

# MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

an affiliate of

## MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

September 2021 Volume: 12 Issue 9



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rod Hosler

The events of September 11, 2001 (9/11) are etched in the memories of many Americans and changed us forever. Twenty years ago, terror struck America with the destruction of the World Trade Center in New York, the attack on the Pentagon in Washington, and the heroic downing of Flight 93 in Shanksville, PA.

Those of us that witnessed the events of 9/11 unfold before our eyes, experienced a "Pearl Harbor" moment. We will always remember the fall of the twin towers and attack on the Pentagon. Sadly though, for many young people in America and around the world the impact of 9/11 does not resonate any feeling of anger, pain or patriotic fervor for justice. Most American school systems do not teach the events of 9/11 in any major context, but relegate 9/11 to an "oh by the way something terrible happened."

We must always continue to echo the events of 9/11, the subsequent war on terror and our involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan and the price in American blood and treasure. We owe it to those that died and were wounded to never forget and pass our concerns on to America's children and young adults.

As we near the twentieth anniversary of 9/11, we witnessed a deplorable retreat from Afghanistan, reminiscent of our withdrawal from Vietnam. The appearance of incompetence at the highest levels of our government is evident by the on the ground execution of the retreat. Chaos at the Kabul airport, death of and wounding of American service personnel and the abandonment of American citizens and allies to the Taliban is humiliating. The false reporting extending over fifteen years, especially rampant in recent months and lack of personal responsibility and accountability of senior government officials verges on dereliction of duty. The failed planning and execution of our withdrawal from Afghanistan would be career ending for any junior officer. Terminations or resignations of these senior officials and politicians should be demanded. Americans are angered by the graphic images from Kabul, and America deserves better.

**[NOTE: The opinions expressed by the author do not represent the views of MOAA.]**



Photos courtesy of Ralph DeLucia from the Austintown township 9/11 Memorial .

## VA News

[VA honors lives lost, American heroism on 20th anniversary of 9/11](#) - In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks against the U.S., the Department of Veterans Affairs will host several tributes throughout its enterprise to recognize loved ones lost, loved ones injured and those forever changed by the tragic events. (9/7/21)

[‘Reach Out’ campaign highlights programs and assistance for Veterans during Suicide Prevention Month](#) - In conjunction with Suicide Prevention Month this September, the Department of Veterans Affairs is launching Reach Out, a new campaign that raises awareness of its mental health resources available for Veterans. (9/2/21)



[VeteransCrisisLine.net](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net)

[VA expands rental support, increasing housing options for Veterans](#) - The Department of Veterans Affairs has expanded the Shallow Subsidy initiative and will grant \$200 million to 238 nonprofit organizations across the country and territories to provide housing rental assistance to extremely and very low-income Veteran households eligible under VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families program. (8/25/21)

[VA grants improve transitional housing, prevent Veteran homelessness](#) - The Department of Veterans Affairs will begin awarding \$116.4 million in grants Sept. 30 to more than 200 community organizations under VA's Grant and Per Diem program. (8/24/21)

[VA spotlights special benefits for elderly wartime Veteran population](#) - As a follow up to National Financial Awareness Day, August 14, the Department of Veterans Affairs is launching an awareness campaign to inform elderly wartime Veterans and their families of their lesser-known pension, funeral, burial and survivor benefits. (8/17/21)



[WWW.VA.GOV](http://WWW.VA.GOV)

## Center for Women Veterans (CWV)



Women Veterans may be eligible for a wide-variety of benefits available to all U.S. military Veterans. VA benefits include disability compensation, pension, education and training, health care, home loans, insurance, vocational rehabilitation and employment, and burial. See our Veterans page for an overview of the benefits available to all Veterans. More information is available on the [Women Veterans Benefits website](#).

How to Apply for VA Benefits: The specific VA benefit or program web page will provide tailored information about how to apply for a particular benefit or program. Generally, Servicemembers, Veterans, and families can apply for VA benefits using one of the methods below.

Apply online using [eBenefits](#),

or

Work with an accredited [representative or agent](#),

or

Go to a VA regional office and have a VA employee assist you. You can find your regional office on our [Facility Locator](#) page.

Items of interest specifically for women at VA:  
[Lesbian, Gay Bisexual & Transgender \(LGBT\) Service Members and Veterans](#)  
[Apply for burial benefits](#)

MST is the term that VA uses to refer to sexual assault or repeated, threatening sexual harassment that occurred while the Veteran was in the military. Get more information on [VA services and benefits](#) related to MST. The Department of Defense (DoD) also provides [Sexual Assault Support](#) for the DoD community.

