



California Council of Chapters of MOAA (CALMOAA)

August 2022 issue

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Notes from the President’s Desk

I am sorry to announce that Neal Joel Schneider, Capt, USMC (Ret) passed away on August 2, 2022. I would like to thank CALMOAA Chaplain Johnny Carr and his wife Sandy Carr for notifying us. MOAA has been notified. Like us they too will miss Neal. Neal was a life member of MOAA, Marine Corps League, and the American Legion. We send our condolences to Alicia Schneider and family. I am also saddened to report we also lost Pete Conaty, LtCol, USA (Ret) on July 30, 2022. Pete was a longtime veterans’ advocate. He was a life member of the American Legion and a member of MOAA. In addition to being a MOAA member he was longtime advisor to The California State Commanders Veterans Council. Advocacy and helping veterans were his mission. He will be missed by all.

We need your support for Bipartisan legislation in the House and Senate (H.R. 3402/S.976) would align Dependency and Indemnity Compensation payments with other federal survivor benefits. Please go to this website and be heard in support of this bill. <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/36953/>

I am sadden in that LCDR Jeffrey L Breiten, USN (Ret) was not selected for the COL STEVE STROBRIDGE LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AWARD this year. Dana T. Atkins, Lieutenant General, U.S. Air Force (Ret), President and CEO of Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) did write a very nice letter thanking him for his outstanding contribution to MOAA’s advocacy mission, for the 2022 Col Steve Strobridge Legislative Chair/Liaison Award. He went on to say “how much I personally appreciate your leadership and advocacy on behalf of military members, veterans and their families, and surviving spouses. You continue to make significant progress in advancing legislation in a difficult state and make a difference for so many at the local, state, and federal levels. Thank you for all of your time and effort and for exemplifying our mission to “Never Stop Serving.” With great respect and V/R, DT” I would like to thank Jeff for his tireless effort not only for his effort at the National level but his endless effort to advocate for Veterans in California.

Advocacy for California Veterans. Specifically, we need everyone help to “Improve Military Spouse Employment in California” (see page 6), and “Exempt Uniform Services and Surviving Spouses”. (see page 5).

It is important that when you reach out to Governor Newsome and your state Senators and Assemblymembers that you use the proper term(s) and their proper name(s). For example, Assembly James Ramos name is not Jim it is James.

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Our efforts this coming year is to Exempt Uniform Services Retired Pay and Survivors. It is not Military Retirees. What we don't want at this time is confusion when we talk to Sacramento. Exempt Uniform Services Retired Pay and Survivors committee (Steve Donlon, Jeff Breiten, Fred Jaffin, and Kathy Prout) have been working hard to draft a template letter for all, update our fact sheet, set up a Facebook page (to keep all of our Veterans and Friends) up to date. We realize not everyone will join our Facebook page. It is because of this the committee will email chapter presidents changes, etc (note there may be a lag of information, but we will do our best to keep you aware). By now you should have seen a letter that you can use to send to the governor of California. If not, please see State and National Legislation for more information page 4 and the letter attached. Please join us [EXEMPT UNIFORMED SERVICES RETIRED PAY & SURVIVORS' SBP FROM CA INCOME TAX](#), Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/560520875614530>.

I am proud to announce that The Governor's Military Council reached out to Jeff Breiten and I and asked us to be part of a panel at The Governor's Military Council in collaboration with the Association of Defense Communities and the California Defense Communities Association on 30 August in Sacramento, CA. They are very aware of our efforts to Exempt Uniform Services Retired Pay and Survivors and to Improve Military Spouse Employment in California.

When this bill was signed it was noted that it did not include teachers' credentials as announced. This oversight was also noted by us and the Pacific Southwest Regional Liaison Defense-State Liaison Office DoD, Military Community & Family Policy (<http://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil>)

If you are interested in being the next CALMOAA President and part of CALMOAA's Board, please reach out and contact the nominating board. The nominating board is comprised of the following Gene Talmadge (chair), George Shy, Wes Shermann, and Bruce Lowman. Feel free to reach to me and/or Patricia "Patty" Zindler-Wernet if you don't have their contact information and we will provide it to you. Remember everyone member (service members and surviving spouses) is eligible to run for office. Description of CALMOAA Officers can be found under Article VIII (please see link <https://www.californiamoaa.com/calmoaa-bylaws/> and click to page 10 of 18).

