



CHATAHOOCHEE VALLEY CHAPTER

MOAA



Chapter Formed March 1959

FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

MOAA CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S NOTES

THE YEAR OF THE ARMY'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY



It was 250 years ago that the Continental Congress, faced by the British, and Taxes, and by the French north in what we now call Canada, and Indians along our western edge of our fledgling states, our leaders felt the need to create an Army, then a Navy, and then the Marines. There have been a few changes along the way. This year we will celebrate some of the events over this 250 year period that produced the original Armed Services, and laid the foundation for today's Department of Defense.

Our meeting in February focused on the Cavalry, and how it was started during the Revolutionary War, and how as it changed through the years and from it emerged the Armor forces and units going into World War I. This was a special presentation shared by Robert Cogan, the Curator for the Armor Training Facility at Fort Moore. It was informative, and extremely well done. He walked us through the Dragoons, the Mounted infantry, and then the Cavalry as we often think of it. And how as we entered World War I, the first Armored vehicles and training was started at Fort Benning, and then moved to Fort Knox. Robert we want to thank you for a really informative presentation.

MEMBERSHIP: Please get your 2025 membership dues in. Your dues support an active scholarship program, the Plummer Home for homeless veterans, House of Heroes, and programs helping veterans and family members. Several of our members are involved with the Veterans Action Committee of Columbus, and its efforts, and we have members who are very active with the VFW, DAV, MOPH, USARA, and other veterans groups. We share information to help other groups because collectively we can assist more of those serving and those who have served. Thank you for RENEWING your Dues.

MOAA Chapter Scholarship applications are available and we are looking for candidates who are applying. This year we will award up to 10 each \$1,000 Scholarships.

Our **next meeting is March 11**, and will be held at **Hilton Garden Inn, Brookstone Center**. We will assemble at 11:30. Chris Goodrow will share with us the story of MG Upton, and how we saw the creation of the Medical Corps and Quartermaster, and



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other parts of our Armed Services. As one Service created a specialty other services followed suite. Another story of how our Nation has been shaped.

Mayo "Biff" Hadden, President

WELCOME 2025 CHAPTER MEMBER RENEWALS

Lauren Byrd; James Crosse; Miriam Hallock; Mike Liscano; Frank McCanham;
Steve Patillo;

Chattahoochee Valley Chapter – Chapter Life Members

Cleveland Ashley; Jim Brinson; John Bush; Roger Buterbaugh; Myles Caggins Jr; Bobby Goolsby; Jim Grimshaw; Biff Hadden; John Hargrove; Seth Harp; Bob Hoidahl; John House; James Jackson; Joe Kmiecik; Patricia Krause; John Mitchell; Sam Nelson; Tom Royer; George Scruggs; George Sommerfield; Rob StClair; Jack Tidwell; Ray Wagner; Jay Wilkoff; Honorary: Ga Sen Ed Harbison.

NEW CHAPTER LIFE MEMBER:

SURVIVING SPOUSES:

Betty Burns; Pauline Fabrigar; Glenice Myers; Stacy Poydasheff.

TAPS:

Earl Cheal, Chapter Member

Marilyn House, wife of John House

MOAA's Legislative Action Center

Advocacy involves communication with local, State, and Federal Legislators, as well as DOD and VA officials, on each issue. We need volunteers to prepare draft letters on each issue that can be sent by our members to Federal and State Legislators, by our members. The Link:

www.moaa.org/takeaction

Active Legislative Campaigns



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MOAA's Legislative Priorities for the 119th Congress

By: Jeff Goldberg

(This article originally appeared in the January 2025 issue of Military Officer, a magazine available to all MOAA Premium and Life members. Learn more about the magazine [here](#); learn more about joining MOAA [here](#).)

As the legislative slate resets for the 119th Congress, MOAA member engagement will become even more vital to achieving our advocacy objectives.

Your advocacy ensures that MOAA and the broader community of military and veteran service organizations (MSOs/VSOs) maintain momentum for existing priorities such as the Major Richard Star Act, [which would benefit tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans](#).

