

Hilton Head Area Chapter
Military Officers Association of
America

September-October 2026
Volume 9 Issue 4

The Hilton HeadLiner

Brigadier General
Mitchell LeClaire
Chapter President

Now that the Summer heat has subsided a bit, it's time to enjoy the Autumn breezes and the many festivals in our area. I hope that everyone is back from travels and ready to attend our Chapter meetings as we have a great lineup.

Our October meeting will be at the Golf Club at Indigo Run and our special guest and presenter will be our current South Carolina Council President LTC(R) Jim Albert.

Our Chapter will host the Veterans Day program at the Veterans Park. Hope you can attend as BG Peter Glass will be the keynote speaker. Join us for lunch at Posiedon following the ceremony.

December will be at Wise Guys and feature MAJ(R) Ted Steinhauser who is considered an authority on cyber security.

Many thanks to 1st Vice President Ted Janosko for his efforts in securing speakers.

NEVER STOP SERVING!



2025-Star Award for The
Hilton Head Area Chapter



2025 5-Star Award for The
Hilton HeadLiner



MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers.

It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.

First Vice President, Programs
Theodore Janosko, COL US Army Ret.

Thanks for all you do. Wanted to update everyone on several topics

1. **Meetings.** I hope you enjoyed our meeting in August. One of our own surviving spouses and author, Annelore Harrell, gave an entertaining rendition of life in early Bluffton. Everyone seemed to enjoy the British Pub although seating was limited to 36 members. The South Carolina MOAA Council President, James Albert, will address the chapter on October 15th. I Hope to see you there.
2. **Future trips.** Since car-pooling worked so well in March, we are considering several other meetings that we would recommend car-pooling to attend. We are scheduled to do a joint meeting with the Low Country chapter on March 17, 2027 at Parris Island. We are trying to get the post commander to speak at the Traditions (old officer club). Folks could also visit the museum. In August 2027 we are looking at a trip to the innovation center and drone training at Hunter Army Airfield (eating at the post dining facility).
3. **SC Council.** The South Carolina MOAA Council had a zoom meeting on August 8, 2026. The guest speaker was Major Sharron Mackey of the National MOAA Board. We received an update on legislation (TCAVA) and the Total Force conference in FEB 2027. She talked about the composition of the Board and the class of 2032. She also discussed how to increase membership and attract younger officers.
4. **Fund Raising.** Still looking for ideas. We are fortunate that many of our members are very well off. We donate very well to a variety of organizations and can now do so using Cheddar-up. I believe that we can host one or two fundraisers a year and donate the proceeds to our scholarships and the OPFOB. We've had several thoughts, and I would like to hear your ideas. Currently I am pursuing chapter coins and a golf tournament since we have several golfers in the chapter.

Military Veterans' Coalition (MVC)

Dennis Flynn, COL US Army Ret.

Hilton Head Island Area Military Veterans Coalition (MVC)

The Military Veterans Coalition (MVC) Board of Directors held its 2026 third quarterly meeting on Friday, September 18. The main topic of discussion at that meeting was the Hilton Head Island Veterans Day Ceremony which is coming up on November 11th. The ceremony begins at 10:30 a m and will end at approximately 11:30 am. It will be held at the Hilton Head Island Veterans Memorial at 59 Shelter Cove Lane, Hilton Head Island - weather permitting. In case of inclement weather, there will be signs posted at the entrance to the Veterans Memorial directing everyone to go to St Andrew By-The-Sea United Methodist Church at 20 Pope Ave, Hilton Head Island. Your Hilton Head Island Area MOAA Chapter has the honor of coordinating the 2026 Veterans Day Ceremony for the MVC. Brigadier General Peter C. Glass, US Army who is the Deputy Commanding General of U.S. Army Central & Third Army will be the Keynote Speaker. BG Glass is from Hilton Head Island. He was commissioned from the Citadel. His parents, Colonel Jerry and Maureen Glass live on Hilton Head Island. Jerry is a member of the Board of Directors of the Hilton Head MOAA Chapter and Maureen is very active in the MOAA Chapter activities. Both are also very active in other community activities as well.

