

MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rod Hosler

This month we recognize 7 December, a very important date in American history primarily with regards to the attack on Pearl Harbor. That event catapulted the United States into World War II and changed America forever. There were many reasons for the attack, but the bottom line is that the United States was not prepared for war. We basically took our eye off the ball of what was going on around the world, as war raged in Europe, Africa and Asia. Fascist and totalitarian regimes marched in conquering triumph. Except for Great Britain, only the United States stood in the way. About a year prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor, some in America began to realize the danger and started to mobilize. But the seeds of the disaster at Pearl Harbor had been set years before.

Since that fateful December 7th, the United States has become the pillar of freedom, liberty and opportunity around the world. The men and women of the United States Armed Forces have been a cornerstone of dedicated service and duty for the nation. Yet, almost single handedly through the efforts of some within the country, both in and out of positions of trust and responsibility have questioned our leadership role in the world.

Today America seems to be squandering our importance in the world as a defender of what is right and good through partisan political bickering which is disastrous to the country. The old saying, "united we stand, divided we fall" is more true today than ever before. This is the time to come together and rebuild our democratic republic as a bastion of freedom, liberty, opportunity and prosperity. America's military must remain the cornerstone of our constituted republic and foster the principles set forth by our founding fathers and the constitution.

As we get ready to end the year, perhaps we can look forward to a new year free of civil strife and discord, and look to a future of understanding, good will and the possibilities of a brighter tomorrow.

To all, enjoy a safe and joyous holiday season.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Rod Hosler

MOAA continues to advocate for legislation to better the condition of Americas military. Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform, Basic Needs Allowance, and TRICARE Young Adult Coverage Parity are still on the table. How much progress is being made is difficult to ascertain at this point. However, Congress continues to legislate massive spending; 3.5 trillion for infrastructure, considering billions for reparation for illegals and endless investigations that do not seem to be pushing our legislative issues forward. Taking care of soldiers and their families should be a priority for all legislators. There are however, some other legislative issues are being considered and are in committee and MOAA continues to monitor their progress. Three of MOAA's legislative priorities and other issues can be found at the legislative take action alerts on the MOAA website at <https://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/>

Please take a few moments to visit the MOAA web site and link to ADVOCACY section scroll down to Legislative Action Center. This link identifies all of the legislative issues and bills that MOAA supports which require our active involvement "to take action." The needs of our military should always be the first priority of Congress. It is unfortunate that out federal legislators fail to step up and meet the needs of American's military without constants reminders and prodding to do the right thing; and people wonder why Congress has a low popularity rating. Remember to contact your Congressional representatives (Senate and House) to express your concerns. Please remember that there are also many state legislative issues that require your support as well.

MOAA's motto: "Never Stop Serving," is a practice we all can subscribe to.



MSVC Hears Iraq Deployment Brief

By David J. Di Tallo

At its November 19 Lunch Meeting, Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter-Military Officers Association of America (MSVC-MOAA) heard from one of its own members on his 2020-2021 deployment to Iraq.

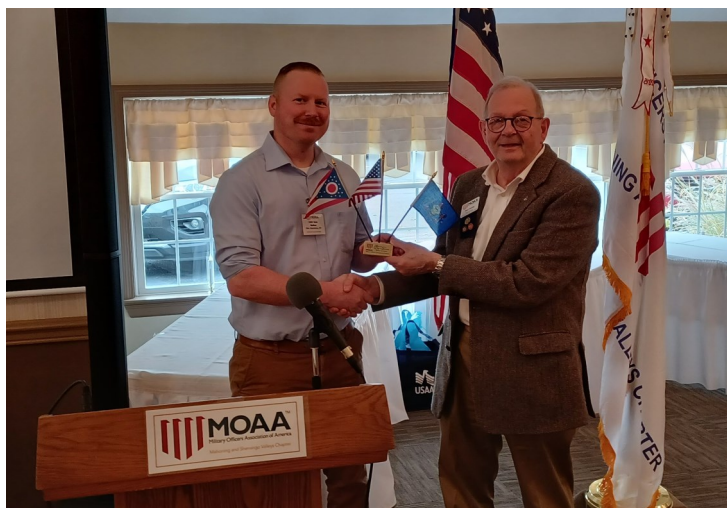
With 29 members and one guest in attendance, Chief Warrant Officer (CW) 2 Nathan ("Nate") Walker, Ohio National Guard, discussed his deployment to Erbil, Iraq as an Army aviator flying the Boeing CH-47 CHINOOK helicopter with Bravo Company, 3 Battalion, 238th Aviation Regiment based in North Canton, Ohio.

