

MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

an affiliate of

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



February 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Roderick Hosler

The new year has started in great order. Meeting attendance is strong, membership renewals are starting to come in at a good pace, we' submitting our applications for the MOAA Levels of Excellent (LOE) Award for chapter operations and the Colonel Marvin Harris Communications Awards for our newsletter and website. We can thank all MSVC members and chapter Board of Directors for the support to MOAA and to Florence Hosler and Brice Bille for their diligence in the newsletter and website. When reviewing our chapter's accomplishments for the past year, I am amazed at the level of involvement of all our chapter members. Thank you for your support and for **"never stop serving."**

We continue to see turmoil throughout the country, a "house divided" as Abraham Lincoln put it. Sometimes its hard to separate the partisan politics from the true needs of the country. Country before self (Non sibi sed patriae) seems to have been lost by many on the right, left, media types, especially politicians seeking power, government officials seeking control and even those in the center seeking status quo. As military officers, we have always placed country before self, looking out for the "troops." Perhaps someday, everyone will get their crap together and look to **Non sibi sed patriae.**

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"The Japanese fought to win - it was a savage, brutal, inhumane, exhausting and dirty business. Our commanders knew that if we were to win and survive, we must be trained realistically for it whether we liked it or not. In the post-war years, the U.S. Marine Corps came in for a great deal of undeserved criticism in my opinion, from well-meaning persons who did not comprehend the magnitude of stress and horror that combat can be. The technology that developed the rifle barrel, the machine gun and high explosive shells has turned war into prolonged, subhuman slaughter. Men must be trained realistically if they are to survive it without breaking, mentally and physically."  
— E.B. Sledge, [With the Old Breed: At Peleliu and Okinawa](#)

### MSVC JANUARY LUNCH MEETING ROLLUP

The Chapter conducted its monthly lunch meeting on Friday, 19 January at A La Cart Catering in Canfield. The chapter installed new officers; and the meeting program was 'Camp Garfield,' presented by Lieutenant Colonel Shaun Robinson the camp commander and a chapter member.

It was a great presentation and we learned the mission, and facts and myths surrounding Camp James A. Garfield Joint Military Training Center, an Ohio Army National Guard training site. Camp Garfield was once known as Ravenna Arsenal.

Also present was Brigadier General Andrew Stone and Colonel J. Troy Amundson of the Ohio Army National Guard.

General Stone talked about the personnel crisis affecting the military regarding recruiting and its impact on national defense and the Ohio Guard. It was an informative presentation with a lively question and answer period.

Two chapter members were recognized as well, Don Rasile received his Chapter Life Membership certificate and Ilona Mihai was presented with a Surviving Spouse pin from Janet Oglesby.

The chapter had 35 members and guests present. Thank you all for your support.



Don Rasile & Rod Hosler



Janet Oglesby & Ilona Mihai

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## **Your Support Needed: Advocacy for Military and Veteran Issues**

In our current political landscape, the representation of military experience in our legislative bodies is notably limited. With 81 out of 435 members in the U.S. House of Representatives having military backgrounds, and none in our local districts or state representatives, the onus falls on us to educate and inform our leaders about the unique challenges and needs of our community.

As your Legislative Liaison, I urge you to join me in this crucial advocacy effort. The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) has streamlined this process through their platform, making it easier for us to voice our concerns and support key legislative priorities for 2024. By visiting [MOAA's Take Action Center \(https://moaa.quorum.us/\)](https://moaa.quorum.us/), you can quickly draft and send letters to our representatives, advocating for the following important issues:

**Avoid Government Shutdown and Complete Appropriations:** We need to press our lawmakers to avoid a government shutdown and ensure a complete appropriations process, safeguarding the stability of our uniformed service members and their families.

**Pay Service Members During Government Shutdown:** It's critical to advocate for legislation that guarantees continuous pay for uniformed services members and civilian employees during government shutdowns.

**Fix the TRICARE Young Adult Coverage Gap:** We are campaigning to expand TRICARE eligibility to young adult dependents up to age 26, bringing it in line with commercial health plans.

