



California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

July 2021 issue

In this issue:

- Significant dates and MOAA deadlines:
- “Online Chapter Dues Program”
- MOAA Networkers, Transition Center Focus 2021 Program Emphasis
- MOAA’s Job Board
- Veteran Affairs
- National Legislation and MOAA Advocacy in Action
- California Legislation
- **California State Commanders Veterans Council**
- North Valley Military Institute
- Ready Reference Contact Information - updated

From National MOAA

- Surviving Spouse Corner: Get to Know the Surviving Spouse Advisory Council
- Proposed VBA Budget Reflects MOAA-Backed Benefit Improvements
- Still Haven’t Paid Your TRICARE Select Enrollment Fee? You Have Options

Notes from the President’s Desk



This month I was struck by Dan Wilson’s Memorial Newsletter to his chapter and by a fellow MOAA and legionary member (who was aboard the USS Pueblo (AGER-2) when it was attacked on 23 January 1968 by North Korea on and made a prisoner. I reflected on their experience and my father (WWII USMC veteran) and my families as we celebrate the 4th of July. When I read "The Restless Wave" by John McCain, page 3. His comments regarding "Accumulated memories" says a volume when he talked about 4th of July parades where he said, ***"I had reached an age when I began to feel the weight of them. Memories evoked by a connection to someone or to an occasion, by a familiar story our turn of phrase or song. Memories of intense experiences, of family and friends from younger days the causes fought, some worth it, others not so much some won, some loss of adventuress bigger than those imagined as a child, memories of my life that even then seems to me so lucky and unlucky and of the abbreviated lives of friends let been braver but not as fortunate memories brought to mine by veterans of war I have not fought but news something about what it cost them and what isn't given them."***

As we celebrated the 4th of July with our family and friends, I too found myself looking back at my accumulated memories of my father a WWII USMC and USAF veteran of my brothers who served in the USN and the USAF as I enter retirement as take the next steps in life. Hopefully yours is a positive and optimistic. Admire your achievements and noble qualities. You have learned from the challenges that life brings and you successful in life. In closing let me leave everyone with this thought

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California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

July 2021 issue

“Tomorrow is the most important thing in life. It comes to us at midnight very clean. It is perfect when it arrives and puts itself in our hands. It hopes we learned something from yesterday.” (John Wayne)

E Fred Green, Jr.
President CALMOAA

CALMOAA new mailing address:
5173 Waring Rd #355
San Diego, CA 92120



On 29 June 2021, I announced that Tom Brown agreed to fill Dave Yorck’s position. I am happy to announce that Tom Brown has agreed to be CALMOAA Membership Chair. Tom Brown (of Mojave Desert MOAA Chapter) has stepped out there with Area 7 by discussing NRT to recruiting to determining assistance needed by those chapters.

Please note the following significant dates and MOAA deadlines:

1. Annual Meeting / LOE Award Ceremony October 2021
2. Southwest Leaders’ Regional Workshop (Southern California) 19 – 20 Nov 2021
 - a. Note this may be held in the San Diego County or the Los Angeles County Area or it may be a Virtual Meeting. More to follow as we get closer.
 - b. If it is held in person, I would like to combine our annual meeting with the Regional Workshop and to have as many chapter representatives attend.
 - c. I would also like to have volunteers to help set up a golf tournament as a fund raiser for CALMOAA.
3. The 3rd Quarter All Hands is TBA.

We are working on collecting from those few chapters who have not paid chapter dues per our bylaws. Please reach out to Allen Maxwell (his email is allen.maxwell@omni2max.com) if you have questions. Updated invoices will be sent out to specific chapters and Area Vice Presidents this month. Please advise if you need Allen and/or me to retransmit your invoice.

Currently MOAA is looking at announcing the LOEs, as well as the Strobridge and Surviving Spouse Excellence awards at the beginning of August.