We also need your help to build support for new objectives and emerging issues, often via immediate action, to respond to the sporadic nature of the legislative process.

First step: Register as an advocate in [our Legislative Action Center](#). If you're already registered, send the link to a family member or friend. Remember, the Legislative Action Center is open to all who support the uniformed services community.

While our advocacy team remains active on many issues not listed here, our priorities are shaped throughout the year depending on policy developments or emerging issues that necessitate an all-hands approach. Additionally, we share many interests with [The Military Coalition](#) and other stakeholders. MOAA leverages those relationships to expand our reach on Capitol Hill.

These are among MOAA's priorities for this year:

Currently Serving

Military housing: Recent reporting from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reveals the myriad challenges servicemembers in unaccompanied housing are facing. The health, safety, and privacy concerns outlined by GAO show the need for action.

[RELATED: [GAO Report Finds Flaws in DoD's Approach to Housing Challenges](#)]



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MOAA seeks to improve funding and condition transparency for unaccompanied housing by requiring an annual, publicly available report, which will highlight areas that require the most attention from both DoD and Congress.

Retirees/Veterans

Toxic exposure: MOAA will focus on capitalizing on our recently released report, [Ending the Wait for Toxic-Exposed Veterans](#), to advocate for veterans exposed to toxic materials during their service.

While the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act has made major improvements to how toxic exposures are treated by the VA, additional measures are required. In cooperation with other VSOs, MOAA will advocate for Congress to pass legislation that shortens the time veterans must wait before their toxic exposures are acknowledged and conceded by the VA.

Family/Survivors

Spouse employment: Rates of unemployment for military spouses continue to be four to five times higher than the national average. This persistent challenge requires not only providing education and employment resources for spouses, but also incentivizing businesses to hire someone who will likely move in two to three years.

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit program was established to support populations who face significant barriers to employment, and adding a military spouse target group is long overdue. Passing the Military Spouse Hiring Act will provide another important lever needed to address the critical issue of spouse unemployment.

DoD Health Care

Access to care: DoD has acknowledged that congressionally directed reforms to the Military Health System (MHS), together with U.S. medical workforce volatility, exacerbated long-standing access challenges and led to a destabilized MHS that does not consistently deliver timely care to beneficiaries.

[RELATED: [What a Major DoD Health Care Shift Could Mean for Your TRICARE Benefit](#)]



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Current patient resources for reporting access problems and getting assistance navigating the MHS are inadequate. Also, it is unclear if there are mechanisms for reporting up to the Defense Health Agency so systemic access challenges can be identified and addressed.

MOAA seeks a digital MHS assistance platform allowing beneficiaries to report access-to-care challenges and receive help navigating the MHS, including reporting requirements to increase visibility on barriers to access so fixable issues can be addressed.

VA Health Care

Support for caregivers: MOAA has long advocated for legislation that would improve caregiving support for veterans' families. This includes enhancements to the VA Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) and expansion of home health and long-term care services to meet current and future needs of veterans, their caregivers, and families.

This year, MOAA strongly supports the reintroduction and enactment of the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act. This legislation acknowledges caregivers' invaluable contributions while addressing the significant economic and emotional burdens they face. By offering education, employment, and retirement opportunities, the legislation empowers caregivers to achieve financial security while potentially reducing the federal government's long-term economic burden.

Persistent Efforts

There are certain issues that MOAA will always advocate for until they are passed. Among these are concurrent receipt for combat wounded (Major Richard Star Act), Arlington National Cemetery access, and cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs).

[RELATED: [MOAA's COLA Watch](#)]

MOAA will also continually monitor certain issues and will immediately mobilize the entire association, our membership, and VSO/MSO allies to ensure these issues are not negatively impacted. These issues include:

- Decrements to scheduled pay increases.
- New TRICARE or TRICARE Pharmacy Program fees.