### Women Veterans Book Corner

March 2021 — [Irene Trowell-Harris](#) — Irene is the author of *Bridges: A Life Building and Crossing Them*

January 2021 — [Julia Maki Pyrah](#) — Julia is the author of *My Mom Hunts Submarines*

November 2020 — [Angelica “Angel” Pilato, Lt. Col., USAF \(Ret.\), Ph. D.](#) — Angel is the author of *Angel’s Truck Stop: A Woman’s Love, Laughter, and Loss during the Vietnam War*

# Legislative Take Action Center

[Urge Your Elected Officials to Support Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform Legislation](#)

[Urge Your Elected Officials to Fix the TRICARE Young Adult Coverage Gap](#)

[Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Military Hunger Prevention Act](#)

[Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act](#)

[Urge Your Senators to Support Legislation Extending TRICARE Coverage to Certain 'Gray Area' Retirees](#)

## Tricare Issues:

### IS YOUR PRESCRIPTION COVERED?

[Check TRICARE's Formulary](#)

MOAA is tracking member communications on Tier 4 and using them to drive advocacy efforts. Are you taking a drug that has been moved to Tier 4/non-covered status? Please share your experience at [legis@moaa.org](mailto:legis@moaa.org).

## Key Bills

### **Federal - HR 148**

[A bill to provide a work opportunity tax credit for military spouses and to provide for flexible spending arrangements for childcare services for military families.](#)

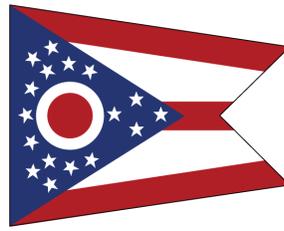
### **Federal - HR 239**

[A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for limitations on copayments for contraception furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.](#)

### **Federal - HR 344**

[A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct an analysis of the need for women-specific programs that treat and rehabilitate women veterans with drug and alcohol dependency and to carry out a pilot program regarding such programs.](#)

## LEGISLATIVE ISSUES



OHIO

[S. B. No. 160](#) A B I L L To amend sections 173.42, 3712.06, and 3727.75 and to enact section 3721.141 of the Revised Code to require certain entities to inform veterans about available health care benefits and to name this act the Veteran Information Act. **Has been referred to the Judiciary Committee. 6/19/21**

[H. B. No. 29 2021-2022](#) A B I L L To amend sections 317.24 and 317.241 of the Revised Code to allow a person who was discharged from the United States Public Health Service or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to obtain an Ohio veterans identification card. **State Senate amendments refused by the House. 6/28/21**



## Pennsylvania

There are several bills before the [General Assembly](#) pertaining to veterans housing, homelessness and Veteran's Affairs funding.

There are several House and Senate bills before the assembly to abolish "no excuse" mail-in ballots. [Senate Bill 402 P.N. 387](#) & [House Bill 195 P.N. 1189](#)



## Legislative Contacts:

**MOAA Legislative Update** [moaa.org/takeaction](http://moaa.org/takeaction)  
or 1-800-234-6622 ext. 215

**Pres. 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)** United States Senate  
713 Hart Senate Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-2315 [www.brown.senate.gov](http://www.brown.senate.gov)

**Senator Rob Portman (R)** United States Senate  
448 Russell Senate Office Bld. Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-3353 [www.portman.senate.gov](http://www.portman.senate.gov)

**Representative Bill Johnson (R)** District 6  
192 East State St. Salem, OH 44460  
Phone (330) 337-6951 <http://billjohnson.house.gov>

**Representative Tim Ryan (D)** District 13  
241 West Federal St. Youngstown, OH 44503  
Phone: (330) 740-0193 [www.timryan.house.gov](http://www.timryan.house.gov)

## PENNSYLVANIA

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

**Senator Patrick Toomey (R)**  
248 Russell Senate Office Bld. Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-4254 [www.toomey.senate.gov](http://www.toomey.senate.gov)

**Representative Mike Kelly (R)** District 16  
33 Chestnut Avenue Sharon, PA 16146  
Phone: (724) 342-7170 [www.kelly.house.gov](http://www.kelly.house.gov)



## MSVC Board Members:

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**Treasurer:** Florence Hosler, LT, USN, (Fmr)

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## Surviving Spouse Corner: Resources for Caregivers

By: Barbara Ann Bowman



Each caregiving journey is unique. My role of caregiver for my husband expanded from not only getting him to medical care but also making legal decisions in his stead. Common issues that affect most caregivers include navigating VA procedures, obtaining help with specific disabilities and diseases, learning how to deal with dementia, organizing paperwork, and knowing what legal documents are needed with regard to consent issues, legal capacity, and decision making.

