



Dovermoaa.org)

January 15, 2026

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

Next Dinner Meeting: March 19, 2026

Program:

General Deputy has several courses of action listed for his talk...be prepared to tell him which one you want before he begins! I'm leaning towards idea 1: history of the home.

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:

- Chicken Parmigiana (with spaghetti) - \$31
- Meat tortellini with sausage and meatballs - \$31
- Linguine with white clam sauce (fresh clams) - \$32
- 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. Above meals include salad, bread, coffee/tea, and tip but not dessert or adult beverages. Bar not extensive, wine and beer are easiest.

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)

Book: *The Spring Grove Mill House: The Home with the Most Ties to American History*

Genre: Narrative Nonfiction / American History

Publication: 2025 (America's 250)

Location: The Spring Grove Mill House, Wilmington, Delaware 19808



David Deputy

About

When Brigadier General David Deputy (ret.) purchased the Spring Grove Mill House, he expected a restoration project. What followed was an unexpected historical investigation revealing connections to more than 250 years of American history.

Story Idea 1: A Home Connected to 250 Years of American History

Pitch: Newly uncovered research reveals that the Spring Grove Mill House is a home with extraordinary ties to 250 years of American history—from the Revolutionary War, through the Kennedy assassination, to the Apollo 11, and other defining moments.

Story Idea 2: George Washington's Revolutionary War Deception—Officially Recognized

Pitch: George Washington at Spring Grove deceived British forces during a pivotal moment in the war timing, chance encounters, and unexplainable outcomes – that led him to the Spring Grove Mill House.

Story Idea 3: 5-Steps to Discovering the Hidden History of Your Home

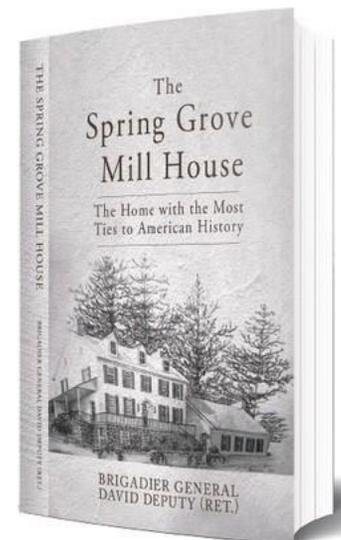
Pitch: Deputy, a former police investigator, shares how he uncovered the hidden history of the Spring Grove Mill House by treating the home as a cold case.

Story Idea 4: Guided by Grace: God's Role in my Journey to Spring Grove

Pitch: Deputy recounts a series of extraordinary moments – timing, chance encounters, and unexplainable outcomes – that led him to the Spring Grove Mill House.

Media Notes

- Timely for America's 250 (2026)
- Fresh insight into Washington's wartime strategy
- State-verified historical recognition; Historic Marker
- The home and surrounding terrain remain accessible and visually striking, providing an authentic backdrop for on-location filming tied directly to the documented events.



Media Contact

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MOAA National News:

President Gene Thornton will represent Delaware at the annual Advocacy in Action in DC this April. More to follow.

President Gene Thornton featured in MOAA publication. (see attached).

New VA GI Bill Policy Could Add to Your Education Benefits

By: Kevin Lilley

MARCH 04, 2026



File/Getty Images

Veterans eligible for both the Montgomery GI Bill and the Post-9/11 GI Bill – including those who did not have a break in service – now can use up to 48 months of combined education benefits under a recent VA update.

A 2024 Supreme Court ruling in *Rudisill v. McDonough* voided a requirement that veterans waive Montgomery GI Bill benefits to access Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, but the VA initially held the ruling only applied to those with [two service periods](#), one qualifying for each program.

However, a Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims [ruling in Perkins v. Collins in 2025](#) held “that a veteran whose single period of service is long enough to qualify for benefits under both the [Montgomery GI Bill] and Post-9/11 programs without using any period of time twice to establish eligibility is entitled to receive benefits under both programs up to a statutory 48-month cap on such educational benefits.”

The VA noted this change in an [update to its website](#) and [a Feb. 27 message](#) announcing veterans no longer need to ask the department for an assessment of their eligibility under the GI bill programs. Instead, the department will review eligibility for all veterans who have less than three months of education benefits remaining and either are enrolled in school or were enrolled in the past six months.