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- TRICARE cost-sharing increases that exceed military retired pay COLA or TRICARE Pharmacy Program cost sharing that exceeds common industry practice.
- Unequal decrements of compensation and benefits based on rank, age, family composition, retirement status, or disability benefits.

As the work of the 119th Congress gets underway, MOAA will continue its efforts to advocate on behalf of our members and the entire uniformed services community. We will leverage our experience and our relationships on Capitol Hill and with our partners to navigate an increasingly partisan environment.

Through our efforts, MOAA will seek to ensure that servicemembers, veterans, and retirees and their families — who have sacrificed so much — continue to receive benefits earned through their service.

CRISIS RELIEF FUND – MOAA

One of our former members, CPT Lauren Byrd, from five years ago, recently rejoined MOAA National, and our Chapter. She was medically discharged due to injuries. She took up Kayaking, and recently placed 8th in International Competition, and has made the USA Team for Open Water Kayaking. While she and her finance were kayaking in Kentucky, they offered to deliver emergency supplies and wound up delivering Insulin to an isolated former E-4, who mobile home suffered damage from Hurriane Helene. They met with former SPC Gunter, and took some pictures, and we submitted an emergency request to the MOAA Crisis Relief Fund, and we received very quickly approval for a \$1,000 grant for this former service member. This is an example of teamwork and helping former service members in crisis. We have received pictures, and this veteran has a new floor in his mobile home which was been destroyed by flood waters and other repairs due to this Emergency Relief Fund. If you want to make a donation, these funds go directly to helping Veterans in Crisis.

Chapter Advocacy Opportunities

Homeless Veterans – we support local homes that provide for Homeless Veterans, and other solutions for the homeless, like a Tiny Home project. Grant writers needed and if you would like to volunteer please let one of our Board know. (Mac Plummer, Jim Crosse, & others)



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Support relocating the VA Clinic on Ft Moore to vacant space on Martin Army Community Hospital - moving from the temporary VA facility. (Advocate Jay Wilkoff)
(See article on similar action at Ft Campbell Military Hospital partnering with VA, below)

VA News Virtual Business Opportunity Session

AT & T Federal Solutions

Virtual Business Opportunity Session

Date: March 4, 2025 at 1:30 PM ET

AT&T Federal Solutions, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) Direct Access Program, will host a virtual business opportunity session. The primary objectives of this session are to share information about the AT&T Small Business Program, expand AT&T's connections with Veteran-owned small businesses, and explore potential teaming opportunities within the Federal Solutions Group. This initiative aims to foster new partnerships and strengthen engagement between AT&T and Veteran-owned small businesses in the federal sector.

Business Sectors:

- Information Technology and Services
- Professional Services & Other Supplies

NAICS:

517810 All Other Telecommunications
541618 Other Management Consulting Services
541519 Other Computer Related Services
517111 Wired Telecommunications Carriers
541512 Computer Systems Design Services
541990 All Other Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services

[Click here](#) to learn more about this event and to register.



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[Multi-year outreach blitz helped bring more vets into VA services](#)

Department leaders have used high-profile partnerships and ad campaigns to reach out to veterans perviously leery of VA programs. [Read More](#)



[DOD report backs quality-of-life tweaks, but not major pay changes](#)

The periodic review of military compensation called troops' pay "strongly competitive" when compared to civilian wages. [Read More](#)



[Some vets get 12 extra months of college benefits under new VA rules](#)

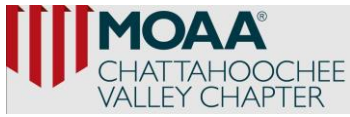
Veterans Affairs officials are updating their GI Bill eligibility rules in response to a Supreme Court ruling last spring. [Read More](#)

[VA Disability Claims Processed Incorrectly: Here's What All Vets Should Know](#)

A new report just came out that shows some very troubling things happening with veterans' disability claims. This impacts the lives of those who served our country and demands immediate attention. Since so many veterans are unaware of this story, we wanted to make sure all our readers know what's going on.

Click below to see everything you need to know about this issue.