According to Nate, half of his company of twelve aircraft remained in the northern part of Iraq flying out of Erbil International Airport, while the rest deployed to southern Iraq. His company logged over 1100 flight hours, hauling 1.3 million pounds of cargo and nearly 5000 passengers in Iraq and eastern Syria. They also set up Forward Arming and Refueling Points (FARP's) for ground forces and other aviation units, directly transported combat forces, and performed aircraft recoveries.

Nate explained that the CH-47 CHINOOK helicopter is well suited to this role, with a 50,000lbs maximum gross takeoff weight, provisions for up to 33 passengers, and additional internal fuel tanks for FARP's.

MSVC also welcomed YSU Army ROTC Cadet Zackary Swantek as a guest. The senior class cadet, who hopes to join the Aviation Branch upon graduation/ commissioning next spring, hails from Springfield, Ohio and is majoring in Criminal Justice. Best wishes to you, Zack!

Lastly, the 50-50 raffle was won by MSVC Spouse Member Mrs. Anna Hanni. Congratulations, Anna!



Speaker Nate Walker and MSVC President Rod Hosler

Photo by Bruce Bille



An Army CH-47 CHINOOK helicopter from Bravo Company, 3 Battalion, 238th Aviation Regiment, Ohio National Guard prepares to hoist an artillery piece in northern Iraq.



The interior of a CH-47 Chinook, a truly multi purpose workhorse of the Army!



CW2 Nate Walker and family on his return to Akron-Canton Regional Airport following his 2020-2021 deployment to Erbil, Iraq with Bravo Company, 3 Battalion, 238th Aviation Regiment, Ohio National Guard. Back row (left to right): Katie Neiheisel (sister in law), Jamie Walker (wife), Nate Walker, Lynette Couchenour (Mother in Law) Jim Couchenour (father in law). Middle row (left to right): Owen Neiheisel (nephew)- 6, Maren Walker - 4, Grace Walker -7, Lexi Neiheisel - 8. Kneeling: Nash Walker - 9

Photos courtesy of Nate Walker

Budget Delays May Cost DoD More Than \$40 Billion. Ask Your Lawmakers to Act

By: Dan Merry

As the government-wide stopgap funding measure known as a continuing resolution (CR) nears its Dec. 3 expiration, there have been a few encouraging signs. But all optimism could be dashed if Congress doesn't act fast.

CRs occur when Congress doesn't meet its own schedule for funding the federal government. This scheduling delay is wasteful and calamitous for those in uniform and costs taxpayers billions of dollars (more on that later). During a CR:

- Planned training exercises, official travel, and hiring actions are often halted.
- Obsolete programs no longer needed continue to be funded at last year's rate.
- New programs are put on hold and can incur dramatic cost increases because of the delays.
- Short-term CR deadlines take precedence over long-term planning, and the entire federal government operates under the threat of a shutdown.

Three months into the new fiscal year with no funding is unsatisfactory, and MOAA urges Congress to stop this wasteful trend.

The president signed legislation Sept. 30 to avoid a government shutdown; the chamber votes indicate movement off the middle, with the House passing the measure 254-175 and the Senate approving it 65-35. This level of support for a temporary solution is somewhat encouraging, and it sets up a variety of potential near-term outcomes.

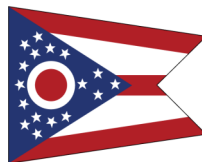
Second, if the show of support holds, this could parlay into more comprehensive efforts toward full appropriations – or at least to get the ball rolling on the appropriations bills still stuck in Congress. But it would take exceptional commitments from both sides to have a chance on making headway toward full appropriations.

A third outcome would be some combination the first two -- another continuing resolution, but with the promise of getting together to finish up appropriations at the beginning of the new year.

Click on the link above for the full article and sample letter to send to your Congressman.

Always Advocate

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES



OHIO

H. B. No. 407 Establish the Safe Shelter Initiative Program for Ohio veterans

H. R. No. 104 To recognize the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who served in Afghanistan, and to urge the United States Congress to investigate failures that led to the collapse of the government of Afghanistan.

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](#)

Your Editor is now able to receive updates on legislation of interest to MSVC members from both state legislatures, but things do move slowly so please contact your state representatives to urge them on.

"If you see a bomb disposal technician running, try to keep up with him."

– U.S. Army ordnance manual

Legislative Contacts:

MOAA Legislative Update 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

OHIO

Senator Sherrod Brown (D) United States Senate

713 Hart Senate Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-2315 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

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

PENNSYLVANIA

Senator Robert Casey Jr. (D)

393 Russell Senate Office Bld. Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-6324 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

Representative Mike Kelly (R) District 16

33 Chestnut Avenue Sharon, PA 16146
Phone: (724) 342-7170 www.kelly.house.gov



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MSVC Leadership for 2022-2024

During our 15 October Annual Meeting, chapter members elected leadership to serve on the Board of Directors for 2022-2024. This leadership included many of the old principals and several new members. Our new Board members are:

COL Walter Duzzny, USA, Ret.

