



SWEETWATER CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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THE MARINERS LOG

Volume LVI, Issue No.01

January 2026

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

****First Monday, January 5, 2026:** Chapter Board meeting at 9:00 A.M. at Bonita Golf Club Lounge, 5540 Sweetwater Road, Bonita, CA 91902.

****Second Wednesday, January 14, 2026:** MOAA, Sweetwater Chapter luncheon meeting at 11:00 AM, at IHOP Restaurant, 1430 E. Plaza Blvd., National City, CA 91950.

**** January 1, 2026** – New Year’s Day

**** January 19, 2026** – Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

***** To all members of MOAA, Sweetwater Chapter**

It had been a good year last year. We were able to accomplish things that kept our chapter in good standing. Many thanks to our dedicated members who showed up in every meeting and participated in all our activities. We continue to support the JROTC program every year; our monthly Newsletter is published on time, thanks to our Newsletter Editor, Jean Wilson; and Remy Liwag and Vivian Rinehart who raised funds for JROTC through monthly opportunity drawings. I would also like to recognize our Chaplain, Marvelyn Hoyt; Secretary, Richard Wilson; and Treasurer, Oscar Garcia, for their outstanding work. Last but not least, Capt. Steve Donlon for keeping us up-to-date on current legislations.

Have a happy, safe, and healthy New Year!!

Congress to Require Greater Oversight of Military Health Restructuring

December 15, 2025 MOAA Newsletter



A physician assistant examines a patient at Brooke Army Medical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The FY 2026 National Defense Authorization Act would extend guardrails on staffing cuts and other modifications to military treatment facilities. (Photo by Jason W. Edwards/Army)

This article by Patricia Kime originally appeared on Military Times, the nation's largest independent newsroom dedicated to covering the military and veteran community.

Members of Congress are seeking to more closely monitor the Defense Department’s plans to modify or downsize military hospitals and clinics by requiring more oversight and adding years to a ban on reducing the services’ number of medical personnel.

(Health Restructuring Continued on page 2)

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(Health Restructuring Continued from page 1)

The proposed fiscal 2026 National Defense Authorization Act released calls for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and service surgeons general to review any proposed changes to military treatment facilities to determine whether they would affect military readiness.

Under the legislation, the Defense Health Agency director also will have to explain how service members, families, retirees and other beneficiaries would receive medical care if changes to military facilities affect their access to medical care.

In a statement accompanying the bill, House and Senate negotiators said they were concerned about the effects that downsizing facilities or personnel could have on operations

"We expect that any proposed restructuring, realignment, or modification to military medical treatment facilities will be conducted in collaboration with the appropriate Department of Defense stakeholders ... to ensure that operational readiness is not impacted by any proposed changes," they wrote.

The provisions follow a flurry of questions from Congress this year over the Defense Department's plans to

reorganize the military health system, to include downsizing or modifying some military treatment facilities.

When the Defense Health Agency was created, it was given responsibility for managing the military services' hospitals and clinics as well as the authority to reconfigure staffing and consolidate facilities.

The agency originally planned to realign 50 facilities, including 38 that would serve military personnel only, while the services aimed to cut roughly 12,800 military health billets. Under the plan, an estimated 200,000 active-duty family members and retirees were to be shifted to nonmilitary providers managed by the Tricare health program.

A list of the affected facilities was published in 2020, but the reforms were paused early in the COVID-19 pandemic. Later, the plan was adjusted to build capacity at some facilities by bringing back patients and improving training opportunities for medical personnel.

In 2023, another list was published of 32 facilities slated for realignment, and lawmakers have since raised concerns regarding several hospitals that weren't on that list.

Rep. Pat Ryan, D-N.Y., said in July that Keller Army

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Community Hospital at West Point would lose its inpatient beds, downsized to a clinic.

Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., sought protections in the Senate defense spending bill for a full-service hospital currently under construction at Fort Leonard Wood following rumors that it would open next year as an ambulatory clinic.

