



# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

April 2021 issue

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### *Notes from the President’s Desk*

**URGENT - > I would like someone to volunteer to be CALMOAA TOPS Officer. As some of you are aware Bud will be leaving our Council this summer. As of today this announcement has been word of mouth. If you are interested in becoming CALMOAA’s TOPS Officer please reach out to Bud and me.**

April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. “We are our brothers and sisters’ keeper. We have a responsibility to protect each other and create an environment of dignity and respect for our teammates—a place free from sexual assault, harassment and any form of demeaning or dehumanizing language and behaviors.”

-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley

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**Survivors of Sexual Assault**

It can be hard to know what to do, how to feel, or what your options are after a sexual assault. Please know that you're not alone, and it's never too late to get help.

Sexual violence is a type of trauma and everyone responds to trauma differently. The effects can feel overwhelming, but for many people, reaching out and being heard can be an important step toward healing.

Safe Helpline is available 24/7 to listen and support you whenever you're ready. Connecting with Safe Helpline is completely anonymous and confidential; the information you provide is not shared with the DoD or your chain of command.

## Need to Talk?

We're here to help.

-  Telephone Helpline  
877-995-5247
-  Online Helpline  
SafeHelpline.org
-  Safe HelpRoom  
SafeHelpRoom.org
-  Safe Helpline App  
Download on the App Store and Google Play
-  Responders Near Me  
Local resources available online, through the app and by text at 55-247 (CONUS) and 001-202-470-5546 (OCONUS)
-  Self-paced Educational Programs  
SafeHelpline.org



safehelpline.org

877-995-5247

Anonymous. Confidential. 24/7.

This month I had the honor of briefing Aztec Army ROTC Cadets and Cadre along Dean Mallires (CALMOAA past President, Joe Boscacci, Wes Shermann, Darryle Grimes along with various other Veteran Organizations. It was an informative event and an opportune time to inform the next generation they can join MOAA and be Basic Members for free as long as they use their home email address. The common theme through the meeting was fellowship, family, and networking.

Please note the following MOAA deadlines:

1. Advocacy in Action May 2021
2. Levels of Excellence Award (LOE) Submission Deadline 1 May 2021
3. Mercer Advertising Campaign Ends 31 May 2021
  - a. If you haven't reached out to Michele Armesto email [michele.armesto@mercero.com](mailto:michele.armesto@mercero.com) please do before the deadline and submit your IRS W9 form. You can download the IRS W9 form by going to this link <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>
4. Strobbridge Legislative Chair / Liaison Nomination Deadline 1 June 2021
5. Surviving Spouse Liaison Nomination Deadline 1 June 2021
6. October Military Officer Magazine Chapter Input Due 1 Jul 2021
7. Annual Meeting / LOE Award Ceremony October 2021
8. Southwest Leaders' Regional Workshop (Southern California) 19 – 20 Nov 2021



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9. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter All Hands is being moved from April to May 2021. Please see the new schedule below:
  - a. CALMOAA AVP ALLHANDS Quarterly meeting schedule:
    - i. The April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting has been moved to May 20<sup>th</sup> from 1800 - 1930
  - b. CALMOAA ALLHANDS Quarterly meeting schedule:
    - i. The April 30<sup>th</sup> meeting has been moved to May 27<sup>th</sup> from 1800 - 1930

In addition to the above there are a few chapters who have not paid chapter dues per our Bylaws. Allen Maxwell (his email is [allen.maxwell@omni2max.com](mailto:allen.maxwell@omni2max.com)) sent invoices electronically to each chapter President, Chapter Treasure, and Area Vice President. Some of you may have overlooked his email. His invoiced used your January numbers as announced at our last all hands. Those numbers were used to allow each chapter time to update their module. The result of the delay was invaluable in that we truly got to see how many people are actually in your chapter. Only one chapter had an increase in January. Everyone else saw a decrease in their numbers. Please advise if you need Allen and/or me to retransmit your invoice.

Remember CALMOAA is here to help to the best of its ability. Please reach out whenever. Please visit CALMOAA website [www.Californiamoaa.com](http://www.Californiamoaa.com) it has a wealth of info about VA and TRICARE benefits, job opportunities and much more. Please visit it often!

Stay Safe and be careful out there.

E Fred Green, Jr.  
President CALMOAA

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## From the desk of CALMOAA 1<sup>st</sup> VP / Chief of Staff

LOE (Levels of Excellence) are due by 1 May 2021. See link <https://www.moaa.org/content/chapters-and-councils/moaa-awards/moaa-levels-of-excellence-awards/> for instructions.

MOAA has some really good Webinars. If you have signed up to get the emails from MOAA. You should be getting notices about Webinars. For example Today's was Legislative Advocacy. As a Premium and/ or Life Member you can log into the MOAA website and find them under Events.

Premium and Life members have access archives webinars.

In fact today I saw the best explanation of SBP/DIC that I have ever seen Suggest that that go back look through the archives for past events and take a look at ones coming up  
Let's have Maximum participation

Neal Schneider  
CALMOAA  
1st VP 2021-2022



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## **CALMOAA Invoices**

CALMOAA Treasure Allen Maxwell emailed the CALMOAA Invoices on 6 February 2021 to the Area VP and he copied the Chapter Presidents and Chapter Treasure. Dues are due payable by 1 April 2021. Please feel free to reach out to Allen if you have any questions.

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## **“Online Chapter Dues Program”**

Did you know the “Online Chapter Dues Program” allows members to join, pay for chapter membership and donations using a user-friendly platform. To find out more, select this

link: <https://www.moaa.org/content/chapters-and-councils/chapter-recruitingx/recruiting-materials/online-chapter-membership-dues-join-and-renewal/>

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## **Veteran Administration**

### **Support for Caregivers**

Caregivers play an important role in the health and well-being of Veterans. The Caregiver Support Program offers training, educational resources, and multiple tools to help you succeed. Eligible Veterans of all eras may benefit from these services, under the Program of General Caregiver Support Services. Call toll free 1-855-260-3274 or go to learn more:

<https://www.caregiver.va.gov/index.asp>

<https://www.va.gov/health-care/family-caregiver-benefits/comprehensive-assistance/>

As part of the VA MISSION Act, the VA is working to increase access to the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC), which is now only available to eligible Veterans injured in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001.

....Bud

### **Changes in Travel Pay Reimbursements**

The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) changed processes for veterans to receive pay for their travels to and from appointments for medical conditions.

These changes started on January 1, 2021, in which some veterans may have a more difficult time filing for travel reimbursements. The VA has moved everything to an online format, therefore, all veterans who want to be reimbursed for their travel expenses now have to go to a special VA website and set up an account. Each time a veteran travel to an appointment, he will have to log into the website to create a travel claim for each appointment they have attended before they can be reimbursed.

To set up an account; <<https://eauth.va.gov/accessva/>



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## Burial Expenses Reimbursed

Did you know VA will pay burial allowances up to \$2,000 if the veteran's death is service-connected? In such cases, the person who bore the veteran's burial expenses may claim reimbursement from VA.

Expense form; <https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-530-ARE.pdf>

In some cases, VA will pay the cost of transporting the remains of a veteran whose death was service-connected to the nearest National Cemetery with available gravesites. There is no time limit for filing reimbursement claims in service-connected cases.

## Burial Allowance

Did you know VA will pay \$300 burial and funeral allowances for veterans who, at the time of death, were entitled to receive pension or compensation or would have been entitled if they were not receiving military retirement pay? Eligibility also may be established when death occurs in a VA facility, a VA-contracted nursing home or State Veterans nursing home. In cases in which the veteran's death was not service-connected, claims must be filed within two years after burial or cremation.