During my journey as a caregiver, I found the following resources to be beneficial:

**MOAA and VA.** Talk with members of your local chapter, join the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter whose outreach includes current spouses ([mssvc02@gmail.com](mailto:mssvc02@gmail.com)), and take a look at pertinent [MOAA publications](#). Veterans service organizations will help with disability claims, requests for respite care, and pay for long term care, as well as other benefits. The VA and MOAA have planning brochures and guidebooks to help you collect and organize necessary paperwork.

**Health agencies.** Search for caregiver resources on the [National Institutes of Health](#) and [Department of Health and Human Services](#) websites to find helpful information.

**Disease-specific associations.** Contact organizations like the [Alzheimer's Association](#), the [ALS Association](#), and the [American Heart Association](#). These groups have educational information and support groups available to caregivers.

**Military family support groups.** [TAPS](#), [Gold Star Wives of America](#), and [American Gold Star Mothers](#), and others provide a wide variety of support services to military families and friends.

**Respite care.** Organizations such as the [Elizabeth Dole Foundation's Hidden Heroes](#) and the [Yellow Ribbon Fund](#) provide resources and support specifically tailored to military caregivers.

[RELATED: [How Military, Veteran Caregivers Can Apply for Well-Earned Respite Relief](#)]

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, caregivers need to take care of themselves. Eat healthful foods, stay active, ask for help, and pamper yourself. Like the pre-flight instruction says, "Put your face mask on first." If you don't take care of yourself, you won't be able to take care of your loved one.

*Bowman is a member of MOAA's Surviving Spouse Advisory Council.*



### UPCOMING MSVC CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2021

**16 SEPT** – Dinner Meeting, A La Cart Catering, Canfield **Nomination of Officers** and program.

**15 OCT**– Lunch Meeting, A La Cart Catering, Canfield, Annual Business Meeting & Election of Officers

**07 NOV**– Vietnam Veterans Laying of the Roses, 1:00 PM, Downtown Youngstown.

**11 NOV**– VETERANS DAY Ceremony, 11:00 AM, Mahoning County Courthouse, Youngstown.

**19 NOV** – Lunch Meeting, 12:00/Noon, A La Cart Catering, Canfield.

**11 DEC** – MOAA/ROA Christmas Party, 12:00 to 4:00 PM, A La Cart Catering, Canfield.

### **MSVS MEETING, THURSDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2021.**

The program will be "Using Trusts to Transfer Assets," conducted by Attorney Matt Lewis and focus on personal financial security and how to protect your assets. Reservations need to be received not later than Monday, 13 September, (330) 788-3270 or [msvcmoaa@gmail.com](mailto:msvcmoaa@gmail.com).



**Sept 18th (Saturday)**

**Veteran/ROTC Alumni**

**Reunion Dinner**

**Sept 19th (Sunday)**

### **2021 5th Annual Golf Outing**

- **Avalon Golf & Country Club**
- **5:30 p.m. Social Hour/Cash Bar, 6:30 p.m. Dinner, Cincinnatus Award, Key-note Speaker**
  
- **Avalon Golf & Country Club**
- **Registration at 7:30 a.m. with Shotgun Start at 9 a.m.**
- **18 holes with cart, driving range, locker room, non-alcoholic beverages on course**
- **Mission BBQ at the turn**
- **Cocktails/cash bar at 1:00 p.m., closing luncheon at 1:30 p.m.**
- **Prizes to include \$10,000 Hole-in-One**

