



California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

April 2022 issue

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Notes from the President's Desk

Thank you everyone for your support of AB 1623. Needless to say, every time our bill goes before a committee in the Assembly and/or Senate we need to continue our letter writing / email campaign. True we have organizations behind our bill. But at the sometimes we also need you and your friends, associates, fellow Californians, and Veterans to continue writing your Assemblymember, State Senator, chamber of commerce, county supervisors, and your Congressman/Congresswoman asking for their support (please copy Assemblymember Ramos's office). The battle is not over until the last vote. This is a war of attrition and communications to be heard by every individual. Our effort takes everyone to be involved. If did not see the Bill Analysis that the Revenue and Taxation, please check out the [Bill Analysis](#) There are a lot of good bills being worked this year. Please offer your support of these bills (see California legislation).

Assemblymember Ramos took the bill we wrote and submitted what we presented him. It is because of his courage and dedication to the Uniformed Services and Surviving Spouses that our bill is currently being heard. I truly believe that our bill will not be pigeon hold and ignored under his leadership. In summary we do not want it to be pigeon hold. We want California Legislation to vote one way or the other. This is an election year, and we need everyone to stay in touch with your elected officials. Try to get your city council, chamber of commerce's, county superintendent to write their Assemblymember (copy to Assemblymember Ramos) in support of our bill.

Everyone knows MOAA's primary focus is advocacy for us at the Federal Level (in the house and the senate). But I am not sure if everyone is aware that they are very supportive of our efforts at the state level. **Thank MOAA for all of the support you have given us for AB 1623. If you missed an earlier newsletter and/or email I would like to start off by telling everyone LtGen Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret), President and CEO of MOAA wrote us a letter of endorsement in support of California AB 1623 which we shared with Assemblymember James Ramos and the Assembly Rev and Tax. MOAA then sent out an email blast to every MOAA member in the state of California for California Council and Chapters (this went out to everyone in our state including those who belong to a local chapter).**

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MOAA Council & Chapter Affairs (under Erin Stone, Capt, USN (Ret) and Frank “Tank” Michael, Capt, USN (Ret)) sent out the email blast on 19 Jan 2022. Thursday (14 April 2022) MOAA (Alan English, Vice President, Communications and Marvin Heinze, Capt, USN (Ret)) released CALMOAA Press release via their resources (see attached). I appreciate everything that they have done in support of our effort. In addition to what MOAA has done in support of our efforts. California State Commanders Veterans Council (CSCVC), Ms. Summer Bales, Policy Coordinator, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, Mark Balmert, Rear Adm, USN (ret), President and CEO of San Diego Military Advisory Council and Reeb Government Relations, LLC have all helped us to get where we are today.

On 29 October 2021 I attended the California State Commanders Veterans Council (CSCVC) meeting and I asked them for their support and commitment to support our bill. The CSCVC is supporting our effort with all of their heart. They have sent out a few Voters Voice emails in support of AB 1623 along with a couple of other legislation that affects all of us in the state of California.

In turn every lesson learned we share with MOAA and other states who are also working on legislation who are actively working with their respective state legislators to seek relief from retire military pay – principally, Maryland, North Carolina and Virginia. This can serve as a template as they build their own advocacy support.

Would also like to thank the support that we have received from Ms. Summer Bales, Policy Coordinator, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce and Mark Balmert, Rear Adm, USN (ret), President and CEO of San Diego Military Advisory Council.

