



Central California Coast Chapter
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
COASTAL CLARION

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President's Letter

At our January luncheon meeting we discussed MOAA's Key Goals for 2019, and the actions that each MOAA Chapter Member should take to support our 2019 MOAA National Goals. Following is the PowerPoint presentation, prepared for our chapter by Colonel Dan Merry, USAF (Ret), MOAA's Vice President for Government Relations, which was used to assist us in discussing the coordination of our support and communications of these goals with both of California's Senators, and our local Congressman, Salus Carbajal. We sincerely appreciate Col. Merry's work in preparing this PowerPoint presentation for our Chapter.

Please note that in your copy of the February 2019 *Coastal Clarion*, is your reminder to make your reservations for our **February 8th luncheon**, featuring **The Mighty Oaks Warriors**, for their third year in a row. In addition, please note that at **March's luncheon, on March 8th**, we will have our very popular **annual-update** from "**Paws 4 A**

Cause" (now called **Pausabilities**), so mark your calendars as we follow up on their amazing growth over the past four years. Finally, you will also find the Chapter's 2019 Dues Letter which needs to be submitted ASAP. We look forward to seeing each of you at both these important annual update meetings.

Sincerely,

Capt. Dave

MOAA Goals for 2019

TRICARE

- Ensure any TRICARE reform sustains access to top-quality care
- Prevent disproportional TRICARE fee increases.
 - Congress and DoD continue to try and change TRICARE; raise fees, change the programs, reduce payment to providers, etc.
 - Reform may be needed, consolidations may truly save the government money – but in all these cases, access and quality of care must be assured
- Grassroots efforts can make a difference
 - Make sure your members of Congress are aware of these impacts to you and other “fellow voters” who served a career in service

1.



Mil Pay and Benefits

- Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector
- Block erosion of compensation and non-pay quality of life benefits
 - Congress and DoD also continue to drive “savings” for other programs by trying to cap military pay raises, and by reducing housing allowances for the troops
- Grassroots efforts can make a difference
 - Share your concern for those in uniform – recruiting and retaining the all-volunteer force requires competitive compensation and a commitment to quality of life programs for them and their families

2.



Surviving Spouses

- End financial penalties for military survivors.
 - Otherwise known as the Widow’s Tax – the offset reduction from SBP annuity payments to pay for the VA’s Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (SBP-DIC offset)
- Grassroots efforts can make a difference
 - Share your concern for surviving spouses – many of these spouses were married to enlisted members whose SBP annuity is small
 - In all cases (other than active duty death) the service member paid for that annuity to ensure a portion of their retirement – VA’s DIC is a separate pay for a separate reason – widows should get both
 - Make sure your member of congress co-sponsors the bills supporting this repeal

3.



Concurrent Receipt

- End concurrent receipt penalties for military retirees
 - Retirees rated 50% or more receive both their retirement pay and their disability pay – those with 40% or less do not, we believe this is an injustice as these two pays are for two different reasons
 - Some individuals were retired early, before reaching 20 years – we call those Chapter 61 retirees and they may have served as much as 19½ years and get no concurrent receipt... this is not fair
- Grassroots efforts can make a difference
 - Share your concern for those retirees who served a career and endured illness or injuries resulting in partial disability ratings
 - Make sure your member of congress co-sponsors the bills supporting full payment of retirement and disability pay

4.



Guard and Reserves

- Achieve equity of benefits for Guard/Reserve members with their active duty counterparts
 - Over the last 20 years, the Guard and Reserves have migrated from a “replacements” model to full-up first string team – they are operational and deployed more and more
 - We believe they should get paid on par with the active duty for the time they are serving (one day = one day pay and benefits)
- Grassroots efforts can make a difference
 - Share your concern for all of those in uniform – they sacrifice like the rest of those who serve
 - Make sure your member of congress co-sponsors bills supporting pay parity or other support to the Guard and Reserve forces

5.



Wounded Warriors

- Strengthen DoD-VA collaboration and services to support wounded warriors and an expanding population of women veterans
 - 99.9% of those sworn in to the military become a veteran...we need a more seamless transition between military service and veteran programs and care – especially on challenges with PTSD, Caregiver Support, and Rehabilitation
- Grassroots efforts can make a difference
 - Share your concern for veterans – visit these men and women in the VA hospital it will make a world of difference to them
 - Encourage your member of congress to likewise visit and talk to the veterans and their spouses if possible

6.



VA Benefits

- Ensure timely access to service-earned VA benefits
 - The VA has gone through some massive changes and still has a way to go to ensure all of our veterans receive the care they deserve – challenges exist in getting care in the VA or community, claims processing, and antiquated data processing systems
- Grassroots efforts can make a difference
 - Our treatment of veterans has a direct impact on those who are considering service – we need to do better
 - Encourage your member of congress to visit a VA hospital or have a long talk with a veteran who is using the GI Bill... talk to a veteran’s spouse to see how they are doing

7.



