



## PMOAA BEACON

*Home of the Blue Angels - Pensacola, FL  
A 5 Star Chapter 2003 - 2019, 2021 - 2024*

*Printed Newsletter Award -  
2008, 2010, 2011, 2019 - 2024*

*Website Winner -  
2010, 2011, 2012, 2018 - 2024*

<https://pmoaa.org>

*June 2025*



## President's Corner

It has been a busy 2025 so far. Can you believe that we have the first half of this year almost in the rearview mirror? I am finding that time is flying by faster and faster as I get older. Maybe another reminder to "Stop and smell the roses" along life's journey. Enjoy your life, love your family and friends, and find ways to express your gratitude for all the blessings life brings us.

A few of those blessings are coming your way in June with our annual Picnic and Bingo party at The Oaks aboard NAS Pensacola on June 12 starting at 1730. The bar will be open until about 1830 with the food service starting at 1810 or so. There is no "meeting" and NO Speaker, just good fun, food, camaraderie and a friendly game or two of Bingo. The menu can be found elsewhere in this **Beacon** and please take note of the wonderful desserts for your enjoyment!

Also, some of you may remember a few years ago when Baldwin County MOAA and the Mobile Chapter invited us to a joint meeting. This year they are again inviting us to join them on Thursday, June 19 from 1130-1330 at The Waterfront restaurant, 1 Yacht Club Dr, Daphne, AL 36526. The cost is \$30 per person. You will sign up on our website or call/email [info@pmoaa.org](mailto:info@pmoaa.org). We have to have the final headcount to them by June 10, so please sign up early. It was a fun meeting last time and I anticipate a similar experience this year. Menu and RSVP information can be found elsewhere in this **Beacon**.

The Scholarship Committee reported receiving 10+ application packets this year, more than in any recent year with good quality and four of which were local ROTC students from UWF. Charley Booton and his Committee have been working very diligently to increase the awareness of our scholarships, now \$3000 per awardee, within the ROTC units and this

year it appears to have taken hold. The Scholarship Banquet will be on July 31 at PYC starting at 1730. Please put that date on your calendar so you don't miss it.



went by the call sign, "Misty." Col Ahl provided an overview of the missions and statistics that gave good perspective on the "costs" of that war. We thank him for sharing his experiences and memories of the wonderful people he had the pleasure to serve within Vietnam and later in his 28-year Air Force career.

The May 15 Chapter meeting was very special as our own Col Gib Ahl, USAF (Ret) recounted his F-100 Super Sabre combat flying over Vietnam in a Top Secret



I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our June 12 Picnic and Bingo night at The Oaks and again the following week in Daphne, AL at The Waterfront restaurant for our 1130-1330 luncheon with the Baldwin County and Mobile MOAA Chapters. Please sign-up NOW for both events!!

**Your President, Ken Pyle**



PMOAA Coin

*Photos this page are courtesy of  
Christine Frazier and Charley Booton*



## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

As May draws to a close, Memorial Day is on my mind. As those who have served know, Memorial Day is the day we remember those that have given their all in the defense of our great nation.

Over a 31-year career I had the misfortune of losing many fellow service members. Some I knew well, some I did not but I feel the loss of each and every one of them. The last 15 months of my career I trained and deployed to Afghanistan as a Combat Advisor to the Afghan National Security Forces. While I was in the Navy, I was embedded with the Army, wearing Army Combat Uniforms. This was in 2008-2009 and we lost people. One young man comes to mind, LTJG Francis L. Toner IV. When I met and trained with Frank at Ft. Riley, KS in 2008, I was impressed by a young man of character, full of energy and ready to help his fellow service members. Frank died that way, unarmed, charging an Afghan National Army Guard who had shot two of his Shipmates. For his actions, Frank was posthumously awarded the Silver Star. If you have a moment, google his name and read about him. I am sure most have similar stories.



LTJG Francis L. Toner IV

I have chosen a few articles from the weekly MOAA newsletters in May. I hope you enjoy them and **Take Action** where appropriate. I have received my first response from our new Senator Ashley Moody when I contacted her concerning the Ships for America 2025 Act. It was just an acknowledgment of my message, but I expect to see a formal reply shortly.

You can support those efforts by being part of the action. A way to do that is to sign up for the MOAA legislative alerts visit [https://moaa.quorum.us/sign\\_in/](https://moaa.quorum.us/sign_in/).

To help you stay informed about issues, please consider subscribing to the MOAA Newsletter which is sent out two to four times per month on Thursdays via email. You can sign up for the newsletter at [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org). Please let me know how you think I can make this column better for you by sending an email to me at [p3dave@yahoo.com](mailto:p3dave@yahoo.com).

