



Dovermoaa.org)

April 2026

MOAA is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization open to officers and former officers of the Uniformed Services.

Next Dinner Meeting: April 16, 2026

Program:

BG(R) Karen Berry, Delaware Secretary of Veterans Affairs



Brigadier General(R)Berry was sworn in as Delaware's First Secretary of Veterans Affairs on October 1st, 2025.

BG (R) Berry began her career in the Delaware National Guard when she enlisted into an aviation unit in March 1987. She completed her initial training and, while at the University of Delaware, decided to pursue a career as an officer, and was commissioned as a second Lieutenant in May of 1990 through the University of Delaware's Army Reserve Officer Training program.

She held many positions in the Delaware Army National Guard and was the first female to command at the Brigade level when she was selected as the 261st Tactical Theater Signal Command. In November 2017, she completed a yearlong deployment as the 335th Signal Command Deputy Commander- Afghanistan. In this role, she served as the senior communications officer for the 335th SC in the Combined Joint Operations Area - Afghanistan (CJOA-A) and provided strategic-level guidance and consultation for the communications network in theater.

When she was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General in November 2018 by the Delaware National Guard, she was the first female Army officer to become a federally recognized General Officer of the Line.

BG(R) Berry transferred to the Connecticut National Guard in February 2019 and served as the Assistant to the Adjutant General for the Connecticut Army National Guard until the fall of 2022 when she became the Director of the Joint Staff for the Connecticut National Guard until her retirement in December 2023.

BG(R) Berry holds a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering Technology from the University of Delaware; a master's in education, specializing in Mathematics from Salisbury University, and a master's in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College Distance Learning Class 2011.

She retired from the Indian River School District in December 2019 after 25 years as a secondary mathematics specialist/instructor and retired from service to both the Delaware and Connecticut National Guard in December 2023 after over 36 years of service.

She resides in Georgetown, Delaware, with her husband, MG(R) Michael Berry.

Location: Franco's Dover. For directions and other information, visit <https://francospizzadover.com/>

Agenda:

- 5-6 social hour
- 6-7 dinner
- 7-7:20 program
- 7:30 to 8:00 business meeting

Menu:

- Veal Parmigiana (with spaghetti) - \$33
- Baked Lasagna - \$31
- Fettuccine with meat sauce - \$29
- Add \$3.00 for sodas.

When you order, please tell Tom if you want decaf, coffee, or tea to speed up service before our speaker begins.

The above meals include salad, bread, coffee/tea, and a tip, but not dessert or adult beverages. Bar not extensive, wine and beer are easiest. Wine by the bottle, you can take home what you don't consume. Tom will call in all items at once. Pay Tom at the door. Thanks!

Call (301) 904-0228 or email rotorhead65@aol.com to confirm your attendance and select your meal with Tom Smith NLT 2 days before the dinner meeting. (note 301 exchange, not 301)

Legislative News:

Delaware:

Buckson, Harris Introduce Bipartisan Interstate Compacts to Expand Workforce Mobility and Support Military Families

Three bipartisan pieces of legislation introduced on Wednesday and sponsored by Senator Eric Buckson (R – South Dover) would make it easier for licensed professionals to work across state lines, helping address workforce shortages while providing meaningful support for military members and their families.

Senate Bills [216](#), [217](#), and [218](#) adopt interstate licensure compacts for respiratory therapists, cosmetologists, and massage therapists, respectively. Together, they create streamlined pathways for qualified professionals to practice in participating states without having to navigate duplicative licensing processes each time they relocate.

“These compacts are about common sense and compassion,” said Senator Buckson. “When professionals are licensed, trained, and in good standing, we shouldn’t be putting unnecessary barriers in their way, especially for military families who are asked to move frequently in service

to our country. These bills help people get to work faster while maintaining strong public health and safety standards.”

Each compact preserves state regulatory authority while allowing licensed professionals to practice in other member states through a shared framework. In addition to increasing job mobility and easing workforce shortages, the legislation includes specific provisions to support active-duty military members and their spouses, allowing them to maintain a home-state license designation and reducing financial and administrative hurdles when relocating.

