

MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

an affiliate of

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

September 2025



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Roderick Hosler

Labor Day is over and we are well on our way into Autumn and the end of the year. September is an important month for us. It is a month that holds many significant events for our nation. Germany invaded Poland on 1 September 1939, triggered World War II and ending six years later with Japan surrendering to the Allies on 2 September 1945 in Tokyo Bay. The events of World War II changed America forever. Equally important was the signing of the Treaty of Paris on 3 September 1783 ending the eight yearlong Revolutionary War resulting in American independence and the beginning of the greatest country in the world. Finally, the events of 11 September 2001 and the terrorist attack on America with the total destruction of the World Trade Centers in New York and destruction of a portion of the Pentagon in Washington that thrust the nation into twenty years of war in Afghanistan and Iraq. Throughout two centuries of turmoil and catastrophic events, America's military has defended this great republic. American men and women, old and young, have been willing to step forward to place their lives in harm's way to preserve the ideals that are America. Unfortunately, there are forces, organizations and people in this nation that continue to undermine our government, our constitution and our way of life. You know who and what they are. The bright spot is that there will always be someone to step up to the challenge to continue the legacy of America and the United States. **"It's important that people know what you stand for, and what you won't."**

The third Friday in September, the 19th, has been designated as National POW/MIA Recognition Day to honor those prisoners of war and those missing in action that serve our nation in time of war. All too often we forget those service personnel that became Prisoners of War or those that didn't come home because they are Missing In Action. Army Special Forces Sergeant Howard B. Carpenter of Poland, Ohio, was killed in action and listed as missing in action on 5

Cont pg 4

AUGUST DINNER MEETING ROLLUP

The Chapter's conducted its annual Steak Fry and Corn Roast dinner meeting on Thursday, 21 August 2025, A La Cart Catering in Canfield. Again Shelly offered fantastic steaks and mammoth ears of delicious corn.

The program presented was "Concerned Veterans for America," and the speaker was Mr. Adam Miller. Concerned Veterans for America is a Veterans advocacy group that is active in veterans issues with the U.S. Congress.



Speaker Adam Miller accepting the MSVC flag set from Chapter Pres. Rod Hosler

HAIL AND FAREWELL

The Chapter would like to welcome new members, Retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Pete Bollinger and his wife Paula to our ranks. Pete and Paula returned to the area after retiring in Colorado and now reside in Liberty. Pete is a Community Ambassador with Mission BBQ. We look forward to many enjoyable get togethers with Pete and Paula. Again, welcome Pete and Paula, we're glad to have you both as members.

LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS:

MOAA Legislative Update moaa.org/takeaction
or 1-800-234-6622 ext. 215

President Donald J. Trump (R)

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Washington DC 20500
Switchboard: 202-456-1414 www.whitehouse.gov

OHIO

Senator Bernie Moreno (R) U.S. Senate
B33 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-2315
www.moreno.senate.gov

Senator Jon Husted (R) U.S. Senate
SR-198 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
P# 202-224-3353
www.husted.senate.gov

Representative Michael A. Rulli (R)
U.S. Congressional OH District 6
2082 Rayburn House Office
Washington, 20525
DC Phone: (202) 225-5705
www.rulli.house.gov

Representative David P. Joyce (R)
U.S. Congressional OH District 14
2065 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515-3514
Phone: (202) 225-5731

PENNSYLVANIA

Dave McCormick (R) U.S. Senate
SD-B40C Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone 202-228-5306
www.mccormick.senate.gov

Senator John Fetterman (D)
B40B Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-4254 www.fetterman.senate.gov/

Representative Mike Kelly (R)
U.S. Congressional PA District 16
1707 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC
(202) 225-5406
www.kelly.house.gov

STATE LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Ohio [Ohio Legislature](http://www.ohiolegislature.gov)

Pennsylvania [Pa Legis Notifications](#) **check out the new features**

MSVC Board Members:

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

1st Vice President: Dave Di Tallo, CDR, USN, (Ret)
Program Chair
david.ditallo@gmail.com 703-859-3523

2nd Vice President: Florence M. Hosler, LT, USNR,
(Fmr) Membership Chair
hoslerfm@zoominternet.net 330 788 3270

Secretary: Al Lind, LT, USN, (Fmr)
alcalind@zoominternet.net 330-757-0336

Treasurer: Bruce Bille, LT, USN, (Fmr)
bbille.usna.82@gmail.com 330 219-2473

Members at Large:

Joseph Mersol, Maj, USA, (Ret.)
Legislative Liaison
jmersol@gmail.com , 330 565-3328

Stephen J. Motika, MAJ, USA, (Ret.)
Student Affairs Liaison
smm6162@aol.com 330-647-1704

Ralph DeLucia, CPT, USA, (Fmr)
YARS Base Community Council Liaison
rok31A@msn.com 330-727-9205