Also, if you are not aware, the Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC) publishes a newsletter every other month. It can be viewed here at <https://flmoaa.org/news/>

Your voice needs to be heard by our Florida Congressional Delegation. Please use some or all of the links available within this Legislative Affairs column and subscribe to the automatic notifications I mentioned above. The Pensacola Chapter of MOAA is a member of the Florida Council of Chapters, FCoC at [flmoaa.org](http://flmoaa.org) and an affiliate of the [Military Officers Association of America \(MOAA\)](http://moaa.org) who together are the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. We are an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization. MOAA has several critical legislative issues they are championing. Become an advocate and **Take Action NOW!** at <https://moaa.quorum.us/>

In this issue:

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- This Bipartisan Bill Would Cut Health Care Red Tape for Servicewomen, Military Families

## What the Proposed \$1 Trillion Defense Budget Means for Servicemembers, Families, and Retirees

(By MOAA Government Relations Staff from May 1st MOAA Newsletter.)

The first-ever proposed \$1 trillion defense budget includes [\\$150 billion in new spending](#) that addresses key MOAA priorities, including \$2.9 billion to restore the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) and end the need for servicemembers to pay 5% of their anticipated housing costs out-of-pocket.

The House Armed Services Committee's budget reconciliation draft would also fund improvements to unaccompanied housing, address childcare and spouse employment concerns, and add \$2 billion to the DoD health care budget, along with the temporary BAH increase. The legislation passed the panel April 29 by a 35-21 margin and heads to the House Budget Committee, but as it moves forward under the budget reconciliation process, the final bill remains uncertain while Congress seeks to capture \$1.5 trillion in spending cuts across the government.

Other key provisions addressing MOAA priorities found in the \$150 billion spending increase:

### Active Component

- **Unaccompanied Housing Funding:** Over \$1.2 billion in increases for facilities sustainment, restoration, and modernization.
- **Tuition Assistance:** A \$100 million boost to tuition assistance programs.
- **Temporary Lodging Expense (TLE) Expansion:** \$590 million to extend the time to house-hunt from 14 to 21 days.

### Families

- **Child Care Fee Assistance:** As DoD continues to find solutions to address child care shortages, the bill includes \$100 million to provide fee assistance to more military families.
- **Military Spouse Licensure:** The development of interstate compacts is a key component of ensuring military spouses working in licensed or credentialed fields can PCS across state lines with minimal interruptions. The bill includes \$10 million for continued efforts to enhance license portability.

### DoD Health Care

- **Defense Health Program (DHP) Funding Increase:** DHP will see \$2 billion more in funding, designed to address challenges across the military health system. However, the funds will not address TRICARE parity gaps or otherwise expand the military health care benefit.



## What Is Budget Reconciliation?

Budget reconciliation is a limited, but expedited, legislative process for Congress to align spending with the budget resolution. In early April, Congress adopted a budget resolution agreeing to a reduction in federal spending. Now, lawmakers are using the budget reconciliation process to conform with the budget resolution they passed.

This process can only be used to pass provisions that directly affect federal spending, revenues, or the debt limit – discretionary spending remains subject to the annual appropriations process. Additionally, this process cannot be filibustered, meaning a simple majority is needed in the Senate. And any adjustments cannot be in perpetuity – no permanent changes for issues like concurrent receipt, for example, can be made through this process. Even with these guardrails, lawmakers have a lot of latitude to reshape spending for the next decade.

The \$150 billion increase in defense spending has answered the call on many MOAA priorities, which will have positive effects for servicemembers, their families, and retirees. However, the potential impact on the network of services our community relies on through other departments and agencies remains uncertain. MOAA will continue advocating for improvements to our community's quality of life while striving to preserve the benefits we have earned.

## What REAL ID Rules Mean for Military-Connected Travelers

(By: Kevin Lilley from May 1<sup>st</sup> MOAA Newsletter)

All DoD-issued identification – to include IDs with indefinite expiration dates – will remain valid for airline travel after new REAL ID compliance rules take effect May 7, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officials confirmed with MOAA.

DoD IDs, including those issued to dependents, are [on the official TSA list of acceptable identification](#) “and will still be an acceptable form of ID following the implementation of REAL ID,” an official said via email. VA-issued [Veteran Health Identification Cards](#) (VHICs) are also on the approved list.

MOAA has fielded concerns from members who have encountered long delays or other challenges when using DoD-issued IDs at airports. Military.com first reported on issues faced by holders of IDs with [“INDEF” expiration dates](#) in 2024; at the time, TSA reportedly was considering removing “INDEF” IDs from the approved list because of issues with screening technology.