New Veteran Crisis Line Phone Number – Call 988 and pressing 1. For a Veteran in crisis — whose emotional struggles and health challenges may lead to thoughts of suicide — these conversations can mean the difference between a tragic outcome and a life saved. When talking to a Veteran, listen for signs of distress or other clues that might indicate that they need immediate help. Access free, confidential support 24/7, 365 days a year for Veterans and their loved ones. **Use this new option by dialing 988 and pressing 1 to contact the Veterans Crisis Line.** Veterans may still reach the Veterans Crisis Line with the previous phone number—[1-800-273-8255](tel:1-800-273-8255) and [Press 1](tel:1-838-255)—by text ([838255](tel:838255)), and through chat (VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat).

I am proud to announce the winners of MOAA's Level of Excellence (LOE) award winners (5 star and 4 star). Despite a difficult year of transition from the COVID-19 pandemic, these councils and chapters adapted and improvised when necessary to support and foster programs that directly support the MOAA mission and their communities. Please join us in congratulating these chapters. I have asked Patricia "Patty" Zindler-Wernet our 1st Vice President to go to the LOE and MOAA's Annual Meeting to accept CALMOAA LOE award this year for us.

Five-Star Affiliates

California Council of Chapters
Conejo-Simi Valley Chapter
Mojave Desert Chapter
San Diego Chapter

Alta Chapter
Hidden Valley Chapter
Orange Empire Chapter
Silver Strand Chapter

Alameda County Chapter
Miramar Chapter
Palm Springs Chapter

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Four-Star Affiliates

Ventura County Chapter

By now each chapter president should have been notified by MOAA. MOAA's Annual Meeting and LOE Recognition will be held in Kansas City on October 24 – 28, 2022. Please remember to vote for MOAA's next Board and bylaw changes (see your August MOAA magazine).

From the desk of Patty Wernet – There will be a Women Veterans Engage (WAVE) on September 9 – 10, 2022. Live Broadcast in person and online. Please click on this link <https://www.womenveteransalliance.org/women-veterans-engage/> for more information, registration, etc. A quick overview – this is an Engaging, Inspiring, & Motivating- Professional Development and Personal Growth. It is Open to women veterans, active duty, guard & reserve who can watch online or join in person.

Congratulations Hidden Valley on your work to deliver sleeping bags to our displaced Veterans during Standdown in San Diego County. Hidden Valley went out and requested a grant to purchase sleeping bags.

Please see page 3 for CALMOAA Significant dates (to include our annual meeting and my schedule) and MOAA deadlines. Note for our annual meeting I will be asking MOAA to participate in our Annual Meeting. At this time, I am thinking of something along the line of the workshop that they held in San Diego.

Happy Birthday United States Coast Guard's (USCG) 232nd birthday! The Coast Guard began its service to our nation on August 4, 1790, under President George Washington at the request of Alexander Hamilton. Today, USCG remains "always ready" with more than 44,000 service members.

I don't know how many you have made the same mistake I did one day when I stated I have a Tweeter account when in fact I really have a Twitter account. I got a note recently from Kathy recently that I had to chuckle over when I saw it. It is cute and accurate. In reality "It is a Twitter account, not a Tweeter. Then one sends a tweet. That is what the message is called. I have to laugh because I was so proud. I told my daughter I sent out my first twitter. She said, "MOM! You don't twitter, You Tweet!"

Respectfully,

E. Fred Green, Jr., LCDR, USN (Ret)

President of California Council of Chapters Military Officers Association of America (CALMOAA)

Surviving Spouse

Please see Kathy's Surviving Spouse Report in separate attachment.

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 and "[DIC Surviving Spouses/DIC Increase Advocacy](#)".

