



# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2021 issue

In this issue:

- Council and Chapter Electronic Support Messages
- Significant dates and MOAA deadlines
- Veteran Affairs
- VA National Cemetery Administration
- National Legislation and MOAA Advocacy in Action
- **MOAA Virtual Career Transition, Financial Education and Military Benefits Events in August**
- Note from Erin Stone, Senior Director, Council and Chapter Affairs
- California Legislative Update, CALMOAA
- Ready Reference Contact Information

From National MOAA

- Transitioning to Medicare-TRICARE For Life With Younger Family Members
- MOAA-Backed Bill Expanding VA Rural Mental Health Resources Becomes Law
- DoD Renews COVID Vaccination Push as Delta Variant Spreads

## Notes from the President's Desk

I am sure all of you have felt a little frustrated in life. When we do, we all have choices to make, sometimes for the plus and sometimes for the negative. I am feeling frustration that some have felt trying to get answers to what I consider simple questions, along with dealing with people who can be pushy and aggressive in wanting their agenda first no matter what. In addition, dealing with them we have been working with Reeb Government Relations on the best approach and to get everyone actively involved in communicating to our California Assemblymen, Assemblywomen, and Senators asking them to submit a bill to stop California from Taxing our military retirement. Every time an interested party reads and/or hears something in the news or MOAA article stating another state is no longer taxing military retirement, I get a call and/or an email asking what we are doing to stop California from taxing our military retirement that I have to address which is fine because that is what you pay us the big bucks. In turn I will ask the individual if they want to help us. To date none of them have responded to my request asking them for suggestions (positive). No matter in the end I believe we will overcome.

One of the most important tools we have is our voice and I will need each and every one of you to be engaged by **REACHING OUT AND COMMUNICATE TO YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS** and let them know that they need to do something. Remember to be **POSITIVE** and encouraging. Negative communications will not help us or anyone else. You can help us by writing them, calling them at their official office in Sacramento and their local office. Remember to be positive when you communicate to your elected official. If at all possible, get your friends and neighbors engaged in the effort.

I have been working this issue with Jeff Breiten CALMOAA Legislative VP and Altie Holcomb (co-chair for California Advocacy). We have reached out and briefed some of our elected officials trying to get some support from them. Earlier this year I had reported that a California Senator from San Diego County. At the

Contact info:

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



# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2021 issue

time his office reported he is very much interested on this subject. Recently I went back to his office to confirm that they are on board with us and that they will submit a bill to stop taxing our Military Retirement. When I spoke to his new Veterans Affairs representative for his local office, they reported that “he is considering resubmitting his bill in September and that we should having everyone contact his office asking him to resubmit his bill again (SB-1007 or something like it). He needs to hear from All Californians (in his area and throughout the state).” Honesty this response caught me off guard, but it did show me that more so than ever we really need EVERY VETERAN TO SPEAK and CONTACT NOT ONLY HIS OFFICE BUT THEIR OWN Senators and Assemblyman and/or Assemblywoman. Your letter needs to be to the point, and it needs to be one page (maybe a page and a half). Anything beyond that it may not be read.

Recently we saw VoterVoice used to great effect when we got the CALIFORNIA STATE COMMANDERS VETERANS COUNCIL’s (CSCVC) campaign to make the governor acknowledge that veterans who obtained their vaccine from the VA eligible for the “Vax for the Win” (California’s vaccine incentive program). Through VoterVoice, California’s veterans made hundreds of direct communications with the CalVet Secretary, the legislature, and the governor.

Below is an Overview of what I presented to his office.

- 2020 saw COVID-19 devastate local, national, and global economies. The pandemic resulted in a loss of vital businesses and services; unemployment rates rose, and communities suffered. California faced dramatic job loss and cuts in spending across all industries. However, although the region’s GDP contracted, steady military spending, sustained employment, and community support helped stabilize the region.
- California is home to the nation’s largest military community, housing one out of every four U.S. Marines and one out of every six Sailors; and it contains a large part of Southern
- California’s premier training ranges where more than 75% of U.S. operating military forces prepare for deployment.
- In FY2020, an estimated 25% of San Diego’s gross regional product resulted from military spending, an increase of 2.5 percentage points over initial projections for the year.
- The military maintained its level of operations throughout 2020 and, in doing so, contributed greatly to the region’s ability to endure unprecedented economic uncertainty. The region is vital to the nation’s identity and defense, and the military continues to serve as a pillar of strength for the area.
- California is one of only 5 states that taxes military pension income.
- There are about 1,574,531 military veterans in California. We have the largest military population in our nation. Followed by Texas with 1,453,450 and Florida with 1,440,338.
- Military retirees are more inclined to not live in CA than ‘native’ retirees.
- A significant number have left CA and have moved into other states because of the income tax on pensions.
- Retirees from other states have decided not to relocate to CA for the same reason.
- CA would benefit economically if it totally exempted all military pension benefits from the income tax, more of retirees would choose to remain in CA, and the state’s total income and sales tax receipts could



# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2021 issue

increase significantly. San Diego direct spending for FY 2020 is \$33.6 Billion (a change from FY 2019 OF +5.7%) and 342,486 jobs (an increase of +7.7% from FY2019).