A [recent Military.com report](#) noted confusion surrounding the issue, including a since-deleted social media post from an Army installation falsely stating retiree and family member IDs would no longer be accepted after the REAL ID changeover.

### Rejected ID?

Asked what a military-connected traveler should do if their ID card is rejected, a TSA spokesman told MOAA via email that “[a] military ID should not be rejected, as it’s an acceptable form of ID. If this does happen, they should ask for a Supervisory Transportation Security Officer (STSO).”

For more about the REAL ID changeover, travelers can:

- [Access state-specific guidelines](#) and other REAL ID implementation information.

- Get [answers to frequently asked questions](#) about the REAL ID process.
- Contact [TSA Customer Service](#).

## More ID Card News

The REAL ID card move comes months before DoD completes an unrelated phase-out of its paper-based ID cards in favor of the Next Generation Uniformed Services ID Card.

“Replacement of all paper based USID cards with 4- or 5-year expiration dates will occur by December 31, 2025,” according to a March email to MOAA from the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), which stated that replacement of “INDEF” cards, such as those used by retirees and incapacitated dependents, “must be completed at the customer’s convenience prior to the paper-based card [form’s] termination in 2026.”

DoD has not announced a specific date when the paper cards would no longer be accepted. Those with older “INDEF” cards seeking a replacement can do so using the guidance available at [MOAA’s ID Card page](#).

## A Privatized Commissary System Would Put Your Service-Earned Benefit at Risk

(By: Cory Titus from May 8th MOAA Newsletter)

While recent DoD guidance suggests commissaries could be [“prioritized for privatization,”](#) the need to preserve the critical service-earned benefits provided by these stores outweighs potential savings found by turning them over to a for-profit enterprise.

Such a move would risk a benefit that allows young military families to make ends meet and allows retirees, disabled veterans, and survivors to keep up with rising costs.

Just as important under the existing budget climate, commissaries have shown an impressive return on investment: A former Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) director [cited FY 2023 figures](#) showing \$1.58 billion in savings by military families provided by \$1.421 billion in funding.

MOAA has long championed the need to protect the commissary benefit. [In 2016 testimony](#) to a House Armed Services Committee panel on military personnel, we broke down the numbers: Taxpayer funding for the commissary program was equivalent to a 2% across-the-board military raise, but the monetary value of the benefit for an E-5 with eight years of service and a family of four equaled a 9% raise. Younger members would find even greater savings, and those figures don’t include financial relief provided to retirees and survivors.

### The DoD Directive

[An April 7 memo](#) from Deputy Defense Secretary Steve Feinberg outlined “Guiding Principles for the Department of Defense Workforce Optimization,” with the goal of aligning “every part of our organization around the needs of the warfighter.”

The final recommendation offered: “All functions that are not inherently governmental (e.g., retail sales and recreation) should be prioritized for privatization.”

MOAA argues the retail sales associated with the commissary benefit are critical to the needs of the warfighter:

- **Financial Strength:** The financial benefit provided by these stores – by law, shoppers must save 23.7% compared with civilian outfits – is a key part of the compensation provided to those who serve. Privatization risks putting profit over the needs of these members and their families.
- **Global Presence:** The commissary offers a global network of 235 stores, all with the foremost obligation to serve those in uniform and their families. Servicemembers stationed on every corner of the globe can get a piece of home at a fair price – a key pillar of family readiness.
- **Commitment to Honoring Service:** A strong commissary system continues providing benefits well after service, helping keep the promise of taking care of all in uniform, their families, and their survivors.

These priorities can be achieved under the current system without the need to privatize. Commissary leaders are already making plans to become “a commercial grocery chain that happens to work for the Department of Defense,” [DeCA director John Hall said April 22](#) at a meeting of the American Logistics Association. “By that I mean we’ll offer all the [products and services](#), all those good things you see in a good commercial grocery chain, and while doing that, we’re going to continue to deliver 25% savings.”

Tools [like variable pricing](#) will help the agency reach this goal. MOAA looks forward to working DeCA officials in keeping the needs of the warfighter as the agency’s top priority.

### Lessons of Privatization

While a privatized system may result in short-term savings, past experience suggests the potential for long-term problems. Changes to military housing in the 1990s created a public-private partnership as a way to tackle an ever-growing maintenance backlog, but complaints about unsafe conditions continued, reaching a peak with a [Reuters investigation in 2019](#) that prompted congressionally mandated reforms.

Those efforts, with MOAA support, [continue in the 119th Congress](#) – about 30 years after the privatization took shape.

DoD officials can avoid similar problems by strengthening DeCA and allowing it to continue providing much-needed, service-earned savings to commissary shoppers.