Historian: Dennis Gartland, CPT, USA, (Fmr)
gartlanddj2@yahoo.com (330) 637-4843

Chaplain: Dave Long, MAJ, USA (Ret)
boarderlinepao@gmail.com



This Newsletter is published by the Mahoning-Shenango Valleys Chapter (MSVC), which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are non-partisan. Any advertisements that appear in this publication/website also do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or this affiliate. Articles in this newsletter, are the opinions solely of the individual authors and do not necessarily express the policy or opinions of the newsletter's editor or publisher, nor do they reflect an endorsement by the Mahoning-Shenango Valleys Chapter or the national organization of the Military Officers Association of America, unless so indicated [Copyright 2016, Military Officers Association of America All rights reserved.] Questions or comments should be directed to: LTC Roderick A. Hosler, USA, Ret.; P.O. Box 5342; Poland, OH 44514; E-mail: msvcmoaa@gmail.com.

MSVC-MOAA September 2025 Legislative SitRep From Your Liaison – Reporting for Duty

1. Social Security Fairness Act – Mission Accomplished

The campaign against the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) is over.

- **Signed into law:** Jan 5, 2025
- **Effective:** Retroactive to Jan 2024
- **Payments:** Retro checks rolled out starting Feb; monthly adjustments began April. By July, SSA had cut 3.1 million payments worth \$17 billion, five months ahead of schedule.

Translation: Retirees, teachers, and first responders are finally getting their *full Social Security benefits*. *Raise a glass—it's not every day Uncle Sam pays you back early.*

2. TRICARE Fees – Hold the Line

Rumors of TRICARE hikes continue to float around Capitol Hill like stale chow-hall coffee.

- **Status:** No new increases yet
- **MOAA position:** Don't raid our wallets while the Pentagon funds another "study on studying studies."

3. Concurrent Receipt – Still on Patrol

Disabled retirees are still losing part of their retirement pay if they also receive VA compensation. That's like being told you can't wear boots and socks at the same time because it's "double dipping." MOAA is pressing until concurrent receipt is standard issue for *all*.

4. NDAA Amendment Blitz – Eyes Sharp, Pens Sharper

Congress is back, and the FY26 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) has turned into a monster—with 1,500+ proposed amendments under review.

- **Hot targets:** Fixing pay for combat-injured veterans and improving access to care at military treatment facilities
- **Why it matters:** These amendments strike at our most critical flanks—quality of life and access to earned care
- **MOAA call:** Stay alert, contact your lawmakers, and remind them this isn't pork—it's payback for service rendered

cont. pg. 5

Surviving Spouse Corner:

Florence Hosler, Surviving Spouse Liaison

Writing Your Legacy

By: Gail Joyce, MOAA board member and chair of the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter.

As spouses and survivors of those who have served and defended our freedoms and our country, we play a vital role. We have very interesting and unique stories to tell.

Sharing your legacy – telling your story – will contribute to a more realistic narrative about life in the military and what it means to be a military spouse. It will better describe the roles we as military spouses and survivors have played. We have demonstrated leadership, strength, flexibility, dependability, and determination.

Over the years, whether our spouse was on active duty or retired, we have worked alongside, in front, and behind. We are often recognized as the unsung heroes of the military establishment.

Sharing Your Story

How do you begin to write about your legacy? First, decide how you want to tell your story: It can be an essay, a video, a recording, a letter, a blog, or a combination of different methods.

Next, decide on your audience: Family? Friends? Colleagues? Community? Of course, you can always produce several versions, depending on your audience and method.

Our stories – our legacy – can demonstrate the unique experiences and challenges we faced when married to a servicemember. These stories provide a personal perspective on military life as we know it. They showcase the many challenges of frequent moves, deployments, and how it all can affect our families, especially our children.

When writing your story, share the experiences that will educate your readers and create understanding about the different challenges you encountered. Share lessons learned along with any failures ... and successes! Also share stories about special relationships, the numerous moves and major choices you made. Your stories will be celebrated, cherished, and appreciated by your family, friends, and colleagues.

Many stories will turn out to be shared experiences. I travel a lot and talk to MOAA chapters and other military-associated groups where I always tell my story. As I talk about the frequent moves, my constant job changes, making furniture fit, the quarters assigned, and the undesirable locations, I always see a lot of heads nodding "Yes, I know!" right along with me.

And then I hear from other military spouses and survivors – different stories, unique experiences, and outcomes with lessons to be learned.

During the military life we have shared with our spouses, we have demonstrated dedication, unwavering support, resilience, sacrifice, solidarity, and courage through many deployments and relocations. Make your story real: Write about what happened and when, and how your feelings are associated with specific events and milestones. Your story has the power to inspire, connect, and endure.

Start writing your story today!