- Using San Diego as an example we will see an impact to its Gross Regional Product (GRP).

\$ in millions	FY 2019	FY 2020
Employee Compensation	\$11,929	\$12,341
Retirement & VA Benefits	\$3,557	\$3,688
Contracts & Procurement	\$16,194	\$17,474
Government Purchase Cards	\$65	\$67
<b>TOTAL DIRECT</b>	<b>\$31,765</b>	<b>\$33,570</b>
Multiplier Impact	\$17,789	\$18,779
Gross Regional Product Impact	\$49,557	\$52,369

- There are 3,548,449 firms in California (and 252,377 are veteran owned).
- San Diego has 293,426 (and 25,354 are Veteran Owned).

In closing as the President of California Council of Military Officers Association of America (CALMOAA) we along with other California Veterans are tired of seeing our talent leaving our state because of taxation. There are more than 30 states in the Union that do not tax Retired Military Pay.

In addition to taxing our retired military pay we are also concerned about the need for California to allow military personnel license and certificates to transfer from one state to California. There is a growing number of states that allow active duty families to transfer any certification, license to the next state so that the spouse of the service member and their family can pursue their dreams.

I am sure that one of our members who is well versed economics and the Laffer curve maybe able to provide an excellent point paper regarding taxation of our retired pay. If any of you are aware of a good approach, please reach out and help.

E Fred Green, Jr.  
President CALMOAA

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

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



# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2021 issue

-----

I am sorry to say that Tom Walther has resigned as the Area One Vice President (AVP) for personal reasons. Tom did an outstanding job as the Area Vice President and assisting his chapters in updating their MOAA Module, rewriting of CALMOAA Charter, Nominating Committee Chair amongst some of his most recent activities. Even though Tom has resigned as AVP he will continue to be VERY ACTIVE in his chapter amongst all of his other actives working with the Airmen and Airwomen stationed in his area. Tom also helped in identifying his replacement it is with this that I am happy to announce that Chuck Jamison has accepted the position as CALMOAA Area One Vice President. Please welcome him on board as the new AVP.

If you missed the changes and updates in CALMOAA are:

CALMOAA Membership Chair is Tom Brown (email at [osu.tom.j.brown@gmail.com](mailto:osu.tom.j.brown@gmail.com)) as of 29 June 2021

CALMOAA Area One Vice President is Chuck Jamison (email at [oakpiper@gmail.com](mailto:oakpiper@gmail.com)) as of July 2021

## **Council and Chapter Electronic Support Messages**

It has come to my attention that sometimes we need to utilize the “Council and Chapter Electronic Support Messages” (ESM) (see link: <https://www.moaa.org/content/chapters-and-councils/council-and-chapter-electronic-support-messages/>) from two messages a year to four per chapter. Thus, allowing the chapters to reach out to everyone within their geographical area. I understand that the 60 day advance notice can be waved which is great. We have seen some of our chapters falter and close due to age, health, in activity, surviving spouses not realizing that they too can lead their chapter. Leadership roles in a chapter is defined by what each and every one of our chapters want. It is important that our members support this concept no matter who the individual is. I also asked if it is possible to extend the zip code area and/or provide the zip codes that a chapter would like to have the ESM sent to. As of the time of this newsletter I received the following from MOAA. I will pass your request to our leadership and update you on the decision to increase the Email Blast messages to four per year/per chapter.

I would like to mention that the NRT report, if used consistently, should serve the leaders well and should increase membership. I hope the leaders are continuing to use this report. If anyone has questions or has trouble accessing the report, I encourage them to call our office. Jon Woodruff is the POC who can help.

Followed up on my request asking if the leadership has met and if they made a decision regarding my request. While polite I got this response from MOAA. Our leadership team is still reviewing your request.

I would like you to know that although we have the two times per year guidance in place, we can make special accommodations for chapters that need the extra help. That said, if a chapter is having trouble with outside recruitment efforts and would like our help, we can accommodate a third Email Blast if we are made aware of these special circumstances ahead of time. As the council president, we would ask that you be kept apprised of any chapter that requires this accommodation of a third email blast. I would ask that you make the approval for MOAA national to help with this special request.



# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2021 issue

Regarding your request to increase the number of Email blasts per year, you will hear back from someone on our team very soon.

## Significant dates and MOAA deadlines

1. The 3rd Quarter All Hands is September (more to follow later).
2. MOAA scheduled to announce the winners of the LOEs, Strobridge, and Surviving Spouse awards in August.
3. Annual Meeting / LOE Award Ceremony October 2021
  - a. Patty Wernet (CALMOAA Chapter Affairs) will be representing CALMOAA at the Annual Meeting in person.
4. Southwest Leaders' Regional Workshop (Southern California) 19 – 20 Nov 2021
  - a. The location has not been determined as of yet.
  - b. If the board decides to piggyback off this meeting, we can look at:
    - i. starting before noon on the 19<sup>th</sup> Friday
    - ii. tentatively MOAA will be meeting from noon and finish around 3:00 on the 20<sup>th</sup> Saturday.

