



Charleston Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

January— Issue 01 2026

Published monthly, except July

Web site: www.charlestonmoaa.com

It's the off-season, so come hear what JB CHS's Golf Pro, Mr. Aaron Sales, PGA has to say. It might even improve your game!

Place: Logan's Roadhouse
211 Azalea Square Blvd
Summerville, SC 29483
843-851-8666

Date: Friday, January 30, 2026

Time: Social Hour 11AM accompanied by a cash bar

Lunch: 12 Noon

Menu: Plated Lunch served with Water or Tea



Choice of two entrees:

Baby Back Ribs: a half rack of ribs, so tender they fall off the bone!

OR

Teriyaki Grilled Chicken: 8 oz. fresh boneless chicken breast, marinated in a blend of pineapple juice, teriyaki sauce, herbs, and spices.

All entrees include Logan's homemade yeast rolls, a Roadhouse dinner salad, and a baked potato.

Cost: \$30.00 per person. This is a dessert-free luncheon. You know why...

Dress: Casual.

RSVP: Make checks out to MOAA Charleston. Check to arrive NLT Monday, January 26, 2026, or use **ZELLE**.

Mail to: CAPT Bud Schneeweis USCG (Ret), 6 Wappoo Creek Pl, Charleston, SC 29412

For additional information - CAPT Bud Schneeweis @ 703.300.0811 or
wschneeweis@verizon.net

Legislative Summary

Submitted by: Bud Schneeweis



CAPT, USCG (Ret)

Special, Check Out: MOAA's [Take Action Center](#)

MOAA Again Recognized as a 'Top Lobbyist' by The Hill

MOAA's ongoing work to hold the line on service-earned benefits has resulted in a 19th-straight appearance on the annual Top Lobbyist list published Dec. 11 by *The Hill*, a leading Washington, D.C., news outlet.

MOAA's recognition comes in the Grassroots category, alongside, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the Boys & Girls Club of America, and other awardees.

"We are deeply appreciative of this honor from *The Hill*, as it shows the influence MOAA continues to have on Capitol Hill on behalf of all who serve and have served, their families, and their survivors," said MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret). "Whether you've joined us in D.C. as part of our Advocacy in Action campaign, sent messages to your lawmaker through our Legislative Action Center, or spread our message online or through your MOAA council or chapter, your work has been vital to our advocacy success."

NDAA 2026

The FY 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) cleared the Senate on Dec. 17 by a 77-20 margin and is on the president's desk for signature. He is expected to sign it.

The \$901 billion measure passed the House 312-112 on Dec. 10. MOAA outlined key elements of the legislation at that time, to include:

A 3.8% basic pay raise, in line with private-industry benchmarks.

Further protections against medical bil-

let cuts at military treatment facilities, an issue of concern to many retirees. See more below.

A range of additional improvements for currently serving members and their families, to include childcare fee assistance, an increase in Family Separation Allowance, and a report on unreimbursed expenses attached to PCS moves.

MOAA Government Relations staff members continue to analyze the NDAA and will offer greater details on these issues and others in the coming weeks.

Congress to Require Greater Oversight of Military Health Restructuring

This article by Patricia Kime originally appeared on Military Times, the nation's largest independent newsroom dedicated to covering the military and veteran community.

Members of Congress are seeking to more closely monitor the Defense Department's plans to modify or downsize military hospitals and clinics by requiring more oversight and adding years to a ban on

Continued on page 6.

Thank You

The following have renewed their membership for Five or More Years:

*Maj Robert A. Nobbs, USAF (Ret)
CDR Dave Stamps, USN (Ret)
CWO3 Jerry Stout, USN (Ret)*



Steve Rowe, Realtor®

Retired Military, *Active Agent*

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www.SteveRoweHomes.com

srowe@CarolinaOne.com

For every referred Client I donate \$100 to the MOAA Scholarship Fund!