We started this effort shortly after I became CALMOAA. The first thing Jeff and I did was we started reaching out to our elected officials. We provided PowerPoint Presentations, fact sheets, and we leveraged off SB-007 that California Senator Ben Hueso, 40th District to see if he would resubmit his bill by talking to his office. I had the pleasure of talking to Ms. Ariel Gibbs and later I talked to Jessica Hayes (both ladies are on his staff) and both of them provided some pointers within the realm of their positions. Jeff approached Assemblymember about the ideal and low and behold we have SB 1623 which includes SBP. When you look at your Identification card it says Uniform Services it does not say Military or Armed Services. Yes, on the front of your ID card you will see your service annotated on it. But in the end, it says Uniformed Services which is why our bill is for Uniformed Services increases the scope of voters in California who are affected by this bill. Reeb Government Relations, LLC (Seth Reeb (an Army Veteran), Dana Nichol, and Pete Conaty (consultant to CSCVC) have been instrumental in assisting Jeff and I on this crusade. We have had a bunch of organizations in support of us. Including a letter from Stanley Zezotarski, Col (Retired) USAR member and former President of The National Guard Association of California. If you did not see the analysis that was presented to Rev and Tax please see this link (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billAnalysisClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB1623). When we went before the Rev and Tax, we had the support of the following registered organizations in support of AB1623.

Support

- San Diego Military Advisory Council
- San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Vietnam Veterans of America, California State Council
- Military Officers Association of America, California Council of Chapters
- California State Commanders Veterans Council

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California Association of County Veterans Service Officers
AMVETS, Department of California
American Legion, Department of California
Equus Medendi
Peace Officers Research Association of California
Marine Corps League, Detachment #1459
3 Individuals

Opposition

California Tax Reform Association

On April 8th Assemblymember Ramos held a Press Conference (if you missed his presentation, please see link to his presentation <https://www.facebook.com/AsmJamesRamos/videos/1830789617122467> .

Below are the links to CALMOAA Press Release. If the hyperlink does not work, please see the last page of this newsletter for the full URLs.

[PRNewswire](#)

[KTLA](#)

[Yahoo news](#)

[News Leaflets](#)

[Benzinga](#)

[Next Wave Group](#)

[Valley News Live \(Fargo, ND\)](#)

[WAFF 48 \(Huntsville, AL\)](#)

[Longview News Journal WN.com](#) Posted 2022-04-14

In addition to AB 1623, I will be sending out your catchment areas in your given area. I am asking the Area Vice Presidents and the chapter Presidents to review and update their catchment area as they see fit and to send me their inputs so that I can ask MOAA to update.

Let me close this month's newsletter by asking you "**Who is your Hero**". The responses are interesting. A few years ago, I was reading a book by Patrick O'Brian (he wrote the Aubrey / Maturin series) where one of his characters asked another one, "Who is your Hero?". Automatically it got me thinking when I saw the answer and at the same time, I realize most people would say their parents, their favorite actor and/or baseball, football player, etc. But very few would say you are the Hero. Which is the correct response. Think about it. Every day you are writing your hero's story. Your hero has to overcome a lot in day and a year. You are brave, positive, optimistic, and stand fast. You admire your hero for overcoming the obstacles that behold you. Before the story ends, you have overcome a lot of things & you and your hero lives happily ever after.

E Fred Green, Jr.
President CALMOAA





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[Coast Guard Adm. Linda L. Fagan Nominated to be First Woman to Serve as Commandant](#)

President Joe Biden nominated Adm. Linda L. Fagan to serve as the 27th Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard. Upon confirmation, Fagan will be the first woman to serve as commandant of the Coast Guard.

A civilian asked his veteran friend "Why did you call that stranger a brother, when you don't even know who he is?" Fair question...Here was his reply. "See that uniform he is wearing? He serves in the United States military. That, in itself, makes us brothers. Don't care where he is from, what color he is, who he voted for, or even who he prays too. He is still my brother, because he chose to put himself second, and his country first. For all I know, he has walked where I have walked, left sweat where I left sweat, and left drops of blood, where I did too. And that too, makes us brothers. From the time he raised his right hand, and signed on the dotted line, until time no longer exists, he will forever be my brother. Same with the women that served. They will forever be my sisters. They have my back, and I have theirs." The civilian friend stated, "wow, I never looked at it or even thought about it like that. That's awesome.

Does every Vet feel like you do? "Yes they do...We are family, first and foremost. Forever Family..."