### August 2021

- Aug 18: Quarterly Council President/Independent Chapter President Meeting (2 p.m. Eastern) | Join [here](#) at the time of the meeting.
- Aug. 26: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable: A Walk Around the MOAA Councils and Chapters Website (7 p.m. Eastern). All interested chapter leaders are invited to attend. Join [here](#) at the time of the meeting.
- Aug. 27: Virtual Leaders' Regional Workshop (Upper Midwestern Region)

### September 2021

- Sept. 30: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable: Recruiting (7 p.m. Eastern) | Join [here](#) at the time of the meeting.

### October 2021

- Oct. 15: [Annual Meeting of the Membership](#)/Levels of Excellence Awards Ceremony
- Oct. 28: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable: Retention and Succession Planning (7 p.m. Eastern) | Join [here](#) at the time of the meeting.

### November 2021

- Nov. 1: Scholarship Application Period Begins ([learn more](#))
- Nov. 3: Quarterly Council President/Independent Chapter President Meeting (2 p.m. Eastern) | Join [here](#) at the time of the meeting.
- Nov. 18: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable: Community Outreach Grants and Sponsorships (7 p.m. Eastern) | Join [here](#) at the time of the meeting.
- Nov. 19-20: Southwest Leaders' Regional Workshop (Southern California)

### December 2021

- Dec. 1: Community Outreach Grant Application opens
- Dec. 1: Community Outreach Sponsorship Program begins

Contact info:

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





# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2021 issue

- Dec. 30: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable: Incorporation, Tax Status, and Liability Insurance (7 p.m. Eastern) | Join [here](#) at the time of the meeting.

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.

## Veteran Affairs:

The VA has expanded benefits by adding 3 presumptive conditions related to particulate matter exposure. The new presumptive conditions are asthma, rhinitis, and sinusitis. To be eligible for benefits, you must have gotten one of these conditions within 10 years of your separation from active service. Please see link

[https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/index.asp?utm\\_source=VRfeature&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=VetResources&utm\\_id=VetResources+Aug+4+2021](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/index.asp?utm_source=VRfeature&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetResources&utm_id=VetResources+Aug+4+2021)

In addition to the above please note there is a VA E-Learning for VA and Community HCP (Please see link): [War Related Illness and Injury Study Center \(WRIISC\) Training for Health Care Providers](#)

3 CEU courses offered for physicians, nurses, and others. Please visit link: <https://www.warrelatedillness.va.gov/docs/modflyer.asp>

## VA National Cemetery Administration

**(When I turned 65 out of the blue, I started getting emails from the VA National Cemetery. One has got to love the humor).**

## Delays in Obtaining Military Documents for Eligibility Determinations

As you may be aware, the government's primary repository for military personnel records, the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), is currently in a location identified by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to be in the HIGH level of community transmission rate for COVID-19. Due to the high transmission rate risk, NPRC has taken preventive safety measures and has returned to COVID Phase 0 levels, therefore significantly reducing available services for processing Veteran discharge document requests. This decision negatively impacts our ability to obtain documents to determine eligibility for interment in national cemeteries.

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is asking our funeral home partners to encourage families to work directly with funeral homes for assistance with burial in our VA national cemeteries. We will continue to make every attempt to assist Veterans and their families, but if a service member's records cannot be obtained through any source other than NPRC, we may not be able to make a timely eligibility determination. We ask you to inform family members of this issue and ask them to search for any additional military documents which may be in their possession. Documents kept by the Veteran may be the only documents available at this time to verify his or her eligibility for burial.



# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2021 issue

We also encourage you to ask family members to check the following:

- Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) or the American Legion. These organizations may have discharge documents on file for members.
- Any orders the service member may have received or any documents showing a military service number would be helpful.
- County clerk of the county where the service member would have returned from service. The service member may have filed their documents with the county upon discharge from military service.
- If the service member has a set of dog tags, please send a clear photograph of them to our agency.

We thank you for your assistance.

Jay Dalrymple

Director, National Cemetery Scheduling Office

## **National Legislation and MOAA Advocacy in Action**

### **NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS**

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

## **Entrepreneurs (MDE) Online Academy**

On 5 August I forwarded an email to CALMOAA Council Presidents and our Board from the California State Commanders Veterans Council (CSCVC) regarding Entrepreneurs (MDE) Online Academy. The attachment is talks about - The Management Development for Entrepreneurs (MDE) Online Academy is a 30-hour virtual program with live online classroom sessions. Offered over eight sessions on Fridays and Saturdays in the fall, the program will provide business owners and executives with a road map and the tools to make the necessary pivots to survive and grow in a pandemic economy.

## **MOAA Virtual Career Transition, Financial Education and Military Benefits Events in August**

**Webinar: Understanding Respite Relief for Military and Veteran Caregivers.** Tues, Aug 17 at 2:00 PM ET. Register: <https://www.moaa.org/content/events/healthcare-and-benefits/understanding-respite-relief-for-military-and-veteran-caregivers/>.

This program could be a game-changer for many caregivers. Let experts from MOAA and the Elizabeth Dole Foundation guide you through the process.

**Virtual Classroom: Maximize Your Compensation Package.** Thurs, Aug 19 from 1:00-4:00 PM ET.

Register: [https://www.moaa.org/content/events/transition-and-career/moaa-seminar-maximize-your-overall-compensation-package-\(august-2021\)/](https://www.moaa.org/content/events/transition-and-career/moaa-seminar-maximize-your-overall-compensation-package-(august-2021)/).