This month's interesting article

Quilts of Valor - Woven Comfort, Appreciation, and Community

Quilts of Valor are a tangible recognition of the thousands of people across our land who are forever grateful for veterans. Each year, as proud Americans, we recognize and honor hundreds of military veterans for their service and sacrifice at Veterans Day Observances across South Carolina and the country. Closer to home this past November, Berkeley Modern Quilt Guild, in partnership with the Quilts of Valor Foundation, presented quilts to nineteen veterans in a ceremony hosted by Berkeley Electric Cooperative. Among those honored was MOAA member LtCol Paul Lassanske.



Much like military service, quilting is a communal effort, bringing people together to accomplish a goal. Berkeley Modern Quilt Guild members work year-round to make quilts. Each one is creatively designed and infused with love, prayer and appreciation. Quilts of Valor must be a specific size, must have a label with required information and must be awarded and recorded. Quilts are presented by wrapping each receiving veteran with the quilt in a symbolic hug of comfort and honor.

Berkeley Modern Quilt Guild and Cobblestone Quilters Guild are two of the many quilt guilds throughout the Lowcountry committed to giving comfort to residents in need. Their quilts cover infants in MUSC's neonatal unit, Doors to Freedom residents who are survivors of sex trafficking, My Sister's House domestic violence shelter and military veterans. Currently, both guilds are working to provide one hundred quilts to Tunnel to Towers Foundation's new Charleston Veterans Village that will be home for ninety veterans. Guild volunteers personally finance the cost of necessary quilt materials and selflessly give time to coordinate award ceremonies and presentations. Donations are welcomed and much appreciated. Should you be inclined, contributions may be mailed to:

Cobblestone Quilters Guild; P.O. Box 4286,
Charleston, S.C. 29423

Berkeley Modern Quilt Guild, 1502 Harristown Rd.
Bonneau, SC 29431.

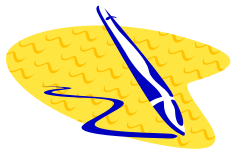


Rest in Peace

*Military Brothers and Sisters. Your Service
to Our Country is Recorded and Honored.*

***RADM James H. Flatley, III, USN (Ret)
passed away 12 December 2025. He is
survived by his wife Nancy and family.***

***CAPT Frederick T. Massey, USN (Ret)
passed away 23 December 2025. He is
survived by his wife Janet and family.***



President's Pen

Happy New Year!

I would like to thank each of our Chapter Officers and Directors for their support and work throughout 2025 and also to thank our Chapter members for their support for our luncheons and our programs for the ROTC and JROTC units and our Future Military Officers Scholarship. All of you have done an outstanding job and I look forward to working with you during the coming year.

I am very proud of what you as the Charleston MOAA Chapter have accomplished in 2025:

- With the assistance of BSN Sports, we were able to furnish 420 sports balls, footballs, basket balls and soccer balls to local children in the Tri-County area that might not have been able to enjoy the Christmas season were it not for your generosity. This was the 29th year your Chapter has supported the USMC's Toys for Tots program. BSN Sports donated 60 balls to our 360 to total 420.
- We were again able to provide scholarship money for a future member of the military service.
- We provided a MOAA National Certificate and Medal to the outstanding USA, USAF, USN and USMC ROTC students at The Citadel and the USAF outstanding cadet at Charleston Southern.

Thank You

**Lt Col Edward D. Knowles Toys for
Tots Benefits Program
30th Year**

Current Toys for Tots Fund

\$ 226.17

- We provided a MOAA National Certificate and crisp \$50 bill to the outstanding senior JROTC cadet and a MOAA National Certificate and Medal to the outstanding junior JROTC cadet at our twenty - six (26) JROTC units within the Tri - County Area as well as an outstanding cadet in the Civil Air Patrol and the Naval Sea Cadets.
- We were able to support luncheons with outstanding speakers for 9 of the 10 months we have scheduled. (The only disappointment was during the Government Shutdown when all non -essential events were cancelled.)

A special "thank you" to each and everyone for your support of our Charleston MOAA Chapter as well as our programs.

A very special "Welcome Aboard" to our newest Chapter member: LTC Fred Gassaway, USA (Ret). He and his wife Betty reside in Summerville. Please make sure you greet them warmly at our next luncheon when you see them.