[VA Disability Claims Processed Incorrectly](#)



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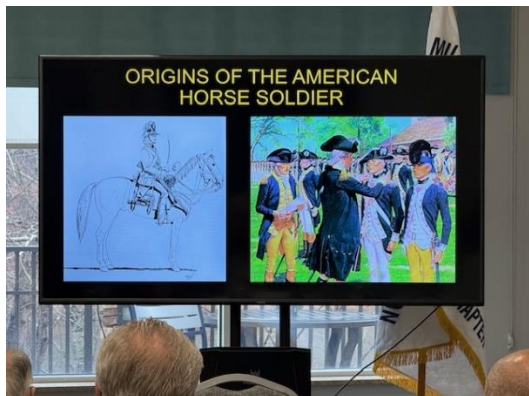
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PHOTO GALLERY OF OUR JANUARY MEETING



**Gen Washington Recognizing Enlisted with
Valor Awards Set a Precedent**

Dragoons, Mounted Infantry, Cavalry



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We are going to work on getting these onto our web site so you can download these and others.

www.CVCMOAA.org



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2025 Open House Schedule

We are thrilled to share the 2025 Open House schedule for the US Army Armor and Cavalry Collection at Ft. Moore, GA!

Come explore rare historical artifacts, meet passionate experts, and get a close-up look at the machines that shaped history. We are offering more dates than ever before, so mark your calendars and plan your visit!



Don't miss your opportunity!

This is your chance to step inside the rich history of America's armored forces, with events throughout the year offering something for everyone! Whether you're a military enthusiast, history buff, or just looking for an exciting day out, you won't want to miss these dates.

- **Friday, January 31** | 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- **Friday, February 28** | 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- **Friday, March 28** | 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- **Friday, April 25** | 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- **Saturday, April 26** | 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM (*Armor Week / Gaine Cup*)
- **Sunday, April 27** | 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM (*Armor Week / Gaine Cup*)
- **Friday, May 30** | 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- **Friday, June 27** | 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- **Saturday, July 12** | 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM (*85th Anniversary of the Armored Force*)
- **Friday, August 29** | 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- **Saturday, September 6** | 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM (*Maneuver Center of Excellence Maneuver Warfighter Conference*)
- **Friday, September 26** | 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- **Saturday, November 1** | 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM (*Armor in Scale Model Show*)

FREE ADMISSION!



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MEMBER SUPPORT

Some of our members operate small businesses. We encourage you to consider supporting them.

Chattahoochee Valley All About Fitness Family, Inc. AAF Ministry

STARTING MARCH 4TH!

Dewayne Webb, President / AFAA-Certified Trainer

Tuesday & Wednesday Meetings:
8:30am-10:30am (Veterans/Retiree)
Colombian Karate Academy International
5770 Milgen Rd
James Kean Middle School (between Richard)

Monday & Tuesday Evenings:
8:30pm (Advanced) & 8:45pm (Beginners)
Ranger Outreach Center
1022 2nd Ave

Thursday Meetings:
6:30pm (Intermediate)
Lakelinton Park Track
*meet by bleachers near bathrooms

Thursday Evenings:
5:30pm (Advanced) & 6:45pm (Beginners)
Lakelinton Park Track
*meet by bleachers near bathrooms

MISSION:
Encourage our global communities to live totally fit – physically, mentally, financially, legally, relationally and, most importantly, spiritually – free.

VISION:
A Global Fitness Family dedicated to improving our communities worldwide. We aim to serve as a catalyst of positive global change through our dedication to giving back to our global communities.

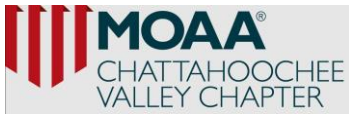
Sign Up to AAF Social Media for inclement weather workout locations

.....
Watch for our MILITARY CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT JUNE 9, 2025, & HELP US CELEBRATE 250 YEARS OF OUR ARMED SERVICES!!
.....

