

MAHONING-SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

an affiliate of

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

June 2026 Chapter Update



From the President

Fellow Members:

I begin my column this month by noting with sadness the death of long-time chapter and MOAA Life Member Carl Nunziato, whose dedication to his fellow veterans and selflessness in seeking to improve their lives hardly needs further mention. At this time, the chapter has no information on the Nunziato family's plans for a local service, but we will be sure to pass on what we learn. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him.



Photo by Zach Mosca, WFMJ

On a more positive note, it is with great pleasure that I announce the additions of Richard Lonardo and John Kochansky to the Board of Directors, replacing long-time members Rod and Florence Hosler, who together contributed so much to our chapter that it would be hard to quantify. Rich and John will be sworn in at the July 2 Board of Directors meeting for the remainder of Rod and Florence's 2026 to 2028 term and join our two other new Board Members, Janel Rice and Wil Kline, who we welcomed in May.

Continued on Page 2

MSVC-MOAA PO Box 5342
Poland, OH 44514

June Meeting - After Action Report

Event Overview

The chapter held its June 18 dinner meeting at Golden Corral Buffet and Grill in Hermitage, PA, connecting with western Pennsylvania members and guests.

Featured Speaker

LTC Christopher Brown, DPT
Pennsylvania Army National Guard
128th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Infantry
Brigade Combat Team

Key Takeaways

- LTC Brown discussed his work as a physical therapist with Sharon Regional Healthcare System and the transition after Steward ownership and the Tenor Health Foundation acquisition.
- He shared experiences from recent deployments and explained how Army medicine is moving rehabilitative care closer to the front lines.
- The chapter welcomed Mrs. Dawnle Scheetz back as a MOAA Surviving Spouse.
- Mrs. Janet Oglesby presented Mrs. Scheetz with a MOAA Surviving Spouse Pin.
- President David DiTallo and Treasurer Bruce Bille presented Golden Corral Manager William Weaver with a \$300 Camp Corral donation.



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msvcmoaa@gmail.com
WWW.MOAA.ORG

MOAA Chapter Assists Youngstown Blue Coats at Walmart Safety Day

By David DiTallo

My personal thanks to Rich Lonardo, John Kochansky, Janel Rice, and Wil Kline for their willingness to lead our chapter into the future.

I also have the pleasure of welcoming former chapter member Mrs. Dawnle Scheetz back to our membership rolls. As many of you may know, Dawnle and her late husband Larry Scheetz were long-time members of the chapter. They were two of the earliest members I met when I joined in 2016, and Larry was a superb mentor when I joined the Board of Directors in 2018. Welcome back, Dawnle!

Finally, our chapter has formed a direct partnership with the Youngstown Blue Coats through a 2026 MOAA Foundation Community Outreach Grant. On June 22, Joe Mersol, Bruce Bille, Ralph DeLucia, Stephen Motika, and I visited the Blue Coats facility in Hubbard, Ohio, toured the operation, and discussed hands-on support opportunities for the months ahead.

Joe Mersol and I have placed several Blue Coats engagement events on the chapter calendar at msvc-moaa.org/#calendar. Please review the dates and let Joe or me know if you wish to participate.

David J. DiTallo
President

Poland, OH - Members of the Military Officers Association of America, Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter, turned out Saturday, June 27, to support the Youngstown Blue Coats during Walmart's Safety Day on Doral Drive in Poland.

Chapter members David DiTallo and Ralph DeLucia joined Blue Coats Founder and President Patty Summers, Vice President and Treasurer Roseann Panning, and Veterans Liaison John Johnston from noon to 3 p.m. The team answered questions about the Blue Coats' mission, shared information on where and how to donate winter clothing items, and distributed promotional materials to the community.

The event was part of the chapter's 2026 MOAA Foundation Community Outreach Grant effort. Earlier in the week, MSVC-MOAA presented the Youngstown Blue Coats with a \$3,800 check to help purchase cold-weather clothing and outdoor survival gear for those in need.

This was another boots-on-the-ground example of MOAA members supporting local veterans and vulnerable neighbors through strong community partnerships.

For upcoming MSVC-MOAA and Youngstown Blue Coats events, please check the chapter calendar at msvc-moaa.org or contact David DiTallo or Joe Mersol.



