

June 2022

ILCouncilMOAA.org

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Never Stop Serving!!!

***“NEVER
STOP
SERVING”***



President's column

Whew! A busy couple of months for the Council.

Advocacy in Action engaged many of you as we met with the Illinois elected officials. See Colonel Smith's report for the details, but our four teams put the three issues in the hands of all of our legislators. Good job all!

We are well down the road on reorganizing how we serve the Illinois MOAA members. This remains a work in progress as we continue to identify ways to reach out to non-chapter MOAA members with an invitation to associate with their regional Chapter or even start an unstructured satellite.

Kudos to Lincoln Land and Southwest for earning the Communication awards for both paper and electronic newsletters. Having superior messaging will be essential to making our reorganization work.

It's good to be meeting in person again. I have enjoyed my visits to your Chapter meetings.

Keep the ideas coming and keep leaning forward as we *Never Stop Serving!*

Semper Fi – Bob Tyler

Illinois Council of Chapters Reorganization Plans

The plan:

- Organize the state into four MOAA Regions

Northeast

- o Northeast - retains name as North Shore – Chicago (IL-01)
- ✦ Incorporates West Suburban (IL-06)
- ✦ Incorporates Northern (IL-04)
- ✦ Includes current NS-Chi (IL-01) leadership & members

Northwest

- ✦ Northwest – retains name as Heart of Illinois (IL-09)
- ✦ Incorporates Quad Cities (IL-08)
- ✦ Includes current HOI (IL-09) leadership & members
- ✦ HOI experiencing some significant leadership / membership challenges

Central

- ✦ Central – retains name as Lincoln Land (IL-03)
- ✦ Incorporates East Central (IL-02) as a “Structured Satellite”
- ✦ Incorporates some of HOI (IL-09) and SW (IL- 05) counties as well
- ✦ Includes current LLC (IL-03) leadership and members

Illinois Council of Chapters Reorganization Plans

The plan (continued):

Southern

- ✦ Southern – retains name as Southwest (IL-05)
- ✦ Incorporates Southern / Little Egypt (IL-07) – effectively already accomplished
- ✦ Incorporates some of East Central (IL-02)
- ✦ Includes current SW (IL-05) leadership and members

- ✦ Identify MOAA members in population centers within each region as “Area Coordinators”
 - Area Coordinators would function as “Unstructured Satellites”
- ✦ Gather members

- ✦ Provide information conduit to all

- ✦ Be the local community face of MOAA

- ✦ Identify appropriate activities throughout each region for specific MOAA gatherings / presence
- ✦ Establish periodic (quarterly or semiannual) virtual state-wide MOAA meetings

- ✦ Expand Council web site to include regional activities and regional POCs

Purchase / establish virtual platform capability with administrative authorization by each regional leader.

Questions:

- What is the status of Northern Illinois (IL-04)? Sometimes referred to as “Rockford.”
 - o They have been silent for over three years
 - o They transferred their treasury to North Shore – Chicago
 - o NS-Chi provided dues free membership to any Northern Members who joined NS-Chi.
 - o Has West Suburban’s (IL-06) request to close been accepted at MOAA National?
 - o Same question for Quad Cities (IL-08) and Southern/Little Egypt (IL-07)?
 - o What is the status of the “Voices for America” non-officer associates with MOAA Chapters?
 - o What is the approval process for this realignment?

Will this realignment require new charters / designations?

Needed from MOAA HQ

Approval for this realignment

Zip code realignment with newly defined regions

LTC DeReu and Lt Col Forman engaged with MOAA C&C already and will provide revised map with county alignment

Development of a “Speaker’s Video Library” available for state-wide and regional meetings

E-mail blast to all MOAA members in Illinois

Col Tyler to provide draft once plan approved

Not contingent on Zip code realignment

Essential to have the capability to communicate with all MOAA members within designated regions – not just chapter members

E-mail blasts multiple times a year announcing regional activities

Contact information of MOAA members when allowed

Revise “potential member” data for regional use

Current list evaporates within a month

It would be useful if, like bank statements, membership chairs could look back at previous months for potential member information