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California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

July 2021 issue

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

“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/>

MOAA Networkers,

Transition Center Focus 2021 Program Emphasis

- Postponed annual networking forum to fall 2022 – preparing for transition back to in-person events – retain robust virtual event offerings to expand reach and member engagement
- Webinar series – 16 events and 10,508 registrants - ON24 virtual events platform – continue to test/learn - enhanced engagement tools and integration capabilities with the new association management system
- Virtual Career Fairs – upgraded platform with audio/video functionality – 4 events with 1,232 registrants – partnered with Hiring our Heroes and FASTPORT
- Paid membership counseling and consultation services – 955 personalized engagements – steady demand signal – on pace with 2020.
- Military Executive Transition Seminar (107 participants/\$2,355 in revenue) and Virtual Classrooms (213 participants/\$2,180 revenue)
- Rolled out new six-part financial education series targeting junior military officers and those in the blended retirement system

[MOAA’s Job Board](#)

Let MOAA help you attain your career and employment aspirations!

MOAA has **partnered with Indeed.com** to create a **Job Board**, helping connect **all servicemembers, veterans, retirees, and military spouses** with more than a **million employers**, for **free**.

- **Search the listings** to see a wide array of **all levels and types of positions** and find your **best match**. Have questions, or **want to learn more** about MOAA’s Job Board? Visit **MOAA Job Board**: <https://www.moaa.org/jobsforveterans>
- **MOAA LinkedIn Career Networking Group**: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/164686/>
- **Event Highlights**: <https://www.moaa.org/content/events/moaa-events/>
- **MOAA Webinar Archives**: <https://www.moaa.org/content/benefits-and-discounts/transition-and-careers/webinar-archive/>

Professional development services, like MOAA’s Job Board, are **funded by The MOAA Foundation**. Learn more about additional [programs and services](#) offered by the Foundation and how you can [support](#) service-members and veterans, and their families.

Please check out these upcoming events in July

Making an Impactful Impression: How to work a Virtual Career Fair – 19 July 2021 (1400 – 1500 EDT)

MOAA’s Virtual Career Fair – 22 July 2021 (1300 – 1430 EDT)

If you know of any other Servicemember, Veteran, Retiree, or Military Spouse needing assistance, **and not a member of MOAA**, please **have them join MOAA** and be able to receive this **valuable service and assistance**.

MOAA may also be contacted at:

(800) 234-6622



California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

July 2021 issue

(703) 549-2311

Veteran Affairs:

A Summary of Benefits

https://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/benefits-summary/SummaryofVABenefitsforDisabledVeterans.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3O9ZMtQfc2-B5m6_4E-ILdGTrdKRJX6wGNWjzKxWghHFZX2FVp771nNT0

Navigating The Blue Water CLAIMS Process

https://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/docs/bwn-veteran-process-infographic.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2raFH48aU8vHt4LQRnMciLLzmmcb65XS2dFzHv02j_B62qfgclitN2z6M

National Legislation and MOAA Advocacy in Action

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

<https://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/?0>

California Legislation –

I have received a few emails recently regarding California taxation of military retirement. We discussed this at our last All Hands where we provided a template (that will more than likely must be updated for our members to write to their elected officials. Currently the earliest we can ask for a Bill is September 2021. Reeb Government Relations will be working with us in Sacramento. Jeff Breiten CALMOAA legislative VP will readdress this as we get closer to the date that we can start our campaign.

AB 225

(Gray D) Department of Consumer Affairs: boards: veterans: military spouses: licenses.

Location: 6/9/2021-S. B., P. & E.D.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoe d	Chaptere d
1st House				2nd House							

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 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. This bill would expand the eligibility for a temporary license to an applicant who meets the specified criteria and who supplies evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States within 60 months of separation from active duty under other than dishonorable conditions, a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States within 120 months of separation from active duty under other than dishonorable conditions and a resident of California prior to entering into military service, or an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States with official orders for separation within 90 days under other than dishonorable conditions.



California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

July 2021 issue

Organization Position
CAL-MOAA Support

AB 291

(Sevarto R) Income taxation: exclusion: military survivor benefits.

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

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

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.

Organization Position
CAL-MOAA Support

AB 305

(Maienschein D) Veteran services: notice.

Location: 6/30/2021-S. APPR.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: Current law requires every state agency that requests on any written form or written publication, or through its internet website, whether a person is a veteran, to request that information in a specified manner. This bill would require specified governmental agencies to include, at their next scheduled update, additional questions on their intake and application forms, except as provided, to determine whether a person is affiliated with the Armed Forces of the United States. The bill would require those agencies, through the intake or application form, to request permission from that person to transmit their contact information to the Department of Veterans Affairs so that the person may be notified of potential eligibility to receive state and federal veterans benefits.