The move will ensure “no students will be left without benefits” while the department updates its systems to automate eligibility reviews for all veterans, according to the announcement.

Why It Matters to Officers

The department’s initial *Rudisill* ruling interpretation made it much less likely an officer would qualify for education benefits under both programs, as it required distinct periods of service. While a reenlistment qualified as a break in service under VA guidelines – as would a move from enlisted service to commissioned service – an officer would only be eligible if they left uniform and returned, or if they transferred between branches or components (active duty to National Guard, for example) or into enlisted service.

Some officers [filed lawsuits](#) to challenge the VA’s interpretation, but the *Perkins* case involved an airman who was denied Montgomery GI Bill benefits despite a six-year, unbroken period of service that qualified her for both Montgomery and Post-9/11 GI Bill programs. The court found the VA erred in its interpretation.

[RELATED: [VA Fully Rescinds Disability Ratings Rule ... Here’s What Should Happen Next](#)]

Veterans who have been asked to submit review requests no longer are required to do so, according to the VA website. VA officials will notify veterans of a decision on their eligibility or whether more information is required from the veteran to determine eligibility.

Veterans are still eligible for a maximum of 48 months of combined education benefits, and they are not able to use benefits from both programs at the same time. A 2030 deadline previously set by VA to apply for added benefits no longer applies, according to the website, but there is no change to the benefits' expiration dates:

- **Post-9/11 GI Bill:** For those whose service ended before Jan. 1, 2013, benefits expire 15 years after final separation date. Benefits do not expire for those whose service ended on or after Jan. 1, 2013.
- **Montgomery GI Bill:** Benefits expire 10 years after separation.
- **Benefit Extensions:** There are limited pathways [to secure an extension](#) under each program.

Veterans who believe they may be eligible for expanded education benefits under the change can [visit the VA website for more information](#), including answers to frequently asked questions.

Get Help Navigating VA Benefits

Questions about VA benefits? Start here. PREMIUM and LIFE Members have direct access to our webinar archive with to-the-point information on everything from claims and appeals to concurrent receipt to home loans and more.

[VIEW THE ARCHIVE](#) [JOIN MOAA](#)



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kevin Lilley

Lilley serves as MOAA's digital content manager. His duties include producing, editing, and managing content for a variety of platforms, with a concentration on The MOAA Newsletter and MOAA.org. Follow him on X: [@KRLilley](#)

Legislative News:

See the attached legislative update provided by Doug Hudson.

In other news, there are two bills being contemplated: 1) to make it illegal for military to get PayDay Loans; 2) to make it illegal for garnishment of military pay. I don't have the details for either of these bills, but I don't agree with either. First of all, military NEED payday loans and even if they pay through the nose, they are able to pay loan back the next payday. The General Assembly just passed a law that makes military a special category that cannot be discriminated against. I feel NOT allowing them to take out pay day loans is discriminating against them. But others disagree. Someone may come to speak to us about this bill. For the second bill regarding garnishment, the military allows garnishment of pay if debts are owed. I don't see how a Delaware Bill can stop federal law. *But we can discuss it!*

As you know, our bylaws state that we cannot advocate for any local bills that the chapter does not support. Hence, we will vote on bills to decide our future course of action.

Chapter News:

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! You can donate all year long! Money goes to our coffers and keeps your dues low.



**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:

Vince Orlando collected a \$300 check from Franco's in support of our fundraiser in February. In addition, several people (Jean Sarg, Bill & Sue Weiser, Theo Dressler, Gene Thornton etc.) made cash donations. You can make a donation through our website:

<https://dovermoaa.org/annual-jrotc-fundraiser>



Community News:

Please see the two handouts attached 1) veteran homeless report; 2) newsletter from the DVH.

Bill Weiser, Gene Thornton and Vince Orlando attended the Military Affaire hosted by the Museum. Very nice event.

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.

16 April – Speaker Secretary of Veterans Affairs Karen Berry

Veal Parmigiana (with spaghetti) - \$33

Baked Lasagna - \$31
Fettuccine with meat sauce - \$29

21 May - (JROTC Scholarship Dinner)

Veggie deluxe personal 8" white pizza - \$25
Spaghetti with meat sauce - \$29
Eggplant Parmigiana (with spaghetti) - \$32

NEXT SEASON:

Berlin Air Lift Part II by popular demand; My career in the Public Health Service—these are locked in, please submit other ideas.

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