

The Beacon

August 2026



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UPCOMING EVENTS

19 September, 12:00- 3:00 Chapter Picnic at Ruggles Clubhouse on Aberdeen Proving Ground. Special Guest Victor Ortiza, Magician and Mentalist. See attached flyers for details and guest biography.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Harford County has seen its share of thunderstorms and high winds recently. Power has been lost for several days and downed trees have damaged homes. I haven't heard of any Susquehanna Chapter members being adversely affected and hope that you are all safe.

Our Stay-at-Home Tea Party fundraiser has done remarkably as we have already met our goal. The program is scheduled to remain active until 31 December for any additional donations. Every little bit helps. If you can contribute, I encourage you to do so. We will now be able to provide increased support to the Joppatowne High JROTC program, as well as our support to the Wounded Warrior skeet shoot and the Poster & Essay Contest for Harford County schools.

If you haven't registered to participate in the National MOAA Advocacy-in-Action, please do so. The more we make our opinions known, the more Congress listens.

For your calendar, our picnic is scheduled for 19 September at Ruggles Golf Course club house. We will have entertainment this year, a magician and mentalist who "delivers a refined style of mind-reading and interactive magic designed for a sophisticated audience." Registration information will be sent shortly.

Lastly, but not as an afterthought, we are still seeking volunteers who want to help lead and guide the chapter for the next few years. Now is the time to step forward and "Continue to Serve". We need a Vice-President and a new Secretary. The future of the Chapter depends on viable and continuing leadership.

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Never Stop Serving,

Bob Beahm
BG, USA (Ret)
Chapter President

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Updates to the latest legislative affairs can be found on the national website noted above or at the Maryland Council of chapters web page at <https://www.mdmoaa.org/>

The governor recently signed into law Maryland House Bill 842 (2026). It authorizes local governments to grant a property tax credit on a home for surviving spouses of military service members who don't qualify for an existing exemption. It applies to local property taxes and takes effect for taxable years beginning after June 30, 2026.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL. WE NEED YOU!

Annual Membership Fee. New members joining the Chapter during January – June pay no dues for the current year. Those who join in July – December will pay no dues during the current year and following calendar year. Annual dues are \$20 after the free year.

We recently made it easier to pay Chapter dues, just click on the following link: <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/susquehanna-chapter-dues-payments/items>

Your support over the past year has been appreciated, and we would hate to lose you. Over the past years, the Chapter has been instrumental in fighting for your benefits as a service member in Maryland at the legislative, legal, and community levels and indirectly at the national level through MOAA. Susquehanna Chapter of MOAA Membership annual dues (except the first year) are needed to be received by the end of each calendar year.

A detailed membership application and renewal form is located at the end of this newsletter. For further information, please contact our Membership Chair.

National MOAA and local affiliate membership are two distinct memberships. You do not have to be a National MOAA member to join the Susquehanna Chapter, although membership in both the local and National organizations is encouraged. Submitting your dues payment through this online application is for Susquehanna chapter dues (joins/renewals) only.

If you are attempting to join/renew for National MOAA, please go to: <https://www.moaa.org/join> If you need any assistance in accessing your account, please email us at info@moaasusquehanna.org. Thank you very much for your continued support of the Susquehanna Chapter of The Military Officers Association of America.

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MILITARY RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY

APG will be hosting the 2026 Military Retiree Appreciation Day, Thursday, 17 September, at APG-North Recreation Center. See flyer attached for details.

NATIONAL NEWS

NDAA Narrowly Clears House: What's Next for the Must-Pass Defense Bill

By: Kevin Lilley

The annual defense policy bill passed the House by a four-vote margin July 22, the latest step forward for the \$1.15 trillion legislation amid many competing congressional priorities.

The chamber's version of the FY 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) would: · Authorize a tiered pay raise, with servicemembers E-5 and below receiving a 7% increase, E-6 to O-3 getting a 6% boost, and O-4 and above earning a 5% raise. · Address several MOAA priorities, to include duty status reform and military child care improvements. · Reverse planned cuts to more than 40 military hospitals and clinics, while addressing other health care issues such as access to care barriers and requiring an audit of the TRICARE Pharmacy Program.