Ralph DeLucia with Blue Coats Veteran Liaison and former U.S. Marine John Johnston



Ralph DeLucia and Blue Coats Vice President Roseann Panning



The Youngstown Blue Coats' information table

UPCOMING EVENTS - JULY 2026

NEXT CHAPTER EVENT

July 16 Gun Shoot and BBQ Dinner
Fish and Game Club of Vienna, OH
Mission BBQ of Niles, OH

LOCATION

Fish and Game Club of Vienna
1508 Youngstown Kingsville
Rd NE, Vienna, OH 44473

FOOD

BBQ Dinner courtesy of
Mission BBQ of Niles, OH

WHO IS WELCOME

Current, former, and retired commissioned and warrant officers, surviving spouses and their guests in northeast Ohio and western Pennsylvania.

RSVP / DETAILS

Write to mvcmoaa@gmail.com



2026 CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars

Note: Unless otherwise noted, chapter dinner meetings gather at 5:30 pm, with dinner at 6:00 pm.



JUL 16 - Annual Gun Shoot and BBQ Dinner at the Fish and Game Club of Vienna, 1508 Youngstown Kingsville Rd NE, Vienna, OH 44473.

AUG 20 - Dinner Meeting, Legislative Affairs Briefing by U.S. Rep Michael Rulli (OH-06)

SEPT 17 - Dinner Meeting, Topic and Speaker: JROTC Grant Night by J/ROTC Instructors .

OCT 16 - Lunch Meeting, Being Dead is No Excuse 2.0 by Joe Mersol

NOV 20 - Lunch Meeting, U.S. Border Patrol Operations Speaker: TBD.

DEC 05 - Christmas Luncheon and Chapter Fundraiser, 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm.



LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS:

U.S. Senate:

- ****Dave McCormick (R)****
 - Office: SD-B40C Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
 - Phone: 202-228-5306
 - Website: mccormick.senate.gov
- ****Senator John Fetterman (D)****
 - Office: B40B Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
 - Phone: 202-224-4254
 - Website: fetterman.senate.gov
- ****Senator Bernie Moreno (R)****
 - Office: B33 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510
 - Phone: 202-224-2315
 - Website: moreno.senate.gov
- ****Senator Jon Husted (R)****
 - Office: SR-198 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
 - Phone: 202-224-3353
 - Website: husted.senate.gov

U.S. House of Representatives:

- ****Representative Mike Kelly (R)****
 - District: PA District 16
 - Office: 1707 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC
 - Phone: 202-225-5406
 - Website: kelly.house.gov
- ****Representative Michael A. Rulli (R)****
 - District: OH District 6
 - Office: 2082 Rayburn House Office, Washington, DC 20525
 - Phone: 202-225-5705
 - Website: rulli.house.gov
- ****Representative David P. Joyce (R)****
 - District: OH District 14
 - Office: 2065 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515-3514
 - Phone: 202-225-5731

Presidential Contact:

- ****President Donald J. Trump (R)****
 - Office: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, Washington DC 20500
 - Switchboard: 202-456-1414
 - Website: whitehouse.gov

Additional Resources:

- MOAA Legislative Update: <https://moaa.quorum.us/> or 1-800-234-6622 ext. 215

State Legislative News:

- Ohio Legislature
- Pennsylvania Legislative Notifications

MSVC Board Members:

President:

Dave Di Tallo, Commander, USN (Ret.)
Program Chair, Surviving Spouse Liaison
President@msvc-moaa.org

1st Vice President:

Joe Mersol, Major, USA (Ret.)
Membership Chair/Legislative Liaison
1stVP@msvc-moaa.org

Secretary:

Al Lind, Lieutenant, USN (Fmr.)
Secretary@msvc-moaa.org

Treasurer:

Bruce Bille, Lieutenant, USN (Fmr.)
Treasurer@msvc-moaa.org

Members at Large:

Richard "Rich" Lonardo, LTC, USA (Ret.)
msvcmoaa@gmail.com

John Kochansky, COL, U.S. Air Force (Ret.)
msvcmoaa@gmail.com

Stephen Motika, Major, USA (Ret.)
Student Affairs Liaison
msvcmoaa@gmail.com

Ralph DeLucia, Captain, USA (Fmr.)
YARS Base Community Council Liaison
msvcmoaa@gmail.com

