

MOAA Fort George G. Meade Chapter Newsletter

Never Stop Serving

Fall 2026 Edition



President's Message Fall 2026

Fellow MOAA Fort George G. Meade Members,

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and found time to relax, travel, spend time with family and friends, and recharge. After our traditional July and August summer break, the Fort George G. Meade Chapter is back—and I'm looking forward to a busy and productive fall.

We enter the fall season 79 members strong, and I'm encouraged by the continued commitment of our members to the chapter and to MOAA's mission of serving those who serve and have served.

The past several months gave us much to build upon. Before our summer recess, we enjoyed a strong lineup of programs and speakers, culminating with our June luncheon featuring Dena Kilgore from MOAA National. Her visit reinforced the important connection between the work we do locally and MOAA's broader advocacy efforts on behalf of servicemembers, veterans, retirees, and their families. We also celebrated our chapter's continued recognition through MOAA's Level of Excellence and Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Awards—achievements that reflect the dedication of our entire chapter.

Now it is time to turn our attention to the fall.

We will resume our regular chapter activities in September, and the coming months will provide opportunities to reconnect, welcome new members, hear from engaging speakers, and continue our advocacy and community-service efforts. October will also bring Retiree Appreciation Day at Fort Meade, an important opportunity for our chapter to engage with the broader military retiree community and introduce more people to the benefits of MOAA membership.

As we move toward the end of 2026, membership growth and member participation remain priorities. At 79 members, we have a strong foundation—but there are many more retired, former, and currently serving officers in our community who could benefit from being part of our chapter. I encourage each

of you to invite a friend, colleague, or fellow veteran to one of our upcoming events. Sometimes a personal invitation is all it takes.

Most importantly, I encourage you to get involved. Attend a luncheon, volunteer for an activity, contribute an idea, support our advocacy efforts, or consider taking on a leadership role. Our chapter is strongest when our members are active participants in shaping its future.

Thank you for your continued membership and support of the Fort George G. Meade Chapter. I look forward to seeing everyone again this fall and to finishing 2026 on a strong note.

Gregory Rhoden
President
MOAA Fort George G. Meade Chapter

Our September Meeting



Secure your future and empower your family with a vital presentation you can't afford to miss!

We are thrilled to welcome back **Mrs. Cheryl Glang** for an exclusive, newly updated reprise of her highly acclaimed briefing: **“Preparing for Survivorship.”** While navigating the future is a delicate responsibility we will all eventually face, Cheryl brings the unmatched expertise, warmth, and clarity needed to turn a tough topic into an empowering action plan.

As the **MOAA Maryland Council’s Spouse and Surviving Spouse Liaison** and a former Board member in the **National Military Family Association**, Cheryl is a true champion for military families. This isn't just a refresher—it's essential for your family's peace of mind. **All hands and spouses are strongly encouraged to attend!**

Surviving Spouse Update
Saturday, September 26th at 11:30 am
All-American Steakhouse
1502 Annapolis Road, Odenton, MD 21113



Our June Luncheon

MOAA National's Dena Kilgore Visits Ft. Meade Chapter



The Fort George G. Meade Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) was pleased to welcome Dena Kilgore, MOAA's Program Director, Affiliated Councils and Chapters, as the guest speaker at its June 27, 2026 luncheon at the All American Steakhouse in Odenton.

Dena provided members with an informative update on MOAA's work on behalf of the military and veteran community, highlighting the importance of continued advocacy and engagement at both the national and chapter levels. Her visit also provided an opportunity for chapter members to strengthen their connection with MOAA National and discuss issues affecting servicemembers, veterans, retirees, and their families.

The luncheon marked the chapter's final membership gathering before its traditional July and August summer recess and provided an excellent conclusion to the first half of the chapter's 2026 program year.

The Fort Meade Chapter thanks Dena Kilgore for taking the time to visit and for her continued support of MOAA members and chapters throughout the region.

Member Spotlight – Bryan Denson



This quarter we spotlight Bryan Denson, who recently joined our chapter. **Bryan** is a retired U.S. Air Force intelligence officer who served 23½ years on active duty, beginning his career as an enlisted Korean linguist before receiving his commission. His assignments and deployments included Korea, Europe, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and the Pentagon, where he served in the CHECKMATE Division during the 9/11 attacks and their aftermath. Following his Air Force retirement, Bryan served as a Department of Defense civilian in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and later worked with several national-security startup companies focused on security clearance reform, insider-threat mitigation and related defense issues. Today, he is President and CEO of JBD Works, Inc. and is leading the expansion of Port of Subs restaurants into the Washington, D.C. region. He and his wife, Valerie, live in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Welcome aboard, Bryan!!

Legislative Action – Maryland

The [Maryland Council of Chapters - MOAA](#) advocates for state-level tax relief on uniformed services retirement pay, focusing on increasing the current exemptions to attract and retain retirees, and for legislation to regulate unaccredited agents and attorneys who charge veterans, who file claims with the VA, fees in direct violation of federal law.

