



California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

November 2021 issue

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Notes from the President's Desk

Happy Birthday United States Marine Corps!!

As we celebrate both Veterans Day and the [Marine Corps](#) birthday. I understand due to COVID the Commandant has cancelled the birthday celebration this year. Please raise on in celebration of our Marines and Veterans Day.

Your board here at CALMOA has been working on Uniform Retirement tax exemption and recruitment this year. We are getting closer to seeing a bill in this upcoming legislative year. I cannot emphasize how important it is more than ever for us to be involved and to communication to our chamber of councils, fellow veterans, friends alike in support of this effort.

To accomplish this goal, we need every member to be involved in the process. If you did not see and/or missed CALMOA's September Newsletter regarding this subject, please feel free to reach out to your Area Vice Presidents. I would like to thank those of you who have been in contact with your fellow Veterans, friends, neighbors, Chamber of Commerce, California State Senators, and Assemblymen/ Assemblywomen getting them behind us on this. I am pretty jazzed in that San Diego Chamber of Commerce with SDMAC are establishing a collation of military councils and chamber of councils in California in support of us. I am also happy to say the California Commanders Veterans Council has pledged to support us. In turn we need to support them also. As the year ends, they will be using Voters Voice in support of these four issues. In turn Jeff (CALMOAA Legislative VP), the board, and/or I will be forwarding you the Voters Voice asking everyone to click on the link to send your voice in support of us.

1. Remove the \$5.00 fee on California Driver's License
2. Veterans License Plate
3. Update Disability Veterans Property
4. Exempt Military Taxes (this our effort)

If you do not know who your California Senator, Assemblyman/ Assemblywoman is please go to this link:

<https://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov>

CALMOAA mailing address:

5173 Waring Rd #355

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In addition to Advocacy, we also NEED TO ENGAGE OUR Surviving Spouses More than ever. How little did I realize that I never provided my wife a translator or a translation book on how to speak Navy much less the VA. Our spouses and our Surviving Spouse have always been there for us. They bring out the best in all of us!! We can never forget our spouses. In turn we also need to remember as an organization they too are FULL FLEDGE members and they too have a VOICE in CALMOAA and MOAA. Every member can hold office!! Please engage your spouse in your chapters!!! CALMOAA Bylaws are very open and it does allow anyone to hold a position in CALMOAA!!

Please join "[MOAA Surviving Spouses and Friends](#) (Private Group) – Facebook." My wife and I are members and it has been very enlightening. Some members of my chapter have also stated how helpful it is even if you are not a surviving spouse. Check out it out.

I regret to report that Leon our CALMOAA Secretary has announced that he is resigning effective 1 January 2022. Steve Streightiff from Miramar MOAA Chapter has agreed to step up and be the CALMOAA Secretary. Please welcome him aboard.

He will be missed. I am looking for someone to fill his billet as well as someone to fill Buds billet as CALMOAA TOPS.

Some of you know that I share speeches and jokes with some of my friends. Today while I was writing this newsletter I heard Colonel Erickson, USA talks about "**Making Examples**". In his discussion he talks about a friend of his states; *"I think I might have to make an example of these individuals. Colonel Erickson's response was, "Do we sometimes want to punch people in the face because they won't listen? Absolutely? But we can't do that. You can, but you shouldn't do that. As leaders in my philosophy, my world in my mind. As leaders, we set the example. We don't make examples of people. That's what bullies do. We set the example and then draw people towards us. We set standards and then live beyond them to encourage people forward, not to scare them forward. 'cause trust is what it's about, not fear."*

Here is another one he did called **Survivor** *"Let me tell you something. I know with 100% certainty you are a survivor. How do I know that 'cause you hear my voice you made it through yesterday. You mustered the courage and the strength, and you got through yesterday. Was it pretty? Maybe not, you may have had to take a knee, but you know rest is a combat multiplier. Hell, you may have had to retreat. But retreats an offensive move to gain a tactical advantage. So regardless of how yesterday went yesterday, you survived yesterday. You got this. Have a great day."*

E Fred Green, Jr.
President CALMOAA

CALMOAA Surviving Spouse

The second third of the phase out starts Feb 1, 2022.