**Protect Veterans from Claims Sharks:** Support is needed for the GUARD VA Benefits Act of 2023, which aims to reinstate penalties for unauthorized fees in veterans' disability benefits claims.

**Support Concurrent Receipt:** We are promoting the Major Richard Star Act, allowing combat-injured veterans to receive both their full DoD retirement pay and VA disability compensation.

**Expand America's National Cemeteries:** Advocating for the expansion of national cemeteries to honor more veterans.

**Incentivize Military Spouse Employment:** Supporting the Military Spouse Hiring Act to encourage businesses to hire military spouses.

**Restore Basic Allowance for Housing to 100%:** We are working to ensure service members receive their full housing allowance.

**Ensure Coast Guard Pay During Shutdowns:** Advocating for the Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act of 2023 to ensure equitable treatment of Coast Guard members during government shutdowns.

**Expand Health Care for Children of Disabled Veterans:** Supporting the CHAMPVA Children's Care Protection Act to extend health care coverage for children of eligible veterans until age 26.

**Improve Basic Needs Allowance for Military Families:** Campaigning for legislation to assist military families struggling with food insecurity.

**Support the READINESS Act:** Advocating for policy enhancements to support military spouses employed by the federal government.

**Retain Skilled Nurses in MTFs:** Urging lawmakers to co-sponsor legislation to retain experienced nurses in Military Treatment Facilities.

**Support the CARE Act of 2023:** Aiming to standardize processes for caregiver and veteran assistance in navigating VHA programs.

**Improve Survivors' Benefits:** Supporting bipartisan legislation to align Dependency and Indemnity Compensation payments with other federal survivor benefits.

**End the “180-day rule” for Skilled Veterans:** Advocating to end the rule that delays veterans from taking certain types of DoD civilian employment after service.

**Support Impact Aid Full Funding Act:** Campaigning for resources to help military-connected students in schools.

**Support Military Sexual Trauma Survivors:** Promoting the SAVES Act to improve care and services for military sexual trauma survivors.

**Support Services for Aging and Disabled Veterans:** Securing funding and resources for VA home and community-based services, long-term care, and caregiver support.

**Support Remarriage Legislation for Surviving Spouses:** Advocating for the Love Lives On Act, allowing surviving military spouses to remarry at any age and retain benefits.

**Protect Grieving Military Families:** Supporting the Respect for Grieving Military Families Act to protect surviving spouses of military retirees from financial burdens.

**Expand TRICARE for 'Gray Area' Retirees:** Advocating for the TRICARE Fairness for National Guard and Reserve Retirees Act.

**Secure Dental Care for Selected Reserve Servicemembers:** Campaigning for dental care benefits for Reserve Component service members.

**Protect Privacy During International Relocations:** Supporting the Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act.

Your participation in these campaigns is not just a contribution; it's a testament to our ongoing commitment to the welfare and rights of our military community. A few moments of your time can lead to significant changes and improvements in the lives of those who have served and continue to serve our nation.

Thank you for standing with us in these essential advocacy efforts.

Respectfully,

Joe Mersol Legislative Liaison

#### **MOAA Legislative Update**

[moaa.orgtakeaction](http://moaa.orgtakeaction)

1-800-234-6622 ext. 215

**President Joseph R. Biden Jr. (D)** The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Washington DC 20500  
Switchboard: 202-456-1414 [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

#### **OHIO**

**Senator Sherrod Brown (D)** U.S. Senate  
Hart Senate Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-2315 [www.brown.senate.gov](http://www.brown.senate.gov)

**Senator James D. (J.D.) Vance (R)** U.S. Senate  
B40-C Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202)224-3353 [www.vance.senate.gov](http://www.vance.senate.gov)  
240 East 9th Street, Room 3061  
Cleveland, OH 44199

**Representative David P. Joyce (R)**  
U.S. Congressional OH District 14  
2065 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC, 20515-3514  
(202) 225-5731 [www.joyce.house.gov](http://www.joyce.house.gov)  
8500 Station Street  
Mentor, OH 44060 (440) 352-3939

#### **PENNSYLVANIA**

**Senator Robert Casey Jr. (D)** U.S. Senate  
393 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-6324 [www.casey.senate.gov](http://www.casey.senate.gov)