Keep up with the latest on this issue and other MOAA priorities by visiting our [advocacy news page](#).

## Student-Veterans Are More Than ‘Dollar Signs in Uniform’: Ask Congress to Protect Their Benefits

(By: Jeff Goldberg from May 15<sup>th</sup> MOAA Newsletter)

MOAA joined fellow military and veterans service organizations May 13 to protect student-veterans from again becoming “dollar signs in uniform” – targets of predatory practices which could be restored by a recent House proposal as part of the budget reconciliation bill.

The plan would repeal the so-called “90/10 rule,” a limit on the amount of federal funds that can be collected by for-profit colleges. The repeal would cost an estimated \$1.6 billion over

10 years ... and may allow certain for-profit schools to financially exploit veterans.

Federal law requires for-profit colleges to derive at least 10% of their revenue from areas other than federally funded financial assistance, which can account for the other 90%. For many years, a loophole in that 90/10 rule put DoD- and VA-backed benefits, such as the GI Bill, outside that federal-fund definition. Thanks to the loophole, many for-profit colleges aggressively focused their recruiting efforts on servicemembers and veterans.

Before Congress [closed this loophole](#) with bipartisan 2022 legislation that took effect in 2023, these schools used it “to get more than their fair share of federal tax dollars,” said Allison Jaslow, CEO of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), which hosted the May 13 press event in Washington, D.C.

But [budget reconciliation language](#) recently passed by the House Education and Workforce Committee would not only undo the loophole, but also would remove the 90/10 funding provision altogether, replacing it with a “sector-neutral accountability plan.”

Now, Jaslow added, Congress must “rise to the challenge, protect the Post-9/11 GI Bill, stand up for the American taxpayer that believes in the nation’s newest generation of veterans, and prove they are on the side of student-veterans, not the for-profit universities.”

### ‘Promises That They Never Intended to Keep’

“Servicemembers, veterans, spouses, and family members have become highly attractive prospects to for-profit colleges, and many schools have put significant resources into recruiting and enrolling students eligible for these benefits,” according to [a 2012 Senate report](#), which noted that in many cases, veterans have simply become “dollar signs in uniform.”

Allison Muth, director of veteran’s services and civic engagement for Veterans Education Success (VES), told the audience at the May 13 event that she’d heard from “hundreds of veterans who were heavily recruited by schools that made lofty promises that they never intended to keep.”

Muth recounted stories of veterans receiving [dozens of phone calls and hundreds of emails](#) from for-profit schools, and of recruiting efforts that led one for-profit college to enroll a Marine with a traumatic brain injury who [couldn’t recall what course he was taking](#).

“Veterans deserve more protection from institutions that seek to take advantage of them and their education benefits, not less,” Muth said.

### Protecting Earned Benefits

The GI Bill is a foundational benefit, earned through service, and it must be safeguarded against misuse. The 90/10 rule, and the closing of the 90/10 loophole, was a necessary step to restore integrity and accountability in how federal funds, particularly those tied to military service, are used by educational institutions. Reversing this progress would undermine a bipartisan commitment to protecting veterans from aggressive and misleading recruitment practices.



MOAA urges Congress to maintain this safeguard and uphold the trust placed in them by the veteran community. [Click here to reach out to your lawmakers](#) and amplify this message.

We also need your help to ensure that certain educational institutions do not exploit service members and veterans; our work in the 119th Congress requires strong, steady engagement from MOAA members and partners.

Continued pressure from constituents is necessary to ensure lawmakers do not forget about veterans that utilize their educational earned benefits. We urge you to visit MOAA's [Legislative Action Center](#) to keep track of all MOAA legislative priorities.

## This Bipartisan Bill Would Cut Health Care Red Tape for Servicewomen, Military Families

(By: Kevin Lilley from May 15<sup>th</sup> MOAA Newsletter)

MOAA-endorsed, bipartisan legislation would ease TRICARE beneficiary access to obstetric and gynecologic care, eliminating the need for referrals and aligning TRICARE coverage with commercial plans.

The TRICARE OBGYN Treatment and Access Without Lags in Care Act (TOTAL Care Act) would require DoD to launch a five-year pilot program eliminating the need for OB-GYN referrals and would allow TRICARE Prime beneficiaries to select an OB-GYN provider “as an additional designated primary care manager.” This second provision would allow for greater continuity of care among military family members as well as active-duty servicewomen, who have reported OB-GYN access barriers under the existing system.

“Military personnel, and their loved ones serving alongside them, deserve the best care we can provide – not red tape for fundamental medical services,” said Rep. Steven Horsford (D-Nev.) [in a press release](#) announcing the introduction of the legislation (H.R. 1699) alongside Reps. Chrissy Houlahan (D-Pa.) and Maria Salazar (R-Fla.).