....Bud

## Issues

- 2021 NDAA added 3 new Agent Orange Presumptive
  - Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism, Parkinsonism
- The Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021
  - Adds Hypertension and Monoclonal Gammopathy of Undetermined Significance (MGUS)
- VA COVID vaccines eligible to all veterans, spouses and caregivers as supplies become available
  - Still only vaccinating veterans enrolled in VHA and enrolled primary/secondary caregivers
- Toxic Exposure – The Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act

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## National Legislation and MOAA Advocacy in Action

[Advocacy in Action](#) is scheduled to address the following topics this year.

1. **Comprehensive Topic Exposure** Servicemembers, veterans, and their families from every generation face lifelong challenges from toxic exposures.

Oct. 31, 2021 will mark the 50th anniversary of the final helicopter flight when Agent Orange was used in Vietnam. Thirty years have passed since Gulf War veterans were exposed to myriad hazardous materials and toxins. Twenty years ago, the first troops were deployed to fight the global war on terror, many serving near open-air burn pits and other environmental dangers.

Each war poses unique hazards and exposures for servicemembers, and each conflict has led to tens of thousands of veterans suffering from illnesses or disabilities long after they returned home. Despite the documented history of potential health consequences connected to the dangers they encountered during service, many servicemembers are not receiving commensurate health care and benefits.



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## Action 1: Concede exposure

The first step toward supporting servicemembers who fought in Southwest Asia is to concede exposure to toxic substances.

The Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act will support claims by:

- Specifying countries and time periods of service; those who served in a given nation at a time when these burn pits were active would be presumed to have been exposed to burn pit toxins.
- Listing airborne hazards and toxic substances that a servicemember was exposed to within the specified countries.
- Requiring the VA to provide a medical exam to determine any links between medical conditions and burn pit exposures.

Conceding exposure to hazardous materials would reduce the burden on the veteran to prove illnesses, which may not be revealed until decades later, are related to military service.

Presuming exposure would expedite the time it takes for a veteran to file for VA benefits.

## Action 2: Increase Presumptives Reporting

When there is a sufficient level of association between a service-related exposure and an illness, Congress establishes a “presumptive exposure” to remove the burden of proof from servicemembers.

Congress should require the VA to provide a public, quarterly report on all future veterans’ claims submitted to the VA for presumptive conditions or “special interest conditions,” such as illnesses being evaluated for potential links to burn pit exposure.

Research is emerging that dementia may be linked to Agent Orange exposure, but under current law, the VA is not required to respond or act to support veterans. Increasing presumptive reporting would ensure current presumptives are helping veterans and increase awareness around emerging conditions.

## Action 3: Expand Veteran Health Care and Improve Presumptives Process

As the health consequences of burn pits and other toxic substances continue to be studied, the veteran community is witnessing a rise in rare cancers and other illnesses. We must ensure our veterans receive quality health care for these illnesses. The Toxic Exposure in the American Military (TEAM) Act supports veterans by:

- Granting VA health care enrollment in Priority Group 6 to veterans who served in areas of known toxic exposure and creating mechanisms for the enrollment of veterans who may be exposed to toxic substances in the future.
- Establishing an advisory commission to review toxic exposures and recommend independent studies to VA and Congress.
- Requiring VA to respond to whether illnesses associated with toxic exposure by scientific evidence should be added as presumptive conditions.

**Congress: Enact these bills to support comprehensive toxic exposure reform.**

**Cosponsor the Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act, S. 437 – Concede exposure for those who served where burn pits were used in Southwest Asia.**

**Increase reporting, transparency, and oversight of established presumptives and special interest conditions.**

**Cosponsor the Toxic Exposure in the American Military (TEAM) Act, S. 927/ H.R. 2127 \* Support health care for exposed service members. \* Create an advisory committee to recommend research. \* Require the VA to respond to scientific evidence associating diseases with toxic exposure.**

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- 2. TRICARE Young Adult Parity (TYA)** Young adult health care coverage is an issue that can impact any military family, but it is particularly important for career service members and their families who are most likely to be covered by TRICARE when their children reach adulthood. In 2018 approximately 85% of TYA enrollees were the children of working-age retirees while 15% were the children of active duty families.

TYA premiums have increased dramatically since the program’s inception, leading to lower enrollment and a beneficiary pool skewed toward those with chronic medical conditions. TYA Prime premiums are up 160% since 2012 (an average annual increase of more than 14%) while the cost of TYA Select has grown 69% (up more than 7% per year, on average.)

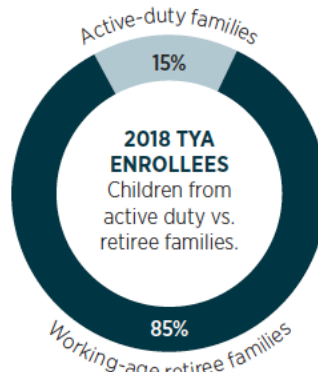
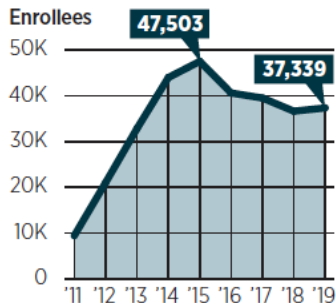
As premiums have increased, the number of healthy young adults enrolling in TYA has declined. That results in a beneficiary pool —particularly for TYA Prime — with a disproportionate number of young adults who have significant medical needs. These needs, with fewer beneficiaries covering program costs, lead to further premium increases, creating a cycle of higher costs and fewer families paying them. This process likely will continue until TYA is no longer a viable program.

**H.R. 475 – Please ensure military families have the same health care protection for their young adult children as their civilian counterparts covered by commercial plans.**

## BY THE NUMBERS:

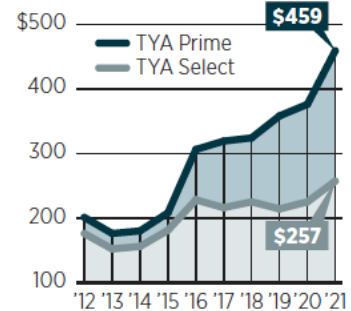
### ENROLLMENT DECLINE

TYA Enrollment has declined 21% since its peak in 2015.



### MONTHLY PREMIUMS

2021 has seen an increase of 22% for Prime and 13% for Select.



SOURCE: ANNUAL EVALUATION OF THE TRICARE PROGRAM

GRAPHICS BY JOHN HARMAN/STAFF

- 3. Basic Needs Allowance** The proposed Basic Needs Allowance would give a \$400 monthly subsidy to servicemembers with a household gross income (not including the Basic Allowance for Housing, or BAH) at or below 130% of the poverty line. The subsidy is meant to ensure no military family faces food insecurity. It would be accompanied by financial education resources.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates around 10,200 servicemembers would benefit from the monthly allowance. The program would cost \$175 million from 2021 through 2024, according to CBO projections — a little less than \$44 million per fiscal year.

Servicemembers would not rely on this program for extended periods of time. Instead, it would provide much-needed temporary assistance during times of financial difficulty, mostly among junior enlisted.

This program also will alleviate the need for servicemembers to participate in the government-sponsored Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), thus reducing mandatory spending in this area and making the overall program cost minimal when compared to the DoD budget.