LTC John Marino, USA, Ret.

MAJ Stephen J. Motika, USA, Ret.

MSVC Boards members coming off their term are LTC Larry Scheetz, MAJ Mark Andrews, and CPT Dennis Gartland. On behalf of the membership, thank you for your service and contributions to the Chapter.



Florence Hosler, SSL

msvcmoaa@gmail.com

Surviving Spouse Corner: What to Expect in 2022 With the 'Widows Tax' Repeal

By: Nancy Mullen

We are coming up on the second year of a three-year phase out of what has been known as the "widows tax," which required forfeiture of a dollar of Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) for every dollar of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) received. Please note this is only applicable to those surviving spouses who qualify for both DIC and SBP and are in receipt of the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA).



Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret), President and CEO of MOAA, stands with Candace Wheeler, Senior Advisor for Policy and Legislation for the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, and military widows Kristy DiDomenico, Edie Smith, and Capt. Kathy Thorp, USN (Ret), during a reception to celebrate the repeal of the SBP-DIC offset in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 17, 2019. (Photo by Amanda Dolasinski/MOAA)

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.

EXCLUSIVE MEMBER DISCOUNTS AND MORE

Through the link above check out all the member discounts available to Surviving Spouses. Everything from insurance to vacations are available.

Discounts to theme parks, movies and hotels to name a few. Check it out and register on the Perks page.

Welcome to MOAA's Take Action Center

As a Surviving Spouse you are also eligible to Take Action! Contact your congressmen on the topics MOAA is working on. You can do this by email through the MOAA site or write a letter. Addresses are on page 4 of this newsletter. Advocacy for service members is MOAA's mission.

UPCOMING MSVC CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2021

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

MSVS MEETING, Saturday December 11, 2021

MSVC and ROA Chapter 42 will once again come together for holiday cheer and fun at A la Cart in Canfield.

This year the funds raised from the secret gift auction will go to VETERANS OUTREACH in Liberty, OH. Please bring a wrapped gift(s) of \$20-\$25 value for the auction.

Reservations must be made by Monday, December 6 by calling the Hosler's at 330-788-3270 or email msvcmoaa@gmail.com.

Hors d'oeuvres and white & rose wine will be available, you may bring your own wine and beer if you prefer.



MAHONING COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION (MCVSC) at 345 Oak Hill Avenue, Suite 100, Building A, Youngstown, OH, is ready to assist Mahoning County residents with any Veterans related issues. Their staff can answer your questions, obtain a DD Form 214, assist in preparing VA claims, assist next-of-kin in burial assistance (\$600.00 for Mahoning County residents), provide financial and utility assistance for needy veterans and widows, and provide transportation to the VA Medical Center in Cleveland. MCVSC Hours: 8:30 am-4:30 pm, Call 330-740-2450 for an appointment.

**** MCVSC Food Distribution Program, Saturday, 18 December.**

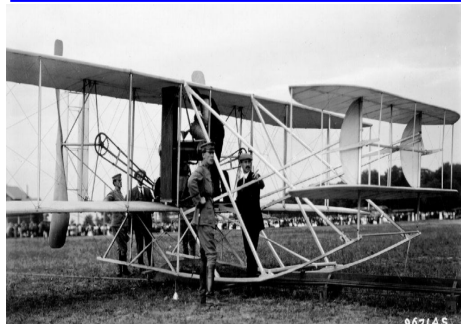
The MCVSC will conduct a food distribution for the needy in the community on Saturday, 18 December, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM at the Cavalli Center in Youngstown. The MCVSC is looking for volunteers to assist in distributing food; placing food boxes in cars, traffic control in parking lot, etc. Dress for the cold weather (hat and gloves); heated warming tent on site and lunch will be provided. Arrive by 9:30, coffee and donuts available. Volunteers do not have to be there the full five hours. If you want to help out, call 330-740-2450 to sign up and see you there.

Trumbull County Veterans Service Commission, 253 E Market St, Warren, OH is ready to assist Trumbull County residents with any Veterans related issues. Programs similar to MCVSC. Hours: 8:30 am-4:30 pm, Phone: 330-675-2585.