Thank you all for being my family, and being there for your brothers and sisters when they needed you. -unknown writer.

Surviving Spouse

Please join "[MOAA Surviving Spouses and Friends \(Private Group\) – Facebook.](#)" My wife and I are members and it have 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.

There is a new Facebook Group called "[DIC Surviving Spouses/DIC Increase Advocacy](#)".

MOAA has a lot of information for Surviving Spouses of on their website <https://www.moaa.org/content/topic-and-landing-pages/i-am-a-surviving-spouse/> . They have brochures about how to be prepared in the case of a death. Look at the VA website www.va.gov and look under the presumptive conditions

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<https://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/serviceconnected/presumption.pdf> and <https://www.va.gov/search/?query=presumptive%20conditions&t=false> . Review your accounts (checking, credit cards, utilities, etc. to ensure that if something happened to one it does not lock out the surviving spouse. Review your Trust and/or Will to ensure it has what you and spouse wants. Protect your loved ones!!

Significant dates and MOAA deadlines

CALMOAA Quarterly Meetings

2nd Quarter CALMOAA All Hands 14 May 2022 at 0930 AM– Gene Talmadge will be chairing. Keep an eye out for the announcement from Gene. CALMOAA All Hands meeting is open to everyone.

3rd Quarter CALMOAA All Hands – Kathy Prout will be chairing. Keep an eye out for the announcement.

4th Quarter CALMOAA Annual Meeting/All Hands – _____ will be chairing. Keep an eye out for the announcement.

Significant dates and MOAA deadlines

April 2022

- **April 26 Assemblywoman Weber is having a CA Mortgage Relief Program Webinar** with the Urban League of San Diego County and experts from the California Mortgage Relief Program for an informational webinar on April 26, 2022 from 6 p.m. -7 p.m. [Register now](#) to attend the CA Mortgage Relief Webinar and to submit your questions by April 26th at noon. https://a79.asmdc.org/mortgage_relief
- **Apr 25 – 28: Advocacy in Action / Council Presidents Seminar**
- **April 28:** Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: Improving Chapter Health. Join [here](#) at the time of the meeting.

May 2022

- 1 May is the deadline for MOAA LOE (**Levels of Excellence Award Submissions** <https://www.moaa.org/content/chapters-and-councils/moaa-awards/2022-levels-of-excellence-awards-application/>) **The nomination form is now open. May 1 is the deadline to submit your entry for a Levels of Excellence Award.**
 - a. Councils and chapters are encouraged to apply for the 2021 Levels of Excellence Award. Nominations are due by May 1. The program recognizes excellence in program year 2021, but chapters have until March 31 to make updates to their [committee module rosters](#). A standard set of rating criteria will be used to evaluate all councils and chapters that submit a package. Last year, 162 councils and chapters earned 5-star awards. Your council or chapter could be among the winners recognized at a dinner in Kansas City later this year. [Find criteria and nomination form at this link.](#)
- 2. 1 May is the deadline to apply for the Mercer Insurance Ad which is worth \$100 to your chapter - adding chapter treasures. If you never applied to run their ad you do need to submit your W9 form please see link and/or the attached form <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9s.pdf>. There is time for you to apply to run the ad and get the \$100 from Mercer. *If your W-9 info remains from the previous year. All you have to do is notify Mercer nothing changed.*





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November 2022

- Nov _: CALMOAA Election and installation of the new board

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.