The salary and benefits negotiation process is unlike any other formal negotiating you might have done, such as with cars or homes. Moreover, your conduct during the negotiation process will directly affect your relationship with your future employer. The employer wants you to be happy, but it is up to you to articulate what will give you the greatest job and personal satisfaction. Want to learn more to maximize your overall compensation package? The course will cover:

Contact info:

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



# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2021 issue

- The Value of your TRICARE Benefit
- Composition of Employee Benefits Packages
- Preparing for Salary Negotiation
- When to Talk Money
- How to Respond to Salary Questions
- Evaluating the Salary Offer
- Closing the Deal

Limited number of slots available on a first-come, first serve basis. Discounted rates are available for MOAA members.

**Webinar: What to Know About the Company Before You Interview.** Tues, Aug 24 at 2:00 PM ET.

Register: <https://www.moaa.org/content/events/transition-and-career/what-to-know-about-the-company-before-you-interview/>.

How you engage with interviewers is important, but there is a lot of advance work before you get to that point. Let MOAA guide you through your prep.

**Webinar: VA Benefits.** Wed, Aug 25 at 2:00 PM ET.

Register: [https://www.moaa.org/content/events/transition-and-career/va-benefits-webinar-\(august-2021\)/](https://www.moaa.org/content/events/transition-and-career/va-benefits-webinar-(august-2021)/).

Join MOAA's accredited Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Capt. Paul Frost AFC®, USN (Ret), for a VA benefits refresher. Topics include:

- VA Disability Compensation Claims
- Why You Should Use a Veterans Service Organization
- Concurrent Receipt
- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for a Surviving Spouse
- VA Health Care
- GI Bill
- Memorial Benefits
- Home Loan Program
- Life Insurance
- And, more!

---

## Note from Erin Stone, Senior Director, Council and Chapter Affairs (CCA) (edited)

Hello! I hope you are all enjoying, or are able to enjoy, some down time this summer. Here at national, things do not seem to have slowed up, and despite our hopes of as little as a few weeks ago, uncertainty about travel and meetings seems to have only increased. But your CCA team is sailing on! Below are some of the more pressing items of which you may want to be aware. Please continue to share with your member chapters and, as a reminder, encourage all of your leaders to subscribe to the monthly (first Thursday of each month) council and chapter newsletter. They can do that by calling the Member Service Center at 1-800-234-MOAA or by reviewing their Opt-In/Opt-out preferences in the member profile area of the website after logging in.





# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2021 issue

**Diversity/Equity/Inclusion (DEI) survey.** Thank you to all of you who have responded and/or shared your concerns with the recent DEI survey. We will have experts from our staff address the topic at the next CP/ICP meeting (please see below), but I wanted to say upfront that we appreciate and value your feedback. The national team is responding to many individual emails, and CCA is involved or at least aware when feedback comes from a chapter member or leader. At least one leader shared disappointment that we did not provide advance notice to leaders that the survey was being launched so that they could be prepared for questions from their members. I take full responsibility for that—it honestly didn't occur to me to let you know it was coming. I'll try to do better to give you heads-up on national initiatives. I owe that to you, our volunteer leaders, whenever possible. To address a few of the most frequently asked questions:

- The survey was approved and initiated by MOAA's national board, following review by the Governance Committee, Membership Committee, and Strategic Planning Committee.
- It was sent to a segment of our membership representative of the overall demographic of our membership (region, age, uniformed service, military status, membership level, etc.). Not everyone received it.
- The purpose of the research is to collect and assess members' perceptions; establish a baseline understanding of DEI as it relates to the MOAA membership; enhance MOAA's ability to achieve its mission of advocating on behalf of today's currently serving, retirees, veterans, surviving spouses, and their families; and ensure our association leadership understands the values and priorities of the next generation of MOAA members.
- There is no intention to establish DEI goals for independent affiliates.

If you missed July's **ROTC/JROTC roundtable**, I'd encourage you to take a look at the recording on our training page at your convenience. Col. DK Berry (Arkansas Council President) got us off to a great start to this program. We had over 80 people attend, and participation was active and enthusiastic. Along with recordings of this and other past events; dates, subjects, and links for the rest of 2021 can now be found at the same place. (<https://www.moaa.org/content/chapters-and-councils/chapters-and-councils/council-and-chapter-training-materials-and-opportunities/>) .

**Awards announcements.** We expect to finalize results of Levels of Excellence, Col. Steve Strobridge Legislative Chair/Liaison, and Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence awards within the next week. Recipients (individual award winners and presidents of winning councils and chapters) will be notified and invited to participate in the annual meeting awards dinner where the awards will be presented. After notification, winners will also be announced on the moaa.org website and in our other communications channels. As a reminder, MOAA will pay travel costs for all Council Presidents and award winners to attend the awards dinner and annual meeting. Event registration will be active within the next week.