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**H.R. 2339 – We are seeking bipartisan support for our military families facing food insecurity. Your co-sponsorship of this legislation will help us secure this bill in FY 2022 National Defense Act. Support for military families.**

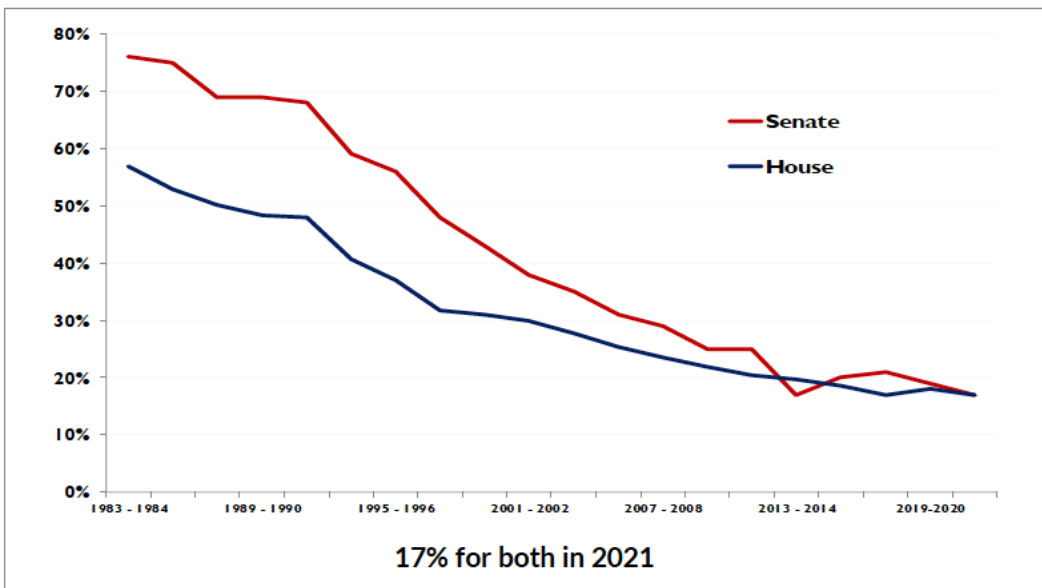
## NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Major “MOAA National issues” (website):

<http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/Top-Issues/Top-Issues.aspx>

**Congress:** The House Appropriations Committee has started scheduling hearings on the FY22 budget. The Department of Veterans Affairs’ (VA) budget request will be considered this month. The Senate Appropriations Committee will examine the Department of Defense’s innovation and research budget request. House Veterans Affairs Committee will hold another hearing on the Department’s implementation of a new electronic health record system.

## Military Experience in Congress



**CALMOAA Advocacy in Action** – David Yorck hosted Congressman Darrell Issa (who is a member of Hidden Valley MOAA Chapter and American Legion J.B. Clark Post 149) for an awards ceremony, followed by a round table discussion with local leaders of veteran's organizations to discuss MOAAs Advocacy in Action. In addition to our topics we discussed the growing rates of homelessness, the need to teach our young veterans money management, the difference and changes that have occurred in the services since Dave Yorck, Congressman Issa, and I have served. We all acknowledged San Diego has a large military presence and we need to do a better job. Congressman Issa had the privilege of meeting with six veterans and hearing their



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unique stories and sacrifices, lauding each with the 'Vietnam War Veterans Award'. After meeting with the local heroes, he attended another meeting with local leaders to address issues and find comprehensive solutions to the growing rates of homelessness in the veteran community.



*Meeting participants: Matt Foster - President of the NCVSD (North County Veterans Stand Down), Kelly Luisi - Founder and CEO of the HVSD (Homeless Veterans of San Diego), David Yorck - President at CA-54 MOAA (Military Officers Association of America), Fred Green, Jr. – President of CALMOAA and 1<sup>st</sup> VP of Miramar MOAA, Steven Holden - Director of American Legion Post 149."*

## Legislative update

The legislature has reconvened from a one-week spring break on April 5. This is an all-hands-on deck time of year, as the committees resume their work. The budget process is ramping up at the same time.

### Below is a list of bills that MOAA has taken a position on:

- AB 225 (Gray D) Department of Consumer Affairs: boards: veterans: military spouses: licenses.**  
**Status:** 1/28/2021-Referred to Coms. on B. & P. and M. & V.A.  
**Location:** 1/28/2021-A. B.&P.  
**Summary:** Current law requires specified boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs to issue, after appropriate investigation, certain types of temporary licenses to an applicant if the applicant meets specified requirements, including that the applicant supplies evidence satisfactory to



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the board that the applicant is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is assigned to a duty station in this state under official active duty military orders and the applicant holds a current, active, and unrestricted license that confers upon the applicant the authority to practice, in another state, district, or territory of the United States, the profession or vocation for which the applicant seeks a temporary license from the board. Current law requires these temporary licenses to expire 12 months after issuance. Under existing law, some of the funds within the jurisdiction of a board consist of revenue from fees that are continuously appropriated. This bill would require the temporary licenses described above to expire 30 months after issuance. The

Position: Support

## **AB 291 (Seyarto R) Income taxation: exclusion: military survivor benefits.**

**Status:** 3/22/2021-In committee: Hearing postponed by committee.

**Location:** 1/28/2021-A. REV. & TAX

**Summary:** Current law requires any bill authorizing a new tax expenditure to contain, among other things, specific goals, purposes, and objectives that the tax expenditure will achieve, detailed performance indicators, and data collection requirements. This bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2021, and before January 1, 2026, would provide an exclusion from gross income for all survivor benefits or payments received on or after January 1, 2021, and before January 1, 2026, under the federal Survivor Benefit Plan. The bill would require the Franchise Tax Board to submit, on or before December 1, 2025, a report to the Legislature on the income brackets of taxpayers who claimed this exclusion, and would provide findings and declarations relating to the goals, purposes, and objectives of this exclusion.

Position: Support

## **AB 459 (Mathis R) Vehicles: registration fees: exceptions.**

**Status:** 3/23/2021-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on M. & V.A. with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 15. Noes 0.) (March 22). Re-referred to Com. on M. & V.A.

**Location:** 3/23/2021-A. M. & V.A.

**Summary:** Current law defines a disabled veteran to include a person who, as a result of injury or disease suffered while on active service with the Armed Forces of the United States, has a disability that has been rated at 100% by the Department of Veterans Affairs or the military service from which the veteran was discharged, due to a diagnosed disease or disorder that substantially impairs or interferes with mobility. Current law exempts a disabled veteran from the payment of vehicle registration fees, as specified. This bill would extend a prorated discount on vehicle registration fees, as specified, to a partially disabled veteran, as defined.

Position: Support

## **AB 1470 (Mathis R) Ending Military Suicide Task Force.**

**Status:** 3/11/2021-Referred to Coms. on HEALTH and M. & V.A.

**Location:** 3/11/2021-A. HEALTH

**Summary:** Would require the Department of Health Care Services to establish an Ending Military



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Suicide Task Force to systematically reduce military suicides and to develop a plan to eliminate all military suicides in the state, as specified. Commencing June 1, 2023, the bill would require the task force to submit a specified report to the Governor and the Legislature on the state of veteran suicide prevention, as specified, including, among other things, an analysis of the plans, activities, strategies, and programs undertaken pursuant to the task force's recommendations and their effects on reducing military suicides in the state.

Position: Support

**ACR 5 (Mathis R) AMVETS 75th Anniversary.**

**Status:** 2/12/2021-Referred to Com. on RLS.

**Location:** 2/12/2021-A. RLS.

**Summary:** This measure would commend AMVETS Department of California on its 75th year of providing benefits and services to Veterans.