SBP/DIC Offset Phase 2 letters are scheduled to be mailed December 10th. These are the letters that will show the estimates beginning Feb 1, 2022. Phase 3 Reversion Packets for those AD Military Child Only Recipients are scheduled to be mailed November 19th. The cost of living allowance increase is 5.9% and starts in January 1, 2022. Military retired pay, SBP, SSIA, Social Security and disability compensation will increase by 5.9%. DiC, dependency and indemnity compensation and disability compensation historically increased at the same COLA.. Congress has to approve the COLA each year.

Reminder: Surviving spouses are members of MOAA and can hold any office in your council or chapter. "Auxiliary" member is no longer used.

Sincerely,
Kathy Prout, CALMOAA Surviving Spouse Liaison



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Why Afghanistan Veterans Care – Dan Wilson, LTC, USA (Ret)

Dan Wilson, LTC USA (Ret), President of Pendleton MOAA Chapter (CA23) spent over two years of his life working alongside the Afghans, I developed deep and lasting friendships with many and there remains much work to do to help the Afghans who made it to the U.S. integrate into our communities. The first group of almost 2,000 is arriving now, and I am working with county and city governments and non-governmental organizations to help them start their new lives from essentially scratch. If you would like to help, please reach out to him at camppendletonmoaa@gmail.com tel (760) 421-9210. Dan shared this with his chapter, and I thought everyone would be interested in assisting in whatever way they can.

Last month I shared a link to the VA and other organizations on how to help our allies from Afghanistan the story of just one of them, Aleem Shah.



Some in this country are wondering why so many of us who served in Afghanistan are so upset over the thought of leaving those Afghans we served alongside behind. I'd like to tell you about this man, Aleem Shah. He was my partner battalion commander in Kunar Province in 2011-2012.

Aleem Shah joined the mujahadin as a young teenager to fight the Russians, and after the fall of the Taliban in 2001 and some time trying to make it as a businessman, he joined the Afghan National Army. He was a devout Muslim, and I always remember that he fasted for an additional 3-4 days after Ramadan had ended to show his piety to God. I used to tell him that he needed to become a mullah because he was such a good Muslim, and he would laugh and accuse me of insulting him because unlike most mullahs he was literate and not ignorant. I would tell him that he could change that, but he'd just laugh and feign offense again.

We went everywhere together, and if he thought there was potential danger, he would insist on walking in front of me. During many a late-night chat, he would tell me about his family and how he desired nothing more than having them grow up in a peaceful Afghanistan. Once, when we flew to Jalalabad by helicopter for a meeting at our higher headquarters, he expressed great disappointment in me that I wouldn't jump into one of his relative's cars to go meet his family. You don't know how bad I wanted to do just that.

As my unit planned our redeployment to Hawaii in early 2012, and our pending separation weighed heavily on both of us, Aleem Shah proposed that after I retired from the US Army, I return to Afghanistan and go into the real estate business with him. Because of who he was, and the impact he made on me, you don't know how bad I wanted to do just that.

In short, Aleem Shah was one of the best human beings I have ever met. He, along with many other Afghans whom I have



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had the good fortune to get to know, taught me that we are all more alike than we are different, and that most of us want the same things in life no matter our color, our religion, or where we were born.

I can tell you his story and show you his picture because Aleem Shah was killed by an IED in Logar Province in 2013. I still hope to someday return to Afghanistan to meet his family and tell his children what a great man he was. And I hope that someday we will meet again in a heaven where all good people go no matter how they worship God.

I think most veterans who served in Afghanistan had their Aleem Shah, whether that was an interpreter who shared every danger and hardship, an Afghan Army or Police counterpart they worked closely with, or just an old man who swept the sidewalks on the FOB who was genuinely touched by the kindness and affection showed to him by American Soldiers every day. They are why we care so much.