And Sen. Jon Ossoff, D-Ga., demanded answers regarding the Eisenhower Army Medical Center at Fort Gordon amid concerns that it, too, was slated to lose its inpatient, emergency room and surgical services.

Ossoff wrote Dr. David Smith, acting DHA director, asking for more information on the organization's plans for the hospital. Smith responded this month, saying the review is ongoing and no final decision has been made.

"There are significant pressures on the Defense Health Program for Fiscal Year 2026 and beyond," Smith wrote in a letter published Dec. 9 by WRDW/WAGT in Augusta, Georgia.

"The Department as a whole is undertaking a comprehensive review of where to optimally assign its military medical personnel in order to achieve the best outcomes in quality, safety and readiness of the force and is working with the Military Departments to mitigate access to care and capacity challenges," Smith wrote.

During a conference on military policy issues hosted by the Military Officers Association of America on Oct. 28, acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Dr. Stephen Ferrara said the review process is fluid.

"I think there is always a lot of rumors about whether there's a report that's going to come out, and that's not the case. It's like if you looked at any corporation that has 100 hospitals or stores, they should be looking at them to see where it makes sense to dedicate their resources," Ferrara said.

As part of the reform process, the military services had originally planned to reduce the number of uniformed personnel serving in military hospitals and clinics. The proposed bill extends a restriction placed by Congress on this effort by five years, stretching it from 2027 through 2032.

In addition to the provisions addressing military health facilities, beneficiaries could see more money in their pockets regarding travel reimbursement for specialty care. Currently, travel costs are only reimbursed for those who must go 100 miles or more for care; the bill reduces the distance to 75 miles.

The bill also directs the Defense Department to reopen chiropractic clinics that have been closed on installations. While chiropractic care is not covered by the Tricare health program, some hospitals and clinics contained clinics that treated active-duty personnel. Congress wants the DOD to reopen any clinics that were closed and

provided at least 400 appointments per month.

For expecting mothers who had hoped to see broader childbirth options, the final bill does not include a provision that would have let beneficiaries switch to Tricare Select when they became pregnant. It also dropped a pilot program that would have covered midwife services from providers who are not nurses.

In terms of service members' health, the bill requires the Defense Department to conduct a study of cancers among rotary-wing pilots and air crew and a study on the psychological health of combat drone operators.

Recruiting Off to 'Strong Start' for Fiscal 2026, Pentagon Says

December 23, 2025 MOAA Newsletter



Recruits await the start of pass-in-review at Navy Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, Ill, on June 12. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class John Suits/Navy)

This article by Karen Jowers originally appeared on Military Times, the nation's largest independent newsroom dedicated to covering the military and veteran community.

The signs appear positive for military recruiting in fiscal 2026, following the services' success last year in meeting or exceeding their recruiting goals, defense officials said Monday.

Since the beginning of fiscal 2026 in October, recruiting efforts are "already off to a strong and promising start," officials said, with the Defense Department meeting nearly 40% of its delayed entry program accession goals.

"This is a historic figure and a testament to our support from the president and the secretary, as well as the great work being done by each of the services," said Anthony J. Tata, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, in the announcement. "The department is on track to once again meet our recruiting mission."

Since November 2024, the military has seen the highest percentage in meeting or exceeding their recruiting goals in more than a decade, officials also claimed in the announcement. According to DOD, the five service

(Recruiting Continued on page 4)

SWEETWATER CHAPTER MOAA – BOARD MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 3, 2025

I. 9:03 A.M. – The Board meeting was called to order by President Ernie Liwag.

II. Ernie Liwag led the Pledge of Allegiance. Attendees were Ernie & Remy Liwag, Vivian Rinehart, Oscar Garcia, Rich and Jean Wilson.

III. Secretary’s Report – Submitted by Secretary, Rich Wilson. Motion made by by Jean Wilson, 2nd by Vivian Rinehart minutes approved as read.