Wil Kline, LTC, USAR (Ret.)
msvcmoaa@gmail.com

Janel Rice, Major, USA (Fmr.)
msvcmoaa@gmail.com

Historian:

Dennis Gartland, Captain, USA (Fmr.)
msvcmoaa@gmail.com

Chaplain:

Dave Long, Major, USA (Ret.)
msvcmoaa@gmail.com

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - JUNE 2026

Prepared by Joe Mersol, Legislative Liaison

The FY2027 National Defense Authorization Act hit a temporary roadblock on Capitol Hill. The House Rules Committee approved the structured rule for H.R. 8800 by an 8–4 vote on June 29, but the full House rejected H. Res. 1398 by a 198–224 vote on June 30. In plain English, the floor path stalled for now, meaning military pay, TRICARE, housing, and quality-of-life provisions remain active but unresolved.

Locally, Rep. Michael Rulli voted Aye on H. Res. 1398, supporting the effort to move the NDAA floor process forward. However, Rep. Rulli is not a member of the House Rules Committee, so he did not have a vote on the committee motion that would have added the Major Richard Star Act to H.R. 8800. That motion was defeated 4–8 in committee.

This is exactly why we must keep reaching out to our representatives. Rep. Rulli’s positive vote on H. Res. 1398 is noted and appreciated, but we still need to continue petitioning him for strong support of the Major Richard Star Act, which would end the unfair retirement pay offset for combat-injured veterans. Bottom line: the convoy is delayed, not destroyed. MOAA remains engaged, and members should stay alert for Legislative Action Center calls to action. When the word comes down, we need to respond quickly, professionally, and in formation. Mission continues.

MSVC-MOAA Welcomes New Board Members

On July 2, 2026, the Mahoning-Shenango Valleys Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America held a swearing-in ceremony at the Mahoning County Veterans Service Commission. Chapter President Dave DiTallo officially swore in Lt. Col. Richard “Rich” Lonardo, U.S. Army (Ret.), and Col. John Kochansky, U.S. Air Force (Ret.), as members of the Chapter Board of Directors.

Both officers bring deep military leadership experience, sound judgment, and a continued commitment to serving veterans, families, and the broader community. Their input, knowledge, and experience have already strengthened the Chapter’s leadership team and improved the quality of board-level discussion.

The Chapter is fortunate to have them aboard. In true military fashion, they were sworn in, welcomed to the team, and immediately issued additional duties.



STRONGER SUPPORT. FAIR TREATMENT. EARNED BENEFITS. ACCOUNTABILITY. FOR THOSE WHO SERVE.

— ★ ★ ★ — **FOUR PRIORITIES TO WATCH** — ★ ★ ★ —

 1 MAJOR RICHARD STAR ACT	 2 SHUTDOWN FAIRNESS ACT	 3 GUARD VA BENEFITS ACT	 4 MILITARY CARE ACT
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Scan the QR code to deploy your message directly to Capitol Hill.



Chapter Membership Eligibility

- Commissioned and warrant officers
- Active, retired, or former service members
- All uniformed services
- Surviving spouses

Contact msvc-moaa@gmail.com for more information or download the membership form here.

[Membership Application](#)



Surviving Spouse Corner

The Vietnam Women's Memorial, located near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., honors the more than 265,000 women who served during the Vietnam War, many of them as nurses and caregivers under extraordinarily difficult conditions. Dedicated in 1993, the memorial reminds us that service and sacrifice took many forms, and that the courage, compassion, and strength of these women remain an essential part of our nation's military history.



JOIN MOAA – CONTINUE YOUR SERVICE

Membership in MOAA National and the Mahoning-Shenango Valleys Chapter is open to active duty, retired, and former commissioned and warrant officers of the U.S. uniformed services, as well as surviving spouses.

Active duty and reserve component officers are exempt from chapter dues.

PREMIUM MEMBERSHIP

- Full access to MOAA resources
- Career transition and financial planning tools
- Exclusive publications and updates
- Scholarships for dependents
- Member discounts on travel and products

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

- All Premium benefits—for life
- Enhanced spouse protection
- Direct access to MOAA experts
- Dedicated Life Member support

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Join online:
msvc-moaa.org/membership
Or contact:
msvcmoaa@gmail.com



Never Stop Serving

CHAPTER PHOTOS