House Majority Leader Kerri Evelyn Harris (D – Magnolia), the House sponsor of the proposals, emphasized the bipartisan nature and practical impact of the legislation.

“These interstate compacts are a win for workers, employers, and families,” said Representative Harris. “They remove unnecessary red tape, expand access to care and services, and recognize the unique challenges military families face when they are required to move. I’m proud to work across the aisle to advance solutions that strengthen our workforce and our economy.”

If passed and signed into law, the bills would place Delaware among a growing number of states participating in interstate licensure compacts, making sure The First State remains competitive in attracting and retaining skilled professionals while supporting those who serve.

The three bills have been assigned to the Senate Legislative Oversight & Sunset Committee.

SB 219: An Act to increase the tax-free portion of Retired Servicemember Pay.

Bill W, Gene T, and a host of others spoke in favor of this bill at the Executive Committee meeting. It passed the Committee, and its next stop will be the Finance Committee.

Gene’s remarks as President of MOAA are attached to this email. Feel free to print them off and use them if you are asked about the bill. Or share with whatever veterans group you may also be a member of.

Be prepared to show up in support on short notice. LESSON LEARNED from the last time when I suggested you wear hats -- the Sergeant at Arms will make you remove your cap. So, wear a jacket!

National:

[White House 2027 Budget Plan Includes Big Military Pay Raise](#)

Junior enlisted would see the largest increase as part of \$1.5 trillion in proposed defense funding.

[Advocacy in Action: MOAA's 2026 Playbook](#)

Learn all about the four priorities we'll take to the Hill this month.

[Military CARE Act FAQ: How This Bill Will Make a Difference for Many TRICARE Beneficiaries](#)

Addressing access-to-care concerns remains a top MOAA priority and a key part of our Advocacy in Action campaign.

Chapter News:

AiA update:

Gene Thornton is struggling to attend the MOAA national AI&A function **next week**. If anyone wants to go in her place, a hotel reservation is made, and the congressional appointments are made. Spouses are included in all events except the Congressional Visits. Please call Gene at 302 335 1655. It would help her greatly if someone else wanted to go in her place. Your only out of pocket cost is gas and bridge fare, plus any incidentals. **VERY REWARDING EXPERIENCE.**

Wreaths Across America

We need to donate 10 more wreaths! Share this link with your friends and don't forget these make wonderful Holiday Gifts for seniors who don't want to add to the clutter in their homes!

<https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/166217>



Results

REMEMBER the Fallen. . . HONOR those who Serve. . .
TEACH our children the value of Freedom.

You can donate without participating in the wreath-laying... use this link... tell your friends!

<https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/166217>

Jr. ROTC UPDATE: none submitted.



Future Meetings and Events:

There is never a need to wait for the monthly Newsletter to advise you of the date or menu option: these are provided several meetings out in the Future Meeting Section.

All meals include homemade bread, side salad, coffee, tea, or soda. Alcoholic beverages, appetizers, and desserts are not included.

21 May - (JROTC Scholarship Dinner)

Veggie deluxe personal 8" white pizza - \$25

Spaghetti with meat sauce - \$29

Eggplant Parmigiana (with spaghetti) - \$32

TBA:

Joint meeting with the Southern MOAA chapter. Maybe at the brewery in Milford, and/or maybe our September meeting?

Help us Grow & Stay Informed!

Why not share the news of membership in our great chapter with your friends and with any eligible military folks with whom you come into contact? Here's the link to our membership form: <https://dovermoaa.org/chapter-membership>.

To keep up to date between monthly newsletters and meetings, don't forget to check out our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/850935569172190>

Though MOAA National rated JB as a 5-star newsletter editor, if anyone wants to replace our fat, lazy newsletter editor, he will step down. To be our newsletter editor, you do not have to have as cute a face or as fuzzy a kissable tummy as JB.

Never Stop Serving,



Respectfully submitted,

JB

Newsletter Editor