IV. Treasurer’s Report – Submitted by Treasurer, Oscar Garcia. Beginning Balance (September 30,2025 Balance brought fwd) \$4027.49. Income for June,2025 was \$55.00 from luncheon fund raiser. Expenses were none. Ending Balance October 31,2025 was \$4082.49. Motion to approve by Rich Wilson, 2nd by Jean Wilson, Motion Approved.

V. Presidents Report – Submitted by Ernie Liwag:

a. Next Board meeting: Monday, December 1, 2025 at 9:00 A.M. at Bonita Golf Club Lounge, 5540 Sweetwater Road, Bonita, CA 91902.

b. Annual Christmas Party at Liwag residence on December 10,2025 at 11:00. Address: 1056 Fuchsia Lane, San Diego, CA 92154. RSVP NLT Friday, November 28, 2025.

Note: 1. Potluck Party: Please bring your favorite dish to share.

Note: 2. No exchange gift, but you can bring an item for the exchange by drawing, \$20.00 limit. Remy will

explain the rules which will be by numbers which will be handed out and you will be called to come up to pick the gift of your choice. No stealing of gifts and don’t pick your own gift.

Note: 3. \$50.00 was allocated for miscellaneous expenses. Like drinks, paper products, fruits and deserts.

Note: 4. Remy will have lumpia, pansit and Filipino deserts.

c. Charitable donation for 2025: Ernie tried to call the YMCA about them being the recipient of the group’s donation. He got no answer, so each of us should just send our own donations or maybe volunteer your time as a donation somewhere. Ernie gave an example of volunteer work that he and Remy have done.

d. No significant legislation to report at this time.

e. Annual membership dues will remain the same; Member \$15.00 Auxiliary \$7.00 Associate \$7.00.He encourages members to make donations to our group as well.

VI. Newsletter Editor Report – (Jean Wilson): N/A, Ernie will provide updated roster.

VII. Sunshine Report – (Marvelyn Hoyt): N/A

VIII. Surviving Spouses Report – (Vivian Rinehart): N/A

IX. Old/New Business – N/A

X. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Rich Wilson, 2nd by Vivian Rinehart, Adjourned 10:07 A.M.

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branches achieved an average of 103% of their recruiting goals for fiscal 2025, following recruiting challenges in recent years.

In early summer, officials from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Space Force announced they had already met their year-end recruiting targets.

All active-duty forces met their fiscal 2025 recruiting goals, according to DOD. Most of the reserve components also met their goals, with the exception of the Army Reserve, which met 75% of its goals.

According to DOD, the branches met the following recruiting goals:

- The Army achieved 101.72% of its goal of 61,000 recruits, recruiting 62,050.
- The Navy achieved 108.61% of its goal of 40,600 recruits, recruiting 44,096.

- The Air Force achieved 100.22% of its goal of 30,100 recruits, recruiting 30,166.
- The Space Force achieved 102.89% of its goal of 796 recruits, recruiting 819.
- The Marine Corps achieved 100% of its goal of 26,600 recruits, recruiting 26,600.

In the announcement, chief Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell and other leaders attributed the success to several factors, including enhanced medical screening processes for recruits.

A medical records accession pilot program has cut down on waiting times between the time a recruit’s initial paperwork is submitted and when they are allowed to be taken in by their local Military Entrance Processing Station, officials stated. Reducing that wait time helps avoid potential recruits from losing interest in serving, officials said.

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Other initiatives of the services that were cited in the announcement were preparatory courses to help recruits who are close to meeting enlistment standards improve their academic test scores and physical fitness.

A recent Defense Department Inspector General report found the Army and Navy had underreported the scores of recruits who went through those courses, failing to accurately calculate the number of recruits who scored low on their military aptitude tests. The services counted scores earned after completion of those preparatory courses, instead of scores the recruits earned when they first signed up.