Presidents Message cont. from pg. 1

March 1967 in Laos. His remains were never recovered. Army Private First Class John W. Alkire of Missoula Montana, fought on Bataan in the Philippines in 1942, was captured and survived the Bataan Death March; but died in POW Camp Cabanatuan on 7 July 1942. He was buried in a mass grave, and his remains are unidentified and listed as unaccounted (missing in action). He was my Mother's cousin. As of 2025, approximately 81,000 to 82,000 American service members from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Cold War, and other conflicts remain unaccounted for. The majority are from World War II. Keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Finally, as we approach the end of the year it is that time when we elect new chapter officers. As always we need the support of our membership to sustain the leadership of the chapter. All organizations need "new blood" in order to thrive. Our chapter is no different. The Toledo Chapter closed because no one stepped forward to lead. Several other chapters are experiencing similar difficulties. Don't let our chapter go the way of the Dodo. Please consider becoming a chapter officer or board of directors member. We have all learned and practiced leadership from our military service and civilian endeavors. Your MOAA Chapter can use your expertise. Nominations will take place in September with elections in October. Do your part to keep the chapter alive. Talk to any current officer or board member if you're interested. Don't sit on the sidelines. Be a shaker and mover. "It ain't that hard."

CHAPTER MEMBER RECEIVES YSU CININNATUS AWARD

MSVC Chapter member James "Jim" Fairbanks has received the coveted "Cincinnatus Award" from Youngstown State University. The Office of Veterans Affairs at YSU annually recognizes an individual who has carried the spirit of his or her military service into their community by the contribution of their time and talents. This award honors an individual who has served their nation and returned to civilian life to continue the spirit of service by working or volunteering in areas such as public education, veterans' organizations and other community endeavors and projects. The award is named for Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus, a military leader from Rome that served the republic as a soldier and senator. After retirement he was twice called upon to defend Rome and twice he saved Rome. He was offered the title "Dictator of Rome," and twice he refused and returned to his farm, and retired. Jim Fairbanks resides in Hubbard with his wife Jeanne and was a founding member of our chapter. **Well done Jim.**

Editorials in this newsletter, are the opinions solely of the individual authors and do not necessarily express the policy or opinions of the newsletter's editor or publisher, nor do they reflect an endorsement by the Mahoning-Shenango Valleys Chapter or the national organization of the Military Officers Association of America.

UPCOMING MSVC CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2025

MARK YOUR CALENDARS, SO YOU DON'T MISS AN EVENT OR MEETING

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

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

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

OCT 02 – MSVC Board Meeting, VSC, 10:00 AM - 11:00/ Noon, Youngstown.

OCT 17 – Business Meeting followed by Bluecoat's program and presentation of MOAA Grant

OCT 18 – OCC Quarterly Meeting, NVMM, 10:00 AM - 12:00/Noon, Columbus.

NOV 06 – MSVC Board Meeting, VSC, 10:00 AM - 11:00/ Noon, Youngstown.

NOV 11 – Veterans Day Ceremony, Mahoning County Courthouse, Youngstown.

NOV 14 – Lunch Meeting, program: VA Death and Burial Benefits, Nate Walker

DEC 06 – MOAA Christmas Party and Fund Raiser, (12:00-4:00 PM) A La Cart Catering.

HISTORICAL EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER:

Sept 1, 1939: Germany invasion of Poland triggered World War II.

Sept 2, 1864: Union Gen William T. Sherman captures Atlanta, turning point in the Civil War.

Sept 2, 1945: Japan formally surrenders to Allied forces in Tokyo Bay, ending World War II.

Sept 3, 1783: Treaty of Paris signed ending the American Revolutionary War with American independence.

Sept 11, 2001: Terrorist attacks on the United States by al-Qaeda.

Sept 11: Patriot's Day

Sept 15 1950: Amphibious landing at Inchon, Korea.

Sept 17 1862: Battle of Antietam, the bloodiest single-day battle in American history.

Sept 18, 1947: U.S. Air Force was established, separating it from the U.S. Army.

Sept 18-20 1863: Battle of Chickamauga.

Sept 19: National POW/MIA Recognition Day, honoring prisoners of war and those missing in action.

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 for more information or download the membership form here: <http://msvc-moaa.org/wp-content/uploads/docs/2021-MSVC-Member-Application.pdf>



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

MOAA LIFE Membership is the most elite membership category. As a MOAA LIFE Member, you'll receive all of MOAA's PREMIUM benefits - plus more - for life. Additional benefits include spouse protection and direct access to MOAA staff experts on the dedicated MOAA LIFE Member Hotline.

PREMIUM MEMBERSHIP

MOAA PREMIUM Membership gives you total access to everything MOAA has to offer, including our full spectrum of career and financial resources, MOAA-exclusive publications, college scholarships for dependents, and countless discounts on products and travel.