What's Next It's unlikely the Senate will consider the House version, as that chamber has its own draft (S. 4784) with a similar topline authorization figure. It includes an across-the-board 3.6% pay raise, among other differences from the House version.

It is unclear whether the Senate version will reach that chamber's floor for a vote before Aug. 7, when members are scheduled to leave Washington for their state work period. The Senate isn't scheduled to reconvene until Aug. 31.

Once the Senate passes its NDAA draft, a joint conference committee usually negotiates a final version of the bill that must be passed by both chambers. The process usually lasts most of the calendar year – the last five NDAAs have been signed into law in December, while the FY 2021 NDAA took even longer: The Senate overrode a presidential veto on Jan. 1, 2021, for that bill to take effect.

MOAA will continue to engage with lawmakers and their staffs on key provisions of the NDAA as the legislative process moves forward. Keep up with the latest on this legislation and other MOAA advocacy priorities at our advocacy news page, and learn how you can reach out to your lawmakers via our Legislative Action Center.

Army May Revisit Arlington National Cemetery Eligibility Rule

By: Jen Goodale

Veterans and military families who have been following the future of Arlington National Cemetery should prepare to engage. The Army intends to revisit a proposed rule that would significantly narrow eligibility for in-ground burial and inurnment at the cemetery, Karen Durham-Aguilera, executive director of the Office of Army Cemeteries/Army National Military Cemeteries, said during a June 30 hearing before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. Among those who could lose eligibility under the proposal are many retirees who served honorable careers but did not receive certain valor awards or meet other newly established criteria. The Army is reviewing the proposal, first published in response to section 598 of the FY 2019 National Defense Authorization Act, in light of updated burial projections and ongoing efforts to preserve cemetery capacity while continuing to honor those who served, Durham-Aguilera said.

The proposal generated nearly 2,000 public comments, mostly from those concerned the new rule would depart from Arlington's long-standing tradition of honoring career servicemembers.

Protecting Earned Benefits

MOAA has long worked to preserve eligibility for the nation's most iconic military cemetery while recognizing the legitimate need to ensure it remains available for future generations.

As part of that effort, MOAA has partnered with the office of Rep. Lisa McClain (R-Mich.) on the Expanding America's National Cemetery Act, which would help address long-term capacity challenges by expanding national cemetery options. Although the bill has not yet been reintroduced in the 119th Congress, MOAA continues to pursue legislative solutions that preserve burial opportunities for today's servicemembers and retirees without reducing service-earned benefits.

A member of MOAA's government relations team, accompanied by a MOAA Life member, recently met with staffers in McClain's office to discuss the issue. MOAA representatives urged the congresswoman's staff to request the Army formally rescind the proposed rule and start over with a new process, one that better balances Arlington's future capacity needs with the promises made to generations of servicemembers.

While recent testimony does not indicate which direction the Army will take with the rule – finalizing, amending, or rescinding – MOAA members must be prepared to engage with lawmakers and urge them to preserve current eligibility standards for Arlington National Cemetery. Look for updates on this issue and other MOAA priorities at our advocacy news page and our Legislative Action Center.

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CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

President	BG Robert Beahm, USA (Ret)	info@moaasusquehanna.org
Vice President	COL Ivan Montanez; USA (Ret)	info@moaasusquehanna.org
Membership	COL Ted Newing, USA (Ret)	info@moaasusquehanna.org
Programs	Keith Reagan USA LTC Reserve (Ret)	info@moaasusquehanna.org
Treasurer	MAJ Sidney (Bill) Beddow, USA (Ret)	info@moaasusquehanna.org
Secretary	Connie Richardson	info@moaasusquehanna.org
Legislative Affairs	LTC Bob Brown, USA (Ret)	info@moaasusquehanna.org
Newsletter	LCDR Lawrence Archer, USN (Ret)	info@moaasusquehanna.org
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Webmaster	MAJ Sidney (Bill) Beddow, USA (Ret)	info@moaasusquehanna.org
Director	MAJ Jessica Ryu, USMC, Active	info@moaasusquehanna.org
Director	MAJ Cathy Hampton, USA (Ret)	info@moaasusquehanna.org
Immediate Past President	Keith Reagan USA LTC Reserve (Ret)	info@moaasusquehanna.org
Surviving Spouse Liaison	Connie Richardson	info@moaasusquehanna.org
Community Outreach	Vacant	

ABOUT MOAA

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization. <http://moaa.org>. The Chapter is an affiliate of the national MOAA. Like MOAA National, the Chapter is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.