Boosts in Troop End Strength

Meanwhile, the fiscal 2026 National Defense Authorization Act just signed into law by President Donald Trump boosts DOD's troop end strength by about 26,100:

- 454,000 active-duty soldiers, an increase of 11,700 from fiscal 2025
- 334,600 sailors, an increase of 12,300 from fiscal 2025
- 321,500 airmen, an increase of 1,500 from fiscal 2025
- 10,400 Space Force guardians, an increase of 600 from fiscal 2025

The Marine Corps won't see an increase over their 172,300 end strength for 2025.

Know a Veteran Facing Financial Trouble? These Resources May Help

By: Kevin Lilley December 23, 2025 MOAA Newsletter

MOAA members work year-round to support fellow members of the wider uniformed services community, including via programs targeting those facing financial crises. But the holidays can lead to greater strains on limited funds, and an online VA resource may provide a helpful starting point for veterans seeking guidance.

"Individuals with budget problems – especially veterans – often don't need, or don't want, a handout," said Lila Quintiliani, MOAA's program director for financial and benefits education/counseling. "They may benefit from some veteran-focused, easy-to-navigate resources ... all situations are different, but pointing them toward FINVET could be a good first step."

(See <https://news.va.gov/137921/take-charge-financial-future-finvet/>)

Also known as the National Veterans Financial Resource Center, the VA launched FINVET last year with support from 25 different federal agencies. Among the offerings:

- Tools to create and maintain a budget.
- The basics on increasing income, from understand-

ing investment strategies to maximizing earned veteran benefits.

- Financial security information, such as scam prevention resources, life insurance options, and banking guidance.
- A list of essential veteran financial resources, covering everything from details on VA educational and home-loan programs to job-search platforms to veteran discounts.

The site also includes information for veterans seeking financial assistance with basic needs, whether it's finding stable housing, affording food or clothing, or securing reliable transportation. FINVET does not provide direct assistance for veterans, but it does offer resources for finding such aid.

The FINVET site, which launched in early 2024, had received more than 150,000 visitors as of August 2025, according to a VA news article. Resources are updated regularly, and many are used as part of VA financial literacy outreach efforts.

"Any veteran can benefit from reviewing the financial basics," Quintiliani said. "No matter your income level, problems can appear quickly if you make poor investment decisions, fail to stick to a budget, or fall prey to scam attempts."

Pentagon Fails Another Annual Audit

December 22, 2025 MOAA Newsletter



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brittany A. Chase/Air Force

This article by Tanya Noury originally appeared on *Military Times*, the nation's largest independent newsroom dedicated to covering the military and veteran community.

The Pentagon failed its financial audit for the eighth consecutive year, the Defense Department said Friday, highlighting the ongoing systemic challenge the nation's largest federal agency faces in fully accounting for its assets.

The department has received a failing grade on every audit since Congress mandated annual reviews beginning

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in 2018, and is the only one of the government's 24 major agencies never to pass.

In the Department of Defense Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2025, auditors identified 26 material weaknesses and two significant deficiencies in the department's financial reporting.

Among the shortcomings were omissions in the Joint Strike Fighter Program, the Pentagon's multifaceted effort to develop an affordable strike aircraft for the Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy and allied nations.

Auditors determined the Pentagon failed to report assets in the program's Global Spares Pool, and did not accurately record the property.

"The DOD could not provide or obtain accurate and reliable data to verify the existence, completeness or value of its Global Spares Pool assets for the Joint Strike Fighter Program," according to the report. "As a result, the omission of the Joint Strike Fighter Program Global Spares Pool assets resulted in a material misstatement on the Agency-Wide Financial Statements."

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said the department remains committed to annual financial audits and is actively conducting a comprehensive review of its budget. The Pentagon reported \$4.65 trillion in assets and \$4.7 trillion in liabilities, located across all 50 states and more than 40 countries.