MOAA Advocacy in Action this year is:

- **The Major Richard Star Act (concurrent receipt for combat-injured servicemembers).** Target legislation is [H.R. 1282](#) with 186 co-sponsors as of Feb. 14 – picking up 35 new co-sponsors this session. The Senate’s bill, [S. 344](#), has 55 co-sponsors as of Feb. 14. We will build on this momentum from last year to get these bills to a floor vote, or have the bill’s language made part of the FY 2023 NDAA with support from House and Senate leaders. This legislation impacts over 50,000 combat-injured service members who were not able to serve their full 20 years due to those injuries. Passage of this bill will also impact current and future members who may face the same fate of early retirements due to combat injuries.
- **TRICARE Mental Health Copayments.** MOAA supports the Stop Copay Overpay Act ([H.R. 4824](#)) – mental health is increasingly important, and the issue is getting attention on the Hill due to pandemic impacts and the effects of social media on children’s well-being. This topic acknowledges the national shortfall of access to quality mental health care and addresses TRICARE’s financial barrier to care when it is available – a problem MOAA can help fix. This legislation will benefit our currently serving families on TRICARE Select and our working-age retirees and their families.
- **Military Pay Raise at 4.6%.** This will be worked in the FY 2023 NDAA with insights in the president’s budget and input from the Armed Services Committees in both chambers. Some legislators are interested in [adjusting pay tables for the junior enlisted](#). We have yet to see details of any such plans, but in the meantime, we remain focused on the 4.6% raise for all ranks. This topic addresses the currently serving and their families (pay and benefits) and is significantly important to those who are about to retire.
- The MOAA AIA website will be live in mid-March for those who want to get a head start on lobbying for these three important topics. Watch for updates at MOAA.org/AiA.

State and National Legislation

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OUR BILL [AB 1623](#) was heard by the Revenue and Taxation Committee 22 March 2022. Assembly member James Ramos did a press release on 11 April 2022 in Redlands regarding our bill.

Please keep an eye out for “Voter voice” from California State Commanders Veterans Council and/or from Jeff Breiten or Reeb Associates or I.

If you do not know who your California Senator, Assemblyman/ Assemblywoman is please go to this link:
<https://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov>

Important dates

Apr. 7 —Spring Recess begins upon adjournment

Apr. 18 —Legislature reconvenes from Spring Recess

For more regarding [California 2022 Legislative Bills](#) can be found
<https://www.californiamoaa.com/legislation-2/>

CALMOAA SUPPORTED THE FOLLOWING CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION

AB 1595 (Quirk-Silva D) County of Orange Veterans cemetery.

Position: Support

AB 1600 (Nguyen R) California Commission on the United States Semiquincentennial.

Position: Support

AB 1623 (Ramos D) Military Retirement Tax exemption:

Position: Sponsor

AB 1629 (Seyarto R) Income taxation: exclusion: military survivor benefits.

Position: Support

AB 1828 (Chen R) CalFresh: income eligibility: basic allowance for housing.

Position: Support

AB 2032 (Garcia, Eduardo D) Ending Military and Veteran Suicide Task Force.

Position: Support

AB 2105 (Smith R) Initial license fee reduction for veteran Contractors

Position: Support

AB 2627 (Bauer-Kahan D) Cal Vet and California Community Colleges: memorandum of understanding.

Position: Support

ACR 121 (Seyarto R) Purple Heart Day.

Position: Support

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SB 837 (Umberg D) Remove DL veteran designation \$5 fee.

Position: Support

SB 1193 (Newman D) DMV electronic notifications and transactions.

Position: Support

SB 1311 (Eggman D) Veterans Protections from deceptive practices.

Position: Support

SR 13 (Grove R) Women's Military History Week.

Position: Support

[California Senate Bills \(Veteran\) for 2021 – 2022](#)

[California Assembly Bills \(Veteran\) for 2021 – 2022](#)

National Legislation and MOAA Advocacy in Action

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

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

Heroes Live Here: A Tribute to Camp Pendleton Marines Since 9/11

Heroes Live Here: A Tribute to Camp Pendleton Marines Since 9/11 is a new book and filled with more than 150 full-color photos of memorials and markers placed aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton with a detailed map showing the location of several important monuments.