The Affordable Care Act eliminated the need for OB-GYN referrals as part of private-sector preventive health coverage. Removing the requirement for TRICARE beneficiaries would bring greater parity between TRICARE and private-sector plans – a long-standing goal of MOAA's health care advocacy.

## The Latest Step Forward

Initial language in the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement Act – the bill which became the vehicle for the House version of the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act – would have removed the referral requirement for servicewomen seeking “primary and preventive health care services” at military treatment facilities. This passage was struck from the final legislation, [according to an explanatory statement](#), because such care is already available for active duty servicemembers without a referral.

While these members can access such care, they may only do so through their [primary care manager](#) – not an OB-GYN – which could prevent them from accessing comprehensive care.

The TOTAL Care Act would require a report after the five-year pilot outlining any change in TRICARE Prime enrollment and the costs to provide OB-GYN care over the course of the program.

"With the increase in women joining the military, they shouldn't face added burdens for their service," Houlahan said in the release. "This bipartisan effort makes clear our servicemembers' health matters, and their care is essential to our national security. Quality health care builds stronger forces and keeps us mission ready."

Ask your lawmaker to [support this bipartisan, commonsense legislation today](#). Keep up with the bill, and with other MOAA legislative priorities, at [MOAA's advocacy news page](#).

**Compiled and Edited by  
Captain Dave Mitchell, USN (Ret)**

[illegible]

**BEACON Editor Needed**  
If you, or someone you know, would be  
interested in being the **BEACON** editor,

**please contact any Board Member or send  
an email to [Jean.Booton@pmoaa.org](mailto:Jean.Booton@pmoaa.org)**

[illegible]

Just a reminder, if you move, change your email address or phone number, please go on-line at <https://pmoaa.org>, log in with your user name and password and update your information. Or email [membership@pmoaa.org](mailto:membership@pmoaa.org) with your current information.



*Photos this page are courtesy of  
Christine Frazier and Charley Booton*

## **PMOAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING May 13, 2025**

President Ken Pyle called the Board of Director's meeting to order at 1605 at the Pensacola Yacht Club. Board members present were: RADM Joan Engel, CAPT Sue Varenholt, LtCol Bob Nelson, CDR Susan Ulloa, MAJ Molly Werner, Maj Charley Booton, Surviving Spouse Chair Mrs. Judy Dickson, and Beacon Editor Jean Booton. CAPT Meredith Yeager, LTC Karen Vinson-VanHouter, and CPT Dean Kirschner were excused.

**April 2025 BOD Minutes** – CAPT Varenholt moved to approve the April meeting minutes. The move was seconded by Maj Booton. All members present approved the motion.

**Treasurer Report** – Bank accounts balances are as follows: Total Bank Accounts - \$21,661.24; Total Assets Accounts - \$96,225.06. LtCol Nelson noted that as of this report, PMOAA has met its projected income for the current year. The President called for a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and Maj Booton responded, with a second motion made by CDR Ulloa. All Board members present concurred and the report was approved.

### **REPORTS**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President** – No report rendered.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President** Membership – MAJ Werner announced the addition of one new member this month whose spouse will be invited to share information regarding her volunteer service at Barrancas National Cemetery during the June picnic dinner at the Oaks. Membership for the month stands at 132.

**Survivor Assistance** – Mrs. Dickson followed up on last month's discussion with SS members request for a finance/estate seminar. Gail Joyce at MOAA referred her to a gentleman with the Cincinnati Chapter who conducted a one day tutorial there and provided Mrs. Dickson with some of his information from the class. The project took a year to develop and required a committee of several people and other resources. Mrs. Dickson will recommend that MOAA include the subject of estate planning in the training component for Surviving Spouse Liaisons. In the meantime, she provided links for requested information to a few of the SS members. Cookbook Project – the project is in full gear with a cover and divider design already completed. The group is currently working on the book title and in the process of collecting recipes. The book will be proof-read by three people and the printing company will provide one completed book for review and corrections before the full print order is underway. Members are asked to submit their favorite recipes, recipes with a special meaning to them, or ones that were special during a difficult time. A note about the recipe can be added after the recipe in "Recipe Notes". PMOAA members may submit their recipes at <https://www.typonsave.com/>, and enter ID/login name PMOAACookbook. The password is pickle985. There is also information regarding the cookbook on PMOAA.org/cookbook. Recipe collection sheets (for those who choose not to enter the recipe online) and cookbook pre-order forms will be available at the dinner/luncheon meetings for the next few months.