"The department cannot resolve decades of war, neglect of America's defense industrial base and soaring national debt through unchecked spending," Hegseth said in a statement released with the audit. "We are dedicated to openly sharing audit results and using them as a guide for continuous improvement."

"We believe this report clearly illustrates that progress and our unwavering dedication to ensuring every taxpayer dollar is used effectively and efficiently to strengthen our national defense."

The department's chief financial officer, Jules Hurst, wrote in a letter included in the report that the Pentagon aims to resolve "critical issues" and achieve an "unmodified" audit opinion by 2028.

Here's When You Can Access Your 2025 Tax Statements

By: Kevin Lilley DECEMBER 17, 2025

Some year-end tax documents already are available via the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) myPay portal, with others set to post in the coming days. Those who receive the forms via postal mail will have a longer wait.

Military retirees, former spouses, and annuitants should have access to their IRS Form 1099-R via myPay as of Dec. 17, according to a DFAS news release. Other

key 2026 dates for myPay forms:

- **Jan. 7:** W-2s for Army, Navy, Air Force, and Space Force Reserve members.
- **Jan. 16:** W-2s for active and reserve Marine Corps members.
- **Jan. 21:** W-2s for active Army, Navy, Air Force, and Space Force members.
- **Jan. 23:** 1099-INTs for Savings Deposit Program participants.

Dates for other IRS forms, to include those provided to civilian employees served by DFAS, are available in the news release.

Forms by Mail

Physical tax forms will be sent to those who've requested the forms as well as those who do not have a myPay account. They will be mailed by DFAS by Jan. 31, according to the release. Instructions for creating a myPay profile, or restoring lost/forgotten login information, are available on the myPay website.

If you do not receive tax materials via mail by mid-February and do not have a myPay account, use these DFAS resources to procure your forms:

- **Telephone Self-Service:** Beneficiaries can call (800) 321-1080 to request a tax form reissue. Follow the automatic prompts; you will be asked for a Social Security number as identification. Requests are processed in seven to 10 days.
- **askDFAS:** Retirees and annuitants can request a reissued form be sent to their address on file or a temporary mailing address using the online portal. Note: Reissues are not generally available until mid-February.
- **By Mail:** Detailed instructions from DFAS on requesting 1099-R forms via mail are available at the DFAS website. These requests can take up to 60 days to process.

Changing Your Address

Tax documents will be sent to the beneficiary's address on record with DFAS. Need to make a change?

Retirees: Change your mailing address online or by completing this form and returning it to DFAS at Defense Finance and Accounting Service, U.S. Military Retired Pay, 8899 E 56th St., Indianapolis, IN 46249-1200, or via fax at (800) 469-6559.

Annuitants: Change your mailing address online or by completing this form and returning it to DFAS at Defense Finance and Accounting Service, U.S. Military Annuitant Pay, 8899 E 56th St., Indianapolis, IN 46249-1300, or via fax at (800) 982-8459.

Coast Guard PPC

The Coast Guard Pay and Personnel Center (PPC)

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did not publish a release with its tax-form data, but will mail all W-2 and 1095-C forms by Jan. 31, according to its website, and will have printable versions of those forms, as well as 1099R forms (for retirees) available via its Direct Access system by that date.

The PPC processes payments and forms for retirees from the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and NOAA Commissioned Corps, in addition to the Coast Guard.

The PPC requests all users who will receive tax forms via mail check to ensure their mailing address is correct in Direct Access and make any changes by Jan. 2. Updates can be made here by following the prompts under the "Self Service" menu.

Details on postal-mail dates for 1099R forms were not immediately available. Retirees, annuitants, and former spouses can follow this guidance to view, print, and save forms via Direct Access.

As with DFAS, duplicate W-2 forms will not be available until mid-February. More information on requesting duplicate forms is available on the PPC website. PPC users with questions can contact the PPC at (866) 772-8724; those with technical issues, to include password resets, can call (800) 821-7081.