MOAA has a lot of information for Surviving Spouses of on their website <https://www.moa.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 <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,

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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

4th Quarter CALMOAA Annual Meeting/All Hands – tentatively November 3 – 4, 2022 will be chairing. Keep an eye out for the announcement.

CALMOAA’s Annual meeting will be hosted in Area Vice President Mike Kwan and Ventura County MOAA Chapter (CA50). Tentatively our annual meeting will be November 3, 2022, close to the Seabee Base in Port Hueneme, CA. He is currently researching and identifying possible lodging in the area. At this time, I am looking at 1.5 day meeting. Mike is looking at having the kinks worked out by the end of this month. I will be asking MOAA to participate in our Annual Meeting. At this time, I am thinking of something along the line of the workshop that they held in San Diego.

I will be attending the following meetings and celebrations:

My wife’s birthday August 28, 2022

California Governor's Military Council with Jeff Breiten, CALMOAA Legislation VP (29 – 30 August)

Tentatively I am planning on attending Mojave Desert Chapter MOAA meeting on 28 September 2022 with MOAA National

California State Commanders Veterans Council Meeting (October 1, 2022)

Visit and participate with Solano MOAA Chapter Retiree Appreciation Day at Travis AFB (October 8, 2022)

My nephew’s wedding in October

MOAA 2022 Roundtable Schedule

August 25 – Improving Chapter Health

September 29 – Branding

October 27 – Transition Services

November 17 – Retention

December 29 – End of Year Review and Discussion

Looking for a recording from a past webinar, roundtable, or another event? Visit our [Council and Chapter Webinars and Video Archive](#) page.

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

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.

State and National Legislation

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

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

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Everyone should have received an email from Steve Donlon informing them that we have a Facebook group established To support Exemption of Uniformed Services retired pay and Surviving Spouse benefits, we have established a private Facebook group: [EXEMPT UNIFORMED SERVICES RETIRED PAY & SURVIVORS' SBP FROM CA INCOME TAX](https://www.facebook.com/groups/560520875614530), Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/560520875614530>. This FB Group is the first step to develop our “grass roots” advocacy support. This FB Group files section will also be the repository for documents related to the Personal Income Tax Exemption for Uniformed Service retirees and Surviving Spouses’ Benefits.

Membership in this FB Group is open to Uniformed Service retirees and active duty, reserve and National Guard and their spouses, Surviving Spouses, members of the California Legislature, and other supporters as determined by the Administrator.

To grow our grass roots support, invite your chapter members to join. Our goal is to reach out to the ~170,000 California Uniformed Services Retirees and Surviving Spouses. Just as important are active duty and reserves, and their spouses, they are retirees of tomorrow.

You may invite a friend (who is a FB user) directly through our FB Group page. Also please post invitations to join this Facebook group in Facebook Groups in your local area or to which your chapter members belong. At your next chapter or board meeting consider spending a few minutes to gather the names of other FB Groups.

Below is the template for **Exempt Uniform Services Retired Pay and Survivors** letter to Governor Newsom

Date

The Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, California 95814

Subj: Uniformed Services Retirement Pay and Survivor Benefits Personal Income Tax Exclusion for California

Dear Governor Newsom:

California is the only state in the nation that does not provide a personal income tax exclusion to Uniformed Service retirees and Survivors. California has the nation’s third-largest Uniformed Service retirees and Survivors community, with approximately 165,000 members. Assembly Bill 1623, which was introduced by Assemblymember James Ramos in the 2022 legislative session was applauded by military retirees and the state’s 2 million veterans who call California home. Twenty-eight veteran organizations in California and the California State Commanders Veterans Council publicly supported AB 1623.

The Peace Officers Research Association of California, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce and Orange County Chamber of Commerce are strong supporters of a Personal Income Tax Exclusion for Uniformed Services retired pay and Survivor benefits.

Between 2013 and 2020 the nation’s population of Uniformed Service retirees has increased by approximately 1.015%, while California had an annual decline of 2%-3% in the state’s Uniformed Services retiree population. Nevada showed a gain of 10% and Arizona a gain of 6%. Arizona fully exempts Uniformed Services retiree pay and Survivor benefits from state income tax and Nevada does not have a state income tax. A significant cause for this migration from California is no exclusion for personal income tax.