Brigadier General Mitchell LeClaire, U.S. Army (Ret), President of the MOAA Chapter will be our Master of Ceremonies. Rev Steve A. Patterson Jr, recently arrived Lead Pastor of St Andrew By-The-Sea United Methodist Church, will be the Chaplain. Mayor Alan Perry will present the Town of Hilton Head Island Proclamation designating Nov 1 as the official day to recognize our Hilton Head Island Veterans. Music will be by the Hilton Head Choral Society directed by Dr Dustin Ousley. Bugle Calls will be by Billy Howe. Navy JROTC Cadets from Hilton Head High School led by SGM John Wyatt, USMC (Ret) will be the Color Guard and do the reading and provide usher assistance. Jay Graves American Legion Post 185 Commander will conduct the "Pledge of Allegiance". Joseph Buckingham Jr American Legion Post 42 Commander will toll the bell 11 times to commemorate the signing of the Armistice of World War One on the 11th day of the 11th Month 1918. Special thanks also to the many other folks who give their time and talents to make this event happen.

As they have done for many Veterans Days, Colonel and Mrs. Glass have arranged for a very nice luncheon for MOAA Members and guests following the Ceremony. The luncheon will be held on the second floor at the Poseidon Restaurant at 38 Shelter Cove Lane. You will find a flyer for the Veterans Day Luncheon with the menu selections; bar specials; and prices in this HeadLiner. There will be time for socializing at the Poseidon as people make their way from the ceremony to the restaurant.

This event is free and open to the Public. Please take a moment and add this 2026 Veterans Day Ceremony to your calendar now. Bring your family and friends. Thank you.

Visit website at
[Hilton Head Island Veterans Memorial](#)
[Park](#)



COL Ted Janosko Programs

If you have ideas for speakers, programs or venues, please contact Ted Janosko at tjjanosko@gmail.com.

The MOAA Board of Directors meets the First Wednesday of the month at 11:45 at the Bluffton Public Library or at The Crazy Crab, Jarvis Creek. Members are welcome to attend.

Please check with one of the Board members to determine the location

Thursday 15 October 2026 - British Open Pub, Bluffton. Guest Speaker: James Albert, President SC Council MOAA

Wednesday 11 November 2026 - Veterans Day Memorial Service at the Shelter Cove Veterans Memorial Park. Lunch, 2nd floor Poseidon following Veterans Day Ceremony.

Thursday 10 December 2026 - Holiday Luncheon at Wise Guys, Hilton Head Island. Guest Speaker is Ted Steinhauser, cybersecurity.

Thursday 21 January 2027 - Old Oyster Factory, 101 Marshland Rd, Hilton Head Island. Guest Speaker is Tank Michaels, MOAA National and installation of officers.

Thursday 18 March 2027 at the Traditions on Parris Island. Speaker will be a USMC Base leader.

Thursday May 20 2027 Wise Guys, JROTC Recognition Luncheon

Hilton Head Area Chapter Military Officers
Association of America

HHI MOAA

PO Box 22631

Hilton Head Island, SC 29925

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Surviving Spouse Liaison
Marilyn Janosko, CPT, U.S. Army

Surviving Spouse Corner: Add Your Voice on These Legislative Priorities

By: Pat Green

September 02, 2026

National MOAA's [Legislative Action Center](#) is a valuable resource for the surviving spouse community. This online tool provides intent and particulars of MOAA-support bills as well as the opportunity to contact your elected officials on the legislation.

While all bills listed in the Legislative Action Center are important, a number of them deserve the attention of the surviving spouse community. Here are a few:

Strengthening Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for Surviving Families: Under the [proposed provision](#) authored by Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson, DIC would increase by 1% each year in addition to the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for three years, to a total of 3%. This incremental step toward parity with other federal DIC beneficiaries can help veteran families manage rising costs for basic necessities.