Written by a former U.S. Marine Combat Correspondent, Amy Forsythe, it also includes reflections and remembrances from those who were stationed at Camp Pendleton, located in north San Diego County, over the past two decades and who still have strong ties to the base. The book serves to honor the men and women who deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Amy is an award-winning journalist and began her career as an enlisted combat correspondent in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1993 and continues to serve as a Public Affairs Officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve. Her career has included five combat deployments and several other overseas assignments. A portion of the proceeds from this book will go to the Semper Fi & America's Fund.

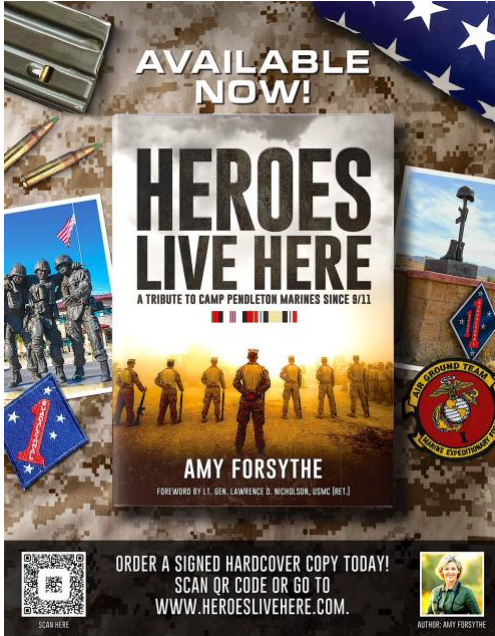
[Click here](#) to purchase a signed hardcover copy of the book and to learn more, go to www.heroeslivehere.com. The book is also available on Amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com.





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MOAA Store

The MOAA Store is officially back up and running! There are variety of items that can be found in the store at <https://moaa.estore.shop/>. From apparel to headwear and much more, there are many items to show your MOAA pride!

ROTC & JROTC Medal Update: The temporary site for ROTC/JROTC items that was launched in November 2021 is now closed and any remaining inventory can be found in the new store. **However, please note that medals are completely sold out.** The new vendor is currently working to procure (newly designed, 8-service) medals and certificates of suitable quality at an acceptable price. We are working with the vendor to replenish our ROTC/JROTC stock as quickly as possible.

CALMOAA TOPS - NAVNET

You can find career opportunities at the NAVNET website www.navnetresources.com which will be added to the CALMOAA website. If anyone has and/or know of any openings for NAVNET they can send them to Tom Hammons at tom@navnetresources.com

MOAA National Visit Request - 2022/2023

The purpose of my email is to advise you that our 2023 visit calendar is now open. Our goal is to conduct annual visits with our councils to provide an update on the association's national priorities and discuss resources available to support your work. A state convention with member chapters is a particularly opportune occasion for MOAA national participation and fulfills the annual requirement.

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Please visit the link below to schedule a visit from MOAA National in 2023. Additionally, if you have not yet had a visit this year and one is not already scheduled, please submit a separate request for a 2022 visit (no earlier than July, please). We support both in person and virtual visits, at the discretion of council leadership.

<https://www.moaa.org/chaptervisitrequest>

All visit requests should be made directly through this website. This allows the Council & Chapter Affairs team to keep track of all visits throughout the year. Please do not send requests directly to MOAA staff.

Once your visit request is received and reviewed, a speaker confirmation will be emailed with next steps.

COVID-19 Travel Update:

The safety of our board, staff, and members are top priority. If you have, or are scheduling, a MOAA National visit event, please keep us informed of your state and local COVID conditions and any precautions or restrictions that are or are anticipated to be put in place. This will provide us all the due diligence required to ensure the safety and well-being of all.

Thank you for your leadership and continued support of MOAA. Stay healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Council & Chapter Affairs Department
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

MOAA-Backed Bill Improving SGLI, VGLI Passes Senate

By: Kevin Lilley

A MOAA-supported bill increasing the amount of life insurance available to servicemembers and veterans via two popular VA plans took a major step forward last week, passing the Senate via a voice vote.