Organization Position
CAL-MOAA Support

AB 576

(Maienschein D) Community colleges: apportionments: waiver of open course provisions: military personnel.

Location: 6/30/2021-S. APPR.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							



California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

July 2021 issue

Summary: Current law waives open course provisions in statute or regulations of the board of governors for any governing board of a community college district for classes the district provides to inmates of certain facilities, and authorizes the board of governors to include the units of full-time equivalent students generated in those classes for purposes of state apportionments. This bill would waive open course provisions in statute or regulations of the board of governors for any governing board of a community college district for community college courses the district provides to military personnel, their dependents, and authorized civilian employees on a military base, and would authorize the board of governors to include the units of full-time equivalent students generated in those community college courses for purposes of state apportionments.

Organization Position
CAL-MOAA Support

ACR 5

(Mathis R) AMVETS 75th Anniversary.

Location: 6/30/2021-S. THIRD READING

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

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

Organization Position
CAL-MOAA Support

ACR 12

(Sevarto R) Purple Heart Day.

Location: 7/8/2021-A. THIRD READING

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: This measure would declare August 7, 2021, as Purple Heart Day in California.

Organization Position
CAL-MOAA Support

ACR 13

(Sevarto R) Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

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

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

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

Organization Position
CAL-MOAA Support



California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

July 2021 issue

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

Location: 6/29/2021-S. APPR.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

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.

Organization	Position
CAL-MOAA	Support

[AJR 12](#) (**Stone D**) Veterans' educational benefits.

Location: 7/7/2021-S. THIRD READING

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: This measure would urge the United States Congress to revise the United States Code to remove the requirement that, to be eligible for GI benefits, a law school be accredited by a specialized accreditor and the overly broad restriction that graduates must be eligible to sit for a bar examination in any state.

Organization	Position
CAL-MOAA	Support

[SB 363](#) (**Leyva D**) Educational equity: government instruction conferences.

Location: 6/23/2021-A. JUD.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: Would, commencing January 1, 2023, would exempt from the Sex Equity in Education Act's sex discrimination provisions, and other specified provisions, any gender-segregated programs or activities of the American Legion or the American Legion Auxiliary related to their respective yearly Girls State and Boys State conferences and any promotion of, or selection of pupils for, any of those conferences by secondary educational institutions if the conferences comply with certain conditions, including providing substantially similar access to government officials and facilities, providing substantially similar programming, except as specified, providing an equal number of participation opportunities, and, for pupils who do not identify as either male or female, allowing those pupils to participate in either conference.

Organization	Position
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California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

July 2021 issue

CAL-MOAA Remove
Opposition

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

Location: 7/6/2021-A. CONSENT CALENDAR

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chapters
1st House				2nd House							

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.

Organization Position
CAL-MOAA Support

[SB 658](#) (Grove R) Property tax: exemptions: disabled veterans.

Location: 5/10/2021-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoe d	Chaptre d
1st House				2nd House							

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.

Organization Position
CAL-MOAA Support



California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

July 2021 issue

SB 661

(Newman D) Veterans’ farm and home loan program.

Location: 7/7/2021-A. APPR.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

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 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.

Organization Position
 CAL-MOAA Support

SB 665

(Umberg D) Employment policy: voluntary veterans’ preference.

Location: 7/6/2021-A. APPR.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: The California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) provides that nothing in that act relating to discrimination on account of sex affects the right of an employer to use veteran status as a factor in employee selection or to give special consideration to Vietnam-era veterans. This bill 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 require a private employer with a veterans’ preference employment policy to annually report to the Department of Fair Employment and Housing the number of veterans hired or retained under the preference policy and any demographic information about those veterans that the employer is already required to report, as specified. The bill would require the department to report that information, in addition to the number of discrimination claims received based on an employer’s veterans’ preference employment policy, to specified legislative policy committees by July 1, 2025, and July 1, 2027.

Organization Position
 CAL-MOAA Support

SB 667

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

Location: 7/6/2021-A. APPR.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
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California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

July 2021 issue

1st House	2nd House	Conc.			
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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.

Organization Position
 CAL-MOAA Support

SR 13

(Grove R) Relative to Women’s Military History Week.