Allowing Survivors to Move Forward: [The Love Lives On Act](#) addresses the remarriage penalty burdening survivors. Currently, surviving spouses who remarry before reaching age 55 lose important benefits, such as DIC and survivor benefits. The Love Lives On Act would allow surviving spouses to retain these benefits regardless of remarriage at any age. TRICARE eligibility would be restored if a subsequent marriage ends in death, divorce, or annulment. The choice to rebuild a life and a family should not have these financial consequences. The veteran's sacrifice should be met with the nation's commitment to care for the family left behind.

[RELATED: [Why Does MOAA Support the Take Care of America's Veterans Act?](#)]

As surviving spouses, we understand that no benefit can ever replace the person we lost, however, families and surviving spouses depend on this assistance. It is our duty to remind Congress that these benefits are part of the promise our nation makes to those who serve and the spouses and families who stand beside them.

Surviving Spouse Liaison
Marilyn Janosko, CPT, U.S. Army

Recognizing the Reality of ALS: The VA recognizes amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, ALS, as a presumptive service-connected condition for certain veterans that results in a 100% disability rating. Current law requires a veteran to have been totally disabled for eight continuous years prior to death for a surviving spouse to receive enhanced DIC. The average life expectancy of someone with ALS is two to five years after diagnosis. This is problematic — most sufferers with this disease don't live long enough to meet the eight-year requirement. The Justice for ALS Veterans Act is a remedy. It would allow eligible surviving spouses to receive increased DIC regardless of how long the veteran lived with the disease.

Legislation is a fluid process, bills are written, amended, and recombined. At this time, the [Take Care of America's Veterans Act](#) combines the three acts mentioned above and gives Congress the opportunity to improve these programs at once.

[Contact your lawmakers](#) about the Take Care of America's Veterans Act

CW5 John Marcinowski, USA
2nd Vice President - Membership

Welcome to New Members

- MG USA John Hussey and his wife Janice
- Lt. USN Lillian Ramirez and her husband Anthony
- CW5 USA Delynn Gibson and his wife Brandy

National Defense Authorization Act for Budget Year 2027, NDAA2027

With the NDAA 2027 unlikely to be passed by 30 September, Continuing Resolutions (CR) have been proposed in both the House and the Senate.

The House of Representatives agreed to the Senate version of the CR and forwarded the proposal to the President. The President signed the CR on September 2, 2026. The CR allows spending to continue at the 2026 levels until December 11, 2026, preventing a government shutdown at the start of October.

Taking Care of America's Veterans Act

The Taking Care of America's Veterans Act is 2026 congressional bill, H.R 9237 and S 4744, that reforms veteran's benefits, expands health care and mental-health programs.

The bill includes:

- Allows concurrent receipt of disability compensation and military retired pay for certain combat-related retirees. Major Richard Starr Act
-
- Extends benefits to remarried surviving spouses.
-
- Expands support for family caregivers.
-
- Improves claims processing and VA administration
- Improves Education and Economic Opportunity
- Modifies coverage of independent study programs under VA education benefits.
- Requires Transition Assistance Program (TAP) counseling to include VA benefits presentation

The MOAA Newsletter is an **award-winning** member-only e-newsletter subscription that provides information on topics most important to MOAA members, like looking for updates on current legislative issues, military benefits, or the latest MOAA events. The MOAA Newsletter is included for free as part of your MOAA membership.

[MOAA - The MOAA Newsletter](#)

We're excited to announce that **MOAA's Legislative Action Center** has a new look—redesigned to improve your experience and make it easier to engage on the issues that matter most.

With a streamlined layout and updated navigation, the Action Center now features:

Featured Advocacy Campaigns: Spotlights MOAA's top priorities, and will change depending on what is gaining traction.