The Supporting Families of the Fallen Act (S. 2794) would increase the automatic maximum coverage under both the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) plans from \$400,000 to \$500,000. It would be the first coverage-cap increase for either plan since 2005.

"This legislation is ultimately about supporting the families of servicemembers," said MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret). "MOAA looks forward to growing bipartisan support for this important modernization of life insurance."

The bipartisan bill heads to the House for consideration. The House version of the bill (H.R. 3793), introduced in June 2021 by Reps. Chip Roy (R-Texas) and Mike Levin (D-Calif.), has 13 co-sponsors. Sen. Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.), who introduced the Senate version, told Military.com the bill "has good support" in the House. The bill marks a major step toward adjusting SGLI and VGLI coverage for inflation. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics inflation calculator, \$400,000 coverage in January 2005 would represent more than \$595,000 in purchasing power in February 2022.





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While the \$100,000 increase doesn't cover the entire amount, the legislation could set the stage for Congress to make further adjustments – moves necessary to protect the benefit of these insurance programs and preserve the financial security of military families.

Senate Bill Moves the Needle on Addressing Military Spouse Unemployment

By: Jen Goodale

A bill designed to reduce the staggering unemployment rate among military spouses took a major step forward this week with its introduction in the Senate by Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) alongside Sens. John Boozman (R-Ark.), Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.), and Mike Rounds (R-S.D.).

The Military Spouse Hiring Act (S. 3909), the Senate companion to H.R. 2974, would expand the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) to create a new target group for military spouses, whose jobless rate has remained between 22% and 24% for over a decade.

Congress established the WOTC in 1996 to incentivize businesses to hire members of select target groups who face significant barriers to employment. There are currently 10 target groups, including qualified veterans, ex-felons, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients.

Employers who take advantage of WOTC receive a tax credit equal to 40% of up to \$6,000 of wages paid to, or incurred on behalf of, an individual from one of the target groups in their first year of employment who performs at least 400 hours of work for that employer.

Military-mandated moves every two or three years have a significant impact on a spouse's ability to find and maintain employment. Additionally, employed spouses often see their résumés discarded by future hiring managers due to the sporadic nature of work experience (different locations and jobs) and gaps in employment history resulting from short assignments (a school, for example).

Reducing the high unemployment and underemployment rates among military spouses will take a multipronged approach:

- **Programs and Resources:** DoD must maintain and expand programs and resources focused on enhancing professional development, upskilling, and education.
- **Licensure Portability:** The Defense-State Liaison Office must continue to develop interstate compacts for the multiple professions requiring licenses or certifications. The licensure/certification fee reimbursement program is a positive step toward addressing fees associated with PCS moves.
- **Incentivized Hiring:** Businesses are reluctant to hire military spouses due to the short time they typically reside in one location. Including military spouses as a target group under WOTC is an important policy lever to address this reluctance.

MOAA continues to work closely with colleagues at the National Military Family Association and Hiring Our Heroes to increase awareness of this important legislation – one more tool to address the military spouse unemployment rate. With





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nearly a third of servicemembers considering leaving the service because of concerns with spouse employment, this is not just an issue of family financial well-being — it’s a recruitment and retention issue.

Military Treatment Facilities Adding QR Codes to Prescription Packaging

By: Karen Ruedisueli

Throughout 2022, military treatment facility (MTF) pharmacies will be replacing printed monographs or MedGuides (the paper medication guides that come with many prescription drugs) with QR codes on prescription packaging. Patients can request a paper copy if they prefer the printed version.

Benefits of switching to QR codes for drug monographs include reduced use of paper, increased privacy of patient information, and the ability to share more robust information in a variety of formats to best meet patient needs. Scanning the QR code will open a web link allowing patients to access prescription information sheets, brief informational videos, tools to help remind you to take your medication, and the ability to share information about your medication with family members, caregivers, or health care professionals.

qr-code-legislative-action-center.png The use of QR codes has exploded during the pandemic as establishments switched to digital options for everything from restaurant menus to real estate listings to MOAA's Legislative Action Center (code pictured). Most mobile phones have a QR code reader integrated into the camera. To access drug information, open your phone’s camera and point it at the QR code on your prescription vial from about 6 inches away. It will scan automatically and provide a link to additional information.