Navy Will Build New Force of Nuclear-Armed, Trump-Class Battleships, President Says

December 23, 2025 MOAA Newsletter

This article by Corey Dickstein originally appeared on Stripes.com. Stars and Stripes serves the U.S. military community by providing editorially independent news and information around the world.

The Navy plans to bring back its heavily-armed class of warship known as battleships, and it will arm them with the most modern weaponry, including nuclear missiles, President Donald Trump announced Monday.

The president promised the new class of ship would be "100 times more powerful" than the Iowa-class battleships that fought during World War II and were last used by the Navy in the 1990s. Trump promised the new ships would be outfitted with an array of technology still under development, including hypersonic weapons, electric rail guns and high-powered lasers. And they will be capable of firing nuclear-armed cruise missiles, he said.

"Battleships are the largest, sturdiest and most heavily armed vessel built specifically for naval combat," Trump said Monday from his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida. "Each one of these will be the largest battleship in the history of our country, the largest battleship in the history of the world ever built."

Trump said he would be involved in planning and

designing the ships and announced he would meet with top weapons builders next week at Mar-a-Lago to encourage them to build new facilities and produce weapons – including ships – more expeditiously.

The Navy intends to initially build two Trump-class battleships and name the first the USS Defiant, Navy Secretary John Phelan said. Naming the ships for Trump comes after the Air Force's decision earlier this year to label its next-generation fighter jet the F-47, shunning normal naming conventions to give its forthcoming sixth-generation fighter a nod to the 47th president.

Phelan said he hoped to see the new ships commissioned in about 2½ years.



An illustration of the USS Defiant, the first scheduled Trump-class battleship. (Navy image)

Ultimately, the Navy plans to build 20 to 25 Trump-class battleships, the president said. It was not clear Monday how much the new class would cost.

Trump has long called for the Navy to bring back the battleship and criticized some modern Navy ship designs. He said the new ships would anchor his "Golden Fleet," which he has said would include more and larger ships, uncrewed ships and a new class of aircraft carrier bigger than the 100,000-ton USS Gerald Ford, which is the largest military vessel ever built.

Unlike the term warship, which refers generally to any class of Navy vessel, battleship has historically described a particular design – a large, up-armored vessel with some of the largest cannons available to the Navy, according to the sea service.

The Navy commissioned its first three battleships in 1895 and ultimately built 59 battleships, the service said. Its last active battleship, the USS Missouri, was decommissioned in 1992.

The Missouri – a 58,000-ton Iowa-class battleship – was one of four Navy battleships active in the 1990s. It was the Navy's final battleship built before it was commissioned in 1944 and sent to the Western Pacific to support combat operations during World War II and again during the Korean War. It was decommissioned in 1955 and

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made a tourist attraction in Bremerton, Wash., before it was recommissioned in 1986. The Missouri supported combat operations during Operation Desert Storm in 1991 before its final decommissioning. America's last battleship was then sent to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, where it has served as a memorial since 1998. A newer U.S. Navy vessel – a Virginia-class nuclear-powered attack submarine – now carries the name USS Missouri.

The new Trump-class battleship is expected to weigh between 30,000 and 40,000 tons and be made of steel, the president said.

Phelan said Trump has pushed him to develop a new battleship design since before he agreed to take the Navy secretary job. He said that combatant commanders and the Navy's top brass agreed it was "something that Navy desperately needs."

"The future Trump-class battleship, the USS Defiant, will be the largest, deadliest and most versatile and best-looking warship anywhere on the world's oceans," Phelan said. "The Iowa [class battleship] was designed to go on the attack with the biggest guns, and that's exactly what will define the Trump-class battleships – offensive firepower from the biggest guns of our era."

"This ship isn't just going to swat the arrows. It is going to reach out and kill the archers."