Position: Support

**ACR 13 (Seyarto R) Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.**

**Status:** 2/12/2021-Referred to Com. on RLS.

**Location:** 2/12/2021-A. RLS.

**Summary:** This measure would commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

Position: Support

**ACR 21 (Dahle, Megan R) Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge.**

**Status:** 2/12/2021-Referred to Com. on TRANS.

**Location:** 2/12/2021-A. TRANS.

**Summary:** This measure would designate the South Yuba River Bridge over State Highway Route 49 in the County of Nevada as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge. The measure would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost for appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Position: Support

**SB 363 (Leyva D) Educational equity: government instruction conferences: Sacramento.**

**Status:** 3/15/2021-March 17 set for first hearing canceled at the request of author.

**Summary:** Under current law, the sex discrimination provisions of the Sex Equity in Education Act do not apply to any program or activity of the American Legion undertaken in connection with the organization or operation of any Boys State conference, Boys Nation conference, Girls State conference, or Girls Nation conference, or to any program or activity of any secondary educational institution specifically for the promotion of any of those conferences or for the selection of pupils to attend those conferences if the conferences comply with other nondiscriminatory provisions of state and federal law. This bill would prohibit public funds or resources from being used in connection with any secondary educational program of government instruction located in Sacramento that does not provide an equal opportunity for female and male pupils to participate and use facilities in



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Sacramento. The bill would specifically subject those American Legion programs and activities to this prohibition.

Position: Oppose

**SB 498 (Umberg D) Funds for the provision of legal services to indigent persons: disabled veterans.**

**Status:** 3/24/2021-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on M. & V.A. with recommendation: To consent calendar. (Ayes 11. Noes 0.) (March 23). Re-referred to Com. on M. & V.A.

**Summary:** Current law requires an attorney or law firm receiving or disbursing trust funds to establish and maintain an Interest On Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) account in which the attorney or law firm is required to deposit or invest all specified client deposits or funds. Current law directs IOLTA account interest and dividends to be paid to the State Bar of California to be distributed for the provision of civil legal services to indigent persons in a prescribed order, including, after payment of administrative costs, 85% of remaining funds to qualified legal services projects. Current law defines terms for these purposes, including the definition of "indigent person." This bill would expand the definition of "indigent person" by increasing one measure of income eligibility from 125% to 200% of a specified poverty threshold. The bill would further require, for the purpose of that definition, that the income of a person who is disabled be determined after deducting disability compensation from the United States Veterans Administration paid to a veteran with a service-related disability.

Position: Support

**SB 658 (Grove R) Property tax: exemptions: disabled veterans.**

**Status:** 3/24/2021-Set for hearing April 8.

**Summary:** Current property tax law, pursuant to the authorization of the California Constitution, provides a disabled veteran's property tax exemption for the principal place of residence of a veteran, the veteran's spouse, or the veteran and veteran's spouse jointly, and the unmarried surviving spouse of a veteran, as provided, if the veteran is blind in both eyes, has lost the use of 2 or more limbs, or is totally disabled as a result of injury or disease incurred in military service, or if the veteran has, as a result of a service-connected injury or disease, died while on active duty in military service. Current law exempts that part of the full value of the residence that does not exceed \$100,000, or \$150,000 if the household income of the claimant does not exceed \$40,000, as adjusted for inflation, as specified. This bill, for property tax lien dates occurring on or after January 1, 2022, would additionally provide a partial exemption for property owned by, and that constitutes the principal place of residence of, a veteran who is partially disabled, as defined, or the veteran's spouse or the veteran and the veteran's spouse jointly, under these provisions.

Position: Support

**SB 661 (Newman D) Veterans' farm and home loan program.**

**Status:** 3/19/2021-Set for hearing April 5.

**Summary:** Current law establishes the Department of Veterans Affairs, which is headed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Current law requires the secretary, as head of the department and subject to the policies adopted by the California Veterans Board, to perform all duties, exercise all powers and jurisdiction, assume and discharge all responsibilities, and carry out and effect all



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provisions vested by law in the department. Current law defines “veteran” for the purposes of the various programs granting benefits to veterans. This bill would authorize the secretary to designate a deputy, employee, or other official in the department to act for them and to represent them at meetings. The bill would authorize the secretary to delegate powers and duties, as specified.

Position: Support

## **SB 665 (Umberg D) Employment policy: voluntary veterans’ preference.**

**Status:** 3/24/2021-Set for hearing April 6.

**Summary:** Would enact the Voluntary Veterans’ Preference Employment Policy Act to authorize a private employer to establish and maintain a written veterans’ preference employment policy, to be applied uniformly to hiring decisions, to give a voluntary preference for hiring or retaining a veteran over another qualified applicant or employee. The bill would provide that the granting of a veterans’ preference pursuant to the bill, in and of itself, shall be deemed not to violate any local or state equal employment opportunity law or regulation, including, but not limited to, the antidiscrimination provisions of FEHA. The bill would revise the existing veteran status provision in FEHA to remove references to discrimination on account of sex and to Vietnam-era veterans, and would, instead, provide that nothing in that act relating to discrimination affects the right of an employer to use veteran status as a factor in hiring decisions if the employer maintains a veterans’ preference employment policy established in accordance with the Voluntary Veterans’ Preference Employment Policy Act.

Position: Support

## **SB 667 (Roth D) Property taxation: disabled veterans’ exemption: claims: executor and administrator of claimant’s estate.**

**Status:** 3/25/2021-Set for hearing April 14.

**Summary:** Current property tax law, pursuant to the authorization of the California Constitution, provides a disabled veterans’ property tax exemption for the principal place of residence of a veteran, the veteran’s spouse, or the veteran and veteran’s spouse jointly, and the unmarried surviving spouse of a veteran, as provided, if the veteran is blind in both eyes, has lost the use of 2 or more limbs, or is totally disabled as a result of injury or disease incurred in military service, or if the veteran has, as a result of a service-connected injury or disease, died while on active duty in military service. Existing property tax law requires any person claiming the disabled veterans’ property tax exemption to file a claim, which is required to be filed under penalty of perjury, with the assessor giving any information required by the State Board of Equalization, as provided. This bill would authorize the executor or administrator of the claimant’s estate to file a claim with the assessor in the manner described above.

Position: Support

## **SB 766 (Eggman D) Private postsecondary education.**

**Status:** 3/3/2021-Referred to Coms. on B., P. & E.D. and ED.

**Summary:** Would prohibit private postsecondary educational institutions, commencing with the 2023–24 academic year, from enrolling California residents if, pursuant to that federal law, for the previous 2 consecutive fiscal years or 2 out of the previous 3 fiscal years it derived less than 10 percent of its revenues from sources other than federal financial assistance.