Location: 3/15/2021-S. ADOPTED

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: This measure would resolve that the Senate hereby recognizes “Women Warriors” by proclaiming the week of March 14 to March 20, 2021, inclusive, as Women’s Military History Week in California. The Senate encourages Californians to recognize the hard-fought contributions of women to our military and our freedom, the courageous sacrifices that women have made while serving our country, and the historic lifting of the ban on women in combat on January 24, 2013.

Organization Position
 CAL-MOAA Support

California State Commanders Veterans Council

California State Commanders Veterans Council website: www.CalCommanders.org. Thank you to everyone who helped make our newly designed site possible, and we look forward to utilizing it in our mission of supporting and representing the interests of California veterans.

The goal with our new website is to position the Commanders Council as the united voice on veterans’ policy issues in California. The website includes CSCVC’s [policy principles](#) that guide our legislative positions, as well as our current [priority legislation](#). Our site’s [Take Action](#) page hosts the CSCVC VoterVoice tool, which allows veterans to be directly involved with the political process and submit position letters to their state representatives. Since its launch 2 months ago, our advocacy tool has already submitted over 300 letters on behalf of veterans and their advocates.

The website’s [member page](#) lists and links to member organizations’ websites so visitors to the site can learn more about the individual VSOs that make our mission possible. Press pertaining to veterans’ issues and upcoming events will be highlighted in the site’s [News & Events](#) page.

Please visit our new site and check out its new features for yourself: www.CalCommanders.org



California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

July 2021 issue

North Valley Military Institute

For information about any of these opportunities to support NVMI, please email Dr. Mark Ryan, NVMI Superintendent at mryan@novamil.org or you can always call or text him at 323-217-4481.

Surviving Spouse Corner: Get to Know the Surviving Spouse Advisory Council

By: Gail Joyce

The Surviving Spouse Advisory Council (SSAC) was established in 2004 as the Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee to report to and advise the MOAA president about issues that are important to the surviving spouses of MOAA members. Its main goal is to represent YOU — not only survivors but military spouses as well — about issues that impact each of us.

The SSAC has had numerous major accomplishments, including:

- Creating and designing the Survivor's Planning Guide: A Handbook for One of Life's Toughest Assignments.
- Starting, in 2018, the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter. The chapter currently meets via phone on the third Tuesday of each month and has grown from 10 members to 160 members from 33 states. Learn more about the chapter.
- Assisting with the 2019 passage of the bill that eliminated the Survivor Benefit Plan-Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset, which took 40 years to accomplish.
- Developing and producing the Surviving Spouse Liaison Training, which is held several times each year in conjunction with the regional chapter leadership training.

Current members of the council represent all services and several states and bring a broad swath of experience. Each member was nominated by her chapter and then thoroughly vetted and selected by members of the SSAC.

While the SSAC initially was organized to work with surviving spouses, the council has expanded its role to work with military spouses to help better prepare them for the future.

If you have questions or concerns, the SSAC is your conduit for answers and to make things happen. Please get in touch when and where you see a need at sscomm@moaa.org. We look forward to meeting you.

Proposed VBA Budget Reflects MOAA-Backed Benefit Improvements

By: Cory Titus

The administration's proposed increase to the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) budget would fund legislative wins from MOAA and our advocacy partners, including victories related to Agent Orange benefits. As part of the VA's proposed budget increase, the VBA budget grew by 8.2% to \$6.9 billion, with oversight of another \$152.7 billion (a 10.8% increase) on mandatory spending to cover compensation and pension, readjustment, housing, and insurance programs. This funding comes in addition to other funding sources the VA received to respond to the pandemic.

One of many victories from last year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) was the addition of three conditions – hypothyroidism, bladder cancer, and Parkinsonism – to the list of illnesses presumed connected to Agent Orange. VA



California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

July 2021 issue

announced it soon will begin processing these claims, and the VBA's budget proposal for 2022 provides an increase of \$3 billion in obligations, with an estimated \$2.2 billion in retroactive payments to support veterans and survivors. The VA requested 334 more full-time employees to help process these toxic exposure claims, to include many claims of so-called "Blue Water Navy" members who served in the waters off Vietnam. These servicemembers are eligible for benefits dating back to their original claim thanks to a recent court ruling; VA had stopped providing such benefits to these veterans in 2002.