NDAAs Clear Path for MOAA Member to Receive Medal of Honor

By: Kevin Lilley December 09, 2025 MOAA Newsletter



Capt. Royce Williams, USN (Ret), smiles during a Jan. 20 Navy Cross ceremony for his actions during the Korean War. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class T. Logan Keown/Navy)

A 100-year-old MOAA member whose 35-minute dogfight in the skies over Korea remained largely unheralded for more than half a century could soon receive the nation's highest award for valor.

The FY 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) would clear the way for the president to award the Medal of Honor to Capt. Royce Williams, USN (Ret), for his actions Nov. 18, 1952, when Williams' F9F-5 Panther engaged seven Soviet MiG-15s in a then-classified encounter. His Silver Star citation from 1953 gave him credit for shooting down one enemy aircraft (the nation of origin wasn't listed) and possibly a second; follow-up reports say Williams shot down four fighters, and only one of the seven returned from the mission.

Language in the NDAA removes time limitations that prevent Williams from receiving the honor.

Williams recounted the mission for MOAA in 2023, from a harrowing engagement in blizzard conditions to running out of ammunition to an improbable return to USS Oriskany (CVA-34), complete with perfect landing.

"It was difficult and probably almost unimaginable, but I did it," he said.

"He's over the moon about this," said Steve Lewandowski, a former Navy lieutenant who in recent years has led Operation Just Reward – the push to ensure Williams receives the Medal of Honor.

The operation continues the efforts of Rear Adm. Don Shelton, USN (Ret), who worked toward a military-led reconsideration of Williams' heroism; Shelton died in 2021. Recent work has focused on legislation, with multiple attempts at NDAA inclusion.

Williams spoke with Rep. Darrel Issa (R-Calif.), a long-time supporter of the pilot's cause, shortly after the Dec. 7 release of the NDAA, said Lewandowski, who also chatted with the heroic aviator after the news became official.

"He's sharp – he's really sharp," Lewandowski said in a Dec. 9 call with MOAA. "He's quite pleased, and he's ready, willing, and able to go to D.C. for a ceremony, and possible another one around here in San Diego."

Williams received the Navy Cross (an upgrade to his Silver Star) in San Diego nearly three years ago, raising the profile of the Medal of Honor push that already had support from about 120 flag officers. The ceremony included a video message from Top Gun star Tom Cruise:

"What Royce did is – still to this day – the most unique U.S.-Soviet aerial combat dogfight in the history of the Cold War, and one in which Royce Williams demonstrated indomitable courage of the highest skill under incalculable duress," Issa said in a press release. "It is my honor to have fought all these years for Royce to gain a recognition that he has not sought, but so richly deserves."

Should the NDAA become law and the award be finalized, Lewandowski said a January ceremony is under consideration. Williams would be the only Medal of Honor recipient to receive the award in conjunction with the legislation.

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CALMOAA WEBSITE

Our new open to the public CALMOAA website is active at calmoa.com. The current pages include: our Council, Chapter Programs, Advocacy, Chapters, How to Join, Upcoming Events, and our Seven Services. The website is still expanding, and the populating of the pages is in progress, but today it is a benefit for all chapters. Please take a few minutes to review, visit frequently.





SWEETWATER CHAPTER

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Time Dated Material

SWEETWATER CHAPTER

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL FORM
SWEETWATER CHAPTER (MOAA)
(Use for New or 2026 Renewal Application)

Circle One: **New Member or Renewal** Date _____

Address Change: Circle: **Yes** or **No**

Rank/Branch _____ National _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Spouse's Name: _____ Birth Mo.: _____

Member's Birth Date: _____ Anniversary Mo.: _____

Telephone: _____

e-mail: _____

Signature _____

ANNUAL DUES: Member \$15.00
Auxiliary \$7.00
Associate \$7.00

DONATIONS INDICATE: Newsletter \$ _____
Scholarship \$ _____
Total Paid \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to: **Sweetwater Chapter, MOAA**
P.O. Box 268
Chula Vista, CA 91912-0268