MOAA supports efforts to modernize MTF pharmacy services, and we appreciate the Defense Health Agency has maintained the option of printed prescription drug information for those who prefer to receive a printed copy. Air Force pharmacies began implementing QR code technology in 2019, so some MOAA members already may have encountered QR codes on their prescription vials.

Your MTF pharmacist is also a resource for information about your prescriptions. Patients are still encouraged to ask their pharmacist any questions they may have about their medications.





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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/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

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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:
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

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>

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8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis IN 46249-1300
(800) 321-1080 / (800) 469-6559

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

Insurance:
VA Regional Office and Insurance Center
PO Box 7208 (claims inquiries) -ORPO
Box 7327 (loans) -ORPO
Box 7787 (payments)
Philadelphia PA 19101
(800) 669-8477; www.insurance.va.gov
Burial information: (800) 827-1000; www.cem.va.gov

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

Marine Corps Semper Fidelis:
www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/page/portal/M_RA_HOME/MM/SR/RET_ACT/Semper_Fidelis

TRICARE: www.mytricare.com/mtc

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

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

TRICARE Overseas: (888) 777-8343; www.tricare-overseas.com





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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.longblue.org/>

Fact Sheets/Eligibility Requirements:

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

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>

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- Aid & Attendance/Housebound: <http://www.vba.va.gov/v/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

U.S. Senate: Contacting U.S. Senators
<https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>

U.S. Senate: Committee on Veterans' Affairs
https://www.senate.gov/general/committee_membership/committee_memberships_SVA.htm

U.S. Senate: Committee on Armed Services
https://www.senate.gov/general/committee_membership/committee_memberships_SSAS.htm

House Armed Services Committee members
<https://armedservices.house.gov/meet-our-members>

MOAA Surviving Spouses and Friends (Private Group) - Facebook link
https://www.facebook.com/groups/581427115240904/?multi_permaLinks=3829526447097605%2C3825063920877191%2C3824863560897227%2C3821842571199326%2C3815695241814059¬if_id=1609513928974893¬if_t=group_activity&ref=notif

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

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

Navy Lodge locations: To make a reservation, call the Navy Lodge Department of Defense Reservation Center at (800) 628-9466, or go online at: www.navy-lodge.com or www.dodlodging.com

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DODLODGING.COM

<https://www.dodlodging.com/html/california.htm>

Here is a link identifying Military Bases in California. Note it does not include the Coast Guard, National Guard, NOAA, USPHS. NOAA is usually at Major Sea Ports around the Nation and US Territories. USPHS are co-located with the Coast Guard and reservations (plus).

<http://installationguide.militarytimes.com/>

Veterans Numbers and Websites

VETERANS CRISIS LINE - 800-273-8255 AND PRESS 1

- Chat online at <http://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net>
- Send a text message to 838255
- Service members and their families and friends can call and text the Veterans Crisis Line numbers and can chat online at <http://www.MilitaryCrisisLine.net>

TOLL FREE NUMBERS FOR CONTACTING VA BENEFITS: 1-800-827-1000

- Burial
- Death Pension
- Dependency Indemnity Compensation
- Direct Deposit
- Directions to VA Benefits Regional Offices
- Disability Compensation
- Disability Pension
- Education
- Home Loan Guaranty
- Medical Care
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment

HEALTH CARE BENEFITS: 1-877-222-8387

RESOURCE	PHONE NUMBER	WEBSITE
Bereavement Counseling	1-202-461-6530	

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	1-877-345-8179 (or) 1-888-820-1756
Children of Women Vietnam Veterans (CWVV)	1-888-820-1756
Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA)	1-800-733-8387
Debt Management Center (Collection of Non-Medical Debts)	1-800-827-0648
Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) National Call Center for Homeless Veterans hotline	1-877-424-3838
eBenefits (General Questions & Technical Issues)	1-800-983-0937
Education (GI Bill):	1-888-442-4551
Federal Recovery Coordination Program	1-877-732-4456
Foreign Medical Program	1-888-820-1756
Gulf War Veterans Helpline	1-800-749-8387
Homeless veterans	1-877-222-8387
Income Verification and Means Testing	1-800-929-8387
Life Insurance	1-800-669-8477
	1-888-385-0235 (or) 1-866-229-7389
Meds by Mail	1-866-229-7389
National Call Center for Homeless Veterans	1-877-424-3838
National Cemetery Scheduling Office	1-800-535-1117
National Personnel Records Center	1-314-801-0800
National Resource Directory	https://www.nrd.gov/
Pension Management Center	1-877-294-6380
Presidential Memorial Certificate Program	1-202-565-4964
Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned or Veteran-Owned Small Business	1-202-303-3260
Special Health Issues	1-800-749-8387
Spina Bifida/Children of Women Vietnam Veterans	1-888-820-1756

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Status of Headstones and Markers	1-800-697-6947
Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD)	1-800-829-4833
VA Caregiver Support Line	1-855-260-3274
VA for Vets	1-855-824-8387
VA Inspector General	1-800-488-8244
VA Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs	1-202-461-7600
Veteran's ID Theft Hot Line	1-800-333-4636
Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS)	1-866-487-2365
Women Veterans	1-202-461-1070
Wounded Warrior Resource Center	1-800-342-9647

CALMOAA Press Release - As of 16 April these are the links to our press release.

PRNewswire

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/assemblyman-ramos-calmoaa-and-veterans-gather-to-support-ab-1623-301526108.html>

KTLA

<https://ktla.com/business/press-releases/cision/20220414DC26070/assemblyman-ramos-calmoaa-and-veterans-gather-to-support-ab-1623/>

Yahoo news

https://www.yahoo.com/now/assemblyman-ramos-calmoaa-veterans-gather-180600906.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAHcBaz5pU9YSInDZnNiR-EiYJ5hriA2Nn3DdwON0gxdQFzHUGy-fxybH48OwZIZJ-KyaFiVUexOZMqWruoYEMitBIR0_lrDKkm3drOFB9EQQtS3gFPMgRd5SVdXDHXf7dAv30f4SLmmSVoyBdBh0RVF5r0UpCbifzy6xrRfHDn

News Leaflets

<https://newsleaflets.com/assemblyman-ramos-calmoaa-and-veterans-gather-to-support-ab-1623>

Benzinga

<https://www.benzinga.com/amp/content/26642968>

Next Wave Group

<https://www.nextwavegroup.com/news?rkey=20220414DC26070&filter=11189>

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[Valley News Live \(Fargo, ND\)](https://www.valleynewslive.com/prnewswire/2022/04/14/assemblyman-ramos-calmoaa-veterans-gather-support-ab-1623/)

<https://www.valleynewslive.com/prnewswire/2022/04/14/assemblyman-ramos-calmoaa-veterans-gather-support-ab-1623/>

[WAFF 48 \(Huntsville, AL\)](https://www.waff.com/prnewswire/2022/04/14/assemblyman-ramos-calmoaa-veterans-gather-support-ab-1623/)

<https://www.waff.com/prnewswire/2022/04/14/assemblyman-ramos-calmoaa-veterans-gather-support-ab-1623/>

[Longview News Journal WN.com](https://article.wn.com/view/2022/04/14/assemblyman_ramos_calmoaa_and_veterans_gather_to_support_ab_a/) Posted 2022-04-14

https://article.wn.com/view/2022/04/14/assemblyman_ramos_calmoaa_and_veterans_gather_to_support_ab_a/

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