Veterans Administration Secretary Denis McDonough

#VetResources Check-In: Secretary Denis McDonough - Veterans Day Q&A

Answering questions on: **Inflation**, **Burn Pits**, Mental Health Services, Disability Claims, **Medical Marijuana**, Caregivers and Survivors, Community Care, **Billing**, Post-9/11 GI Bill, LGBTQ+, Electronic Healthcare Record, COVID-19, **Dental**, and Homeless Veterans. Watch on [Veteran News Network](#) or [Facebook](#) on 11/11 at 3pm ET.

<https://www.va.gov/outreach-and-events/events/vetresources-check-in-secretary-denis-mcdonough-veterans-day-qa/>

Pre-recorded using questions from Veterans, Families, Caregivers and Survivors. Will stream to VA Facebook and Veterans News Network. To watch on Facebook please click the more details button above or watch on Veterans News Network starting at 3PM ET on 11/11 at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1thUBCeHX-U>

Significant dates and MOAA deadlines

1. **Southwest Leaders' Regional Workshop (Southern California – San Diego) 19 – 20 Nov 2021.**
2. **CALMOAA Annual Meeting will be held from 3 – 5 PM Saturday, 20 Nov 2021** after the workshop concludes in one of the breakout rooms. Look for more information to come out later this month!!

November 2021

- 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)
- CALMOAA Annual Meeting – abbreviated (in person and Zoom)
 - Surviving Spouses – Kathy Prout
 - Legislative – Jeff Breiten

December 2021

- Dec. 1: Community Outreach Grant Application opens
- Dec. 1: Community Outreach Sponsorship Program begins
- 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 it has a wealth of info about VA and TRICARE benefits, job opportunities and much more.



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California Vaccine Record

“Just enter a few details below to get a link to a **QR code** and digital copy of your **COVID-19** vaccination record. If you want to share your proof of vaccination, you can use either the electronic version you’ll get from the portal or the card you were given at time of vaccination.” <https://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov/>

Scholarships:

Whether you’re looking into schools for yourself or a family member, you can find the financial support and resources you need. Here is a partial list to get you started:

MOAA Education Assistance:

The online application for the 2022 - 2023 school year is now open. [Apply or continue an existing application](#). Submit applications by **March 1, 2022**. The online renewal application for the 2021-2022 school year is now closed. If you missed the deadline, you may fill out [this renewal form](#) and upload the completed form and an updated transcript [here](#) to receive potential late consideration for renewal. If you are in repayment and have been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, [complete a deferment](#).

<https://www.moaa.org/content/benefits-and-discounts/education-assistance/education-assistance/>

The **Survivors & Dependents Assistance Program** offers financial assistance to children, ages 16 to 26, of U.S. Army personnel who have been disabled or killed in the line of duty. The program is also open to the children of service members who have been declared missing in action, or who have been detained as prisoners of war. The program offers up to 45 months of educational benefits to eligible students who are enrolled in approved undergraduate, graduate or vocational studies.

https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/survivor_dependent_assistance.asp

The **Spouse Education Assistance Program (SEAP)** provides grant money to the eligible spouses of active-duty or retired U.S. Army personnel. Applicants must be enrolled at least part-time in an accredited college or university. Scholarship funding is available for fall and spring semesters only. [https:// myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Benefit-Library/Federal- Benefits/Spouse-Education-Assistance-Program- \(SEAP\)-Scholarship](https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Benefit-Library/Federal-Benefits/Spouse-Education-Assistance-Program-(SEAP)-Scholarship)

The **General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program**. The program provides financial assistance to the children of active-duty and retired U.S. Air Force personnel. It also provides grants for the children and spouses of deceased service members. This is a need-based grant and current awards stand at \$2,000. [https://afas.org/general-henry-h-arnold- education-grant/](https://afas.org/general-henry-h-arnold-education-grant/)