The MOAA Legislative Action Center provides information regarding MOAA's top national legislative priorities for the year and COLA, as well as perspective on issues in the military community that could affect you and your family <http://takeaction.moaa.org>

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If you are not a member of MOAA, you can join at <http://bit.ly/JoinMOAA>. Membership in MOAA is separate from membership in the Susquehanna Chapter.

MOAA MISSION

To preserve and protect earned benefits for our uniformed services, veterans, their families, and surviving spouses through:

Advocacy, Leadership, Education, and Service.

Advocacy Highlights:

Pay Raises for all ranks, Widows Tax repeal, MTF restructuring delays, protecting TRICARE benefits, military housing reforms, PACT Act support, MISSION Act reforming VA programs, GI Bill upgrades, COLA adjustment improvements.

Current Legislative Goals:

Compensations and Service-Earned Benefits, Military Housing, Health Care for currently serving, retirees, and veterans, Survivor families benefits, and improve Guard and Reserves pay and health coverage.

SUSQUEHANNA CHAPTER MOAA:

Susquehanna Chapter, a 501(c)(19) nonprofit organization was affiliated in October 1969 with the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), formerly TROA. Chapter members live in Harford and Cecil Counties. We promote the MOAA purposes and objectives to foster fraternal relations among retired, active and former officers of the eight uniformed services and the Reserve Components.

The chapter has 60 active members, who are currently serving, former, and retired officers, and their spouses and widows/widowers. Working through the Chapter, we provide assistance to our membership, enabling them to continue to serve their nation and communities, maintain contact with the other services, and enjoy social fellowship with people who share common values of patriotism, honor and selflessness.

Our Chapter helps provide critical grassroots support for MOAA's national legislative agenda. Our benefits are under attack, and MOAA is in the fight to preserve them. Chapter members let their legislators know what's on their minds and open doors for MOAA's legislative team in Washington, D.C. In these difficult times, our chapters are the best way we know to do that.

At the local level we successfully advocated for reduction of Harford County property taxes for retired veterans and reductions of MD State taxes on retired pay for military members and first responders. We sponsored

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scholarships, engaged Harford County Board of Education to establish a JROTC program, and continue to coordinate community outreach to schools for Veteran Poster essay contests. We coordinated COVID 19 grants for qualifying veterans, volunteered with the Susquehanna Habitat for Humanity, and participate in local veteran memorial activities.

MOAA SIGNATURE GROUPS

**Join MOAA Leadership and your fellow MOAA members
on these hosted cruises and land tours.**

July 12-21, 2026	Highlights of Eastern Europe River Cruise	9-nights from \$3,999
October 1-10, 2026	Western Europe Yacht Cruise	9-nights from \$4,999
April 25-May 2, 2027	Castles Along the Rhine River Cruise	7-nights from \$4,199
July 19-27, 2027	France & Spain Yacht Cruise	8-nights from \$5,799
September 14-25, 2027	Circle Iceland Yacht Cruise	11-nights from \$8,999
Sept. 25-Oct. 4, 2027	Battlefields of WWI & WWII Tour	10 days from \$6,495

GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES *from* The Official Travel Agency of MOAA



Toll-Free Telephone: **1-800-211-5107**

Email Address: **mail@MOAAvac.com**



For complete details, including detailed day-by-day itinerary, please visit us online

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**Standing with you
at every stage.**

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www.moaainsurance.com/plans

100392



 **MOAA**[®]
SUSQUEHANNA
CHAPTER

Let's celebrate another successful Chapter year at the Annual Membership Picnic!