**Senator John Fetterman (D)** U.S. Senate  
B40B Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-4254 [www.fetterman.senate.gov/](http://www.fetterman.senate.gov/)

**Representative Mike Kelly (R)**  
U.S. Congressional PA District 16  
1707 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5406 or  
33 Chestnut Avenue Sharon, PA 16146  
(724) 342-7170 [www.kelly.house.gov](http://www.kelly.house.gov)

#### **STATE LEGISLATIVE NEWS**

**Ohio** [Ohio Legislature](http://Ohio Legislature)

**Pennsylvania** [Pennsylvania Legislature](http://Pennsylvania Legislature)

## Surviving Spouse Corner: Know Your Benefits

By: Pat Green

Many states have made legislative decisions that show appreciation for the sacrifices of servicemembers and veterans and their survivors. Benefits differ in each state, though. To know what the benefits are in your state, you need to do homework. Your research could result in monetary savings and opportunities.

Below are some resources and places to start.

- [Veterans Service Office](#): There might be printed materials that enumerate county and state benefits for surviving spouses.
- MOAA Council and [Chapter Legislative Chairs](#): Ask about benefits they are aware of that apply to surviving spouses.
- County Property Appraiser: Ask about a [homestead exemption](#), a widow (widower) exemption, or an over age 65 exemption on your property tax or school tax. If income caps apply, what are your state's limits and guidelines? In Florida, for example, there is a homestead, widow, and age exemption and property taxes on homesteaded homes. In addition, the property tax for homesteaded homes of disabled veterans is reduced by the same percentage of the disabilities affecting the veteran as certified by the VA. In Florida, that benefit passes to the un-remarried surviving spouse and is transportable to a downsized home.
- State Legislator. If you have income tax in your state, some or all of your military retirement pay, or Surviving Benefit Plan may be deducted from your reported income. Ask about any other benefits from the state.
- Mayor's Office. Call and ask about the benefits the city offers.

Aside from taxes, some additional areas to explore are scholarship opportunities for surviving spouses and dependent children; state, county, or city policies giving employment and/or promotion preference to a surviving spouse; portability of a professional license or forgiveness of fees; and discounts on passes to parks and museums.

Pat Green is a member of MOAA's Surviving Spouse Advisory Council. She has been active and engaged member of MOAA for 15 years, serving in many leadership roles.

## **FRIDAY, 16 FEBRUARY MSVC-MOAA LUNCH MEETING**

The Chapter will conduct its monthly lunch meeting on Friday, 16 February at 12:00/Noon at A La Cart Catering in Canfield. Please arrive between 11:30 AM and 12:00. The luncheon meeting program will be the YSU Carl Nunziato Veterans Resource Center presented by MAJ (Ret.) Rich Williams, Executive Director and MSVC member. Reservation for the luncheon must be received not later than Monday, 12 February at [msvcmoaa@gmail.com](mailto:msvcmoaa@gmail.com) or (330) 788-3270. [Please NOTE: If you make a reservation and do not attend, we request you remit the cost of the meal as the Chapter must pay for the reserve meals count. Thank you for your understanding.] Hope to see you all there to support our chapter.

## **MILITARY HISTORY, EVENTS AND COMMEMORATIONS FOR FEBRUARY**

02 Feb 1901 – Army Nurse Corps established.  
03 Feb 1943 – USS Dorchester sunk included in the dead were "Four Immortal Chaplains."  
12 Feb 1809 – Abraham Lincoln's (President and Captain, Illinois Militia) birthday.  
19 Feb 1945 – U.S. forces land on Iwo Jima; President's Day.  
22 Feb 1732 – George Washington's (President and General, Continental Army).  
22 Feb 1932 – Purple Heart Medal (for wounds sustained in combat) is revised.

## **MSVC CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2024 MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**Note:** Unless otherwise noted, all chapter meetings are held at A La Cart Catering, 249 Lisbon Street, Canfield.

**Lunch Meetings** (October – March): Gather at 11:30 AM, Lunch at 12:00/Noon.

**Dinner Meetings** (April – September): Gather at 5:30 PM, Dinner at 6:00 PM.

MAR 15 – Lunch Meeting, program: Veterans' Out-Reach, Mrs. Teri Ely, Executive Director.