Leg. Input cont.

5. Community Outreach – Boots on the Ground

Our chapter continues to lead with the MOAA Community Outreach Grant Program. From scholarships to caregiver support, we're moving the needle for local vets and families.

(Yes, the reporting paperwork is long enough to qualify as a workout. No, we're not skipping leg day—or the forms.)

6. Committee Module (CM) – Digital Arsenal

MOAA's updated Committee Module is now operational.

- **Use:** Rosters, recruiting, reports
- **Pro:** Faster than the old system
- **Con:** Still requires remembering your password—suggestion: tattoo it on your forearm (kidding... sort of)

Final Word from the Liaison

Troops, this month shows progress and persistence: **Social Security fixed, TRICARE steady, Concurrent Receipt pressing, NDAA swarming with amendments, and our outreach firing on all cylinders.**

Remember: Congress listens to squeaky wheels—and retired officers who don't go away quietly. Now, carry on.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Mersol

Legislative Liaison, MSVC-MOAA

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By Florence M. Hosler

Mahoning and Shenango Valleys opened its 2025 season last October, in accordance with our Chapter Constitution and Bylaws.

Those members that have not renewed their chapter membership by 1 July are being dropped from our rolls. If you have discovered that you have not renewed your chapter dues, you may resubmit your request for membership by attending a meeting or sending a membership application (found at our chapter website, msvcmoaa.org. along with \$20.00 membership dues to MSVC-MOAA, P.O. Box 5342, Poland, OH 44514 or WWW.MSVC-MOAA.ORG. Please contact me at msvcmoaa@gmail.com or at (330) 788-3270.

The 2026 season will open after our Business meeting in October. We will again vote on dues at that meeting. Email reminders will be sent this year to keep postage costs down.

ELECTIONS TO FILL MOAA-MSVC LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

We Want You! We need your help!

All organizations need strong and vibrant leaders to continue the job of keeping the organization going. Our chapter is no different. Please consider becoming a chapter officer or board of directors member. You've learned and practiced leadership while in military and continued those skills in your civilian endeavors. The MSVC Chapter can use your expertise and help. It's not difficult or time consuming.

The Chapter is looking to fill the Second Vice President position and two board of director positions. The Board meets the first Thursday of each month for two hours. Nominations will take place at our 18 September meeting. Come join us in keeping the MSVC the best MOAA chapter in the state, if not the country.



MAHONING COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

The Mahoning County Veterans Service Commission (VSC) provides support services; Veterans Administration (VA) Claims processing, benefits filing assistance; financial aid; burial benefits and transportation to the VA Medical Center in Cleveland and more for all military veterans and their widows. Offices are located at 345 Oak Hill Avenue, Entrance A, Suite #100, Youngstown, OH 44502. Office open to the public at 8:00 am. All services are conducted via appointment by calling the VSC office at (330) 740-2450. **The VSC will be moving to a new facility at 1915 Belmont Avenue (next to the VA Clinic), Youngstown, in November 2025.** Visit their website for more information regarding their many services.

There are other Veteran Service Commissions in the area:

Trumbull County, OH: 253 E Market St, Warren, OH 44481, Ph. (330) 675-2585.

Columbiana County, OH: 7989 Dickey Dr Suite 1, Lisbon, OH 44432, Ph. (330) 424-7214.

Mercer County, PA: 125 S. Diamond Street, Suite 114, Mercer, PA 16137, Ph: (724) 662-7511.

Lawrence County, PA: 430 Court St, New Castle, PA 16101, Ph. (724) 656-2180.

SEPTEMBER MOAA- DINNER MEETING – THURSDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2025

MOAA-MSVC will host its monthly dinner meeting on **Thursday, 18 September 2025** at A La Cart Catering in Canfield. The program is Ohio Public Utilities Commission Energy Choice Ohio Program. Check-in starts at 5:30 PM, with dinner at 6:00 PM. Dinner cost is \$20.00 and you may pay for your meal at the door. **RSVPs** not later than **Monday, 15 September**, at msvcmoaa@gmail.com and please let us know if you are bringing a guest. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW** and see you on the 18th.



Although awarded in the spring, the MOAA Five Star Level of Excellence (LOE) and Col. Marvin Harris Communications Five Star Awards and recognition medallion were finally presented to the Chapter. LTC Rod Hosler (USA) the Chapter President received the MOAA Five Star LOE, while LT Bruce Bille (USN) and LT Florence Hosler (USN) received the Col. Marvin Harris Communications Five Star Award for the Chapter Website and Newsletter respectively. Well done

“War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. The person who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself.”

– John Stuart Mills

Mill was an English philosopher, political economist, politician and civil servant. One of the most influential thinkers in the history of liberalism and social liberalism, he contributed widely to social theory, political theory, and political economy