These efforts include supporting the Maryland Military Coalition's objective of getting legislation passed that will expand the State Income Tax exemptions to for all retirees, regardless of age. Currently, retirees under the age of 55 can only exempt \$12,500 from the State Income Tax while retirees 55 and older can only exempt \$20,000. Maryland is one of eleven states that still taxes military retirement pay while 39 other states exempt this income from their state taxes with no age restriction.

These efforts also include supporting the Coalition's objective of having legislation passed that would require agents and attorneys, who are unaccredited with the VA, to abide by and operate according to federal regulations, under the penalty of violating Maryland's consumer protection laws if they did not. This legislation is necessary at the state level while the U.S. Congress attempts to pass legislation that would restore criminal penalties for these unaccredited individuals and companies that are charging veterans in excess of what federal regulations allow.

This year is when the entire Maryland General Assembly is up for election or re-election. Members are urged to contact Maryland legislators and candidates regarding support of these bills when the Legislature convenes in January 2027. **Make your voice heard!**

Legislative Action – Nationally

In late August, MOAA National notified our MOAA Council Legislative Liaison, Lynn Nash, that they want Maryland to make a strong push for TCVA (Take Care of America's Veterans Act) through in-person visits, letter writing, and telephone calls through late September. Why? Because we have two Senators and eight Representatives who are not on board to support this effort when Congress reconvenes after the August recess. MOAA National is urging every Chapter to engage and educate them.

TCVA consolidates 62 separate pieces of legislation, including the Major Richard Star Act, Love Lives On, and Justice for ALS. **Unless TCVA passes before September 30, all Veterans Administration monies saved by their proposed veterans compensation update will revert to the U.S. Treasury – not a penny will go to veterans.**

Go to https://moaa.quorum.us/active_campaigns/, Active Advocacy Campaigns, and click on "Write" next to **Urge Congress to Pass the Take Care of America's Veterans Act.**

On the same webpage, review the other Active Advocacy Campaigns. Sign up at MOAA's Legislative Action Center and make your voice heard for those national issues that you support. **Every little bit counts!**



Honor Flight Welcoming

BWI Airport (Volunteers Needed)

Honor Flight Network is a national nonprofit organization comprised of independent hubs working together to achieve the Honor Flight mission.

Participation in an Honor Flight trip gives veterans the opportunity to share this momentous occasion with other comrades, remember the fallen, and share their stories and experiences with other veterans. Honored veterans always travel free of charge, thanks to generous donations to our organization.

While initially focused solely on America's World War II era veterans, Honor Flight Network has expanded its mission to include those who served during the Korean War and the Vietnam War eras. The Honor Flight TLC program also honors veterans of any service era who are critically ill.

Greeter sign-ups – there are two options for greeting an Honor Flight arrival at BWI:

- **Greeting our Veterans as they exit the plane at the gate.** This option is available for arrivals on Alaska, American, Breeze, Contour and Southwest Airlines, as these airlines typically provide non-escort gate passes.
- **Greeting our Veterans outside security as they come through the TSA exit.** This option exists for ALL Honor Flight arrivals at BWI.

You can find all the details and instructions on how to participate in an Honor Flight Welcoming by going to the following website: [BWI – Meeting & Greeting Info - DC Airport Support Welcome Site](https://dcwelcome.honorflight.org/bwi-meeting-greeting-info). See below.

BWI - Greeter Sign Up Information

[BWI Home](#) [BWI Schedule](#) [Sign Up Forms](#) [BWI Arrival & Departure Maps](#) [BWI Contact Us](#)

BWI Meeting & Greeting Information

Welcome to the 2026 Honor Flight season at BWI!

Greeter sign-ups – there are two options for greeting an Honor Flight arrivals at BWI.

1. Greeting our Veterans as they exit the plane at the gate. This option is available for arrivals on Alaska, American, Breeze, Contour and Southwest Airlines, as these airlines typically provide non-escort gate passes. A REAL ID is required for all adults over the age of 18 to clear TSA. Everyone is required to have a gate pass, even minors and toddlers. **NOTE: gate passes are only for Honor Flight trips, we do NOT process gate pass requests for non-Honor Flight arrivals.** This sign up form also allows you to request a complimentary parking voucher (NOTE: vouchers are provided by the Airport and are not always guaranteed). Use this link to request a gate pass and parking voucher: <https://dcwelcome.honorflight.org/bwi-gate-pass-parking-request/>
2. Greeting our Veterans outside security as they come through the TSA exit. This option exists for ALL Honor Flight arrivals at BWI. This is also the only option for Allegiant and other charter flights where gate passes are not offered. Sign-ups are only required if you would like to request a complimentary parking voucher. Use this link to request a parking voucher: <https://dcwelcome.honorflight.org/bwi-meeting-greeting-info-park-pass/>

If you just need a parking voucher (not a gate pass) click the blue button below.

[Parking Pass Requests](#)

The information being displayed below is fed from our hub portal system.