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Recent studies conducted by the San Diego Military Advisory Council, California Governor’s Military Council, and others agree that retaining Uniformed Service retirees in California provide a valuable workforce and economic development tool for California. These studies also show that Uniformed Services retirees generate millions of dollars in general tax revenue for the state’s economy from their 2nd careers. Of note, many Uniformed Service members when on active duty are residents of a state that does not tax their active duty pay, thus when retirees remain in California, California GAINS Personal Income Tax revenues from Uniformed Services retired pay and second career pay.

Uniformed Services retirement pay is earned for 20 years of service. Most servicemembers retire in their early-40s. California cities and counties would also benefit from local tax contributions and a cohort of productive, stable professionals retained in their communities.

California would benefit economically if the state exempted all Uniformed Services and Survivor benefits pension from the state’s personal income tax. Retaining and potentially attracting military Uniformed Services retirees would benefit the state’s total personal income tax revenues, sales tax receipts, and property taxes.

California is in a unique position in that it can both honor our Uniformed Service retirees while at the same time enhancing its skilled workforce and bolstering the general tax fund.

At your request would be pleased to provide you with additional information.

Thank you,
Signature
Your name
Your mailing address

Improve Military Spouse Employment in California: On October 8, 2021, Governor Newsome signed this into law. Below is an excerpt of the announcement.

The bill, which makes all licenses under the Department of Consumer Affairs available for spouses of military servicemembers to apply for temporary licensure upon being stationed in the state. This information must be made available on each board’s website along with information on permanent licensure by endorsement or credential for out-of-state applications and other related information for military spouse and family applicants. Further, this bill requires that the Departments of Consumer Affairs and Real Estate compile and submit annual reports to the Legislature containing specified information relating to the professional licensure of veterans, servicemembers and their spouses.

California, historically the state with the largest population of active duty and veteran servicemembers, has 162,000 military members in the state today, by far the largest in the nation. With over 32 military installations and activities in the state, California also has the most community impact from the military throughout the nation. Until this week, it has also been one of the remaining states with no significant legislation to facilitate career stability for military spouses by removing barriers to their employment in these communities. When speaking virtually with aerospace industry members at a Governor’s Military Council and Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development event early last year, Governor Newsom stated that military spousal licensure was an issue California needed to fix.

The Governor’s Military Council (GMC) is thrilled to announce that through its coordinated efforts with the local military communities, the Department of Defense, the California Defense Communities Alliance, the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development and the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research, the signed



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legislation will bring us a giant step closer to achieving his goals. “This bill is a win-win enabling a qualified work pool segment who want to work the ability to quickly fill workforce needs of employers, exclaimed GMC Chair, Vice Admiral (ret.) Jody Breckenridge. “Our experience in working with the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing is that qualified military spouses are filling critical gaps often in remote areas.”

Due to the highly-mobile nature of military service, military spouses face a 24% unemployment rate, much higher than the rate of the public and AB 107 creates the ability for hard working members of our national security branches to feel welcome in the state and improve the ability of families to create stability in their homes and communities. This bill allows military spouses, who already make extraordinary sacrifices in service to our country, to continue their professions. California joins many other states in doing what it can to support the thousands of military families coming into the state by reducing the regulatory barriers to allow military spouses to secure a job here.

The recent impacts of COVID on the state’s healthcare system have demonstrated a need to increase access to qualified healthcare works such as Doctors, Nurses and Physicians Assistants, all of which fall under the Department Consumer Affairs. Governor Newsom saw a ready workforce that can contribute to California’s most depleted industries and signed this legislation to create an opportunity for military family members, who are certified in one or more other states, to continue to practice their skills, contribute to their families and provide a better quality of life for their families and California communities.