Military Officers Association of America

Issue #2022-03

Northeast Red	Northwest Blue	Central Green	South Yellow
Boone	Carroll	Adams	Alexander
Bureau	Fulton	Brown	Bond
Cook	Hancock	Cass	Calhoun
Dekalb	Henderson	Champaign	Clay
DuPage	Henry	Christian	Clinton
Ford	Jo Daviess	Clark	Edwards
Grundy	Knox	Coles	Franklin
Iroquois	McDonough	Crawford	Gallatin
Kane	McLean	Cumberland	Hamilton
Kankakee	Mercer	Dewitt	Hardin
Kendall	Peoria	Edgar	Jackson
Lake	Rock Island	Effingham	Jefferson
LaSalle	Stark	Fayette	Jersey
Lee	Stephenson	Greene	Johnson
Livingston	Tazewell	Jasper	Madison
Marshall	Warren	Lawrence	Marion
McHenry	Whiteside	Logan	Massac
Ogle	Woodford	Macon	Monroe
Putnam		Macoupin	Perry
Will		Mason	Pulaski
Winnebago		Menard	Randolph
		Montgomery	Saline
		Morgan	St. Clair
		Moultrie	Union
		Piatt	Wabash
		Pike	Washington
		Richland	Wayne
		Sangamon	White
		Schuyler	Williamson
		Scott	
		Shelby	
		Vermilion	

Counties assigned to each affiliate within the State of Illinois.

Changes Lawrence and Richland from Southern; Mason and Schuyler from Northwest transfer to Central

6 April 2022

Col Tyler's discussion with National MOAA on the Reorganization

I told you I was thinking about additional support from MOAA HQ for the Illinois reorganization. And here's my thought and hope that MOAA HQ can support.

- During the workshop at the annual meeting last October, folks asked about the creation of a "speaker's library" of videos available on-line or live streaming for use by Chapters during Chapter meetings.
- In sampling several Illinois members across the state, I am hearing a desire for periodic virtual state-wide meetings to connect members and share information.
- I am also hearing my presidents look for ways to connect with folks in population centers within their catchment area.
- I am hearing that folks don't necessarily want to drive 50+ miles for meetings.
- I am exploring Zoom capabilities to:
 - o Host large scale virtual meetings
 - o Allow multiple "Hosts" on the one purchased account so that Chapters can use the same account for Chapter meetings
 - o What I am envisioning is the Council conducts 2 to 4 virtual state wide meetings a year covering important topics – basically an information dump prepared by MOAA HQ
 - o Pre Advocacy in Action brief on the targeted topics
 - o A pre NDAA / Federal budget brief on important "engagement" issues
 - o A post A in A brief on how we did
 - o An annual update (maybe)
 - o Will require state wide e-mail blast announcements from National as we don't have non-chapter members e-mails
 - o I am also hearing requests for the capacity to access and share topical presentations at Chapter meetings
 - o To be shared on-line during virtual meetings
 - o To be projected at live meetings
 - o To be projected and also shared on-line at combined live/virtual meetings

So my real "ask" is: Can we develop MOAA HQ virtual support for large virtual presentations? And can we populate some sort of a National MOAA virtual library of topical presentations for chapter use? I really see the need for meaningful information from more than the state level for presentation at state-wide virtual meetings as a way to engage the 5500 MOAA members not aligned with the various chapters.

From the Survivor Outreach Services Coordinator

Due to the deaths of several service members within the last month, it seemed appropriate to focus on how to obtain military funeral honors when a military loved one passes. It is helpful to know that located at Camp Lincoln is the Casualty Operations Office, which includes the Military Funeral Honors program and the Survivor Outreach Services program. It is also helpful to know that each branch of services performs services only for their own branch. Not too long ago, a family member could request Army Military Funeral Honors for their deceased service member, even if the service member was Air Force, for example. Today, the request can still be made, but it is up to each branch to approve or deny the request. In the pictures located below, you will see contact information for all branches of service. This is good information to keep with your funeral planning documents that family members will use upon your death.