Now, with that said, I would like to ask a favor of each of you. Please make sure we have your current address, telephone number and email address. We are finding that some have cancelled their home phone service and now use their cell phones or some have changed their email services. The problem comes when it is time to contact the person and we do not have any correct information in our system. Please help us out with this. Thank you, in advance

Thank you again for your continued support to the Charleston Chapter!!

Ernie

**Did you really pay attention to the
information on the January
luncheon at Logan's Roadhouse on Friday
January 30th?**

**We normally meet on the 4th Friday of the
month and the 30th is actually the 5th Fri-
day!!**

**Please make sure you mark your calendar
correctly.**

In addition to the provisions addressing military health facilities, beneficiaries could see more money in their pockets regarding travel reimbursement for specialty care. Currently, travel costs are only reimbursed for those who must go 100 miles or more for care; the bill reduces the distance to 75 miles.

The bill also directs the Defense Department to reopen chiropractic clinics that have been closed on installations. While chiropractic care is not covered by the Tricare health program, some hospitals and clinics contained clinics that treated active-duty personnel. Congress wants the DOD to reopen any clinics that were closed and provided at least 400 appointments per month.

For expecting mothers who had hoped to see broader childbirth options, the final bill does not include a provision that would have let beneficiaries switch to Tricare Select when they became pregnant. It also dropped a pilot program that would have covered midwife services from providers who are not nurses.

In terms of service members' health, the bill requires the Defense Department to conduct a study of cancers among rotary-wing pilots and air crew and a study on the psychological health of combat drone operators.

Here's When You Can Access Your 2025 Tax Statements

Some year-end tax documents already are available via the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) myPay portal, with others set to post in the coming days. Those who receive the forms via postal mail will have a longer wait.

Military retirees, former spouses, and annuitants should have access to their IRS Form 1099-R via myPay as of Dec. 17, according to a DFAS news release. Other key 2026 dates for myPay forms:

Jan. 7: W-2s for Army, Navy, Air

Force, and Space Force Reserve members.

Jan. 16: W-2s for active and reserve Marine Corps members.

Jan. 21: W-2s for active Army, Navy, Air Force, and Space Force members.

Jan. 23: 1099-INTs for Savings Deposit Program participants.

Dates for other IRS forms, to include those provided to civilian employees served by DFAS, are available in the news release.

Forms by Mail

Physical tax forms will be sent to those who've requested the forms as well as those who do not have a myPay account. They will be mailed by DFAS by Jan. 31, according to the release. Instructions for creating a myPay profile, or restoring lost/forgotten login information, are available on the myPay website.

If you do not receive tax materials via mail by mid-February and do not have a myPay account, use these DFAS resources to procure your forms:

Telephone Self-Service: Beneficiaries can call (800) 321-1080 to request a tax form reissue. Follow the automatic prompts; you will be asked for a Social Security number as identification. Requests are processed in seven to 10 days.

askDFAS: Retirees and annuitants can request a reissued form be sent to their address on file or a temporary mailing address using the online portal. Note: Reissues are not generally available until mid-February.

By Mail: Detailed instructions from DFAS on requesting 1099-R forms via mail are available at the DFAS website. These requests can take up to 60 days to process.

Changing Your Address

Tax documents will be sent to the beneficiary's address on record with DFAS. Need to make a change?

Retirees: Change your mailing address online or by completing DD Form 2866 this form and returning it to DFAS at Defense Finance and Accounting Service, U.S. Military Retired Pay, 8899 E 56th St., Indianapolis, IN 46249-1200, or via fax at (800) 469-6559.

Annuityants: Change your mailing address online or by completing DD Form 2866 and returning it to DFAS at Defense Finance and Accounting Service, U.S. Military Annuity Pay, 8899 E 56th St., Indianapolis, IN 46249-1300, or via fax at (800) 982-8459.

Rest in Peace Spouses

*For Your Support to our Military
Brothers and Sisters. Your Service is
Recorded and Honored.*

Mrs. Deloris Huston, wife of Lt Col Richard C. Huston, USAF (Ret) passed away 18 December 2025.

reducing the services' number of medical personnel.