Advocacy by Issue Area: A refreshed layout, allowing you to browse topics such as Currently Serving, DoD Health Care, and Retirees & Veterans.

Latest Advocacy News: A new section combining videos, timely analysis, and links to MOAA's most recent advocacy updates.

These enhancements are part of our broader goal to make the Action Center your one-stop-shop for legislative engagement, news, and other important tools.

[Join MOAA's Advocacy!](#)

OPERATION MORALE SUPPORT

Operation Morale Support continues to support military units serving in isolated locations around the world. They currently provide care packages to units in Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Djiboudi, Africa and South Korea.

Items typically requested by the units include the following;

Snacks	Cookies
Candy	Baby Wipes
Holiday decorations	Battery operated lights
Instant Coffee	Hygiene Products
Ground coffee	Toiletries
Microwave popcorn	Electrolyte packages
Flaming Hot Cheetos (small)	Trail mix
Foot care products	Tea
	Feminine Products (thin pads/ tampons)

If you would like to support our troops abroad, let me know what you have to donate and I will make arrangements to take the items to Marjie Gaynor, Founder of Operation Morale Support. You can contact me at hh.moaa@gmail.com. Monetary donations are also welcome to offset the cost of postage. You can donate on-line at the MOAA donations site by clicking here

[Operation Morale Support](#).

**Holly Bosworth, LTC US Army
Webmaster/Newsletter Editor**

The Cheddar Up online payment system simplifies membership management for chapters and councils by offering secure payment processing, customizable member experiences, and streamlined record-keeping. It reduces administrative burdens and enhances the MOAA brand.

The goals of Cheddar Up are to make joining a chapter or renewing membership easier and simplifying tracking payments, collection of information from members and record keeping.

We can customize the experience by providing receipts that include membership information, sending messages with dues or event reminders, etc.; allowing for recurring payments/auto renew; including a link to make donations to the chapter; and letting members order meal selections or purchase tickets in advance of meetings and events.

Look for the QR Code or weblink on flyers to access Cheddar Up and payment information.

******* If you are unable or choose not to use the URL link or QR Code to register for events, you can still send a check in the mail with your name and meal selections. Mailing address is HH MOAA, PO BOX 22631, Hilton Head Island, SC 29925**

Join Hilton Head Area Chapter MOAA on FACEBOOK

Please click on the link and request to join the group. After Mike Minton accepts your request to join the group, please check out the Facebook page and provide any feedback you may have.

[Hilton Head Area Chapter MOAA](#)





**The Hilton Head Area Chapter of
The Military Officers Association of America
General Membership Luncheon**

Thursday 15 October 2026

The Golf Club at Indigo Run, 101 Berwick Drive, Hilton Head Island

11:30 AM Social time; 12:00 PM Lunch

Program: Jim Albert, President, SC MOAA Council

Menu

Cobb Salad - Mixed greens, topped with grilled chicken, sliced avocado, grape tomatoes, blue cheese crumbles, bacon bits, egg, balsamic vinaigrette

Gourmet Turkey Wrap - Sliced avocado, smokehouse bacon, heirloom tomato, Boursin cheese, Arcadian greens, cilantro aioli, French Fries

Club Burger - Chuck, short rib and brisket patty, Cheddar cheese, lettuce, tomato, onion, toasted brioche bun, French Fries

Cost: \$30.00 per person

Reservations must be received by Thursday 8 October

Name _____

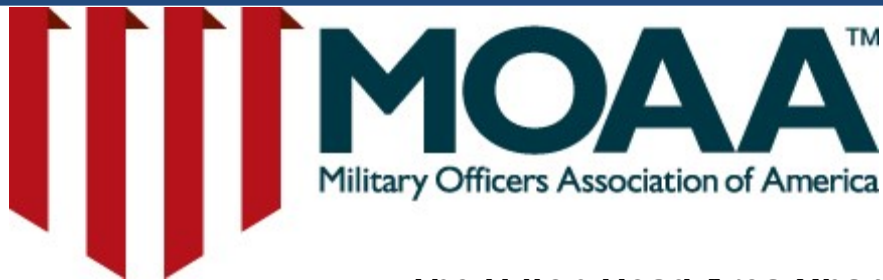
Salad _____ **Turkey Wrap** _____ **Burger** _____

