



Montgomery County Chapter

Maryland

THE "EIGHT FOR AMERICA" NEWSLETTER



June 2025

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A CY 2024 Winner



A CY 2024 Winner

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the calendar turns to June and we anticipate the start of Summer (June 20th this year), a quiet anticipation stirs in our hearts. The days grow longer and bring the promise of blue skies, gentle breezes, and a sense of renewal that beckons us to pause and revel in the gifts of nature. It's a time to step outdoors, breathe deeply, and savor the simple pleasures that nature offers. It's a season to reconnect—with both the world around us and the people we hold dear. But let us not forget the many historical days in U.S. military history that are in June, making it important to appreciate our narrative and understand the liberties we have. Here are a few that come to mind.

- **June 6th: D-Day**, Allied forces stormed Normandy in WWII—which marks the storming of Normandy, France, by British, Canadian, and American troops in WWII.

- **June 14th: Flag Day**, commemorating the adoption of the U.S. flag—which originally carried the thirteen stars and stripes to remember the original thirteen colonies.

June 27th: PTSD Awareness Day-- which highlights those who have gone to war and have been affected by post-traumatic stress disorder. On this day, we recognize those survivors.

Summer is also a time to give back to the community, whether by supporting local farmers at a market, participating in a neighborhood cleanup, or simply lending a helping hand to someone in need. These small acts of kindness ripple outward, enriching not only those around us but ourselves as well.

Embrace summer with gratitude, joy, and reflection. May these warm days bring cherished moments with loved ones and honor those who paved the way for our freedoms. Wishing you a safe, sunny, and memorable summer filled with laughter and love.

April 16



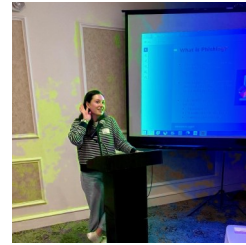
Our April dinner event saw us host Grace Caulfield, the Clinic Director for the Steven Cohen Military Family Clinic at Eastern Seals in Silver Spring. The clinic at each of its Maryland satellite locations provides accessible behavioral health services. The clinic services post 9-11 veterans, active duty service members, their families and caregivers. The clinic provides an exemplary public service in support of the uniformed services community.

The Cohen Clinic uses evidence-based practices with a holistic approach to improve the quality of life for people with military backgrounds and their families. At the clinic, services are provided by a multi-disciplinary team. Patients can be individuals, couples, families, and children aged 4 years and older. In keeping with medical norms of today, appointments are available for both in-person care and care by [telehealth](#).

The clinic offers child therapy rooms and child watch rooms as a means of reducing barriers to care.

The clinic is supported by several funding streams, including TRICARE. As its patient load grows, it is fully capable of connecting veteran families to other related community resources and services, as necessary.

May 21



The May luncheon featured a delightful presenter who spoke in layman's terms about how to protect your personal information online. Zoey Byington is a technology trainer with the OATS—Older Adults Technology Services—of AARP. They are mostly known as Senior Planet.

Her presentation addressed a host of issues faced by us all every day: spam, phishing via email and smishing via text messages. She discussed best practices for passwords and how to safely use social media. Her presentation was entertaining, wide-ranging, and interactive...and we all learned something. Of particular interest was her discussion of safe shopping online.

Here are her summary tips:

Use common sense

- Avoid giving out personal information & SSN online

- Don't answer strange emails or texts

- Don't open links in strange emails or texts

- Only shop on trusted websites

- Only shop & bank when connected to private, password-protected WiFi

Visit [OnGuardOnline.gov](#) for more.