To perform military funeral honors, proof of military service and the type of discharge is an absolute requirement. The easiest proof to obtain is the service member's DD-214. For National Guard Soldiers, an NG-22 is acceptable proof, as well. The information below provides information to obtain proof of military service by contacting the National Archives. A website link is listed, but you may also contact them by phone at 314-801-0800. Another place to check for a DD-214 is the Department of Veterans Affairs. Their website is www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/ or, you may call them at 800-827-1000.

As has been mentioned in several columns previously, advanced, end-of-life planning will alleviate the administrative stress at the service member's time of death. Do yourself and your loved one a favor and assemble a packet containing your most current DD-214, how and where you want to be buried, insurance policies, and account numbers for any outstanding debts, banking, and/or investment accounts. For additional assistance in end-of-life planning, after-death assistance for Survivors, and resources for every stage of life, MOAA offers resources on their website. Below are two resources offered that are specific to end-of-life planning and beyond.

Your Guide to Military Burials https://www.moaa.org/uploadedfiles/content/publications_and_media/moaa_publications/publication_downloads/burial-guide-2019_small.pdf

Survivor's Checklist: First Steps for Moving On <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/moaa-publications/survivor-checklist-detail/>

As always, **Survivor Outreach Services** is here to assist our Survivors, as well. You may reach me by email at christine.a.milchuck.ctr@army.mil or by telephone at 217-761-3382.

Chris Milchuck

Military Officers Association of America

Issue #2022-03

To schedule honors for each service branch:

ARMY

CHICAGO: (217) 685-4878
ng.il.ilarng.list.funeral-and-honors--
chi@army.mil

MACOMB: (217) 685-4377
ng.il.ilarng.list.funeral-and-honors--
mac@army.mil

DECATUR: (217) 494-3268
ng.il.ilarng.list.funeral-and-honors--
dec@army.mil

MARION: (217) 494-3265
ng.il.ilarng.list.funeral-and-honors--
mar@army.mil

CASUALTY ASSISTANCE CENTER:
(800) 350-7746

Other Branch Contacts

NAVY: (866) 203-7791 or (904) 542-1536

USMC: (866) 826-3628

AIR FORCE: (618) 256-4586

COAST GUARD: (216) 902-6269
or (314) 606-6792

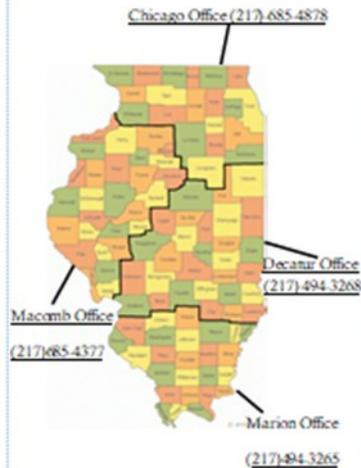


For more information on Military Funeral Honors contact your local office using the map below or:

Address: Military Funeral Honors
1301 N. MacArthur Blvd
Springfield, IL 62702

Phone: (217) 761-2908

E-mail: ng.il.ilarng.list.funeral-and-honors@army.mil



More information can be found at/
<https://mfh.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh/>

ILARNG Military Funeral Honors Program



HONORING THOSE
WHO SERVED

History

The United States Military has a time-honored tradition of honoring their fallen.

On January 1, 2000, Military Funeral Honors (MFH) became a statutory benefit to all Veterans with the signing of the National Defense Authorization Act. The law requires that, upon a family's request, every eligible Veteran receive a Military Funeral Honors ceremony to include, a Two-Soldier Detail for the sounding of "TAPS", folding and presenting the United States Flag.

Mission

The ILARNG provides professional Military Honors in accordance with service tradition to all eligible Veterans when requested by an authorized representative. Soldiers in the ILARNG Military Funeral Honors program are selected and trained using the same standards as Arlington National Cemetery.

Eligibility

An eligible Veteran is any person (Active, National Guard, or Reserve) who has completed at least one enlistment or other obligated military service and received an honorable discharge.