The proposed fiscal 2026 National Defense Authorization Act released calls for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and service surgeons general to review any proposed changes to military treatment facilities to determine whether they would affect military readiness.

Under the legislation, the Defense Health Agency director also will have to explain how service members, families, retirees and other beneficiaries would receive medical care if changes to military facilities affect their access to medical care.

In a statement accompanying the bill, House and Senate negotiators said they were concerned about the effects that downsizing facilities or personnel could have on operations.

"We expect that any proposed restructuring, realignment, or modification to military medical treatment facilities will be conducted in collaboration with the appropriate Department of Defense stakeholders ... to ensure that operational readiness is not impacted by any proposed changes," they wrote.

The provisions follow a flurry of questions from Congress this year over the Defense Department's plans to reorganize the military health system, to include downsizing or modifying some military treatment facilities.

When the Defense Health Agency was created, it was given responsibility for managing the military services' hospitals and clinics as well as the authority to reconfigure staffing and consolidate facilities.

The agency originally planned to realign 50 facilities, including 38 that would serve military personnel only, while the services aimed to cut roughly 12,800 military health billets. Under the plan, an estimated 200,000 active-duty family members and retirees were to be shifted to non-military providers managed by the Tricare health program.

A list of the affected facilities was published in 2020, but the reforms were paused early in the COVID-19 pandemic. Later, the plan was adjusted to build capacity at some facilities by bringing back patients and improving training opportunities for medical personnel.

In 2023, another list was published of 32 facilities slated for realignment, and lawmakers have

since raised concerns regarding several hospitals that weren't on that list.

Rep. Pat Ryan, D-N.Y., said in July that Keller Army Community Hospital at West Point would lose its inpatient beds, downsized to a clinic.

Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., sought protections in the Senate defense spending bill for a full-service hospital currently under construction at Fort Leonard Wood following rumors that it would open next year as an ambulatory clinic.

And Sen. Jon Ossoff, D-Ga., demanded answers regarding the Eisenhower Army Medical Center at Fort Gordon amid concerns that it, too, was slated to lose its inpatient, emergency room and surgical services.

Ossoff wrote to Dr. David Smith, acting DHA director, asking for more information on the organization's plans for the hospital. Smith responded this month, saying the review is ongoing and no final decision has been made.

"There are significant pressures on the Defense Health Program for Fiscal Year 2026 and beyond," Smith wrote in a letter published Dec. 9 by WRDW/WAGT in Augusta, Georgia.

"The Department as a whole is undertaking a comprehensive review of where to optimally assign its military medical personnel in order to achieve the best outcomes in quality, safety and readiness of the force and is working with the Military Departments to mitigate access to care and capacity challenges," Smith wrote.

During a conference on military policy issues hosted by the Military Officers Association of America on Oct. 28, acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Dr. Stephen Ferrara said the review process is fluid.

"I think there is always a lot of rumors about whether there's a report that's going to come out, and that's not the case. It's like if you looked at any corporation that has 100 hospitals or stores, they should be looking at them to see where it makes sense to dedicate their resources," Ferrara said.

As part of the reform process, the military services had originally planned to reduce the number of uniformed personnel serving in military hospitals and clinics. The proposed bill extends a restriction placed by Congress on this effort by five years, stretching it from 2027 through 2032.

Charleston Chapter MOAA () Membership Application () Renewal () Change of Address. Chapter Dues: \$20.00 a year for Regular membership. Surviving Spouse membership \$5.00 per year. Multiple year dues are encouraged in order to reduce paperwork. Make check payable to "Charleston MOAA". Mail to: Charleston MOAA, P.O. Box 70421, Charleston SC 29415-0421.

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____

DOB _____ Rank _____ Service _____ Spouse's Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Member of National MOAA? Please provide your membership number _____

Your status : () Retired () Active Duty () Reserve () National Guard () Former Officer () Surviving Spouse Dues for Year (s) _____

How do you want to receive your newsletter () US Mail (B&W) or () E Mail (Full color)

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How to Send Payments Using Zelle®

We now accept payments through Zelle® for dues, lunches, and donations for Toys for Tots and Scholarship funds. Please follow these simple steps:

Step 1: Log in to your bank or Zelle® app. Use your bank's mobile app, online banking site, or the Zelle® app if your bank doesn't offer it directly.