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR \$25 DUES FOR 2025 Membership DRIVE. Please invite a candidate to one of our meetings.

ALL NEWSLETTERS ARE AVAILABLE VIA EMAIL AND CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM OUR WEB SITE;



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BELOW PLEASE FIND THE 2025 CVC MOAA MEMBERSHIP /RENEWAL FORM

Chattahoochee Valley Chapter MOAA

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM – PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Date _____; **2025** RENEWAL _____ NEW _____

Name (Last, First, MI) _____ Spouse _____

Nick Name _____ E-Mail _____

Mailing Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell # _____

Birth Date _____ Widow(er) _____

Rank _____ Service _____ Active Duty () Retired () Former Off ()

Dates of Military Service: (Yr-Yr) _____
(Qualify as a War Veteran Chapter, treated like 501.c.3)

Regular () Reserve () NG () Retired () Date Commissioned _____

Member of MOAA National – Yes () No () Member # _____

Thank You for your dues & supporting the Chattahoochee Valley Chapter. We are proud of Your service. Annual Membership Dues are \$25. **Chapter Lifetime Dues option at Age 70; \$250 for member; \$100 Surviving Spouse. Mail to: MOAA-CVC, PO Box 6613, Columbus, GA 31917-6613.**

If you have a little time and would like to volunteer to serve on a committee and/or special project please, let us know. We always need and welcome volunteers.

If you are willing to volunteer, we need you:

Membership _____	Programs _____
Fund Raising _____	ROTC/JROTC Awards _____
Legislative Advocacy _____	Newsletter/Web Site _____

www.MOAA.org

www.CVCMOAA.org

NEVER STOP SERVING *Take Action*



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CVC MOAA Chapter Leadership

CVC MOAA 2023 – Officers

President/Chairman	COL Biff Hadden	706-615-2455
Vice President, Programs	Darin Nunn	706-763-7125
Vice President, Membership	Carlos Lock	703-576-7840
Secretary	LTC George Sommerfield	770-417-0280
Asst Secretary	LTC Roger Buterbaugh	706-587-1910
Treasurer	LTC David Cripe	706-505-5450
Asst Treasurer	Need a Volunteer	
Staff Judge Advocate	MAJ Bill Ward	706-587-8793
Chaplain	MAJ Tony Mayne	813-981-3840

Directors:

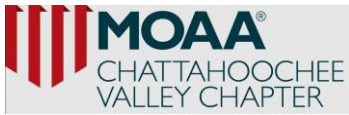
Bobby Goolsby	OCS
LTC Darrell O’Steen	Speakers/Programs
LTC Carlos Lock	ROTC/JROTC Coord/Membership
COL Dick Nurnberg	Installation Retiree Council
LTC Sam Nelson	CVVC & Veteran Groups
LTC Ben Stahl	Scholarships
Jay Wilkoff	VA, Legislative Affairs

Committee Chairs – (Information on Key Volunteers)

Surviving Spouses	Liaison Betty Burns	706-563-0740
CVVC/FMC	Sam Nelson	706-568-4592
Flags/Special Spt	George Sommerfield	770-417-0280
Legislative	Darrell O’Steen	
Membership	Carlos Lock	703-576-7840
Newsletter		
Personal Affairs	William Ward	706-464-0538
Retiree Council	Dick Nurnberg	706-329-0038
ROTC/JROTC	Carlos Lock	703-576-7840
Transition Asst	Biff Hadden	706-615-2455
Scholarships	Ben Stahl	706-464-0538
Webmaster	Tony Mayne	813-981-3840

Social Media

[Editorial Policy: “MOAA CVC ” Newsletter is published by the MOAA Chattahoochee Valley Chapter, an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and the Georgia Council of Chapters (GCOC). It is published for information for our members. MOAA and its affiliated chapters & councils are non-partisan]



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“Never Stop Serving....Take ACTION “

Mayo (“Biff”) A. Hadden III, COLONEL (RETIRED) SF
President MOAA CVC Chapter