In addition to adding employees to support the Agent Orange claims, the VA has asked for 95 additional employees to support the disability claims backlog resulting from the pandemic-caused suspension in medical exams. While significant progress is being made now that our nation begins to reopen, the additional personnel will certainly help. If appropriated by Congress, the addition of more employees will ensure these long-overdue benefits are distributed. Along with increasing compensation, VBA's request to modernize the "Digital GI Bill" was highlighted in the proposal as a major effort. In addition to supplemental funding for the COVID-19 pandemic from the CARES Act, another \$81.5 million is targeting upgrades to the VBA's antiquated technology systems. Improvements to streamline the GI bill process for students and schools are long overdue, and this funding will help create a one-stop online portal. In addition to improving education benefits, the VBA highlighted a "Disability Employment Pilot Project" budgeted for \$3.6 million. This program would help VBA learn how to empower and enable disabled veterans as they seek employment. Along with a research component, the funds will be used to help better integrate across the rest of the VA. Such an effort is essential and gets toward the total-veteran view the department needs to embrace.

The administration's budget requests are strong indicators of a commitment to continued high-quality care for our veterans in the coming years. The funding of legislative wins for veterans reflects their commitment to implementing these new conditions and programs effectively. We at MOAA will do all we can to work with the VA and Congress to support final passage of an appropriations bill meeting the needs of veterans and honoring their service.

Still Haven't Paid Your TRICARE Select Enrollment Fee? You Have Options

By: Kevin Lilley

MOAA and other veterans groups joined with the Defense Health Agency (DHA) last year to spread the word on new enrollment fees that took effect Jan. 1, 2021. Failure to pay the fees on that date led to disenrollment, though anyone who didn't set up a payment plan had 180 days to request reinstatement retroactive to Jan. 1.

A check of the calendar shows the end of that reinstatement period is coming soon for those who have not set up payment plans. If you're still within the 180-day window, [click here](#) to learn how to set up payments. If you realize you've been disenrolled after June 30, contact your managed care support contractor to find out what options are available. These vary by region:

- East: Humana Military – tricare-east.com; 1-800-444-5445
- West: Health Net – tricare-west.com; 1-844-866-WEST (1-844-866-9378)
- Overseas: International SOS – tricare-overseas.com; phone numbers vary by country, more details at [this link](#).

About the Fee

Only TRICARE Select retiree beneficiaries in Group A – those whose sponsor entered service before Jan. 1, 2018 – must pay the new annual fees of \$150 for an individual or \$300 for a family. Active duty family members, survivors of members who died on active duty, and medically retired beneficiaries (or their family members) are exempt from the fees. The new fees were set by the FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). During that legislative process, MOAA successfully fought proposals that would've instituted significantly higher fees (up to \$900 a year for some beneficiaries) as well as fees for

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California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

July 2021 issue

TRICARE For Life beneficiaries. More recently, MOAA successfully lobbied DHA to extend its reinstatement period from 90 days to 180.



California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

July 2021 issue

Ready Reference Contact Information

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

Arlington National Cemetery: (703) 607-8000;
www.arlingtoncemetery.org

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

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

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

Burial

Burial at Sea Information: (866) 787-0081

- Pre-Need Burial Benefit before you call checklist – [Funeral Director's Before You Call Checklist \(va.gov\)](#)
- Burial Benefits: http://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/
- Burial Allowance: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/burials/Burial.pdf>
- Headstone/Marker/Medallion: <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hmm/>
- Burial Flag: http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/burial_benefits/burial_flags.asp

Combat Related Special Compensation:
www.donhq.navy.mil/corb/crscb/crscmainpage.htm

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

Defense Commissary Agency: 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

Gulf War homepage: www.gulflink.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

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

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

Military Officers Assoc. of America: (800) 234-6622;
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/

Navy Casualty Assistance: (800) 368-3202

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

Navy Uniform Shop: (800) 368-4088; 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

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



California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

July 2021 issue

Pay/SBP Questions: 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

Records:

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

Retired prior to 1995:

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

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

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/

[page/portal/M_RA_HOME/MM/SR/RET_ACT/Semper_Fidelis](http://www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/M_RA_HOME/MM/SR/RET_ACT/Semper_Fidelis)