Step 2: Add our organization as a recipient. Send your payment to: charlestonmoaa@gmail.com.

Make sure the name shown is: Charleston Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

Step 3: Enter your payment details.

- Amount: Enter the correct amount for your payment.

• **Memo (important!):** Please include what the payment is for:

- Annual dues
- Luncheon/food choices
- Donation - Toys for Tots or Scholarship Fund

This memo helps us credit your payment correctly.

Step 4: Confirm and send. Review your payment details before submitting. You'll receive a confirmation from your bank or Zelle® once it's sent.

Notes:

- Zelle® payments go directly from your bank account to ours, usually within minutes.
- No fees are charged by Zelle®.
- Please double-check the email address before sending — Zelle® payments cannot be canceled once sent.

OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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1st VP PROGRAMS	CAPT Bud Schneeweis, USCG (thru 2026)	703-300-0811	wschneeweis@verizon.net
2nd VP MEMBERSHIP	COL Beverly R. Brockman, USA (thru 2026)	704-300-8739	brockman1982@att.net
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ASST AWARDS DIR	COL Steve Rowe, USA (thru 2025)	843-303-7438	srowe@carolinaone.com

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CHAPLAIN	Col Mark Barnes, USAF	843-327-8138	emarkbarnes@me.com
EDITOR			
SCHOLARSHIP/Web Site	Col Rudy Smart, USAF	843-834-0474	r2smart1@gmail.com

Prospective Chapter Members: If you are not a member of the Charleston Chapter, MOAA, you have received this copy as a courtesy invitation to contact any Officer or Director for information about joining our Chapter. News and Views herein are not necessarily those of any Government Department or another Chapter, or a Member's Chapter and non-partisan.

Membership News

LATEST INFORMATION

Total Members - 211
Regular Members—164
Honorary Members - 4
Surviving Spouse Members - 42
Special Members—1

Members receiving the newsletter by email 132

CHARLESTON MOAA MEMBERS: We are continuing our recruiting drive for new members. If you are uncertain of your status, just e-mail me at brockman1982@att.net and I will verify if you are current for another year or more or— if you need to pay dues for 2025. My cell number is 704-300-8739, but an e-mail is usually the best and most efficient. We value your membership and appreciate your support of our chapter.

As of January 1, 2026 our dues for Regular Members has been increased to \$20/year. The dues will remain at \$5 for Surviving Spouses—defined as widows or widowers of Regular Members. Please make checks payable to "Charleston MOAA" and mail to Charleston MOAA, PO BOX 70421, Charleston, SC 29415-0421. We now have an alternative method for payment of dues other than USPS. Please see the instructions for Zelle payments on page 7.

RECRUITING UPDATE - I ask everyone to think of our Chapter when you are meeting new folks in your community, neighborhood, church or other organizations. If they are interested in joining our Chapter, and meet the criteria, I will be glad to follow-up and share more information with them. Just provide my name, number and e-mail to them or send me an e-mail with their information and I will reach out to them.

ADDRESS/EMAIL CHANGES-Please keep me advised if you have a change to your address, phone or e-mail and I will update our records. When you have requested a newsletter to be mailed to you and your address has changed or you are on vacation, the Chapter must pay a fee to the Post Office for the newsletter to have the mail released. We will be glad to use your email during your time of travel only if you prefer.

We very much appreciate everyone's support of our Chapter and should you have any questions at any time,— feel free to call me at 704-300-8739 or e-mail me at brockman1982@att.net. I will be happy to answer your questions.

Thank you!
Beverly Brockman Col, USA (Ret)
Membership 2nd Vice President

Thank You

*For your gift in support of
Chapter programs:*

*LTC Ellen C. Beckmann, USA (Ret)***

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Chapter and MOAA
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contact information?**

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<http://www.charlestonmoaa.com>

**Many improvements were recently made,
and the work continues.**