The **Scholarship for Air Force Enlisted Members’ Dependent Children** is supported by the Air Force Sergeants Association and the Airmen Memorial Foundation. These scholarships are available to the dependent children of U.S. Air Force service members, retirees or Veterans. Scholarship awards are determined by academic achievement, service to the community, personal character and writing ability. Financial need is not a consideration. Award amounts range from \$500 to \$3,000. [https://www. hqafsa.org/scholarships.html](https://www.hqafsa.org/scholarships.html)

The **Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society** provides financial support to U.S. Navy and Marine Corps personnel and their families. In addition to a number of interest-free loans for service members and their families, the Relief Society offers the following programs for the college-bound dependents of Navy and Marine Corps personnel. [https://www.nmcrrs. org/pages/education-loans-and-scholarships](https://www.nmcrrs.org/pages/education-loans-and-scholarships)



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The *Joseph A, McAlinden Divers Scholarship Program* is available to the children or spouses of active-duty U.S. Navy or Marine Corps divers. Students must be studying oceanography, ocean agriculture or aquaculture in an approved college program. Awards range from \$500 to \$3,000, and are determined by financial need. <https://www.nmcra.org/pages/joseph-a-mcalinden-divers-scholarship-program>

The *PHS Commissioned Officers Foundation for the Advancement of Public Health* offers a scholarship program available to high school students sponsored by a member in good standing of the Commissioned Officers Association of the USPHS. The scholarships are funded by active-duty and retired U.S. Public Health service members, local branches of the association, and open to students who are pursuing a career that may relate to any of the Public Health Service professional categories (e.g., physician, dentist, nurse, engineer, etc.). <https://www.phscof.org/dependent-scholarship.html>.

MOAA’s Webinar Schedule <https://www.moaa.org/content/benefits-and-discounts/transition-and-careers/webinar-archive/>
Upcoming Webinars:

Webinar: **MOAA Career Webinar: Explore the Aerospace Industry**, Nov 16, 2021 at 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET.

NOVEMBER 16, 2021 | 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST

Webinar: **Why Great Speaking Is Critical to Great Networking**, Nov 18, 2021 at 3:00 – 4:00 PM ET.

Webinar: **Virtual Retiree Appreciation Day: MOAA Legislative Update on Pay and Benefits**, Nov 22, 2021 at 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET.

Family Caregivers Month

Happy National Family Caregivers Month (NFCM)! The Veterans Affairs (VA) Caregiver Support Program (CSP). NFCM is launching a nation-wide, month-long celebration that includes a variety of fun events, classes, and networking opportunities at local VA facilities across the country. No matter where you are, your local CSP team has a NFCM event planned just for you.

Finding an event near you is easy:

- Locate your local CSP team using our locator tool: https://www.caregiver.va.gov/support/New_CSC_Page.asp
- Contact your local CSP team and ask about upcoming NFCM events
- Join your local CSP team’s NFCM next event!

VA Caregiver Support Program <https://www.caregiver.va.gov/index.asp>

Military Spouse Employment in California

“Governor Newsom Signs Law to Improve Military Spouse Employment in California”

On October 18th I shared this announcement. After I shared it was noted that teachers and real estate was not included in this new law. Further research on the this subject determined that that the Commission on California Teaching Credentialing (CTC) was removed from this bill during the amendment process, AB 226 (Cervantes, 2017), requires an expedited licensing process time for military spouses seeking a teaching credential in the state. Right now, the processing time for a teacher seeking a California credential that is married to, or in a domestic partnership with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is assigned to a duty station here under official active duty military orders and holds a valid teaching credential in another state, district, or territory of the United States is a couple of weeks from receipt of an application, which effectively amounts to a temporary license.

The gold standard is still compacts and the GMC is still committed to pursuing that for each license that has one, but it’s also important to celebrate when we achieve measures such as this one. Not least of all because it also generates valuable information gathering which is otherwise challenging to encourage agencies to do on their own and can help us to bolster the case for future forward movement on this matter.

