light of updated burial projections and ongoing efforts

to preserve cemetery capacity while continuing to honor those who served, Durham-Aguilera said.

The proposal generated nearly 2,000 public comments, mostly from those concerned the new rule would depart from Arlington's long-standing tradition of honoring career servicemembers.

MOAA has long worked to preserve eligibility for the nation's most iconic military cemetery while recognizing the legitimate need to ensure it remains available for future generations.

As part of that effort, MOAA has partnered with the office of Rep. Lisa McClain (R-Mich.) on the Expanding America's National Cemetery Act, which would help address long-term capacity challenges by expanding national cemetery options. Although the bill has not yet been reintroduced in the 119th Congress, MOAA continues to pursue legislative solutions that preserve burial opportunities for today's

servicemembers and retirees without reducing service-earned benefits.

A member of MOAA's government relations team, accompanied by a MOAA Life member, recently met with staffers in McClain's office to discuss the issue. MOAA representatives urged the congresswoman's staff to request the Army formally rescind the proposed rule and start over with a new process, one that better balances Arlington's future capacity needs with the promises made to generations of servicemembers.

While recent testimony does not indicate which direction the Army will take with the rule – finalizing, amending, or rescinding – MOAA members must be prepared to engage with lawmakers and urge them to preserve current eligibility standards for Arlington National Cemetery. Look for updates on this issue and other MOAA priorities at our [advocacy news page](#) and our [Legislative Action Center](#).

SPOTLIGHT: SOLDIERS TO SIDELINES

Soldiers to Sidelines is a 501(c)3 introducing military members, veterans, and spouses to impacting their communities as youth sports coaches.

They provide the training, resources, and support to become a character-

based sports coach and inspire the next generation of athletes.

The primary focus is on free virtual coaching seminars, coaching workshops and clinics, and a variety of networking events.

If you have an interest in taking the next step and exploring the pathway to becoming a youth sports coach, find out more at:

soldierstosidelines.org

NDAAs Narrowly Clears House: What's Next for Must-Pass Defense Bill

By: Kevin Lilley

The annual defense policy bill [passed the House by a four-vote margin](#) July 22, the latest step forward for the \$1.15 trillion legislation amid many competing congressional priorities.

The chamber's version of the FY 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) would:

Authorize a [tiered pay raise](#), with servicemembers E-5 and below receiving a 7% increase, E-6 to O-3 getting a 6% boost, and O-4 and above earning a 5% raise.

Address [several MOAA priorities](#), to include duty status reform and military child care improvements.

Reverse planned cuts to [more than 40 military](#)

[hospitals and clinics](#), while addressing [other health care issues](#) such as access to care barriers and requiring an audit of the TRICARE Pharmacy Program.

What's Next

It's unlikely the Senate will consider the House version, as that chamber has its own draft ([S. 4784](#)) with a similar top-line authorization figure. It includes an across-the-board 3.6% pay raise, among other differences from the House version.

It is unclear whether the Senate version will reach that chamber's floor for a vote before Aug. 7, when members are scheduled to leave Washington for their state work period. The Senate isn't scheduled to reconvene until Aug. 31.

Once the Senate passes its NDAA draft, a joint conference committee usually negotiates a final version of the bill that must be passed by both chambers. The process usually lasts most of the calendar year – the last five NDAAs have been signed into law in December, while the FY 2021 NDAA took even longer: The Senate overrode a presidential veto on Jan. 1, 2021, for that bill to take effect.

MOAA will continue to engage with lawmakers and their staffs on key provisions of the NDAA as the legislative process moves forward. Keep up with the latest on this legislation and other MOAA advocacy priorities at our [advocacy news page](#), and learn how you can reach out to your lawmakers via our [Legislative Action Center](#).

“MOAA has long worked to preserve eligibility for the nation’s most iconic military cemetery while recognizing the legitimate need to ensure it remains available for future generations.”

Chapter Legislation Focus: Lets make our voices heard on WOTC!

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.

Make your voice heard at the Legislative Action Center:

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

Board of Directors

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Chapter Website
<https://moaajvc.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 meet John Saran who's never gave up on his journey to joined the military, affiliating with the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve in 2025. His demonstration of perseverance is the same trait that he encourages all military attorneys transitioning to a post-military career to embrace.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/181-john-saran-perseverance/id1602234623?i=1000783487937>



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Veterans Legal Career Fair

18 September 2026
Washington D.C.

Founded by Orrick, Herrington, & Sutcliffe, LLP and Microsoft, the VLCF has connected 800+ current and former military personnel from all six branches with our nation's leading employers. It remains the only legal career fair in the United States for veterans, active-duty service members and military spouses.

Fortune 100 companies, American Lawyer 100 firms and U.S. federal agencies including the Department of Justice and Department of War all recruit at this the VLCF.

The fair also offers great career prep guidance and coaching from the country's business leaders to help veterans navigate the transition to civilian practice and help employers to support their success.

Veteranslegalcareerfair.com

TotalForce+ Registration is now Open

February 1-3, 2027
National Harbor, MD

TotalForce+ is MOAA's flagship experience bringing together leaders, innovators, military families, transitioning servicemembers, and veterans for seminars and events offering connection learning, and impact. It's where the entire force comes together to strengthen readiness, opportunity, and community.

TotalForce+ is designed to give you:

Actionable insights from top leaders and experts.

Hands-on learning to support your career, family, and future.

A network of peers who understand your journey.

A space to elevate your voice and shape the conversation.

Totalforceplus.moaa.org

Your Introduction to Space A Travel

August 26, 2026
Online, 2-3pm (EST)

Have you considered Space-Available, or Space-A, travel but are unsure where to start, or even whether you are eligible? Join Stephanie Montague, expert military traveler and founder of the popular military travel website [Poppin' Smoke](http://PoppinSmoke.com), as she returns to offer a new webinar on the basics of flying Space-A.

This online event will cover everything you need to know to take your first "military hop," including:

Determining your eligibility and where you can fly.

Where, when, and how to sign up.

How to use the information in the online flight schedules.

Preparing for your first Space-A flight.

<https://www.moaa.org/content/events/finance/introduction-space-a-travel/>