“Implementing licensure portability measures will help to reduce employment barriers for military spouses, improving military family stability and quality of life,” said Marcus Beauregard, director for the Department’s Defense-State Liaison Office. “More than one-third of military spouses work in occupations that require licenses. Reducing the burden of licensure will also increase the pool of applicants in critical career fields experiencing shortages, such as health care and teaching, especially in military communities.”

The California Defense Communities Alliance (CDCA), an organization that collaborates efforts within local defense communities across the state, is encouraged that Governor Newsom signed AB 107. In recognition that many spouses in the state are currently unemployed or underemployed in their communities, CDCA Co-Chairperson and CEO of the San Diego Military Advisory Council (SDMAC) Mark Balmert stated that, “it was time for California to join so many other states in making temporary licenses accessible and allow military spouses to contribute to their respective professional fields. Our state will have thousands more qualified professionals in important fields including healthcare.”

Finally, all branches of the military have established military spouse employment as a key aspect of supporting military families and as such a factor for consideration of all new and existing mission locations. As a state that realized over \$181.2 billion in economic impact in FY19 over numerous industries due to the spending on military and national security activities in the state, this legislation increases California’s opportunities to maintain a competitive stance in future mission-basing decisions and protect those that are currently serving the state today.

National Legislation and MOAA Advocacy in Action

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

“MOAA National issues” (website):

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

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

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The “Responsible Education Mitigating Options and Technical Extensions Act” or the “REMOTE Act” Signed Into Law: <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/remotect.asp> .

VA takes action to become federal model for inclusion, diversity, equity, and access for Veterans and employees: <https://www.va.gov/OPA/PRESSREL/pressrelease.cfm?id=5752> .

House Votes to Expand GI Bill Eligibility for National Guard, Reserves: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/01/12/house-votes-expand-gi-bill-eligibility-national-guard-reserves.html>

MOAA’s [Community Outreach Sponsorship](#) is still available. (this is similar to the USAA program). You can apply for up to \$300 per chapter or \$800 per council to support community service programs and recruiting/branding events. Get details [at this link](#). This program is similar to the USAA program. In addition to the Community Outreach Sponsorship To review the grant for our Chapters Department, along with the Development’s Department, use this link: <https://www.moaa.org/content/chapters-and-councils/chapters-and-councils/council-and-chapter-community-involvement/>

For Crisis Relief Grant, please access this link: <https://www.moaa.org/relief-verification>

Veterans Affairs

VA Secretary's Statement on the Passage of the PACT Act

“Veterans who were exposed to toxic fumes while fighting for our country are American heroes, and they deserve world-class care and benefits for their selfless service. The bipartisan PACT Act will help VA deliver for those Veterans—and their survivors—by empowering us to presumptively provide care and benefits to Vets suffering from more than 20 toxic exposure-related conditions.

To those Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors: you can apply for PACT Act benefits by filing a claim at [VA.gov](#), and you can learn more about the PACT Act at [VA.gov/PACT](#) or by calling us at [1-800-MyVA411](#). VA will be communicating with you every step of the way to make sure that you and your loved ones get the benefits you’ve earned.

I couldn’t be more grateful to President Biden, who made this day possible by fighting like hell for our nation’s Veterans. Once the President signs this bill into law, VA will implement it quickly and effectively, delivering the care these Veterans need and the benefits they deserve.” – VA Secretary Denis R. McDonough

Caregiver peer support group goes virtual

"One would share an experience that was deep and impactful, and another caregiver would say, ‘I’m really glad you said that. That really helped me.’” The peer group uses [VA Video Connect](#), VA’s secure teleconferencing platform, to meet virtually without caregivers needing to leave the home.

Please see this link for more information <https://news.va.gov/106923/caregiver-peer-support-group-goes-virtual/> .

VA has the resources and information to help you support Veterans and manage your own thoughts and feelings. Visit www.caregiver.va.gov or explore the resources below to learn more:

- Locate your local Caregiver Support Team: www.caregiver.va.gov/support
- Caregiver Support Line: 1-855-260-3274
- Learn more about VA’s Caregiver Support Programs:
 - [The Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers](#)
 - [Program of General Caregiver Support Services](#)
- Coaching into Care: mirecc.va.gov/coaching
 - Call: 1-888-823-7458

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Eligibility for Veterans Pension/ Veterans Affairs

- The Veteran Pension program provides monthly payments to wartime Veterans who meet certain age or disability requirements, and who have income and net worth with certain limits. Find out if you're eligible for this benefit see: <https://www.va.gov/pension/eligibility/>.