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Position: Support

**For More information contact:**

Jeff Briten-Legislative Chair  
[breitenj@msn.com](mailto:breitenj@msn.com)

**California Senate and Assembly 2021 Military and Veterans Committees:**

The Veterans committees for both houses have changed the names of the committees to “Military and Veterans Affairs”. Previously, they had not mentioned military in the committee’s name, even though the military has always been part of the committees’ purview. Assemblymember Irwin and Senator Archuleta have remained Chairs in their respective committees. If you would like to find out more about these Assemblymembers, go to: <https://www.assembly.ca.gov/assemblymembers>

For the Senators, go to: <https://www.senate.ca.gov/senators>

**Assembly Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs**

- Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin (D-Thousand Oaks), Chair
- Assemblymember Randy Voepel (R-Santee), Vice Chair
- Assemblymember Tasha Boerner Horvath (D-Encinitas)
- Assemblymember Tom Daly (D-Anaheim)
- Assemblymember Jim Frazier (D-Oakley)
- Assemblymember Devon Mathis (R-Visalia)
- Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance)
- Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris (D-Laguna Beach)
- Assemblymember James Ramos (D-Highland)
- Assemblymember Rudy Salas (D-Bakersfield)
- Assemblymember Thurston “Smitty” Smith (R-Hesperia)

**Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs**

- Senator Bob Archuleta (D-Pico Rivera), Chair.
- Senator Shannon Grove (R-Bakersfield), Vice Chair.
- Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman (D-Stockton)
- Senator Melissa Melendez (R-Lake Elsinore)
- Senator Josh Newman (D-Fullerton)
- Senator Richard D. Roth (D-Riverside)
- Senator Thomas J. Umberg (D-Santa Ana)

**Congratulations to 2020 CALMOAA Chapters for receiving MOAA Retention Bonus and Recruitment incentive from MOAA.**

<b>2020 Retention Bonus</b>
(CA01) Alta Chapter of MOAA



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(CA07) Alameda County Chapter, MOAA
(CA14) Kings-Tulare Counties Chapter
(CA21) Monterey County Chapter
(CA24) Solano County Chapter MOAA
(CA33) Sacramento Chapter
(CA40) San Pedro/South Bay Chapter MOAA
(CA56) Mojave Desert Chapter

<b>2020 Chapter Recruitment</b>
(CA01) Alta Chapter of MOAA
(CA06) Contra Costa Chapter, MOAA
(CA07) Alameda County Chapter, MOAA
(CA14) Kings-Tulare Counties Chapter
(CA17) Los Alamitos Area Chapter MOAA
(CA20) Miramar Chapter
(CA21) Monterey County Chapter
(CA24) Solano County Chapter MOAA
(CA27) Orange Empire Military Officers' Club
(CA29) Silicon Valley Chapter of the MOAA
(CA31) Rio Hondo Chapter
(CA32) Riverside March Field Chapter, MOAA
(CA33) Sacramento Chapter
(CA45) Silver Strand Chapter
(CA49) Valley-Ridge Chapter
(CA50) Ventura County Chapter MOAA
(CA54) Hidden Valley Chapter
(CA56) Mojave Desert Chapter

## From the desk of Dave Yorck CALMOAA Membership and Recruiting VP

Membership and Recruiting is here to help chapters recruit and increase your numbers in 2021. By motivating and helping struggling chapters improve recruiting or examine the concept of becoming a satellite chapter of host chapter.

### A. Goals for CALMOAA Recruiting 👍

Each Chapter recruit should recruit one new chapter member.

### B. Utilize mass messaging offered by MOAA twice a year for Major Chapter event.

For example Hidden Valley (CA54) utilized MOAA Mass message capability to send out a message to all MOAA members in its Zip Codes. For the upcoming Veterans Stand-down in San Diego Northern County in Support of North County Veterans Stand-down in Vista, CA on 15 April 2021 (All Day)



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Now that we see the end of COVID-19 this summer keep TRUCKING & DO NOT QUIT. Offer Officers Free Membership In MOAA & Chapters. Invite ROTC Officers, & MOWW Members to your MOAA functions, Veterans Day, and Christmas party.

Talk to them about them what CALMOAA & MOAA does for their Community helping all Veterans through lobbying Sacramento and Washington DC.

MOAA Scholarships & Interest Free Loans Application (if their children are approved their parents will have to upgrade MOAA membership to Premium Membership (at \$48.00 per year for every year of scholarships)

Ask the officer for their business card (usually business cards have their email address (try to get their personal email address vice their work email address if possible), phone number and business addresses), date of birth. Either take a photo of the card with all of the information and send it to MOAA Membership or just send MOAA Membership an email with all of the information. 2-3 days later MOAA will send you his/her new Members Basic Membership Number.

Chapter Recruiting Officer or Chapter President inputs/adds New Membership Number To Chapter Roster.

## C. New MOAA Members provided by MOAA Headquarters.

Starting 1 October 2019 MOAA Council & Chapter (Captain Stone USN Ret) & MOAA Member services will add new MOAA Basic, Premium or Life Members who moved into your Chapters' Zip Codes.

Solution:

MOAA Near Real Time Recruiting

Chapter President & Recruiting Officer Check by 5 of each month your Chapter's Module on your Laptop Computer.

If you get a prospect: call, email or send letter to the officer ASAP.

Invite them to free luncheon or 🍷 dinner.

Then reel them in!

Utilize the MOAA email Blast will send out 2 messages a year to all MOAA members in your Zip Codes.

Pick big event

Christmas 🍷 Luncheon

4th of July Dinner

Veterans Day 11/11/2021

Go to MOAA Chapters website

Pull up messages format

Fill out MOAA form send to MOAA.

They will send out e Mails to the Hidden list of E Mail address in your Zip Codes.





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There are 20,000 MOAA members in California. However, less than 3,500 belong to CALMOAA Chapters. In 2003 CALMOAA had 55 Chapters and 6,000 Members.

David C Yorck  
LtCol USMC Ret  
CALMOAA VP Recruiting  
619 992 7051

Never Stop Serving

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## **From the Desk of Kathy Prout CALMOAA Surviving Spouse Liaison:**

There are 2 bills in Congress to increase Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for the surviving spouses of veterans who died on active duty or of a service connected disability or condition. The Senate bill is S.344 and the House bill is HR 1282.

Please call your Congressman and both Senators to request that they cosponsor these bills.

The phase out of the SBP-DIC Offset finally began in Feb. Many surviving spouses received an increase in the Survivor Benefit Plan if their SBP was more than \$905 a month. The DIC offset is now \$905 a month instead of the full amount. Next year the offset will be about \$452.50 without COLA factored in. In 2023, the offset phase out will be finished with SBP being paid in full in addition to DIC.

Please join the MOAA Surviving Spouses and Friends Facebook group. Do answer the questions to be admitted to the group. It Is open to all MOAA members.

From [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)

## ***Financial Checklist: Planning for your survivors***

*Survivor planning is never an easy topic. And don't think you are too young to start. It is just as critical for young growing families to be prepared.*

*In addition to the income aspects, you also want to ensure other financial-related information doesn't die with the deceased. For instance: How are bills paid? By checks, credit cards, or automatic bill pay? What about online usernames and passwords? Here are some checklist items to consider:*

- *Identify how much income is required to maintain a lifestyle for your survivors and for how long.*
- *Identify the permanent income sources remaining upon your death and the amounts.*
  - o *Social Security survivor or retirement benefit*
  - o *military or civilian survivor benefit programs on retired pay*

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Contact info:  
[2021calmoaa@gmail.com](mailto:2021calmoaa@gmail.com)



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- o *insurance annuities*
- o *possible VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation*
- o *spouse's own income sources*
- *Identify all your various savings and investment accounts.*
  - o *Provide your spouse a list with firms, advisors, account numbers, types of account, usernames/passwords.*
  - o *Simplify numerous accounts through consolidation, if possible - reduce the span of control.*
- *Add all the amounts for your total assets.*
  - o *Who is the one person your survivor can turn to help manage these assets? Chances are, your survivor will have different objectives, which require financial realignment.*
  - o *Determine how much of your assets will be needed to generate income.*
  - o *Factor in life insurance proceeds.*
- *Fill in the asset shortfall with other strategies: life insurance, downsizing, going back to work, family help, etc.*

*Final thought: Your survivor will be single for future tax purposes, meaning single tax rates, smaller standard deduction, fewer itemized deductions, higher Medicare Part B premiums, and greater tax rate on Social Security so take that into consideration as well.*

The Survivor Planning Guide is a publication everyone should have and fill out.