**Scholarship Committee** – Maj Booton received ten scholarship applications in total. One application was received after the deadline, another applicant was not enrolled in a 4-

year program, and a third did not meet program standards. In the end, the Committee selected seven students who will each receive a \$3000 award. Four selected are ROTC students – two from both the Air Force and Army. Four of the seven selectees are seeking degrees in the medical field. All will recite a synopsis of their submitted essays during the Scholarship Banquet in July. The Committee had concerns over the quality of some of the essays submitted with the applications but did note that the essay carried only 15% weight overall and all other qualifications were fully met by each of the applicants. A proposal to require applicant interviews for future candidates will be a topic for further discussion by the Committee members.

**Beacon** – Mrs. Booton requested that all submissions for publication in the Beacon be delivered to her as soon as possible, preferably by end of day, Friday May 16 as she will be traveling for 10 days beginning the 20<sup>th</sup>. The June Beacon may be distributed to the membership a few days later than normal as a result. She requested that Board meetings be added to the online calendar with the dinner/luncheon monthly meetings and recommended that all members planning to attend the luncheon on May 15 and picnic on June 12 be reminded of the ongoing roadway construction on base and the alternate route to The Oaks parking area. Regrettably, Mrs. Booton has offered her resignation as the Beacon editor after 10 years of dedicated and award-winning service. Her resignation will be effective in September following the publication of that month's Beacon.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Veterans Treatment Court** – President Pyle attended the VTC on May 6 and distributed the last of the gift cards from the MOAA grant monies to the remaining participants who continue to perform well in the program. Judge Dickson allowed him to make some remarks to the Court and hand out the gift cards during the court session. This event marked the end of PMOAA's participation in the Pensacola VTC.

**Challenge Coin** – CAPT Pyle has placed the Challenge Coin order and will be retrieving them from the vendor in time for the general membership luncheon. Challenge Coins may become available for purchase in the future to the PMOAA Membership. Should the Coin prove popular with the membership alternative, lower cost vendors may become accessible for future orders.

**NRT Report** – LtCol Nelson remarked on the uses of the NRT database and will be meeting with the incoming Membership Chair for next year to provide training. Now that the MOAA website has undergone the software improvements, the Membership Chair will resume the responsibility to reconcile the PMOAA membership database with the same membership information as that of MOAA. This includes assuring that all Chapter members are also members of MOAA, and adding Basic MOAA Membership status if they are not. Surviving Spouses are added to the database as members of PMOAA upon the death of the military spouse.

**Honorary Life Membership (HLM) Committee** – RADM Engel has reviewed the Chapter By-laws as they relate to HLM (*ARTICLE 1: MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING RIGHTS; SECTION A.3 HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS*) and proposed a change that would disband the HLM Committee and instead leave the decision to the Board of Directors to grant lifetime membership



to a nominated individual. Once selected, the Chapter President would notify the selected member by official letter. RADM Engel included a sample notification letter for the Board to review. Minor changes are pending to the letter and will be finalized at the next Board meeting. A motion was made to accept the change to the By-laws by MAJ Werner and seconded by CDR Ulloa. The members approved. The general membership will have the opportunity to vote on the recommended changes at the Business Meeting in November.

**Surviving Spouse Status Discussion** – Postponed to a future meeting.

**Our Community Salutes (OCS) Pensacola** – This event recognizes new enlistees to the military and will be held on May 15 at 1900 at the UWF Conference Center, 11000 University Parkway. CDR Ulloa will attend and represent PMOAA.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**JROTC** – President Pyle proposed forming a JROTC Fundraising Committee to help raise roughly \$10,000 to support the seven high schools in Escambia and Santa Rosa with JROTC programs. He is asking for a volunteer to Chair the Committee and lead the effort.

**PMOAA Brochure** – Maj Werner reminded all that the recruiting and information tri-fold brochure is due for updates for 2026 and asked for volunteers to meet with her to discuss ideas for brochure design and content.

**Meeting Attendance Survey** – CAPT Pyle and LtCol Nelson briefly discussed a survey conducted and shared by the Pike's Peak Chapter of MOAA. The focus was meeting attendance. The results were not discussed at this meeting but the Board may entertain the development of a survey for the local Chapter members to complete.

#### **Membership Meetings**

The next PMOAA membership meeting will be a luncheon at The Oaks Restaurant on NAS, Thursday May 15, 1100-1300 hours. The guest speaker will be PMOAA member Col Gib Ahl, USAF (R) on his Vietnam "Misty" pilot experiences.

In June, the membership meeting will be an evening "picnic" at the Oaks Restaurant on NAS, *June 12, 1730-2000*. There will not be a guest speaker at this meeting and attire will be casual. There will be BINGO!