**Chapter visits.** As I said in the opening paragraph, we are aware of the uncertainty surrounding the resurgence of the COVID virus. As I write this, we are still planning to execute planned chapter visits, and continue to schedule visits as requests come in. Our "rule of thumb" at this point (subject to change) is to make the visit only if all required/appropriate safety measures are in place AND the traveler is fully vaccinated and comfortable with the trip. By separate correspondence, we will be requesting that chapters with scheduled visits



# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2021 issue

proactively inform us of the conditions and safety requirements in their locations immediately prior to the visit. By the way, you can now get a full three-month preview of our visits in the monthly electronic newsletter, mentioned in the opening paragraph.

**Committee Module Changes.** The Go-Live date for our new **Association Management System (AMS)** is September 17<sup>th</sup>. (Some leaders have reported confusion over use of this term. MOAA's data base is an AMS. We currently use a Personify AMS and are changing to a Fonteva AMS.) This is relevant to council and chapter leaders because the **Committee Module (CM)** is a function of the AMS. This change-over has been in progress for a longer than expected time-period. Training on the new system for the headquarters team is happening as I type this. We expect a short interruption in functionality as the system is changed over on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and then we will quickly begin training for CM users to minimize disruption in our councils and chapters. Please take care of any September CM business (such as updating your roster and checking your Near Real Time Report) before the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Third Quarter Recruiting incentive.** This quarter's incentive has been modified due to delayed implementation of the new AMS and will instead recognize chapters that self-report usage and results of the near real time (NRT) report. Due to this change of criteria, the third quarter will cover the period of Aug. 1-Oct. 31. To receive the paid incentive, chapters must self-report by Nov. 5, 2021, using the guidelines posted on our recruiting page (<https://www.moaa.org/content/chapters-and-councils/chapters-and-councils/council-and-chapter-recruiting-and-membership/>).

**MOAA Cruise for a Cause.** MOAA leadership would like to personally invite you to join them on the inaugural MOAA Cruise for a Cause, exploring Portugal and Spain on the Douro River in June 2022. We would love for you, as a Chapter leader, to invite those in your network to support MOAA Charities while enjoying the old-world splendor of Portugal. There is no better way to discover Europe's best-kept secret than this scenic and all-inclusive Cruise for a Cause! The Chapter that helps fill the most cabins will receive special recognition aboard the ship!

Discover the Brand-New S.S. São Gabriel

On the São Gabriel, you can spend time on the sundeck while knowing you are making a difference by supporting MOAA Charities, as a donation will be made to The MOAA Foundation and the MOAA Scholarship Fund when you register. No other donation is expected of you as you enjoy your cruise, and cabin prices are no higher than a typical ocean cruise, despite high-end amenities, upscale food and beverage, and luxurious accommodations. In fact, as an incentive for this special sailing, MOAA members and their guests save \$300 per person on staterooms and suites, plus each passenger will enjoy a \$150 exclusive on-board credit, regardless of cabin choice.

What's Included?

MOAA members also receive exclusive benefits, including:

- Unlimited premium spirits & wine
- Choice of complimentary shore excursions
- 5-star, farm-to-table cuisine
- All gratuities included



# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2021 issue

- FREE Wi-Fi, Internet, transfers, and more.

While next summer seems far away, it's not too early to book! Cabins are selling quickly, and only 18 staterooms remain (Deluxe, French Balcony, and Suites are still available). To book your vacation on the brand-new S.S. São Gabriel, visit the MOAA Vacations [website](#) or call MOAA Vacations at (800) 211-5107. Stay up to date with Europe's travel requirements [here](#). Those interested can read more about Uniworld's stringent health and safety measures [here](#).

Finally, as always, please feel free to send questions or feedback on anything to [chapters@moaa.org](mailto:chapters@moaa.org). Thank you!

Best,  
Erin

Erin E. Stone, CAPT, JAGC, USN  
Senior Director, Council and Chapter Affairs

## **CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, CALMOAA (EDITED)**

REEB GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, LLC, (AS OF 8-10-21)

The Legislature will reconvene from Summer Recess on August 16, 2021. The Legislature must pass bills by September 10, 2021, which marks the beginning of Interim Recess. The Governor will have until October 10 to sign or veto bills. The Legislature will then reconvene from Interim Recess on January 3, 2022, at which point the second year of the 2021-22 Legislative Session begins. In the second year of the legislative session, some legislation from the first year meets the requirements to be heard in the second year (2-Year bills). For the most part, these are bills that did not fail any committee votes but were deemed to need more time to work out details and address concerns. Legislators may also introduce new legislation for the 2022 year.

As with 2020 and 2021, COVID restrictions could apply to how the Legislature conducts business in 2022. There is no way to know how it will go, so it is important to remain flexible. Building relationships with legislators and staff at the Capitol and in the legislative districts takes on extra importance when COVID restrictions are in place.

This year, CALMOAA, along with other military and veterans' organizations, supported an increase in the state budget for County Veterans Service Officers (CVSOs). The state now allocates \$11 million per year to the counties for the support of CVSOs, who are tasked with providing free claims assistance and other help to veterans and service members, free of charge. The CVSOs have been fighting to achieve the \$11 million dollar funding level since 2009.