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/moaa-publications/survivor-s-planning-guide-detail/>

I suggest **everyone** get a binder and put all your important documents in it including these documents.

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**From the Desk of Patty Z. Wernet, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, CALMOAA Chapter Affairs**

A. Chapter Data –

1. *Numbers* - Increased chapters are having virtual and in person Board meetings monthly 20 chapters. This has increased over early 2020 – which started with a few meetings around March timeframe.



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Twelve chapters also have a Chapter meeting with speakers, joint meetings with other VSOs as MOWW, regional meetings with Veteran Councils, etc. Ten chapters still do not meet at all.

2. *Activities* – focus continues on support for members, community donations and member scholarships.

Support for JROTC and ROTC has been more difficult since programs have just started to have students on school sites. National MOAA has been unable to offer Medals and Certificates for presentations.

Member support includes call, mailing newsletters, and emails.

3. *Financial Status* – from comments at meetings - chapters seem to be doing well financially have many have investments/savings over \$6,000.

## B. Membership and Recruiting/Retention

1. *Size of Chapters* – chapters are still calculating their number of members. Mostly because many members have not paid their dues for over a year. Some chapters are not requiring dues this year.
2. Chapters have had a difficult time in *recruiting* new members. Having interesting speakers at the chapter meetings may help with recruiting and retention and when they can meet in person.
3. *Retention* is difficult because many chapters had members that mainly participated at luncheons, dinners, etc. Also, chapters have an aging population. Highest chapter membership is in Areas with a fixed military facility nearby. Many chapters are not near other chapters and in large, less populated areas as Central California and Northern California. This is not new data but more acute at this time. The focus is not on recruiting younger meetings – format of meetings, meeting midday during the week, etc.

## C. Other Issues–

1. There has been little change of chapter members assuming a Board position, writing a newsletter, being on a committee, etc.
2. There was only two new chapter president this year and one Area VP. The majority of the Council members are “retreads” except for two new members.
3. Several chapters are “hanging in” which the Council and Area VPs are aware of. Morale is low as attendance at virtual meetings is low in most chapters. Many chapters are looking to June to start in person meetings and some to start in September. Many factors when they can start but mainly where the chapters can attend and if they can get reservations and guarantee a minimum of attendees.

## D. My Activities-

1. *Attend* about viral 18; chapter board meetings a month with invite– and about 8 chapters meetings.
2. *Answer* questions and send back information as asked. Several members do not understand the role of the council members and that Council members are there to assist chapters in their area – finance, legislation, etc. Many chapters still need assistance to maintain their MOAA module and retrieve



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their NRT reports –they assume that National MOAA does . Most chapters are receiving under 10 names per month for potential members with minimal returns.

3. *Keep data* on monthly schedule of members and share with AVPs .
4. *Liaison* with David Yorck on recruiting/retention; Jeff Breiten on legislation, Area VPs, etc. If I hear some great idea, I pass it on.
5. *Attend Council meetings* and Legislative meetings.

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## How to turn on automatic refills for TRICARE home delivery prescriptions

### *From TRICARE*

Falls Church, Va. – Looking to get the most of out of your TRICARE pharmacy benefit? Take some time to check out the TRICARE pharmacy automatic refill program. With this program, you won't have to remind yourself to refill your prescription. Before you run out of medication, Express Scripts will refill and ship your prescription to you for up to a 90-day supply, over the course of a prescription written for a one-year supply. "We want beneficiaries to be aware of their options for filling prescriptions," said Henry Gibbs, acting chief of Purchased Care Branch, Pharmacy Operations Division at the Defense Health Agency. "Automatic refills through TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery helps to make sure you have enough medication on hand to take as instructed by your doctor. It's safe, easy to use, and may save you money."

### Is my prescription eligible?

Many common maintenance medications that you may take for long-term therapy, like blood pressure medicine, are eligible for automatic refills. If your medication is eligible, you'll see the "start automatic refills" option next to it when logged into your account. To see if your medication is available through home deliver, use TRICARE Formulary Search Tool. If you have questions, visit the [Express Scripts](#) website or call them at (877) 363-1303.

### How do I set up automatic refills?

To get started, simply login to the Express Scripts mobile app or your online account. If you don't have an account, you can register for one online. Once you've signed in, click on the "manage prescriptions" tab and then select an eligible prescription you would like to enroll. Eligible medications will have the "start automatic refills" option next to them. After you enroll your prescription, make sure to choose your preferred method of communication (phone call, email, or text message) to get alerts about your refill's orders. Keep in mind, not all medications are eligible for the automatic refill program. And this service is only available through TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery. Some limits on home delivery may apply overseas.

### How can I continue to get my medications if I'm almost out of refills?

When you're on your last refill, Express Scripts will contact you by your preferred method of communications to make sure you're taking your medication. You'll then have 10 days to respond that:

You're still taking the medication;

You want Express Scripts to renew your prescription.

You want to continue to get your medication through automatic refills.

After your response to continue is received, Express Scripts will contact your doctor to renew your prescription. If Express Scripts can't get in touch with your doctor, they'll let you know. You may need to reach out to your doctor. This consent is required once your prescription expires to ensure you're still taking the medication and



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continue to receive refills automatically. Your doctor may ask to see you before renewing the prescription. Once the order ships, your payment method will be charged for your pharmacy copayment.

## Can I change or cancel my automatic refill order?

Yes. Express Scripts will contact you via your preferred communication method before every automatic refill to tell you they're getting ready to start working on your order. This gives you time to change the date or cancel the prescription if you no longer need your medication. You can track your order through the Express Scripts mobile app while its processed and shipped. Got questions about prescriptions cost? Visit TRICAE Pharmacy or download the TRICAARE Cost and Fees Sheet.

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## CPT James Ahn Memorial Scholarship

**From:** MOAA Foundation [moaa\\_foundation@moaa.org](mailto:moaa_foundation@moaa.org)

**Date:** April 1, 2021 at 11:32:32 AM PDT

Dear Colonel Kirkland,

We thank you very much for reaching out to LCDR Green, and subsequently bringing this scholarship opportunity to our attention.

This information can now be found on our "[Other Educational Assistance Resources](#)" page, a branch off of our [main Educational Assistance](#) page for those who may be looking for additional resources outside of MOAA.

We appreciate both of your support as MOAA LIFE members, and continued advocates for those within the military and veteran community.

With thanks,

The Development Team  
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)  
201 N. Washington St.  
Alexandria, VA 22314-2539  
1-800-234-6622

[www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)

**NEVER STOP SERVING. ®**



**From:** [info@rotccconsulting.com](mailto:info@rotccconsulting.com)

**Sent:** Mar 28, 20:44



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**Subject:** [External Email]CPT James Ahn Memorial Scholarship

Dear Sir,

My name is Lieutenant Colonel Robert Kirkland (U.S. Army, Retired). I am a life member of MOAA. I am reaching out to you to see if you can post to your website an annual scholarship we are sponsoring for a student who served in the U.S. Army Special Forces and is now a full time student. The award is for \$1000.