APR 18 – ROTC/JROTC/Commissionee's Recognition Dinner, 6:00 PM.

MAY 16 – Dinner Meeting, program: TBD

JUN 20 – Dinner Meeting at Golden Corral Hermitage, PA, 5:00 - 7:00 PM, program: TBD

JUL 18 – Picnic Meeting at Vienna Fish and Game Club, 4:30 - 7:00 PM, Vienna, OH,

AUG 15 – Dinner Meeting (Steak Fry and Corn Roast), program, TBD.

SEPT 19 – Dinner Meeting, program: TBA.

OCT 18 – Lunch Meeting, program: Taking care of business, MAJ Joe Mersol.

NOV 15 – Lunch Meeting, program: World War I Artifacts, Steve Motika and Al Lind.

DEC 14 – MOAA/ROA Christmas Party and Fund Raiser, (1:00-4:00 PM)



Board members being sworn in by BG Andrew Stone



BG Stone and MSVC Pres. Rod Hosler

Rod used to be as tall but jumped out of one plane too many.



LTC Shaun Robinson giving his presentation.



MSVC members and guests enjoying lunch.

## Mahoning-Shenango Valleys Chapter

### Membership Requirements

The membership in MSVC shall be composed of: men and women who are or have been commissioned or warrant officers of the seven United States uniformed services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service). Surviving spouses of deceased individuals who, if living, would be eligible for membership. MSVC memberships are open to all eligible people.

Contact : [msvc-moaa@gmail.com](mailto:msvc-moaa@gmail.com) for more information or download the membership form here: <http://msvc-moaa.org/wp-content/uploads/docs/2021-MSVC-Member-Application.pdf>

### PAYMENT OF MSVC-MOAA CHAPTER DUES

Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter (MSVC) dues of \$20.00 are due in January. Chapter dues are necessary for the operations of the chapter; funding speakers, insurance, IT, postage, printing, scholarships, etc. All MSVC chapter members need to pay their annual chapters dues (\$20.00) to the MSVC Treasurer at: MSVC-MOAA, P.O. Box 5342, Poland, OH by March. Members who pay their chapter dues will receive a MSVC-MOAA chapter pen and 2024 membership card. Active or reserve duty members are exempt from paying chapter dues. Invoice for dues will be mailed by the end of February. Thanks for supporting the chapter.

### BECOME A MOAA NATIONAL PREMIUM OR LIFE MEMBER:

MOAA National and Chapter membership is open to all Retired, Former, and Active Officers of the seven uniformed services and spouses can become Chapter members. Officers on active service (active or reserve duty) are exempt from paying chapter member dues.

Life membership allows members full access to all MOAA National benefits, travel service, free information publications, and discounts at many MOAA supported businesses. Basic Member are MOAA National members, but pay no National MOAA dues and only have access to the MOAA website receiving just the electronic newsletter. **Get full MOAA National benefits by becoming a Premium or Life Member.** Members can opt to pay their Life Membership through a monthly installment plan. **I strongly encourage all Basic members to upgrade their membership to become Premium or Life members.** As officers, make a commitment to MOAA and yourselves.

[www.moaa.org/join](http://www.moaa.org/join) or call 1-800-234-6622.

**NEVER STOP SERVING.**

### MSVC Board Members:

**President:** Rod Hosler, LTC, USA, (Ret)  
[hosler1@zoominternet.net](mailto:hosler1@zoominternet.net) 330-788-3270

**1st Vice President:** Dave Di Tallo, CDR, USN, (Ret)  
Program Chair  
[david.ditallo@gmail.com](mailto:david.ditallo@gmail.com) 330-758-8597

**2nd Vice President:** Florence M. Hosler, LT, USNR,  
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[hoslerfm@zoominternet.net](mailto:hoslerfm@zoominternet.net) 330 788 3270

**Secretary:** Al Lind, LT, USN, (Fmr)  
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**Treasurer:** Bruce Bille, LT, USN, (Fmr)  
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### Members at Large:

Walter Duzzny, COL, USA, (Ret.)  
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**Chaplain:** Ralph Minton



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