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!

Procedural Issue Delays Much-Needed Toxic Exposure Benefit Reforms

By: Cory Titus

Despite a strong bipartisan vote in the Senate on June 16, a procedural issue has prevented the House from taking up the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022. The delay could put the bill in jeopardy as competing legislation clogs up a busy legislative calendar. MOAA has worked to keep the comprehensive reform bill on the radar, but lawmakers need to hear from their constituents to ensure the long-sought benefits aren't delayed further.

The Senate bill includes a tax-related clause unrelated to specific toxic exposure benefit changes. This provision was not part of the original House bill, and because tax and revenue measures are required to originate in the House, the Senate must pass an amended version to take out the provision.

Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.), an ardent supporter of the legislation and the chair of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, proposed a fix via unanimous consent, but Sen. Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) objected, citing funding concerns unrelated to the underlying procedural issue. This means the chamber must reconsider the updated legislation when senators return from recess the week of July 11. While the 84-14 Senate vote on June 16 showed strong bipartisan support among legislators, and the House passed the original legislation by a 256-174 margin, the risk comes in the timing – the House will be in session for less than a full month between now and the election, and with competing priorities, it's up to advocates like you and others you know to make sure both chambers move on this bill with deliberate speed.

MOAA and the dozens of other advocacy groups supporting this legislation have increased efforts on the Hill to rally support for the measure. Veterans who've waited decades for these earned benefits shouldn't have to wait a day longer – call or write your lawmakers today and encourage them to support the Honoring Our PACT Act.

DoD Releases Details on Atomic Veterans Commemorative Service Medal

By: Kevin Lilley

A half-million veterans may be eligible to receive an award honoring their service related to atomic weapon use, testing, and cleanup in the decades after World War II.



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The Atomic Veterans Commemorative Service Medal will be available to hand out by year’s end, according to a July 5 DoD press release. The creation of the medal was part of the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act; the law allowed DoD to establish eligibility criteria with recommendations from House and Senate Armed Services Committee members. Veterans eligible for the award must have performed one of the following actions as part of official military duties from July 1, 1945, to Oct. 1, 1992, according to the news release:

1. Directly participated in the detonation of an atomic weapon or device.
2. Directly participated in the cleanup of radioactive material resulting from any such atmospheric detonation.
3. Directly participated in the cleanup of radioactive material resulting from an accident associated with an atomic weapon; or
4. Were exposed to ionizing radiation resulting from the operational use of atomic weapons during World War II.

The next-of-kin of deceased veterans who meet the above criteria may apply for the medal, as well. An online application process will be created “in the near future,” per the DoD press release. It’s unclear how many veterans participated in such operations. Most reports suggest about 225,000 servicemembers took part in atomic testing and development, but when those who worked in cleanup efforts or suffered other exposure are added, the total figure could eclipse 500,000. The medal’s design, also released July 5, includes an eagle and a symbol of an atom on the obverse, and language on the reverse noting the honor was “awarded for unique service in support of nuclear deterrence.”

From MOAA’s President: There’s Still Time to Support MOAA’s Day of Giving

By: Dana Atkins

We established July 4 as MOAA's Day of Giving with the goal to raise \$75,000 to support our veterans, servicemembers, and their families across all branches of service.

I want to give a big THANK YOU to every one of our members who have already joined this year's campaign and helped us surpass our 2021 effort. We know we can move mountains for the uniformed services community when our members stand together, and there is still time to meet our goal in support of our two charities, The MOAA Foundation (TMF) and the MOAA Scholarship Fund.

You can visit our Day of Giving website, MOAA.org/dayofgiving, to make a tax-deductible gift today. You can also show your MOAA spirit with the purchase of our 2022 MOAA Charities “Charitee-shirt” available at this link, MOAA.org/charitees.