Upcoming Ft. Meade Chapter Meetings

September 26, 2026 at the All-American Steakhouse, 1502 Annapolis Road, Odenton, MD 21113

October 31, 2026 at the All-American Steakhouse, 1502 Annapolis Road, Odenton, MD 21113

November 21, 2026 at the All-American Steakhouse, 1502 Annapolis Road, Odenton, MD 21113

December 13, 2026, annual MOWW Holiday Gala at Blue Dolphin Seafood Bar & Grill, 1166 MD-3 North, Gambrills, MD 21054

Upcoming Events

Maryland Military Coalition, September 30th

5th Annual Listening Session with the Maryland General Assembly's Veterans Caucus

- Michael E. Busch Annapolis Library, 1410 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401
- 1:30 – 3:00 PM
- Hear the Maryland Military Coalition's 2027 Legislative Goals and the discussion with members of the Senate and House Veterans Caucus

Ft. Meade Retiree Appreciation Day, October 23rd

McGill Training Center

- Will feature TRICARE and VA representatives
- Legal and financial assistance resources
- Local military support organizations and community outreach booths

This is an excellent opportunity to connect with resources and stay informed on benefits and services available to the military community.

Upcoming Relevant MOAA Webinars

Next Steps: What Survivors of Veterans Need to Know



SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 | 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT

Online Event

REGISTER NOW

 Add to Calendar

Can't make the webinar? No problem. Register now and we'll send you a link to the recording. Registered and didn't receive a confirmation email? Check your spam folder.

The passing of any family member is a time of upheaval. The death of a uniformed services retiree involves additional concerns that can be daunting for a surviving spouse, especially if they are unfamiliar with military benefits.

Join MOAA's financial and benefits professional – Lila Quintiliani, ChFC®, AFC® – for a comprehensive review of the issues associated with the passing of a retiree.

Topics include:

- How MOAA publications can assist you and your family in the planning process.
- Ways to get your personal affairs in order in advance.
- Understanding the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).
- Burial benefits.
- Addressing financial matters and estate planning concerns.
- Answering your former spouse and/or remarriage questions.
- Working with the VA, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), and other support organizations (including the Coast Guard).
- And much more!

MOAA Premium and Life members have access to all recorded MOAA webinars at any time via [MOAA's Webinar Archive](#). Want to join MOAA? See [Why Join MOAA](#) for details.

Register at: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/3cf0cefc-5789-4d37-91ca-442fa31e2b89@8190acdd-e648-4bc2-bfeb-d25a944d2b64>

Getting the Most Out of Medicare



SEPTEMBER 22, 2026 | 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM EDT

Online Event

REGISTER NOW

 Add to Calendar

Can't make the webinar? No problem. Register now and we'll send you a link to the recording. Registered and didn't receive a confirmation email? Check your spam folder.

Please join MOAA and our affinity partner, [Veterans Healthcare](#), for an informative discussion about how you can enhance your Medicare benefits alongside TRICARE For Life, CHAMPVA, or VA benefits.

This event will teach you how to:

- Add comprehensive, veteran-focused Medicare options, such as a Part C/Medicare Advantage Plan (including dental, vision, hearing, and more) to your coverage for \$0.
- Put money back into your pocket through a Medicare Part B reimbursement.
- Take advantage of the latest 2026 Medicare updates, and safeguard your military coverage.

Veterans Healthcare has helped more than 26,000 veterans protect their Medicare, VA, and TRICARE for LIFE coverage while expanding their retirement benefits. MOAA members are seeing the value as well, with a large and growing number of MOAA members turning to Veterans Healthcare for Medicare guidance. Register and join us Sept. 22 to learn how to get the most out of your Medicare benefits!

MOAA Premium and Life members have access to all recorded MOAA webinars at any time via [MOAA's Webinar Archive](#). Want to join MOAA? See [MOAA.org/join](#) for details.

Register at: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/fa19047b-08cb-4ecb-b4a8-b5fa252d671a@8190aedd-e648-4bc2-bfeb-d25a944d2b64>

Contact Jim Shiffrin for More Information on Becoming a Chapter Member

jim.shiffrin@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____
Last First MI Rank Service
*If widow(er) and applying for Surviving Spouse Membership, please fill in your own name above and show your deceased spouse's rank and service, as appropriate.

Status _____ Component _____
Active Retired Regular Reserve National Guard

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 _____

Date of Birth _____

Spouse's Name _____

I am _____/am not _____ a member of the National Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).
If a National MOAA member, please list your membership # _____
(You can find your membership number on the mailing label of the Military Officer magazine. If you are not a MOAA member, please go to www.moaa.org to join.)

Signature _____

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 \$12 (\$30 for three years). Please complete this form and submit it with your check for the appropriate amount, payable to "Fort Meade Chapter, MOAA" or you may pay online at <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/fort-meade-chapter-payments/items>. Mail this form to: **Membership Chair, Fort Meade Chapter, MOAA, PO Box 743, Fort Meade, MD 07505**

Dues enclosed are for ____one year ____three years ____ bill me later

Fort Meade Chapter



Serving the Community
And the Nation
Since 1991

Fort Meade Chapter Military Officers Association of America

Chartered in 1991

Located in the center of
Maryland

www.mdmoaa.org/Ft-George-G-Meade