### **Budget**

The state budget was passed by the legislature and signed by the governor on June 28. The budget included funding for deferred maintenance at Barstow and Yountville veterans' homes, an increase of the financing for



# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2021 issue

County Veterans Service Officers, and \$25 million in grant funds for California veteran service providers that provide services to veterans. For more information about grant funding requirements, visit Cal Vet website ([https://www.calvet.ca.gov/Pages/\\$25-Million-Grant-Program-for-Veterans-in-Governor's-California-Comeback-Plan.aspx](https://www.calvet.ca.gov/Pages/$25-Million-Grant-Program-for-Veterans-in-Governor's-California-Comeback-Plan.aspx)). These funds will be distributed to certified Veteran Service Providers (VSP) upon approval of grant application. For detailed information on VSP qualification, MVC Section 800 ([https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=880.&lawCode=MVC](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=880.&lawCode=MVC)).

## Key Issues

One of the top bills that is still moving through the legislative process is SB 661 by Senator Josh Newman (D-Fullerton) which seeks to allow CalVet the authority to refinance veteran home loans underwritten by the CalVet Home Loan Program. SB 661 would also make eligible for lending, members of the California National Guard or reserve component who has completed not less than a six-year commitment and was released under honorable conditions.

Kudos to Meghan Callahan and Lena Carmona of Callahan Public Affairs, Pete Conaty, and the CSCVC for working very hard to getting the VoterVoice advocacy tool implemented; whereupon it was used to bolster the Council's support of SB 661. VoterVoice is an interactive grass root advocacy tool that allows the public to directly signal support for legislation and public policy.

**VoterVoice** was also used to great effect in the CALIFORNIA STATE COMMANDERS' VETERANS COUNCIL's campaign to make veterans who obtained their vaccine from the VA eligible for the "Vax for the Win" which is California's vaccine incentive program. Through VoterVoice, California's veterans made hundreds of direct communications with the CalVet Secretary, the legislature, and the governor.

Each year, there are reintroductions of veterans bills that are complex, costly, or both that failed passage in the previous legislative session. The reintroduced bills may require new strategies to contain costs, build new coalitions of support, further educate the legislature, or find alternative ways to achieve the same goal. Below is a partial list of those perennial issues and the bills undertaken this year to achieve those policy changes.

- Professional licensure for veterans and military spouses.
  - AB 107-Salas: Licensure: veterans and military spouses
  - AB 225-Gray: Department of Consumer Affairs: boards: veterans: military spouses: licenses
  - AB 1026-Smith: Business licenses: veterans
- Elimination of the \$5 fee for the "VETERAN" designation on the driver's license.
  - AB 1151-Smith: Driver's licenses: \$5 fee veteran designation
- Suicide Task Force / Ending military and veteran's suicide.
  - AB 1470 (Mathis R) Ending Military Suicide Task Force
- Property tax exemption for disabled veterans.
  - SB 658 (Grove R) Property tax: exemptions: disabled veterans



# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2021 issue

## California Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant Program

This year we have continued to educate Council members about the California Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant Program. We encouraged everyone to apply for the grants and we hope the information provided was helpful. This was an unprecedented time for everyone and thank you for your commitment to the veterans you serve.

## Important legislative dates

August 16 —Legislature reconvenes from Summer Recess.

August 27 —Last day for fiscal committees to meet and report bills to the Floor.

August 30 - September 10 —Floor Session Only.

September 10 —Last day for each house to pass bills.

October 10 —Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature on or before September 10 and in the Governor's possession after September 10.

Below is a list of legislation still moving through the 2021 process or are on hold as 2-year bills.

For more information regarding any legislation, including bill language, votes, status, and committee analyses, go to: <https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml>

If you have any questions, please contact:

Jeff Breiten, CALMOAA Legislative Committee Chair: [breitenj@msn.com](mailto:breitenj@msn.com)

Seth Reeb, Reeb Government Relations, Legislative Advocate: [sethreeb@comcast.net](mailto:sethreeb@comcast.net)

**AB 225** (Gray D) Department of Consumer Affairs: boards: veterans: military spouses: licenses.  
Status: 7/14/2021-Failed Deadline (May be acted upon Jan 2022)  
Status: 2-year bill.  
Location: 7/14/2021-Senate 2 YEAR BILL  
Summary: This bill would expand the eligibility for a temporary license from the Department of Consumer Affairs to an applicant who is a veteran of the Armed Forces within 60 months of separation from active duty under other than dishonorable conditions, a veteran of the Armed Forces 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 with official orders for separation within 90 days under other than dishonorable conditions.

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





# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2021 issue

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.

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: This bill 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.

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 305](#) ([Maienschein D](#)) Veteran services: notice.

Status: 7/15/2021-In committee: Referred to suspense file.

Location: 7/15/2021-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

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 additional questions on their intake and application forms to determine whether a person is affiliated with the Armed Forces. 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 CalVet so that the



# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2021 issue

person may be notified of potential eligibility to receive state and federal veterans' benefits.

Position: SUPPORT

[AB 576](#) ([Maienschein](#) D) Community colleges: apportionments: waiver of open course provisions: military personnel.  
Status: 6/30/2021-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 6. Noes 0.) (June 30). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.  
Location: 6/30/2021-S. APPR.  
Summary: Would waive the open course provisions at a community college district for classes the district provides to military personnel on a military base.