TRICARE: www.mytricare.com/mtc

VA: 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

Burial information: (800) 827-1000; www.cem.va.gov

GI Bill: (888) 442-4551; www.gibill.va.gov

TRICARE East: 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

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

TRICARE For Life: (866) 773-0404; www.tricare.mil/tfl

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

www.tricare.mil/pharmacy

www.express-scripts.com

"USCG Retiree Services" (includes USPHS & NOAA)

<https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Human-Resources-CG-1/Retiree-Services-Program/>

Long Blue Line Retiree Bulletin (USCG, USPHS, NOAA)
: <https://www.longblueline.org/>

Contact info:

2021calmoaa@gmail.com



California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

July 2021 issue

Fact Sheets/Eligibility Requirements:

- Pre-Need Burial Benefit before you call checklist – [Funeral Director's Before You Call Checklist \(va.gov\)](#)
- Burial Benefits: http://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/
- Burial Allowance: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/burials/Burial.pdf>
- Headstone/Marker/Medallion: <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hmm/>
- Burial Flag: http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/burial_benefits/burial_flags.asp
- Survivor Pension: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/spousepen.asp>
- Dependent Indemnity Compensation: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFIT/S/factsheets/survivors/dic.pdf>
- Aid and Attendance: http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/aid_attendance_housebound.asp
- Medical Expense Report: <http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21P-8416-ARE.pdf>
- Presidential Memorial Certificate: <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/pmc.asp>
- Accrued Benefits: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/general/Accrued.pdf>
- Military Funeral Honors: [How do I arrange for military funeral honors for a veteran? And what exactly are they? > U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE > FAQ](#)

Burial Benefit Forms:

- Burial Allowance: <http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21P-530-ARE.pdf>
- Headstone/Marker/Medallion: <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-1330.pdf>

Mail Headstone/Marker/Medallion form to:
Memorial Programs Service (41B)
Department of Veterans Affairs

5109 Russell Road
Quantico, VA 22134-3903

- Burial Flag: <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-27-2008-ARE.pdf>

If working with Funeral/Mortuary Director, they should procure the flag for the family.

Survivor Benefit Forms:

- Widows DIC/Pension Claim form: <http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21P-534EZ-ARE.pdf>
- Income and Asset Statement: <https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21P-0969-ARE.pdf>
- Substitution of Claimant (if Veteran had open claim/appeal @ death): <http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21P-0847-ARE.pdf>
- Accrued Benefits claim form <http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21P-601-ARE.pdf>
- Aid & Attendance/Housebound: <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-2680-ARE.pdf>
- Aid & Attendance Nursing Home (if in home and filing A&A): <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-0779-ARE.pdf>
- Veterans Life Insurance Withdrawal: <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-29-4125-ARE.pdf>

Mail Life Insurance Withdrawal form to:
Department of Veterans Affairs
Regional Office and Insurance Center
P.O. Box 7208 Philadelphia, PA 19101

- Presidential Memorial Certificate: <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-0247.pdf>

Mail/FAX PMC Form to:
Presidential Memorial Certificates (41B3)



California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

July 2021 issue

National Cemetery Administration
5109 Russell Road Quantico, VA 22134-3903
Fax (800) 455-7143

- **Third Party**
Authorization: <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-0845-ARE.pdf>

Mail any completed forms (unless otherwise noted above) to appropriate office below:

Department of Veterans Affairs
Pension Intake Center
PO Box 5365
Janesville, WI 53547-5365
Toll Free Fax: 844-531-7818

U.S. Senate directory for 117th Congress.
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

U.S. Senate: Committee on Armed Services
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¬if_id=1609513928974893¬if_t=group_activity&ref=notif

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

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) - Facebook link
<https://www.facebook.com/28446275521/posts/10159082027055522/?d=n>

Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez office is available to answer any questions you may have on these updates or other important state resources. To speak to someone over the phone, contact our District Office during regular business hours, Monday-Friday: (619) 338-8090. To reach someone by email, contact Assemblymember.Gonzalez@assembly.ca.gov.
Capitol Office: Sacramento, CA 95814 – Phone (916) 319-2080

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www.vanguardemblematics.com



California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

July 2021 issue