AB 226 Language: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB226



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CTC Military Service Credentialing Site: [https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/military-service-\(cl-892\)](https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/military-service-(cl-892))

Footnote: This is being tracked by the Pacific Southwest Regional Liaison, Defense-State Liaison Office, DoD, Military Community & Family Policy <http://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil>. They are interested in things that affects our military families and service members.

National Legislation and MOAA Advocacy in Action

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

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

California Senate Bills (Veteran) for 2021 – 2022

https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml?session_year=20212022&keyword=veteran&house=Senate&author=All&lawCode=All

California Assembly Bills (Veteran) for 2021 – 2022

https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml?session_year=20212022&keyword=veteran&house=Assembly&author=All&lawCode=All

CALIFORNIA STATE COMMANDER VETERANS COUNCIL

The CALIFORNIA STATE COMMANDER VETERANS COUNCIL (CSCVC) was Founded in 1966 and Incorporated in 1981. The California State Commanders Veterans Council (CSCVC) is comprised of the elected state commanders or representatives from all of California’s leading veterans service organizations. The CSCVC promotes the rights and benefits of veterans in the State of California, collectively reviews legislation and policies that impact veterans, takes positions on legislation and other policies, and shares information with each members’ respective organizations on matters impacting veterans.

“Signed into law” “2-Year” “Dead” “Adopted” “Vetoed”

HOUSING

AB 411, SB 348, SB 658, SB 661, SB 667

All veterans want and deserve a safe, stable and affordable place to live, whether they are homeowners, renters or facing homelessness. Decades of underproduction has created a severe housing crisis in California, which has driven up prices and made it harder for veterans to find housing. Housing affordability remains a significant concern for veterans, with nearly 35% of veterans paying too much for their housing. CSCVC supports policies that:

- Reduce or Eliminate Property Tax burdens for our California Service-Disabled Veterans rated 100% Permanent and Total to include their surviving dependents.
- Address the root causes of California’s housing supply crisis such as those that encourage construction.
- Increase funding for affordable housing that benefits veterans and their families.
- Encourage the continued availability of rental housing
- Enhance the use of VAC vouchers



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- Veteran homelessness is a major concern of CSCVC. According to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD's 2019 annual Point in Time homeless count¹, there are roughly 11,000 homeless veterans in California. CSCVC supports policies that:
 - Prevent homelessness among veterans and facilitate the rehousing of homeless veterans into transitional and permanent supportive housing
 - Enhance access to health and mental health services for homeless veterans
 - Elevate awareness about the crisis of veterans' homelessness
 - **Increase State of California collaboration with Non-Profit Veterans Service Organization's (VSO) that host Veterans Stand Down/Up's events within our State.**

Over 70% of Californian veterans are homeowners² who have significant investment in their homes. For many it is their single biggest financial investment they will make in their lives. Retired and senior veterans, in particular, need the financial security associated with their homes. CSCVC supports policies that:

- Promote homeownership among veterans, including lending programs targeted to veterans and policies that increase the supply of housing.
- Keep property taxes affordable
- Maintain property values
- Don't place unnecessary or costly burdens on property owners

HEALTH

AB 933, AB 1470, AB 1520

Nationwide, veterans experience mental health disorders, substance use disorders, post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury at disproportionate rates compared to civilians.³ Veterans also face the additional challenge of certain health concerns being more prevalent in veterans serving during specific service eras and locations. The CSCVC supports policies that:

- Enable health care providers to be prepared for the unique challenges of veterans' health care by better integrating veteran perspectives into their professional curricula, such as clinical trials, educational courses, etc.
- Protect VA's discounted drug pricing
- Expand telehealth services so that veterans in rural and underserved communities have greater access to care
- Reduce the number of veterans and service members who die by suicide each year
- Increase funding and resources to programs that provide for resources, mental health services and prevention programs for veterans at risk of suicide
- Provide funding for research on veteran and service member mental health and traumatic brain injuries

¹ <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5877/2019-pit-estimate-of-veteran-homelessness-in-the-us/>

² <http://www.veteransdata.info/states/2060000/CALIFORNIA.pdf>

³ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4671760/>



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- Addressing toxic exposures from burn pits and burned waste products
- Provide assistance to caregivers of veterans injured in the line of duty including, health coverage, caregiver training, stipends, etc.

EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION

AB 107, AB 225, AB 576, AB 1026, AJR 12, SB 665

Veterans transitioning out of the service and into civilian careers have many of the skills, qualities and work ethic that employers look for in new hires. However, veterans continue to report the struggles they face while searching for new career opportunities. A survey conducted by Prudential and the IAVA revealed that nearly 70% of veterans struggled transitioning out of the service, with many reporting they were not prepared for the transition, and had difficulties with civilian employees not understanding or appreciating military culture.⁴⁵ Pursuing higher education post-service and better equipping servicemembers with the skills they need to better ease into civilian life are important to ensuring long-term success of veterans transitioning out of the service. The CSCVC supports:

- Programs or initiatives that better prepare servicemembers transitioning out of the military and into civilian careers. These may include:
 - Expanding the Transition Assistance Program (TAP)
 - Establishing programs to provide skill training, employment resources, networking opportunities, etc.
 - Helmets to Hardhats construction apprenticeship programs
 - Certification programs for translating military experience into civilian careers
- Establishing consistent policies at California institutions of higher education (UC, CSU, community colleges) regarding receiving course credits for military experience
- Improving or expanding G.I. Benefits for veterans and their dependents
- Improved programs, support and loan & grant opportunities for veteran business owners
- **Protect Jobs and Promote Employment Opportunities for all Veterans**

BENEFITS

AB 291, AB 305, AB 459, AB 837

Many veterans are not aware of how to access the federal and state benefits that are entitled to due to their service and sacrifices for our country. This includes veterans who have recently served as well as veterans from prior eras who may still be eligible for benefits despite the time that has passed since their discharge.

The California Model for Veterans Services (i.e. the processes that connect veterans to benefits and services they have earned) depends on a close partnership between the VA, CalVet, County Veterans Service Offices, and veterans service organizations. Collectively, through claims initiation, development, and representation, these partners provide assistance to veterans and their dependents in preparing and submitting claims and in representing claimants before the federal, state and local agencies

⁴ <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20120815005120/en/Veterans-cite-finding-job-greatest-challenge-returning>

⁵ https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/finding-a-job-biggest-challenge-for-veterans-survey-finds/2012/08/19/5af346d6-e8a5-11e1-936a-b801f1abab19_story.html



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providing veterans benefits. Yet despite the good work of these organizations, there continues to be a large number of underserved California veterans and dependents.

The CSCVC supports policies that:

- Support legislation to exclude Veterans Disability Compensation from countable income for purposes of eligibility for benefits and Services from other Government Programs
- Increase funding for County Veterans Service Offices that provide claims assistance outreach to California veterans, help educate veterans about the benefits they are entitled to receive and the support that exists to help them.
- **Veterans Benefits should only be awarded to Veterans with Honorable-General Discharges, and case by case for those veterans with Other Than Honorable Discharges. Veterans Benefits should never be awarded to Veterans with Bad Conduct or Dis Honorable Discharges.**
 - **Understanding that certain populations within our veterans community were given OTH Discharges based on Race, Greed, or Identity.**
 - **Veterans with OTH should be given the opportunity for a Military Discharge upgrade.**
 - **Funding should be set aside for County Veteran Service Officer's to assist Veterans with assistance in filing discharge upgrades.**