It is named in honor of Captain James Ahn who died in a tragic parachuting accident while with his unit in Washington State in 2015. The following is the link to the website: [CPT James Ahn Memorial Scholarship](#). I was James' Army ROTC Professor of Military Science when he was a cadet at the University of California Riverside. Thanks so much for your help with letting your members know about this scholarship.

Best,

LTC Rob Kirkland

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## **ESGR looking for a few good volunteers**

For more information regarding ESGR please contact CALMOAA ESGR Joe Boscacci (email: [boscaccijoe@gmail.com](mailto:boscaccijoe@gmail.com) or call him at (650) 450-0993

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is a Department of Defense program with a mission to foster positive relationships between Guard and Reserve members and their civilian employers through outreach, mediation, and recognition. The program relies on a network of more than 3,500 volunteers across 54 state committees to help carry out the mission. The program always looking for volunteer talent to help brief units on the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), engage employers, or become ombudsmen and help conduct informal mediation between service members and their employers if issues arise.

Would you like to stay connected to Service members by supporting Reserve and National Guard members in your community? Consider becoming an ESGR volunteer, and help strive to promote a culture in which all employers value military service in the National Guard and Reserve.

This is accomplished by educating service members and employers about their rights and responsibilities under USERRA, recognizing supportive employers through a robust awards program, and mediating conflicts between Service members and their employers when issue arise.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is powered by a network of DoD volunteers who support ESGR Committees located in every state, territory, and the District of Columbia.

Volunteers perform a variety of roles, including employer engagement, representing ESGR at tradeshow and community events; unit outreach, briefing service members on USERRA; engagement with business, government, and military leaders to raise awareness of ESGR's resources; and conduct mediation to help resolve conflicts between service members and civilian employers as an ombudsman.



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These dedicated volunteers come from all walks of life. They are business executives, civic leaders, and patriotic citizens, but they all join for one main reason: to support the National Guard and Reserve members who protect our nation at home and around the world.

Join and become an ESGR volunteer today by visiting [www.esgr.mil/Volunteers/Become-a-Volunteer](http://www.esgr.mil/Volunteers/Become-a-Volunteer)

## House Panel Tackles Growing Backlog of VA Compensation and Pension Exams

By: Brenden McMahon

A March 23 House committee hearing addressed a critical VA exam backlog preventing hundreds of thousands of veterans from receiving earned benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic. Almost 350,000 veterans are awaiting their compensation and pension (C&P) exams, a figure that's more than tripled since early 2020. These exams are a critical step in the VA disability claims process, determining a veteran's eligibility for access to VA health care, disability benefits, and other VA services. The exams were paused VA-wide in April 2020 because of the pandemic and [restarted late the next month](#) at some locations. VA representatives and advocates from veteran's service organizations (VSOs) addressed the backlog during the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs (HVAC) Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs hearing, led by Rep. Elaine Luria (D-Va.), the subcommittee's chair, and its ranking member, Rep. Troy Nehls (R-Texas).

MOAA was heartened to hear the subcommittee's bipartisan concerns and calls for action to address the backlog and other issues of oversight. Key areas identified by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the VA's Office of the Inspector General (VA OIG) included:

- The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) lacks a long-term strategy to eliminate the C&P exam backlog in a timely fashion.
- GAO recommendations on the oversight of contracted examiners have yet to be fully implemented by VBA. Concerns remain that data from the oversight process still cannot be fully used to analyze the operations of the program.
- OIG and GAO concur that VBA lacks and should develop a detailed, written plan to address the backlog, the quality of contracted examiners, and ensure there is uniform guidance across all levels of VBA and VHA.

## The Path Forward

During a March 25 HVAC hearing, VA Secretary Denis McDonough outlined four guiding principles for his vision of the future of the department. You can learn more about his approach and other plans for the VA [at this link](#). McDonough is committed to improving VA's outreach and engagement with veterans, their caregivers, their families, and survivors. More work is required to address the backlog and the quality of contracted C&P exams, but the secretary has been hard at work, in his first 45 days, to address all areas of veteran health care and benefits.

MOAA will continue to engage with VA, Secretary McDonough, Congress, and our VSO partners to improve the quality of, and timely access to, VA health care and benefits. The growing backlog of C&P exams must be

Contact info:

[2021calmoaa@gmail.com](mailto:2021calmoaa@gmail.com)



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addressed by the VA, the training of VBA-contracted examiners must improve, and GAO and VA OIG recommendations for these areas must be fully implemented.

## Check Out Indeed's Job Search Guide for Former Servicemembers

By: Kevin Lilley

Indeed adds 10 jobs per second to its offerings. MOAA's Job Board, powered by Indeed listings, had more than 50,000 veteran-hiring positions in the Washington, D.C., area alone in a recent search. But volume isn't all Indeed offers – transitioning servicemembers and veterans can get advice from Indeed's experts via their recently published [job search guide](#). Along with advice on preparing applications, interview techniques, and getting started in a new position, the job guide provides links to Indeed-specific resources that can help you succeed in your search. Some examples:

- Finding your prospective employer's [Indeed Company Page](#).
- Using Indeed's [salary comparison tools](#).
- [Reaching out to Indeed](#) with questions about listings or other concerns.

## Beyond the Listings

MOAA can help with all parts of your job search. Whether you're searching for your first job out of uniform or looking for an upgrade on your post-service career path, visit [MOAA.org/Careers](#) to learn what programs are right for you. You can also follow MOAA for the [latest in transition and career news](#), including changes to your education benefits and regular advice from our team of transition experts. Premium and Life members can access additional resources, including [archived webinars](#), [résumé critiques](#), and [exclusive publications](#).

## Surviving Spouse Corner: Focusing on Finances After Loss

By: Pat Green

The loss of a spouse has quite an impact. At first, you are busy dealing with grief and helping your family recover from the loss. Eventually, though, you must focus your energy on finances. Your goal should be to live comfortably with as little financial stress as possible. Losing a spouse often means a reduction in family income. This requires some changes and hard decisions as you consider:

- **Where should I live?** Many factors are involved in this decision. Work, commute time, children, their friends, activities, and school proximity, health, safety, and other family responsibilities are all important.
- **What can I afford?** This is probably the most important consideration. If you and your spouse were conservative in spending, your living expenses and debt might be manageable. Do a budget analysis based on your current income and spending. Be aware of adjustments. Income might be down, but taxes might be up if your new IRS tax status is "single" (higher rates). Include new insurance costs for yourself to protect any dependents. Don't forget to add in the expense of services your spouse provided, such as lawn mowing, painting, or handy jobs. Do the calculations. If you can stay put for a while, great!





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- **How can I make changes to my current home?** It's home, and you love it. You can freshen things up with some inexpensive changes like rearranging furniture, adding some fresh paint, buying a new bed or bedspread, and relocating photos and wall art.
- **What if a change of address is necessary?** Downsizing or moving might be the best option for your new financial circumstances or emotional state. Make a pro/con list of emotional factors and expenses. Be thoughtful about real estate commissions, state income tax, moving, and redecorating expenses as well as all those emotional pluses and minuses. Investigate whether spousal disability exemptions and entitlements are available at a new home or new location. Changing states can generate issues. Do your homework. Be diligent!

This is a lot to do and a lot to consider, but help and resources are available. There are excellent calculators and programs online to assist with mortgages, investments, budget analysis, and insurance decisions, including on MOAA.org. Find them at [MOAA.org/Finance](https://www.moaa.org/Finance).