Military & Veteran Families

- Protect military and veteran family support programs and policies
 - The Family is the heart of a military family – take good care of them and the servicemember will likely do a good job and possibly consider staying in (fail the family and the G.I. will likely leave)
 - Spouse employment is one of the main concerns for mil families
- Grassroots efforts can make a difference
 - Early and consistent engagement with spouses and families is essential to building trust in leadership and the military generally
 - Funding for spouse and family programs is often the first to get cut thus undermining earnest efforts from many in the unit
 - Ensure your member of congress is aware of the link between families, military service, and the servicemember

8.



Recap

- 10 Goals
- You can make an impact on each of these
- Engagement with local member of congress:
 - Be at their events, stay plugged into their issues and priorities... this is a two-way street
 - Hold them to account – if they say they will sponsor a bill, follow up to ensure they didn’t forget
 - Build a relationship with their staff – these are the people who control the inbox and email traffic
 - Become visible, and “in the news” (in a good way) and share your appreciation for your member of congress publicly regardless of party affiliation (when advocating, stay nonpartisan)

9.



I offer a few words of wisdom to contemplate:

Loyalty: If you work for a person (or a member of an organization), in heaven’s name work for that person (or organization.) and speak well and stand by the institution that person represents. Remember—an ounce of loyalty is worth a pound of cleverness.

If you must growl, condemn, and eternally find fault, why—resign or quit, and when you are on the outside, damn to your heart’s content! But as long as you are a part of the institution do not condemn it, if you do the first high wind that comes along will blow you away, and you probably will never know why. But you have an obligation to the person to whom you work: If and when you see something that should be modified, corrected or acted upon, your loyalty requires you to offer positive recommendations not simply a negative comment.

Maj. James Murphy

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More Than 17,000 Uniformed Medical Jobs Eyed for Elimination

“Spread across a combined medical force of 130,000, both active duty and reserve, the planned cuts would lower uniformed medical strength by roughly 13 percent, a drop steep enough to alarm some health care leaders as well as advocates for military health care beneficiaries.”

“If the goal is to tear down the military health system, this would be a reasonable way to do it,” warned one service health official, who asked not to be identified. Given the numbers involved, said retired Navy Capt. **Kathryn M. Beasley**, MOAA’s director of government relations for health issues, the staff cuts eyed are worrisome for patient access, particularly to physicians young families rely on, such as pediatricians and obstetricians. “We need to see the final numbers to understand the impact,” she said.

This is a snippet from the MOAA article by Tom Philpott. Please read the full article for more pro and cons, arguments for or against the restructuring directed by Congress. One of MOAA’s goals is to ensure TRICARE Reforms Retain Top Care

<https://www.moaa.org/Content/Publications-and-Media/News-Articles/2019-News-Articles/More-Than-17,000-Uniformed-Medical-Jobs-Eyed-for-Elimination.aspx>

FEBRUARY 8, 2019 - LUNCHEON

Where: Madonna Inn, San Luis Obispo, CA

Time: 11:30 Social 12:00 Lunch & Program

Name: _____

____ # for Lunch (Chef’s Choice) _____ or (Veggie Plate) _____

Please make your reservations by calling Richard Ennes (805) 227-7138. OR Ken Chapman 805-489-8214. Or make reservations via our Chapter website **www.calcoastmoaa.org**

Luncheon \$25 per person _____

Member Chapter Dues \$25 _____

AUX Member \$15 _____

ROTC Awards Fund \$ _____

Please make checks payable to “CCCC MOAA”

Business Casual or wearing your uniform is encouraged.

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Central California Coast Chapter
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

Friday, FEB 8th 11:30

FEBRUARY EXCOM

Tuesday, FEBRUARY 26th-9:00am

MARCH LUNCHEON

Friday, March 8th -

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA COAST CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA • PREAMBLE

The membership of the Central California Coast Chapter, Military Officers Association of America, in order:

- To inculcate and stimulate love of our Country and our Flag;
- To defend the honor, integrity and supremacy of our National Government and the Constitution of the United States;
- To advocate military forces adequate to the defense of our country and to oppose any influence (whatsoever) calculated to weaken the National Security;
- To foster fraternal relations between all branches of the various services from which our members are drawn;
- To cooperate fully with the various active services in the dissemination of information to the public;
- To aid active and retired personnel of the various services from which our members are drawn, their dependents and survivors, in every proper and legitimate manner;
- To establish these, as the bylaws of the chapter.