Some of the documents used to determine eligibility include:

- DD-214 (for active duty or reserve component)
- NGB-22 (for National Guard Soldiers)
- Certificate of Honorable Discharge
- General Discharge under Honorable Conditions

Emergency Request for Proof of Military Service can be obtained at:

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html>



Types of Honors

Two Soldier Detail provides a flag fold, presentation and sounding taps for honorably discharged Veterans.

Nine Soldier Detail provides pallbearers, flag fold and presentation, firing party, and sounding taps for a Medal of Honor Recipient, KIA, E-9, or an O-7 and above and any Retiree or an M-Day Soldier who is not serving in a combat situation.

1501 (Memorial) Services provides honors after a funeral has already been conducted

Requesting Honors

A family member or authorized representative is encouraged to notify the funeral director or service coordinator of their desire to have Military Funeral Honors rendered at the interment of their loved one. The funeral director then contacts the appropriate branch of service in which the Veteran served.

The map on the back shows which ILARNG Military Funeral Honors Team to contact for Army services

THERE IS NO CHARGE TO THE FUNERAL HOME OR FAMILY FOR MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

Advocacy In Action-2022



Meeting with US Congressman Darin LaHood

Congressman Darin LaHood (IL 18), Bob Tyler, COL, (USMC, Ret)
Council President, Darrel Roll, COL, (USA, Ret), Council Vice Presi-
dent, and Jerry Jackson, MAJ (USA, Ret)

Advocacy In Action-2022



IL01 Chapter President George Gill, COL, (USMC, Ret), Council Advisor, John DeReu, LTC, (USA, Ret) and Congressman Brad Schneider, (D, 10th) 18 April 2022.



AiA Zoom Conference meeting with Congressman Danny Davis (IL-07), LTC John DeReu (USA, Ret) and COL Bob Tyler, (USMC, Ret). Council President

MOAA accomplishments in 2021

- Repealing SBP-DIC offset, known as the ‘Widows Tax’ – saving up to \$12,000 per year for nearly 67,000 surviving spouses.
- Executing a credible game plan for oversight of DoD’s health care – protecting continued access to quality care.*
- Securing comprehensive privatized military housing reform – improving housing, establishing Tenant Bill of Rights, and Congressional oversight.*
- Lessening impact of TRICARE fee hikes (Family = \$300 vice \$900) – fighting multiple efforts to end grandfathering for those who entered service before Jan. 1, 2018.*
- Protecting TRICARE For Life (TFL) – blocked five consecutive administration budgets proposing TFL enrollment fees (2013-2017).*
- Maintaining pay raise comparability – ensuring pay raises for our uniformed services keep pace with civilian sector increases.*
- Providing Wounded Warrior protections and caregiver enhancements – securing multiple improvements to VA caregiver programs.*
- Defeating ‘COLA Minus 1 Percent’ – ending Congressional attempts to reduce retired pay, costing an E-7 retiring after 20 years \$83,000, and an O-5 \$124,000, by age 62.*
- Securing major GI Bill upgrades to include transferability – and improving benefits for National Guard on Title 32 orders.*
- Boosting compensation significantly for retirees with 50% VA disability – still fighting for the rest to include those medically retired.*
- Improving Guard and Reserve TRICARE coverage – and securing a premium cut.
- Ensuring Guard and Reserve retirement age credit for active duty service – now allowing 90 days to stretch over two consecutive years.

The Illinois Council of Chapters
Military Officers Association of America
Chapter Presidents

IL-01 North Shore & Chicago
Col George Gill, USMCR (Ret)
PO Box 446
Barrington, IL 60011-0446

IL-02 East Central Illinois
Lt Col Jim Forman, USAF (Ret)
1807 Emerson Drive
Champaign, IL 61821-5702

IL-03 Lincoln Land
LTC Dave Miller, USA (Ret)
61 Laconwood Drive
Springfield, IL 62712-8727

IL-05 Southwest Illinois
Col Robert Norman, USAF (Ret)
1021 Woodleaf Drive
O'Fallon, IL 62269-3149

IL-06 West Suburban
Lt Col Brent A. Calderwood, USAF (Ret)
285 Crescent Drive
Chicago Heights, IL 60411-2517

IL-09 Heart of Illinois
MAJ David Zabinski, USA (Ret)
33 Brookshire Grn
Bloomington, Illinois 61704-6211

15 December 2021 supersedes 1 September 2021

Who to Contact for membership in the applicable Chapter

If you wish to join a local chapter, contact the Chapter President listed above and they will get you in touch with a Chapter Membership Chair.