WOMEN VETERANS

SR 13

Currently, women constitute 15% of the active-duty military and 18% of the National Guard and Reserve, and it is projected that 10% of veterans are women.⁶⁷ California alone is home to about 145,000 women who served our nation.⁸ Despite women's increased presence in the military, there are still many barriers to accessing health care and other earned benefits. The CSCVC supports policies that:

- Expand access to health care for women veterans, especially in suicide prevention efforts, eating disorder treatment, substance use disorders, and other areas that disproportionately affect female veterans
- Educate women veterans, using targeted outreach, about their earned benefits and what programs they are eligible for
- Increase access to childcare services, especially for those veterans who are in job training programs
- Increase the recognition of female veterans and servicemembers in California

VETERAN RECOGNITION

AB 1151, ACR 5, ACR 12, ACR 13, ACR 21

Veterans served our country with distinction and should be recognized for their service and sacrifice. The CSCVC supports causes and legislation that honors and promotes recognition of our servicemembers.

⁶ <https://www.womenshealth.va.gov/womenshealth/latestinformation/facts.asp>

⁷ <https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/women-veterans>

⁸ <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/WomenVets>



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VETERANS & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

SB 498, SB 763

Justice-involved veterans refers to former service members detained or are under supervision of the criminal justice system. Over 50% of these veterans have mental health issues or substance abuse disorders. Many are homeless or housing insecure, and have difficulties finding employment and transitioning back into civilian life.⁹ Veterans face unique challenges and may require extra support or specialized programs to decrease the likelihood of criminal offenses or reoffending. The CSCVC supports policies that:

- Increase the roles of Military Diversion Programs, pretrial programs for veterans charged with misdemeanor crimes
- Support Veteran Treatment Court options, creating structure and support for veterans to fulfil their obligations to the court and prevent reoffending
- Increase veteran criminal sentencing review options for service-related mental health issues

Ask Your Lawmaker to Delay DoD’s Planned Medical Billet Cuts

By: Karen Ruedisueli

As the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) moves toward conference, where the House and Senate will reconcile differences between their versions of the bill, MOAA remains focused on supporting a key provision to ensure continued beneficiary access to quality health care. Section 721 of the House bill – which has already passed its chamber – would halt DoD’s plan to cut medical billets for a year following the enactment of the FY 2022 NDAA. It also would require a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on the analyses used to support billet cut plans, including an evaluation of medical manpower requirements and the effect of billet cuts on local health care networks.

The Senate NDAA, while still subject to floor amendments and debate, does not include this language at present. Keeping the House section in the final bill will be critical to preventing planned cuts from corroding your earned health care benefit. A recently released DoD report to Congress gave us the first glimpse at how medical billet cuts might impact individual military treatment facilities (MTFs) but offers few details on specific positions to be cut or mitigation plans for impacted beneficiaries. It also raises the following concerns:

- Most eliminated billets will be replaced either with civilian hires or contract personnel, or absorbed by remaining MTF staff. However, the report does not indicate what, if any, analysis has been done to assess the feasibility of hiring civilian replacement personnel or the ability of current staff to absorb additional workload.
- Medical billet cuts have been reduced from 17,005 in the original proposal to 12,801 – a move driven primarily by the Army, which accounted for 95% of the adjustment. The medical billet cuts proposed by the Navy and Air Force appear to remain almost unchanged, and MOAA remains concerned lessons learned regarding Military Health System surge capacity requirements and limits to civilian provider availability have not been fully considered in the Navy and Air Force plans.

Although many of the cuts are for administrative or other nonclinical positions, there are still a substantial number of medical provider billets proposed for elimination, including 779 physicians and 1,081 nurses. MOAA also is concerned about significant cuts planned for pediatrics and mental health billets – areas already are under strain in the civilian health care system.

DFAS Resumes Debt Collection: What You Need to Know

By: Kevin Lilley

⁹ <https://www.research.va.gov/currents/0918-VA-researcher-examines-Vets-who-collide-with-criminal-justice-system.cfm#:~:text=The%20term%20justice%2Dinvolved%20Veterans,incarceration%20in%20jail%20or%20prison.>



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Military retirees and others who owe money to DoD no longer benefit from a COVID-related pause in some collection efforts, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) announced recently.