**Look for MSVC-MOAA's hole sponsorship !**



**"Army: A body of men assembled to rectify the mistakes of the diplomats."**

**- Josephus Daniels**

# **DESERT STORM**

**REUNION**

**30 YEARS**

**25 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**12:00/Noon to 5:00 PM**

**Sharon Elks Lodge 103  
260 E. Connelly Blvd., Sharon, PA.**

**Point of Contact is Larry Scheetz  
e-mail: [thescheetz@gmail.com](mailto:thescheetz@gmail.com)**

## **OPERATION DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY REUNION**

Thirty years ago the United States launched Desert Shield and Desert Storm, the First Gulf War. Many personnel participated in this monumental American effort that resulted in victory for American and coalition forces. We celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this achievement with a reunion on 25 September 2021, 12:00/Noon to 5:00 PM at the Sharon Elks Lodge 103, 260 East Connelly Blvd., Sharon, PA. Registration is \$11.00. The Point of Contact is Larry Scheetz, e-mail: [thescheetz@gmail.com](mailto:thescheetz@gmail.com) or telephone (724) 977-1200. Local hotels are available. Many local MOAA members and veterans participated in the campaign and this may be the only time we'll get together. Reservations need to be received not later than Friday, 10 September: e-mail [thescheetz@gmail.com](mailto:thescheetz@gmail.com) or (724) 977-1200.

## **Veterans Appreciation Luncheon, Wednesday, 6 October, 11:15 AM – 1:00 PM**

The Mahoning County Veterans Service Commission is hosting a FREE Veterans Appreciation Luncheon, Wednesday, 6 October, 11:15 AM – 1:00 PM at the Maronite Center, 1555 South Meridian Road in Youngstown. This luncheon is open only to veterans. RSVP no later than Monday, 4 October by calling the Veterans Service Commission at 330-740-2450.



## Why Join MOAA?

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military servicemembers and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers. MOAA members proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country: NEVER STOP SERVING.

To Join MOAA National: use the web site [www.moaa.org/join](http://www.moaa.org/join) or call 800-234-6622

## BECOME A MOAA NATIONAL PREMIUM (ANNUAL) OR LIFE MEMBER:

The Chapter currently has 118 members: 44 Life members, 24 Premium (Annual) Members, and 50 Basic members. Premium (Annual) and Life level of membership allows members full access to all MOAA 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. Paying Premium or Life member dues also funds the programs sponsored by MOAA, and more important MOAA's lobbying efforts with Congress. Get full MOAA National benefits by becoming a Premium or Life member. Use the MOAA web site [www.moaa.org/join](http://www.moaa.org/join) or call 1-800-234-6622

## KEEP MOAA NATIONAL INFORMED

Personal information listed on the MOAA National membership roster can only be changed by you, the individual member. Correct your information via your login at [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org), "My Profile" Information or call 1-800-234-6622. Changes include:

- address
- email
- telephone number
- rank or military status

## MSVC Board Announces Delinquent Dues Policy

*By David J. Di Tallo, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/  
Director for Membership*

The MSVC Board of Directors decided at its September 1 meeting to enact a policy regarding delinquent dues for the remainder of this calendar year.

The chapter's By-Laws require automatic termination of members who do not pay their annual dues ninety days after they become payable on January 1.

Due to the unusual circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board held that in abeyance to give unpaid members the chance to resume attending meetings and pay their dues.

The chapter Treasurer also sent written notices to delinquent members in June, to which many responded. However, there is still a substantial portion of the chapter who have yet to pay their dues.

Therefore, the Board has decided to require full payment of dues from any delinquent member before attending any chapter events for the remainder of the calendar year. Any delinquent member making a reservation for a chapter event will be required to pay their dues when checking-in.

Any unpaid members at the end of the calendar year will have their membership terminated, and they will be invited to re-apply for membership in accordance with the current By-Laws.

Individual letters are being mailed to members who have not yet paid their dues. If you receive one and have already paid your dues, please contact chapter Treasurer Florence Hosler at [msvcmoaa@gmail.com](mailto:msvcmoaa@gmail.com) or (330) 788-3270.

On a related issue, the Board also adopted a resolution at its September 1 meeting to change Article III ("Dues") of the By-Laws to clarify several matters and give greater flexibility in the future to deal with unpaid dues. Copies of the proposed changes will be made available at the September 16 Dinner Meeting, via email to members who receive the newsletter electronically, and by letter mail to those

who receive the newsletter via postal mail, with a vote of the membership planned for the October 15 Business Meeting.

The chapter's By-Law's and Constitution are available for review at our website: <https://msvc-moaa.org/about>.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL for MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER MOAA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Member (Retired, Former, Active\* Officer of the seven uniformed US Services, Spouse (Membership \$20/year) \*FREE Surviving Spouse: FREE as of 2022

D-Day re-enactment at  
Conneaut



German cavalry reenactors



View from the ridge behind the beach



Airborne reenactor



MSVC members Jim Shurtleff and Rod  
Hosler