



Los Alamitos Area Chapter News

Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 665, Los Alamitos, CA 90720



APRIL 2026

Los Alamitos Area Chapter Web Presence: <https://www.MOAA.org/chapter/losalamitosarea>

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Surviving Spouse Corner: The Value of Connection
By: Pat Green MARCH 03, 2026

How do you stay in touch with others? Maybe you prefer social media, like Facebook or LinkedIn. Perhaps email is your preference. Many connect through text messages. For some, like me, a phone call is top choice.

The need for a personal connection still exists. Nothing can brighten your day like a call from an old friend. Sharing a memory or exchanging a laugh with someone lifts the spirits. Personal communication builds strong families and good friends and creates successful institutions and cohesive organizations.

Within MOAA chapters, personal interaction among members provides opportunities to build friendships, exchange ideas, and share experiences.

I recently returned from my annual MOAA council leadership training/convention. You feel the connection of shared experiences and our shared purpose at such events, but you feel more: It's the hugs exchanged, the appreciation of each member and their contributions, and the connection to the MOAA leaders and staff who attend. It was an experience that energizes and renews your commitment.

Your council and chapter create a cohesive network for the work of MOAA. They also provide a setting for friendships to flourish.

This shared affinity should be practiced in your chapter. The chaplain and the surviving spouse liaison serve as personal outreach to each member. Their role is very important.

[A chapter member who lives alone and has no local family needs a chapter friend or neighbor to exchange a greeting with each day. It could be as simple as texting "Good morning" and the recipient sending a thumbs-up response. The greeter and recipient should share contact information for their next of kin in the event that the greeting is not returned.

I know of one chapter that has created such a program, called Buddy Check. This might be a good idea to discuss it at your next meeting.

A chapter should also have a list of emergency contacts for its members in case a member becomes ill at a meeting. I personally have experienced two situations where that information would have been helpful.

Make caring for and connecting with each other part of your mission to never stop serving.

Can You and Your Family Access the Health Care You've Earned? This Bill Could Help
By: Karen Ruedisueli MARCH 10, 2026

Access to timely, reliable health care remains one of the most persistent concerns among servicemembers and their families. Senior enlisted leaders underscored this reality during a recent congressional hearing, identifying health care access as a top complaint across the force.

MOAA has led efforts on the Military Care, Access, Reporting and Evaluation (CARE) Act (H.R. 6796), a bipartisan bill designed to address these concerns by combating long-standing access challenges at military clinics and hospitals. Staffing shortages at these military treatment facilities (MTFs) have increased wait times, reduced appointment availability, and led to a surge in patient complaints.

As part of Advocacy in Action, MOAA's annual spring advocacy event, MOAA members will build support for this important bill requiring the Pentagon to establish a digital system that

- :
- Allows TRICARE beneficiaries to report and track MTF access-to-care issues.
 - Sends access complaints to the proper patient advocate.

- Aggregates those data points for use by the Defense Health Agency (DHA) to help officials identify and address widespread problems.

Patient submissions will create a data set that does not exist today – one that will improve transparency in the patient experience, provide details on specific access-to-care challenges, and allow for accountability in addressing fixable systemic problems.

MOAA members took this solution to Capitol Hill as a concept during last year’s Advocacy in Action event and were instrumental in building support that led to the bipartisan bill’s introduction by Reps. Steven Horsford (D-Nev.), Jen Kiggans (R-Va.), Chrissy Houlahan (D-Pa.), and Don Bacon (R-Neb.)

MOAA is in discussions with member offices to secure a Senate companion bill and advance this reform across both chambers.

Why This Bill Matters

TRICARE has policies to facilitate access to care – including access-to-care standards – but compliance is inconsistent. When MTFs cannot meet access standards, patients are not always referred out to the TRICARE network.

When patients encounter MTF access challenges, they cannot readily switch their care to civilian providers because TRICARE policy limits plan changes to certain timeframes – the annual open enrollment season or after a qualifying life event. This policy is consistent with commercial plan practices, but it fails to account for the unique nature of the military’s direct care system that has the potential to trap beneficiaries in an MTF that does not meet their needs.

Barriers to MTF access can impact any patient, but they disproportionately affect currently serving members and their families – those who are most likely to rely on military hospitals and clinics for their medical care.

[Military families who can’t readily seek care elsewhere must have a more effective option for reporting MTF access problems and finding help navigating the military health system (MHS) — an option that also increases transparency regarding beneficiary challenges and leads to greater MHS accountability and oversight.

Please support MOAA’s efforts by visiting our Legislative Action Center and contacting your elected officials. Encourage them to cosponsor the Military CARE Act to drive health care access improvements for servicemembers and their families.

MOAA--Los Alamitos Area Chapter Dinner Information

April 23rd Dinner is to be held at the Navy Golf Course, 5560 Orangewood, West of Valley View, Cypress, CA.

Social: 1730-1800 **Dinner:** 1800- 1900 **Program,** 1900-2000

Circle ONE: Tri-Tip of Beef Vegetarian Dinner Chicken Plicata .