DFAS paused notifications and collections of new, out-of-service debts in March 2020. It also paused referrals of existing debts to other agencies (including private collection agencies) for recoupment. Both of those delays ended Oct. 1. Those who owe money to DoD – often to correct overpayments, or related to education or travel costs – and had their debt on a temporary hold will receive notification via mail from DFAS explaining the status change. Debts covered under the pause did not accrue interest or additional penalties/fees during the hold.

Individuals who wish to challenge the debt can do so through a variety of agencies, but generally not through DFAS itself. The agency offers suggestions and resources for various types of military debts, many of which, if issued in error, require corrections at the service level. DFAS offers lump-sum and other repayment plan options. Debtors may also file a Reduced Installment Payment Request if facing financial hardship.

More information on debts covered by the COVID-related pause can be found on this DFAS frequently asked questions page. Get more information – including phone numbers, mailing addresses, and office hours – at this link.

[\(https://www.dfas.mil/debtandclaims/contactus/\)](https://www.dfas.mil/debtandclaims/contactus/)

What You Should Know About Portfolio Allocation

By: Shane Ostrom

Despite regular advice to the contrary, many investors continue to believe the path to reaching their financial goals comes through constant monitoring of the market, frequent trading, and significant risk.

But instead of remaining glued to your TV or trading app, consider how you’ve structured your existing investment portfolio, and whether it matches your goals of wealth accumulation or preservation.

Consider three basic types of assets:

- Stocks: These can be volatile in the short term, but their long-term results are necessary for wealth creation.
- Bonds: These assets are relatively steady compared with stocks, and they tend to move counter to stocks, but they don’t offer the long-term returns needed to build wealth.
- Cash: This provides the most stable value, but without the returns required to offset taxes and inflation.

Using those building blocks, construct your portfolio based on your goals and needs. Younger investors or those seeking to build wealth will want a stock-heavy portfolio. Older investors or those seeking to maintain wealth rather than create it over the long term should consider fewer stocks and more stable assets.

Your situation will vary by individual needs and tastes, but MOAA’s Asset Allocation Calculator may offer a good baseline.

[\(https://www.moaa.org/content/benefits-and-discounts/finance/Calculators/asset-allocation-calculator/\)](https://www.moaa.org/content/benefits-and-discounts/finance/Calculators/asset-allocation-calculator/)

The right portfolio allocation puts you on the right financial track. Instead of “timing the market” or endlessly stressing over daily stock prices, make sure your portfolio works for you ... not the other way around.

Learn more about financial resources available to MOAA members – and get the latest news regarding your investments, military pay, taxes, and much more – at MOAA.org/finance. [\(https://www.moaa.org/content/benefits-and-discounts/finance/finance/\)](https://www.moaa.org/content/benefits-and-discounts/finance/finance/)



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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

Pay/SBP Questions: www.dfas.mil
Pay inquiries and update of pay or SBP records in case of death, divorce, or remarriage:
Retiree:



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Defense Finance and Accounting Service
 U.S. Military Retirement Pay
 8899 E 56th Street
 Indianapolis, IN 46249-1200
 (800) 321-1080 / Fax: (800) 469-6559.
 SBP/RSFPP annuitant:
 Defense Finance and Accounting Service
 U.S. Military Annuitant Pay
 8899 E 56th Street
 Indianapolis IN 46249-1300
 (800) 321-1080 / (800) 469-6559

VA: www.va.gov

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

TRICARE East: www.humanamilitary.com/beneficiary

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

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/>

[Fact Sheets/Eligibility Requirements:](#)

- Pre-Need Burial Benefit before you call checklist – [Funeral Director's Before You Call Checklist \(va.gov\)](#)



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- 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/BENEFITS/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)
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>



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- [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/1015908202705552/?d=n>