The Scholarship Award Banquet is scheduled for the evening of *July 31, 1730-2000* at PYC. An effort will be made to invite Congressman Patronis to remark on the accomplishments of the Scholarship Award recipients. There will be no general membership meeting during the month of August.

**Joint Meeting** – PMOAA will join Baldwin and Mobile County Chapters of MOAA, Thursday, June 19, 1130 hours in Daphne, Alabama. Location information is pending and will be available in the next newsletter.

**Board Meeting** – the next PMOAA Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for June 24, 1600 at El Patron Restaurant on Navy Blvd.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was offered by CAPT Varenholt. All agreed; the meeting adjourned at 1737 hours.

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan E. Ulloa, Secretary**



## **2025 PMOAA MEMBERSHIP SIGNUP / RENEWAL FORM**

(Please Print)

Existing members – only information changes needed)



Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FULL NAME: (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (Middle) \_\_\_\_\_

RANK/SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle:

Active Duty   Retired   Reserve   Guard   Former   Surviving Spouse

SPOUSE/SIGNIFICANT OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: (For Official Chapter Communications/Use)

Member of National MOAA: **Y** / **N**

My MOAA Number is: \_\_\_\_\_

Life member: **Y** / **N**

[ ] If not a member of MOAA National, please check here to receive a **FREE Basic MOAA** membership.

**Please check all PMOAA activities in which you, or your spouse, can assist:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> Website Administrator
<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership Recruiting
<input type="checkbox"/> Survivor Assistance Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Beacon</b> Editor
<input type="checkbox"/> Accounting/Finance	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations/ Advertising
<input type="checkbox"/> ROTC/JROTC Liaison	<input type="checkbox"/> Program/Event Coordinator
<input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographer
<input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Affairs	

#### **PMOAA Membership Dues:**

\$30.00/year (**E-Beacon**)

\$42.00/year (**Mailed Beacon**)

#### **SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTION**

#### **JROTC DONATION**

#### **TOTAL ENCLOSED**

Make check payable to **PMOAA** and mail to:

**PMOAA Membership**

**P.O. Box 17728**

**Pensacola, FL 32501-7728**

## June Picnic Dinner & Bingo Thursday, 12 June 2025

Social: 1730-1800

**Dinner begins: 1810**

### Oaks Restaurant at AC Read Golf Course

799-1313 Duncan Road

NAS Pensacola

**(on the Second Floor)**

Cost is \$28 per person

### **Buffet Menu**

BBQ Chicken

Hamburgers and Hot Dogs

Hamburger Buns and Hot Dog Buns

Lettuce, tomato, pickle, condiments

Baked Beans

Apple Pie, Cherry Pie, Vanilla Ice Cream

Coffee, Iced Tea and Water

**Cash bar available on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor until 1830**

**Please R.S.V.P. by Sunday, 8 June 2025 to**

LtCol Bob Nelson (Ret)

**On line at [June Dinner RSVP](#)**

Email: [rsvp@pmoaa.org](mailto:rsvp@pmoaa.org) or

Phone: 719.322.4130

No Speaker just good conversation!

No Exceptions. Meals are ordered based on accepted reservations. Phone/email/web reservations are considered committed. *US Mail reservations or payments not accepted.* **Web Reservations – Be sure you receive an email confirmation, otherwise your reservation was not recorded. If you didn't RSVP, please do not attend.**

**Deadline for RSVP is: 6/8/2025**

**NAS Access Details:** DoD/Military ID card holders should enter the base as usual from either the Main Gate/Navy Blvd entrance or the Blue Angel Gate (West Gate)/ Blue Angel Parkway.

***Please be aware of ongoing road work on Murray Rd. on NASP, which affects access for those entering through the front gate.*** To ensure a smooth arrival at the golf course, please follow the directions below:

**If you are coming through the front main gate via Navy Blvd.:**

- Continue **straight on Duncan Rd.**
- At the **Taylor Rd. traffic light**, take a **LEFT**
- Then take another **LEFT onto Murray Rd.**
- The **golf course parking lot** will be on your **LEFT**

**⚠ Do not drive past the parking lot entrance on Murray Rd., as doing so will take you off base and require re-entry.**

**If you are coming through the back gate:**

- Your route remains the same.
- Turn onto **Duncan Rd.** and then directly into the **golf course parking lot** as usual.

Those without a Military/DoD ID **must** be escorted aboard the Base in the same vehicle with someone having a Military/DoD ID, retired or active. Escorts will be at the Main Gate/Navy Blvd entrance. All occupants **must** have some form of legal picture ID.