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.

Position: SUPPORT

[ACR 5](#) ([Mathis](#) R) AMVETS 75th Anniversary.  
Status: 7/15/2021-Chaptered by Secretary of State- Chapter 93, Statutes of 2021  
Location: 7/15/2021-A. CHAPTERED  
Summary: This measure would commend AMVETS Department of California on its 75th year of providing benefits and services to Veterans.

Position: SUPPORT

[ACR 12](#) ([Seyarto](#) R) Purple Heart Day.  
Status: 7/13/2021-In Senate. To Com. on RLS.  
Location: 7/13/2021-S. RLS.  
Summary: This measure would declare August 7, 2021, as Purple Heart Day in California.

Position: SUPPORT

[ACR 13](#) ([Seyarto](#) R) Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.  
Status: 7/15/2021-From committee: Be adopted. To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 10. Noes 0.) (July 15).



# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2021 issue

Location: 7/15/2021-A. CONSENT CALENDAR

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: 7/15/2021-From committee: Be ordered to second reading file pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8 and ordered to Consent Calendar.

Location: 7/15/2021-S. CONSENT CALENDAR

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.

Position: SUPPORT

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

Status: 7/7/2021-From committee: Be adopted. Ordered to Third Reading. (Ayes 11. Noes 0.) (July 6).

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

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.

Position: SUPPORT

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

Status: 7/15/2021-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 7/15/2021-A. THIRD READING

Summary: This bill would retain the existing exemption from the Sex Equity in Education Act for the American Legion Boys State Conference and the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Conference. The exemption is conditioned upon the certain requirements, including offering equal opportunity to males and females, providing comparable content, and allowing non-binary and transgender students to participate in the program of their choice. The author of the bill took amendments that satisfied the concerns of the American Legion and CALMOAA joined with the Legion to remove opposition.

Position: REMOVE  
OPPOSITION



# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2021 issue

[SB 498](#) ([Umberg](#) D) Funds for the provision of legal services to indigent persons: disabled veterans.  
Status: 7/15/2021-Read third time. Passed. (Ayes 69. Noes 0.) Ordered to the Senate. In Senate.  
Concurrence in Assembly amendments pending.

Location: 7/15/2021-S. CONCURRENCE

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 to provide civil legal services to indigent persons. The bill would further require 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.

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: 5/20/2021-May 20 hearing: Held in committee and under submission.

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

Summary: Current law allows the Legislature to partially or wholly exempt from property tax the value of a disabled veteran's principal place of residence if the veteran has (a) lost one or more limbs, (b) is totally blind, or (c) is totally disabled as a result of service-connected injury. This "disabled veterans' exemption," is available to disabled veteran taxpayers or their unmarried surviving spouses. Currently, a disabled veteran must have a disability rating of 100% to be eligible for the exemption; there are no partial allowances for a rating less than 100%. This bill would, for lien dates on or after January 1, 2022, expand the disabled veterans' exemption to allow reduced exemption for partially disabled veterans.

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



# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2021 issue

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: 7/7/2021-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. with recommendation: To consent calendar. (Ayes 11. Noes 0.) (July 6). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

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

Summary: This bill modernizes the CalVet’s Home Loan Program by allowing veterans to refinance their CalVet loans with better interest rates, take out loans with shorter payback terms, and other quality of life updates. SB 661 will help veterans achieve or maintain homeownership.

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.

Position: SUPPORT

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

Status: 7/7/2021-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 10. Noes 0.) (July 6). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

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

Summary: 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 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





# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2021 issue

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.

Position: SUPPORT

## [SB 667](#)

([Roth](#) D) Property taxation: disabled veterans' exemption: claims: executor and administrator of claimant's estate.

Status: 7/6/2021-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. with recommendation: To consent calendar. (Ayes 11. Noes 0.) (July 5). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

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

Summary: This bill will allow the executor or administrator of an eligible disabled veteran's estate to file a disabled veteran's property tax exemption claim with an assessor.

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



# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2021 issue

## SR 13

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

Status: 3/15/2021-Read. Adopted. (Ayes 39. Noes 0.)

Location: 3/15/2021-S. ADOPTED

Summary: This bill proclaims the week of March 14 to March 20, 2021 as Women’s Military History Week in California.

Position: SUPPORT

-----  
Transitioning to Medicare-TRICARE For Life With Younger Family Members

By: MOAA Staff

Once you get over the shock of you or your spouse moving to Medicare (and the Part B premium amount), what happens to the younger spouse or family members? Younger family members stay on their current TRICARE plan. Only the person turning 65 moves to Medicare-TRICARE For Life (TFL).

A younger spouse alone under a TRICARE plan will convert to the single fee rate. If the younger spouse is combined with children, the family rate still applies. Check with Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) to ensure you are paying the proper rate (learn more at [TRICARE.mil/deers](http://TRICARE.mil/deers)).

The transition to Medicare-TFL by one spouse opens the Qualifying Life Event (QLE) window for the other spouse or family members. A QLE allows a spouse or family members to make a change to their TRICARE program outside the normal Open Season window. Not that you would want to, but if you did, your spouse could change a plan from Prime to Select or vice versa. You get 90 days to make any changes.