MOAA chapters sponsor interesting programs and opportunities to interact with civic, political, military, and business leaders on issues important to members.

Chapters include second-career members in the work force and retired service members who have contacts in their communities that can be valuable to transitioning officers.

10 Tips to Help Retain Chapter Members

These strategies can help MOAA chapters combat the challenge of retaining their members.

Though many affiliates work hard to recruit new members, they sometimes forget about the equally important challenge of retention.

Don't negate all your hard work to increase your chapter's membership. To help retain members, consider these 10 tips:

- Vary programs and events and meeting times and days to meet member needs.
- Invite relevant speakers, such as legislators or city officials, to chapter meetings.
- Organize special events and raffles, gift exchanges, etc.
- Recognize the accomplishments of members by publishing their biographies on your website or in your newsletter.
- Offer community service opportunities to bring members together to achieve a goal.
- Provide opportunities for involvement on short-term, one-time-only projects and special issues.
- Keep costs economical, but don't let price be the driver of what type of activity to hold.
- Provide invoices for dues paid by members.
- Offer ride-sharing programs to chapter activities.
- Contact inactive members before terminating their chapter membership.

The Council has a new website. Address is <http://www.ilcouncilmoaa.org>

If you have any items or input for the website, contact MAJ (USAF, Ret) Dave Knieriem at the following email address: dknieriem@casscomm.com

MOAA Store and ROTC/Junior ROTC Items

The MOAA store has re-opened at <https://moaa.estore.shop/>. In addition to promotional gear, you can find ROTC and Junior ROTC (JROTC) award certificates (in stock now) and medals (place orders now for backorders to be shipped when medals are in stock, expected by the end of April). Electronic certificates may be customized and downloaded [online](#) at any time. Note that medals have been updated to reflect all eight uniformed services, and JROTC certificates have been updated with language more appropriate to high school students rather than ROTC students.

The cost of medals to affiliates will remain at \$3.00 per medal due to a MOAA subsidy. Additionally, the store recently added the USPS live rate to shipping options, providing a lower-cost alternative.

**Never Stop Serv-
ing!!!**

MOAA Legislative Action Center

You can help MOAA by visiting their legislative action center and contacting your elected officials regarding pending legislation MOAA is working. You can reach the Legislative Action Center at the following email address: take.action.moaa.org

MOAA's Legislative Priorities for 2022

- Sustain pay raises and adequate BAH for the troops and COLA raises for retirees.
- Ensure the Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service continue to receive pay during a government shutdown.
- Protect the value of the military health care benefit.
- Protect the Military Health System pharmacy benefit, and achieve flexibility in TRI-CARE pharmacy copays.
- Address barriers to accessing care within the MHS, including TRICARE coverage gaps and mental health care access challenges.
- Protect family support programs, and ensure military-provided services (housing, PCS, child care, youth programs, financial counseling) are readily available and meet standards for quality and costs.
- Achieve equity of benefits, protections, and administrative support for Guard/Reserve members consistent with their active-duty counterparts.
- Sustain Veterans Health Administration (VHA) foundational missions and services.
- Reform the presumptive process to support veterans claiming service-connected disabilities for toxic exposures.
- Achieve concurrent receipt of service-earned retirement pay and VA disability pay.
- Protect full military honors and burial at Arlington National Cemetery for those currently eligible.
- Improve survivors' benefits.
- Support a quality transition experience from active duty to veteran status for all servicemembers.
- Recognize the pandemic continues to affect the lives of our servicemembers.

Reasons to Join a MOAA Chapter

You know the value of belonging to MOAA and your chapter!