Columbiana County Veterans Service Commission, County government office in Columbiana County, 7989 Dickey Dr., Suite 1, Lisbon, OH, is ready to assist Columbiana County residents with any Veterans related issues. Programs similar to MCVSC. Hours: 8:30 am-4:00 pm, Phone: 330-424-7214

Mercer County Veterans Affairs, 14 Courthouse, Mercer, PA, is ready to assist Mercer County residents with any Veterans related issues. Programs similar to MCVSC. Hours: 8:30 am-4:00 pm, Phone: 724-662-7511.

Lawrence County Veterans Affairs, Lawrence County Government Office, 430 Court St, New Castle, PA is ready to assist Lawrence County residents with any Veterans related issues, Programs similar to MCVSC. Hours: 8:30 am-4:00 pm, Phone: (724) 656-2180.



Ohio Council of Chapters

The OCC will have its biennial convention **13-14 May 2022**, at The Quest Convention Center, Polaris, 9200 Worthington Road, Westerville, OH (close to I-71 and Polaris Parkway in northeast Columbus). Hotel accommodations is the Fairfield Inn & Suites (Columbus - Polaris), 9000 Worthington Road, Westerville, (directly behind the Quest Convention Center) at \$109 per night. Program speakers are: Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, President/CEO MOAA; LTG Michael Ferriter, President/CEO of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum (NVMM); MG John Harris, Adjutant General of the Ohio National Guard; and CAPT Erin Stone, Director of the Councils and Chapters of MOAA. Friday evening, 13 May will be the meet and greet reception and Saturday, 14 May is the Convention program, banquet/keynote speaker. The OCC will conduct its quarterly meeting on Sunday, 15 May, 1030 – 1230 at the NVMM. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this noteworthy event. More information will be provided in the months to come. It is important that the MSVC supports this convention with our attendance.

NEW ID CARD REQUIREMENTS

DOD is instituting a new ID Card procedures. If you are an active, reserve component officer, retired officer or dependent and your military ID Card has **EXPIRED**, and you haven't been able to get it renewed because of COVID-19 closures, you have until the end of January 2022 to get it renewed. Failure to do so may impact your TRICARE and other military benefits. Currently all ID facilities in the area are booked up for several months at least through February. You can go online to log onto the Rapids locator <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/> to schedule your ID card appointment. I have contacted Lt. Gen. Atkins, the MOAA CEO and he and his staff is working this issue with DOD to extend the date.

Historical Anecdote.

The Air Force unveiled the latest air-ground tactical support aircraft. Department of the Air Force reported, "We'll dominate the battlefield with this high-tech weapons platform." This technology will save the Air Force approximately \$35 million per aircraft. However, some defense experts express skepticism on mission survivability of pilot, crew and aircraft with Congressional cost savings measures that eliminate radio communications, armor plating protection, engine upgrade, parachutes and wind shield. Addition of wheels and landing gear is a positive step.

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 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 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, "My Profile" Information or call 1-800-234-6622. Changes include:

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

Membership Minute

By David J. Di Tallo, 2nd Vice Pres/ Membership Dir.

As the calendar year draws to a close, I am pleased to report that chapter membership is healthy, having grown by nearly a dozen this year alone.

I am grateful to all members who continue to pay their dues, even if circumstances make attending regular monthly meetings difficult.

As of November 19, total MSVC membership stands at 136 and MOAA membership at 116.

At last month's Lunch Meeting, I distributed our chapter's new "Be Our Guest" cards, to more easily engage prospective members and invite them to a lunch or dinner at no cost or obligation.

The two-sided card has our chapter's website, email address, and a telephone number to enable a current, former, or retired Commissioned or Warrant Officer to attend a lunch or dinner meeting.

Be Our Guest!

Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter - Military Officers Association of America invites current, former, and retired Commissioned and Warrant officers of the Uniformed Services to attend our next Lunch (October - March) or Dinner Meeting (April - September) at **no cost or obligation**.

For our next meeting go to <https://msvc-moaa.org/next-chapter-event>

To attend please email msvcmoaa@gmail.com or call (330) 788-3270.

Please put these to good use and let me know your experiences and when using them.

And remember, if an eligible guest joins you get a \$10 gift card!

Lastly, I am putting the final touches on our 2022 Membership Directory, which I expect to distribute electronically and in paper format in January.

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There has been some confusion over dues to MOAA and MSVC/MOAA. We are an affiliate of MOAA and thereby collect dues for the chapter, your MOAA national dues are separate from the chapter though you can pay **BOTH** on the MOAA website.

If you have any questions about your chapter dues please contact Dave DiTallo at [david.ditallo@gmail.com](mailto:david.ditallo@gmail.com) 330-758-8597. Thanks.

"Our bombs are smarter than the average high school student. At least they can find Kuwait."

A. Whitney Brown

## 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