Both our charities are GuideStar Platinum-rated and have adapted the programs we provide to those we serve, and I am proud of the progress we have made. Here are a few illustrations of what we have accomplished with the support of generous donors:

- TMF has created a fifth pillar of support to serve uniformed servicemembers and their families when disaster strikes.
- In 2021, almost 900 students received financial assistance for their college education through the MOAA Scholarship Fund.
- The amount of money distributed through Community Outreach Grants has increased over 10% since 2019.
- In 2021, 36% of the financial assistance distributed by the Scholarship Fund was in the form of grants – up from 12% in 2019.

Our development team is constantly speaking with MOAA members, chapters, and beneficiaries across the country to ensure our programs meet the current needs of uniformed servicemembers and their families.

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Robert, a Life Member of MOAA, told me recently that he donates to our charities because “MOAA is an officer organization, and we have a leadership responsibility to take care of our own. Donating to the charities gives us a chance to do that.”

With so much gratitude, I give thanks again to our members for supporting our association and truly making a difference in the lives of so many veterans, servicemembers and their families.



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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 \(va.gov\)](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

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

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Pay/SBP Questions: www.dfas.mil

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

Retiree:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service

U.S. Military Retirement Pay

8899 E 56th Street

Indianapolis, IN 46249-1200

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

SBP/RSFPP annuitant:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service

U.S. Military Annuitant Pay

8899 E 56th Street

Indianapolis IN 46249-1300

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

Records:

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

Retired prior to 1995:

www.archives.gov/veterans/militaryservice-records

Retired after 1995:

Navy Personnel Command

PERS-312E

5720 Integrity Drive

Millington, TN 38055-3120

Fax requests to: (901) 874-2664

Gray-area reservists: (866) 827-5672

Navy recreation: www.mwr.navy.mil

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

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

Sister service retiree publications:

Air Force Afterburner: www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner

Army Echoes:

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

Coast Guard Evening Colors:

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

Marine Corps Semper Fidelis:

www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/

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

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

VA: www.va.gov

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

Insurance:

VA Regional Office and Insurance Center

PO Box 7208 (claims inquiries) -ORPO

Box 7327 (loans) -ORPO

Box 7787 (payments)

Philadelphia PA 19101

(800) 669-8477; www.insurance.va.gov

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

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

TRICARE: 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

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/>

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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/
- Burial Allowance: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/burials/Burial.pdf>
- Headstone/Marker/Medallion: <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hmm/>
- Burial Flag: http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/burial_benefits/burial_flags.asp
- Survivor Pension: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/spousepen.asp>
- Dependent Indemnity Compensation: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFIT/S/factsheets/survivors/dic.pdf>
- Aid and Attendance: http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/aid_attendance_housebound.asp
- Medical Expense Report: <http://vbaw.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.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.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.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21P-534EZ-ARE.pdf>
- Income and Asset Statement: <https://vbaw.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21P-0969-ARE.pdf>
- Substitution of Claimant (if Veteran had open claim/appeal @ death): <http://vbaw.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21P-0847-ARE.pdf>
- Accrued Benefits claim form <http://vbaw.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21P-601-ARE.pdf>
- Aid & Attendance/Housebound: <http://www.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-2680-ARE.pdf>
- Aid & Attendance Nursing Home (if in home and filing A&A): <http://www.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-0779-ARE.pdf>
- Veterans Life Insurance Withdrawal: <http://www.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/V_A40-0247.pdf

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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/1015908202705552/?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

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://installionguide.militarytimes.com/>

Veterans Numbers and Websites
VETERANS CRISIS LINE - 800-273-8255 AND PRESS 1

- Chat online at <http://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net>

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- 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	
	1-877-345-8179 (or)	
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	

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Life Insurance	1-800-669-8477
	1-888-385-0235
	(or)
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
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



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Promotional Products Dept.
Vanguard Industries West
(800) 433-1334 ext. 129
aevergin@vanguardmil.com
www.vanguardemblematics.com