Note: If you need assistance getting on base, please click [NAS Access](#) (email) or contact Molly Werner at 850-292-9756 or Bob Nelson at 719.322.4130 (call or text).

## **Joint Lunch Meeting with Alabama MOAA Thursday, 19 June 2025 1130 – 1330**

### **Waterfront Restaurant**

1 Yacht Club Drive

Daphne, AL

Cost is \$30 per person

### **Menu**

Grilled Shrimp & Chicken

Starch of the Day

Vegetable of the Day

Bread pudding with Ice Cream

Non-alcoholic Drink

**Please RSVP by Tuesday, June 10 to LtCol Bob Nelson (Ret)**

On-Line at [MOAA Joint Meeting RSVP](#)

Email: [rsvp@pmoaa.org](mailto:rsvp@pmoaa.org) or

Phone: 719.322.4130

## **2025 PMOAA CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Most member meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month except for June, July, and December. Board meetings are held at 1600 on the Tuesday following the member meetings (some exceptions apply). Locations are subject to change (PYC is Pensacola Yacht Club; Mustin is Mustin Beach Club on NAS Pensacola; Oaks is The Oaks on NAS Pensacola). Christmas Party will be at 1800 at PYC.

### **MEMBER MEETINGS**

June 12 -Picnic Dinner	Oaks	June 24 El Patron
June 19 – Joint with BC-MOAA,	Mobile & PMOAA in Fairhope	
July 31 – Scholarship Banquet	PYC	<b>*July 29 El Patron</b>
Aug 1- <b>NO MEETING</b>		Aug 26 El Patron
Sept 18 - Dinner	PYC	Sept 23 PYC
Oct 16 - Dinner	PYC	Oct 14 PYC
Nov 20 -Annual Biz Mtg	PYC	Nov 18 PYC
Dec 4 - Christmas Party (1800)	PYC	Dec 16 PYC

*Menus and speakers TBD at a later date.*

**\*Indicates a change of date**



## PMOAA Scholarship Update

We have received 10 applications. Seven have been chosen and of those seven, 4 are ROTC students.

The Scholarship Banquet is Thursday, 31 July 2025, 5:30 pm, at the Pensacola Yacht Club. Please plan to attend and extend a warm "well done" to these future leaders. PMOAA will sponsor the student and one guest for the banquet...more guests are welcome at their own expense.

Remember, the Scholarship Raffle will be held that night as well. You should be receiving your raffle tickets in the mail any day now.

Respectfully,

**Maj Charles Booton, USAF (Ret)**  
**Scholarship Chairman**  
[Scholarships@PMOAA.org](mailto:Scholarships@PMOAA.org)



## SCHOLARSHIP DONATION FORM

Please accept my/our gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support the PMOAA Scholarship Fund.

This gift is being made in honor of, or in memory of:

Donor Information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please send an acknowledgement to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your donation payable to:

**PMOAA, P.O. Box 17728 Pensacola, FL 32501**  
 Thank you for your support!

<b>President</b> CAPT Kenneth Pyle USN (Ret) (2025-2027)	
<b>1st Vice President</b> LTC Karen Vinson-VanHouter USA (Ret) (2025-2027)	<b>DIRECTORS</b>
<b>2nd Vice President</b> MAJ Molly C Werner USA (Ret) (2024-2026)	<b>Director</b> RADM Joan M Engel USN (Ret) (2024-2026)
<b>Secretary</b> CDR Susan Ulloa USN (Ret) (2024-2026)	<b>Director</b> CAPT Sue Varenholt USN (Ret) (2024-2026)
<b>Treasurer</b> LtCol Robert Nelson USMC (Ret) (2024-2026)	<b>Director</b> Maj Charles Booton USAF (Ret) (2024-2026)
<b>Immediate Past President</b> CPT Dean Kirschner USA (Former)	<b>Director</b> CAPT Meredith Yeager USN (Ret) (2025-2027)
<b>Survivor Assistance Committee Chair</b> Mrs. Judy Dickson, Surviving Spouse	<b>Director</b> Mrs. Judy Dickson (2025-2027)
<b>Beacon Editor</b> Mrs. Jean Booton	<b>Chair, Scholarship Committee</b> Maj Charles Booton USAF (Ret)
<b>For further information:</b> <a href="mailto:Info@pmoaa.org">Info@pmoaa.org</a>	<b>Membership information at:</b> <a href="mailto:Membership@pmoaa.org">Membership@pmoaa.org</a> <b>Scholarship Information and mailing:</b> <a href="mailto:Scholarships@pmoaa.org">Scholarships@pmoaa.org</a>



**Pensacola Chapter, MOAA**  
**P.O. Box 17728**  
**Pensacola, Florida 32501-7728**

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