But when you're talking to a potential new chapter member, it's important to remember that many officers might have only limited knowledge of MOAA's chapter system.

Creating a dialogue and asking open-ended questions is the best way to find out if and how a chapter membership could help a prospective member.

Find out as much as you can about their priorities in order to tailor a response that is more likely to resonate with them personally.

Here are some aspects of membership that may appeal to them:

1. **Make yourself heard.** MOAA's chapters provide critical grassroots support for MOAA's national legislative agenda. Chapter members let their legislators know what's on their minds and open doors for MOAA's legislative team in Washington, D.C.
2. **Give back to the community.** Chapter members are MOAA's ambassadors in their communities, supporting countless programs that make a difference in the lives of others. These members continue to serve and are giving back in the truest sense.
3. **Value added to chapter members' lives.** MOAA chapters sponsor interesting programs and opportunities to interact with civic, political, military, and business leaders on issues important to members.
4. **Networking with fellow officers.** Chapters include second-career members in the work force and retired service members who have contacts in their communities that can be valuable to transitioning officers.
5. **Stay informed.** Chapter newsletters, websites, and meetings provide you with the latest information on local, state, and national issues and changes to military benefits.
6. **Influencing state legislation.** Most states have a council of chapters that unites chapters in the state. These councils, and independent chapters in states without a council, often lobby for and pass state-level legislation that affects military members and their families, such as exempting military retired pay from state income tax or increasing funding for state veterans' programs.
7. **Camaraderie with a purpose.** MOAA chapters unite active duty, former, and retired officers from every branch of service, including National Guard and Reserve, as well as surviving spouses, offering the opportunity to connect with others with similar backgrounds and interest and develop close and lasting friendships.

Council of Chapters

New Website

The Council has a new website. Address is <http://www.ilcouncilmoaa.org>

If you have any items or input for the website, contact MAJ (USAF, Ret) Dave Knieriem at the following email address: dknieriem@casscomm.com

MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.

While MOAA is permitted by law to lobby—and does so actively—its status as a tax-exempt veterans organization precludes it from participating in political activities, which are defined as intervening directly or indirectly in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Stated briefly: the association may advocate issues, but it may not advocate the election or defeat of particular candidates or political parties. This newsletter follows the policies of MOAA National.



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ILLINOIS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS OFFICERS

President

Col Bob Tyler, USMC (Ret)
324 Greenway Lane
Decatur, IL 62521-2529

1st Vice President

COL Darrell Roll, USA (Ret)
826 Poplar Drive
Petersburg, IL 62675-9578

Treasurer

Col Robert Norman, USAF (Ret)
1021 Woodleaf Drive
O'Fallon, IL 62269-3149

Secretary

Lt Col Jim Forman, USAF (Ret)
1807 Emerson Drive
Champaign, IL 61821-5702

Membership

LT Chet Klodnicki, USN (Ret)
14 Cottage Green
Ottawa, IL 61350-9044

Immediate Past President/Dir of Legislation

Col Richard V. Smith, USAF (Ret)
1065 Edgewood Drive
O'Fallon, IL 62269-2860

Chaplain

MAJ (Ch) Ralph [Woehrmann](#), USA (Ret)
2115 East Lake Shore Drive
Taylorville, IL 62568-8932

Director of Communications

LTC Dave Miller, USA (Ret)
61 Laconwood Drive
Springfield, IL 62712-8727

Special Advisor to the Council

LTC John DeReu, USA (Ret)
406 Juniper Parkway
Libertyville, IL 60048-3529

Webmaster

Maj Dave Knieriem, USAF (Ret)
633 W Elm St; PO Box 95
Mason City, IL 62664-0095

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) established the **MOAA Scholarship Fund** in 1948 to provide educational assistance benefits to children of military families. It supports one of the association's founding principles: ***education is the cornerstone of a strong democracy***. It is funded by donations from MOAA members, Councils and Chapters, corporations, and others with a desire to help military families. For additional details, go to the MOAA website at **MOAA.org**

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The Greatest Casualty is
Being Forgotten!

Now and Always
We'll be There.



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