Mail with your check to HH-MOAA, PO Box 22631, Hilton Head Island, SC 29925

Cheddar Up Link

my.cheddarup.com/c/15-october-moaa-luncheon





**The Hilton Head Area Chapter of
The Military Officers Association of America
Veterans Day Luncheon**

Tuesday 11 November 2025

Poseidon Coastal Cuisine
38 Shelter Cove Lane, Shelter Cove Towne Centre,
Hilton Head, SC 29926

11:30 AM Social time; 12:00 PM Lunch

ENTREE COURSE

BAJA SALAD WITH GRILLED SHRIMP: Mixed Greens, Roasted Corn, , Black Beans, Cucumber, Grape Tomatoes, Monterey Jack Cheese, Avocado, Red Chili Ranch Dressing & Tortilla Strips

4oz GRILLED SALMON: Lemon Butter Sauce served with Chef's Accompaniments

CHICKEN PICATTA: Lemon Caper Sauce with Chef's Accompaniments

TOMATO PIE WITH SMALL SIDE SALAD: Fresh Tomato, Mozzarella, Parmesan, Garlic & Herbs served with a Small Garden Salad

DESSERT COURSE
SEASONAL CHEESECAKE

BAR : CASH BAR

Guests Responsible for their own Tabs

SPECIAL WINE & BLOODY MARY PRICING
- \$6 per glass/each

Iced Tea/Coffee Service included

Cost: \$30.00 per person

[Click here to register with Cheddar Up](#)

[If you choose not to use Cheddar Up](#)



Name _____

Baja Salad _____ Salmon _____ Chicken _____

Tomato Pie _____

Reservations must be received by Thursday 4 November

Mail with your check to HH-MOAA, PO Box 22631, Hilton Head Island, SC 29925

Please complete this page and mail with your donation check, payable to MOAA-HH,
PO Box 22631, Hilton Head, SC 29925

2026 HH MOAA membership Renewal Form

Dues \$30.00 Scholarship _____ Outreach _____ OPFOB _____

Operation Morale Support _____ Total _____

Please complete the following to ensure that your personal information is accurately reflected in the 2026 directory. **(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)**

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Rank _____ Branch of Service _____

Active _____ Retired _____ Former _____

National MOAA Membership Number* (REQUIRED) _____

Street Address _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ Cell _____ or Mobile _____

Email Address _____

Name of Spouse _____

Spouse's email _____

*Chapter By-Laws: Article IV - Membership, Section 6 - Regular members are required to hold and maintain membership in The Military Officers Association of America. Auxiliary members are encouraged but not required to hold and maintain such membership. Go to the [MOAA Home page](#) to find your National MOAA member number or call MOAA Member Service Center 8AM-6PM Monday through Friday at 800-234-6622 or 703-549-2311. You can also email them at msc@moaa.org,

You can now renew and pay your annual membership dues on line with our new Cheddar-Up program. Click [here](#) to go to Cheddar-Up or use the QR Code below.



NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

Please complete this page and mail with your donation check, payable to MOAA-HH, PO Box 22631, Hilton Head, SC 29925

Membership dues are waived for the first year

Enclosed

Dues \$30.00 Scholarship _____ Outreach _____ OPFOB _____

Operation Morale Support _____ Total _____

Please complete the following to ensure that your personal information is accurately reflected in the directory.
(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Rank _____ Branch of Service _____

Active _____ Retired _____ Former _____

National MOAA Membership Number* (REQUIRED) _____

Street Address _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Name of Spouse _____

Spouse's email _____



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