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## Ready Reference Contact Information

Air Force Retiree Services: (800) 531-7502;  
[www.retirees.af.mil](http://www.retirees.af.mil)

Arlington National Cemetery: (703) 607-8000;  
[www.arlingtoncemetery.org](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.org)

Armed Forces Retirement Home: (800) 422-9988;  
[www.afrh.gov](http://www.afrh.gov)

Army & Air Force Exchange Service: (214) 312-2011;  
[www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com)

Army Retired Services: (703) 571-7232;  
<https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement>

Burial at Sea Information: (866) 787-0081;  
[webpage](#)

Combat Related Special Compensation:  
[www.donhq.navy.mil/corb/crscb/crscmainpage.htm](http://www.donhq.navy.mil/corb/crscb/crscmainpage.htm)

DEERS: (800)-538-9552, Fax: (831) 655-8317;  
[www.tricare.osd.mil/deers](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/deers)

Defense Commissary Agency:  
[www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com)

DFAS Casualty Assistance Branch: (800) 321-1080  
or (216) 522-5955; (For Reporting a Retiree's  
death, option #1)

Fleet Reserve Association: (703) 683-1400;  
[www.fra.org](http://www.fra.org)

Gulf War homepage: [www.gulfink.osd.mil](http://www.gulfink.osd.mil)

I.D. Cards Benefits and Eligibility: (866) 827-5672;  
<http://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Support-Services/Pay-Pers-Support/ID-Cards/>

Internal Revenue Service: (800) 829-1040;  
[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

Marine Corps Retired Affairs: (800) 336-4649;  
[www.usmc.mil](http://www.usmc.mil)  
(Hover over "Marine Services" then click on  
"Retired Services")

Medicare: (800) 633-4227. TTY: (877) 486-2048;  
[www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

Military Officers Assoc. of America: (800) 234-6622; [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)

National Burial Services: (800) 697-6940

NPC Navy Reserve Personnel Management (PERS  
9): (866) 827-5672;  
[www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Career-Management/Reserve-Personnel-Mgmt/](http://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Career-Management/Reserve-Personnel-Mgmt/)

Navy Casualty Assistance: (800) 368-3202

Navy Retired Activities Office: (866) U-ASK-NPC  
(866-827-5672) MILL [RetiredActivities@navy.mil](mailto:RetiredActivities@navy.mil);  
[www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Support-Services/21st-Century-Sailor/Retired-Activities/](http://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Support-Services/21st-Century-Sailor/Retired-Activities/)

Navy Uniform Shop: (800) 368-4088; [www.navy-nex.com/uniform](http://www.navy-nex.com/uniform)

Reserve Component SBP: (866) 827-5672 ask for  
PERS-912

Retiree Dental — Delta Dental: (888) 838-8737;  
[www.trdp.org](http://www.trdp.org)

Servicemembers Group Insurance (SGLI): (800)  
419-1473;  
[www.insurance.va.gov](http://www.insurance.va.gov)



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Pay/SBP Questions: [www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil)

Pay inquiries and update of pay or SBP records in case of death, divorce or remarriage:

Retiree:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service

U.S. Military Retirement Pay

8899 E 56th Street

Indianapolis, IN 46249-1200

(800) 321-1080 / Fax: (800) 469-6559.

SBP/RSFPP annuitant:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service

U.S. Military Annuitant Pay

8899 E 56th Street

Indianapolis IN 46249-1300

(800) 321-1080 / (800) 469-6559

VA: [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

Regional offices: (800) 827-1000 (overseas retirees should contact the American Embassy/consulate), TDD (800) 829-4833

Insurance:

VA Regional Office and Insurance Center

PO Box 7208 (claims inquiries) -ORPO

Box 7327 (loans) -ORPO

Box 7787 (payments)

Philadelphia PA 19101

(800) 669-8477; [www.insurance.va.gov](http://www.insurance.va.gov)

Burial information: (800) 827-1000;

[www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov)

GI Bill: (888) 442-4551; [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov)

Records:

For replacement DD 214s, service records, medical records, award information:

Retired prior to 1995:

[www.archives.gov/veterans/militaryservice-records](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/militaryservice-records)

Retired after 1995:

Navy Personnel Command

PERS-312E

5720 Integrity Drive

Millington, TN 38055-3120

Fax requests to: (901) 874-2664

Gray-area reservists: (866) 827-5672

Navy recreation: [www.mwr.navy.mil](http://www.mwr.navy.mil)

Navy Gateway Inns & Suites: <http://dodlodging.net>

ITT: <http://navymwr.org/mwrprgms/itt.html>

Sister service retiree publications:

Air Force Afterburner:

[www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner](http://www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner)

Army Echoes:

<https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/echoes>

Coast Guard Evening Colors:

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg1/psc/ras>

Marine Corps Semper Fidelis:

[www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/](http://www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/)

[page/portal/M\\_RA\\_HOME/MM/SR/RET\\_ACT/Semper\\_Fidelis](http://page/portal/M_RA_HOME/MM/SR/RET_ACT/Semper_Fidelis)

TRICARE: [www.mytricare.com/mtc](http://www.mytricare.com/mtc)

TRICARE East:

[www.humanamilitary.com/beneficiary](http://www.humanamilitary.com/beneficiary)

AL, AR, CT, DC, DE, IL, IN, KY, FL, GA, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MS, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, TN (except 35 Western zips), TX (except the extreme Western area) VT, VA, WI, and WV

TRICARE West: [www.tricare-west.com](http://www.tricare-west.com)

AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, IA (except 82 zips near Rock Island), KS, MO (except St. Louis area), MN, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OR, DE, SW TX, UT, WA, WY some zips in IA, MO, TN

TRICARE Overseas: (888) 777-8343; [www.tricare-overseas.com](http://www.tricare-overseas.com)

TRICARE For Life: (866) 773-0404;

[www.tricare.mil/tfl](http://www.tricare.mil/tfl)

TRICARE mail order pharmacy: (877) 363-1303;

[www.tricare.mil/pharmacy](http://www.tricare.mil/pharmacy)

[www.express-scripts.com](http://www.express-scripts.com)

Contact info:

[2021calmoaa@gmail.com](mailto:2021calmoaa@gmail.com)



# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

April 2021 issue

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## U.S. Senate directory for 117th Congress.

[https://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)

U.S. Senate: Contacting U.S. Senators

<https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>

U.S. Senate: Committee on Veterans' Affairs

[https://www.senate.gov/general/committee\\_membership/committee\\_memberships\\_SVA.htm](https://www.senate.gov/general/committee_membership/committee_memberships_SVA.htm)

U.S. Senate: Committee on Armed Services

[https://www.senate.gov/general/committee\\_membership/committee\\_memberships\\_SSAS.htm](https://www.senate.gov/general/committee_membership/committee_memberships_SSAS.htm)

House Armed Services Committee members

<https://armedservices.house.gov/meet-our-members>

MOAA Surviving Spouses And Friends (Private Group) - Facebook link

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/581427115240904/?multi\\_permaLinks=3829526447097605%2C3825063920877191%2C3824863560897227%2C3821842571199326%2C3815695241814059&notif\\_id=1609513928974893&notif\\_t=group\\_activity&ref=notif](https://www.facebook.com/groups/581427115240904/?multi_permaLinks=3829526447097605%2C3825063920877191%2C3824863560897227%2C3821842571199326%2C3815695241814059&notif_id=1609513928974893&notif_t=group_activity&ref=notif)

CALMOAA (Private Group) – Facebook Link: [www.facebook.com/groups/582556558468846/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/582556558468846/)

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) - Facebook link

<https://www.facebook.com/28446275521/posts/10159082027055522/?d=n>