\$ 40 each! (Check payable to the Los Alamitos Area Chapter.)

Name/s _____ Guest/s _____ (spouse is not guest)

Mail Check to: Bill Eveland, 3729 Nipomo Ave., Long Beach, CA, 90808; phone 562-425-3434

[Please have your reservation by April 16th - Call me if you must!]

*****Remember*****

Chapter Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 7th at 0930 in the Retired Activities Office, NWSSB

LOS ALAMITOS AREA CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member Enrollment [] Renewal [] January 1--December 31, 2026

MOAA membership number _____ (located on your MOAA Magazine cover)

Please enroll/ Continue as a Member of the Los Alamitos Area Chapter MOAA: Regular Member Officers (Active, Retirees and Former officers) @ **\$25.00/Year** [] Auxiliary (Widow or surviving spouse) @ **\$20.00/Year** []

Service Affiliation: Regular [] Reserve [] National Guard []
Present Status: Retired [] Active Duty [] Auxiliary [] Former Officer []

Last Name First Name MI Rank Branch of Service

Mailing Address City State Zip Area Code / Phone Number

Spouse's Name (Surviving spouses indicate your MOAA No.)

Cell Number: _____ E-Mail Address (for Newsletter) _____

Mail Form to: **Los Alamitos Area Chapter, MOAA, P.O. Box 665, Los Alamitos, CA 90720**

ADVOCACY IN ACTION 2026

MOAA's annual advocacy event brings members from across the nation to Washington, D.C., to meet with lawmakers as part of our ongoing work to advance our legislative agenda.

We will visit hundreds of offices on April 15; even if you cannot join us on Capitol Hill, you can make your voice heard by engaging with your lawmakers on our top legislative priorities. See the links and details below, and continue to follow MOAA's Advocacy News page for ongoing updates regarding all of MOAA's advocacy efforts.

Have a question about MOAA advocacy? Contact MOAA's Member Support Center at msc@moaa.org or call (800) 234-6622. Want to join MOAA? **Learn more about membership options.**

2026 ISSUES

Ending the 'Wounded Veteran Tax'

- **The Bill:** The Major Richard Star Act would end an unfair pay offset faced by tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans who lose a dollar of retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation. The wide majority of members in both the House and Senate have cosponsored this legislation, but it has been derailed by procedural and rules issues in recent sessions.
- **Take Action:** [Ask Your Lawmakers to Support Combat-Injured Veterans](#)
- **Learn More:** [Star Act Stories](#) | [The Star Act Alliance](#) | [Star Act SITREP](#)
- **MOAA Resources:** [Download the issue paper](#) (PDF)

Protect Pay of ALL Who Serve During Federal Shutdowns

- **The Bill:** The Shutdown Fairness Act would protect the pay of armed forces members (to include Drill Status Reservists) during a federal funding lapse. MOAA supports this effort to avoid this regular disruption and uncertainty

faced by servicemembers and their families and supports an amendment to the legislation to cover U.S. Public Health Service and NOAA Commissioned Corps members.

- **Take Action:** [Ask Your Lawmakers to Protect Servicemember Pay During Any Future Shutdown](#)
- **Learn More:** [3 Ways to Protect Servicemembers and Veterans From the Next Shutdown](#)
- **MOAA Resources:** [Download the issue paper](#) (PDF)

Protect Veterans From 'Claim Sharks'

- **The Bill:** The Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act would restore criminal penalties for unregulated actors who solicit or receive fees to "help" veterans secure VA benefits. Dozens of companies are operating in this space without oversight, leaving veterans and their families vulnerable to aggressive marketing and costly overpayment for services they can secure for free from accredited providers.
- **Take Action:** [Ask Your Lawmakers to Stop Predatory Claims Agents](#)
- **Learn More:** [Why MOAA Backs the GUARD VA Benefits Act](#)
- **MOAA Resources:** [Download the issue paper](#) (PDF)

Improve Access to Care at Military Facilities

- **The Bill:** The Military Care, Access, Reporting and Evaluation (CARE) Act would require a standardized digital platform beneficiaries could use to submit and track access-to-care issues at military treatment facilities. It would also ensure such issues reached the proper patient advocates, and that the Defense Health Agency could access systemwide reports to address systemic issues.
- **Take Action:** [Ask Your Lawmakers to Help Fight MTF Access Problems](#)
- **Learn More:** [Can You and Your Family Access the Health Care You've Earned? | A Look at the Military CARE Act](#)
- **MOAA Resources:** [Download the issue paper](#) (PDF)

HOW TO LOG ON TO THE LOS ALAMITOS AREA CHAPTER MOAA WEB SITE

Los Alamitos Area Chapter Web Presence: <https://www.MOAA.org/chapter/losalamitosarea>

Interested Members can go to the site but can't view it without the proper logon data.

The logon data necessary to access our Chapter's website at MOAA is:

Chapter ID: CA17 and Chapter #: 00000081