As the new Medicare-TFL member, after enrolling in Medicare Parts A and B, take your Medicare enrollment card to the ID card office, get an updated ID card, and get enrolled in TFL. That’s all you’ll need to do.

MOAA-Backed Bill Expanding VA Rural Mental Health Resources Becomes Law

By: Kevin Lilley

A bill designed to improve veterans’ access to VA mental health care in rural areas became law late last month, expanding a program designed to reach an underserved portion of the veteran population.

President Joe Biden signed the Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act of 2021 on June 30. MOAA joined other major veterans organizations such as The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, and Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America in supporting the legislation.

“The need for additional mental health care resources across the country is critical, but especially dire for veterans and native veterans living in rural or highly rural areas,” MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret), said in backing the bill. “MOAA is pleased to lend our support ... and our thanks to Rep. Cynthia Axne for this vital bill.”

Contact info:

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



# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2021 issue

Axne, an Iowa Democrat, introduced the House bill April 12 with her three fellow Iowa representatives, all Republicans, among the initial co-sponsors. The bill honors Sgt. Brandon Ketchum, who served in the Marine Corps and later in the Iowa National Guard, deploying twice to Iraq and once to Afghanistan.

Ketchum battled post-traumatic stress and received VA mental health treatment, to include multiple inpatient care sessions between 2014 and 2015. On July 7, 2016, he requested inpatient care at a VA facility but was told it was full and was denied; he committed suicide the following day.

“Brandon asked for help but was turned away because of a lack of resources,” Axne said on the House floor. “We must make sure – in his memory and for the sake of others still serving — that when our soldiers return home, they can get the treatment they need.”

The law requires the VA to add three new Rural Access Network for Growth Enhancement (RANGE) Centers in FY 2022. The existing network of more than 80 centers “provides community-based care and services for rural veterans diagnosed with serious mental health issues,” according to a Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee press release on the bill.

It also requires a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on the provision of mental health care to rural veterans, including how best to expand and target resources, the average wait time for rural veterans seeking mental health care, and statistics related to deaths by suicide and drug overdose.

DoD Renews COVID Vaccination Push as Delta Variant Spreads  
By: Kevin Lilley

Military health officials are warning beneficiaries of the rise in transmission of the Delta variant of the virus that causes COVID-19, saying the best way to avoid potential threats from the mutation is to join the ranks of the fully vaccinated.

The variant spreads easier and faster than other strains, according to information provided by both the Defense Health Agency (DHA) and the VA, and results in a higher rate of hospitalizations and deaths. News reports blame the variant for an uptick in cases in some areas, including some states seeing cases double in early July. Increased transmission rates are more prevalent in areas with low vaccine rates.

Multiple studies have shown individuals who’ve been fully vaccinated obtain significant protection from falling ill or requiring hospitalization after becoming exposed to the variant. One study put the Pfizer vaccine at 88% effective against symptomatic disease from the variant and 96% effective against hospitalization.

However, DoD and VA health officials stress a patient receiving a multi-shot vaccine won’t be fully protected until two weeks after receiving their second shot. Veterans, spouses, and caregivers who are unable to get their second shot from their original provider can get one via the VA.



# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2021 issue

---

## How to Get a Shot

Many localities continue to offer free vaccinations at various locations. This search engine provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will help you find resources via your state health department. You can also search [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) for locations in or near your ZIP code.

TRICARE beneficiaries can find locations and appointment information nationwide via this website.

VA beneficiaries can contact their local facility or visit this website for step-by-step instructions.



# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2021 issue

## 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

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/](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](http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/burial_benefits/burial_flags.asp)

Combat Related Special Compensation:  
[www.donhq.navy.mil/corb/crsb/crscmainpage.htm](http://www.donhq.navy.mil/corb/crsb/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.gulflink.osd.mil](http://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](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);





# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2021 issue

[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)

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

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:

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

(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)

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/page/portal/M\\_RA\\_HOME/MM/SR/RET\\_ACT/Semper\\_Fidelis](http://www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/page/portal/M_RA_HOME/MM/SR/RET_ACT/Semper_Fidelis)

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



# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2021 issue

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)

"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/>

## 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/](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](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/BENEFITS/factsheets/survivors/dic.pdf>
- Aid and Attendance: [http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/aid\\_attendance\\_housebound.asp](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



# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2021 issue

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)  
National Cemetery Administration  
5109 Russell Road Quantico, VA 22134-

3903

Fax (800) 455-7143

- Third Party Authorization: <https://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](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)



# California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2021 issue

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/](https://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](mailto:Assemblymember.Gonzalez@assembly.ca.gov).

Capitol Office: Sacramento, CA 95814 – Phone (916) 319-2080

MOAA<sup>®</sup>  
INSURANCE  
PLANS

Standing with you  
at every stage.

93569

1-800-247-2192 • [www.moainurance.com](http://www.moainurance.com)

Anthony Evergin  
Sales Manager  
Promotional Products Dept.  
Vanguard Industries West  
(800) 433-1334 ext. 129  
[aevergin@vanguardmil.com](mailto:aevergin@vanguardmil.com)  
[www.vanguardemblematics.com](http://www.vanguardemblematics.com)