When: Saturday, 19 September 2026, 1200-1500
Where: Ruggles Golf Course Clubhouse
1st Avenue, Bldg 4490, APG, MD 21005
How much: \$25 for Members and guests over 18;
Guests under age 18 are free

Food will be catered by First Sergeant's Barbeque:

- Pulled Pork
- Pulled Chicken
- Green Beans
- Cole Slaw
- Potato Salad
- Rolls

YUM! **YUM!**

Drinks will be available from the clubhouse bar

And a special performance by
Victor Oriza, Magician and Mentalist

++Plus++

Receive 6 free raffle tickets when you bring an appetizer, dessert, or raffle item

RSVP and prepay **NLT 10 September 2026** to
<https://www.moaasusquehanna.org/>

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Victor Oriza Captivating Minds. Redefining the Impossible.

- ◆ Stage Magician and Mentalist whose sophisticated fusion of psychological illusion and sleight of hand goes beyond traditional magic to create an interactive journey.
- ◆ Based in Maryland and serving the Washington DC Metro area, Victor brings a sophisticated, global perspective to the art of deception.
- ◆ With over a decade of experience performing at high-end corporate galas and private events, Victor specializes in creating moments that leave the audience breathless.
- ◆ ***“How did he do that??”*** Victor delivers a refined style of mind-reading and interactive magic designed for a sophisticated audience.
- ◆ Prepare yourself for up-close, engaging, mind-bending magic

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**Military Retiree
Appreciation Day**

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Thursday, 17 September 2026

APG-North Recreation Center
6432 Ashbury St, Bldg 3326, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005

Open to all military retirees, immediate family and surviving spouses from all branches and components.

Connect with service providers offering valuable resources including:
Health Care | VA Compensation | Education Benefits | VA Benefits & more

Informational Briefing Sessions from:

- Health & Medical Professionals*
VA Health Care | TRICARE Options
- Benefits & Access Contacts*
VA Benefits | On Post Privileges
- Legal & Financial Experts*
Legal Updates | Fraud Prevention

 Scan QR Code to Pre-Register!
Registration will be available at event.

Contact APG Retirement Services Office at:
apgrso@army.mil | (410) 306 - 2322 / 2323

Food Sponsor:
 **AUSA**
ASSOCIATION OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMY










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MEMBERSHIP DUES FORM (New & Renewal)

Susquehanna Chapter

Name _____
Last First MI

Information below is only required if it has changed. ___New ___Renewal

Mailing _____
Address Street City State Zip Code

Home _____
Address* Street City State Zip Code

*If different from mailing address

Home Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____

Office Phone # _____

e-mail address _____ @ _____

MOAA National Member ___ No ___ Yes MOAA National Membership Number _____

Annual Membership Fee. New Members joining the Chapter during January – June pay no dues for the current year. Those who join in July – December pay no dues during the current year and following year. Annual dues are \$20. Please complete this form and submit it with your check for the appropriate amount, payable to "Susquehanna Chapter, MOAA" Mail this form to:

Membership Chair

Susquehanna Chapter, MOAA

PO Box 243

Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005

Dues enclosed are for ___2026 ___2027 ___2028 ___2029 ___2030 ___ Lifetime Membership

You may also pay at the Chapter website, logon, go to My Account and then click Renew Your Chapter Membership, or you may pay online at the MOAA National website

[Susquehanna Chapter Dues Payments - Cheddar Up](#)

Lifetime Membership: If you are 70 years of age or older, and not in arrears for dues, you are eligible to become a Lifetime Member of the Susquehanna Chapter. The one-time fee for Lifetime Membership is 80- your age x \$20.00. Lifetime membership cannot be paid online. Lifetime Membership in the Susquehanna Chapter does not convey Lifetime Membership in MOAA. Payment for Lifetime Member status must be paid via check to the address above.

Please contact Ted Newing at ted.newing@gmail.com with questions about your dues status.

Serving the Community and the Nation since 1969
One of the oldest Chapters in the Maryland Council
www.moaasusquehanna.org