CHAPTER RECRUITING

Chapter Recruiting 2025 is now underway under the able direction of **our new Chapter Membership Chair Lt Col Gary Palmer, UASF (Ret)**. Membership email and letter invitations are being sent to national MOAA members with addresses in our catchment area that have been provided by MOAA HQ through the updated Administrative Management System. Since the last newsletter, we have added two new member to our roster:

LTC Eric Cherkauskas, USANG

Maj Michelle Hornbaker, USA(Fmr)

RENEWING MEMBERS

Our chapter relies for its sustainment by the renewal of memberships. Our dues renewal effort has been paying off. Dues expiration notices are sent out as each member's renewal date approaches. When you receive yours, **please renew...it's important to us!!** Renewals were received from:

COL Paul Hughes, USA (Ret)

LCDR Philip McGaughey, USCG (Ret)

CAPT Katherine Matrakas, USPHS (Ret)

CAPT David Peterson, NOAA (Ret)

LCDR Elizabeth Speece, USN (Ret)

Lt Col Kenneth Steinbrucker, USA (Ret)

MEMBERSHIP INFO

Membership in the Montgomery County Chapter is open to all members of the uniformed services, be they active duty, retired, former, reserve, National Guard or surviving spouses of MOAA Life members. Membership information is available from both the chapter secretary and chapter president. Contact info for these officers, respectively:

(301) 233-8090 kmpdhp@comcast.net

(703) 216-0567 kevin.doxey@verizon.net

A copy of the chapter's membership application can be found at the end of this newsletter for your use in recruiting new members or renewing your membership.

STAY INFORMED

MOAA National encourages all members to keep informed on the issues of vital interest and importance to all members. Visit the MOAA's website to sign up to receive the *Legislative Update*, or go to:

[MOAA Legislative Action Center \(quorum.us\)](https://quorum.us)

Be mindful that your voice and action responses are what makes MOAA's advocacy so effective. The Legislative Action Center has template messages that you can send to add your voice to MOAA's advocacy effort. Please do so!

For Maryland-specific issues of interest or concern, the Maryland Military Coalition is the best source for information.

Website: www.mdmilcoalition.org

Facebook: facebook.com/MDMilCoalition

Twitter: twitter.com/MDMilCoalition

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

All chapter members who have provided the Secretary with an email address can expect to receive each edition of this newsletter. You are encouraged to keep the Secretary updated on the address you wish the chapter to use, if your address changes. Those members without an email address, or who do not wish to share one, will receive paper copies via the U.S. Mail.



OFFICIAL 2025 FLAG FLYING DAYS

June 14 Flag Day

June 15 Father's Day

June 19 Juneteenth

July 4 Independence Day

If you have a home flag, **FLY IT!**

16 Military Hospitals Receive Leapfrog's Highest Safety Grade

The Defense Health Agency has announced that 16 military hospitals received an "A" rating in the latest Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade assessment for Spring 2025. These high grades reflect the DHA's ongoing dedication to transparency and providing high-quality care to service members and their families.

The Leapfrog Group is a national, independent organization focused on health care quality. The organization evaluates hospitals on a wide range of safety measures, including errors, injuries and infections. Leapfrog's grading system uses up to 22 evidence-based measures of patient safety.

A hospital must meet specific criteria to be eligible for participation in the Leapfrog safety assessment. In the Spring 2025 ratings, 32% of participating hospitals nationwide received the highest grade. Of the eligible military hospitals participating in the grading assessment, 73% received an "A" grade.

"These most recent Leapfrog Safety Grades continue to validate DHA's commitment to meeting high standards for the patients we are privileged to serve," said Dr. Paul Cordts, DHA's deputy assistant director for medical affairs and chief medical officer. "We are proud that the care provided at these facilities ranks among the very best in the nation."

DHA's engagement with Leapfrog began about seven years ago when it sought to incorporate Leapfrog's evaluations into the Military Health System's Quality Assurance Program. Walter Reed National Military Medical Center was the first military test site for Leapfrog surveys.

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade program, updated twice a year, evaluates public and private hospitals. Its grades are based on national standards for hospital safety and highlight risks that patients may face in a health care setting, including preventable medical errors and infections. The ratings are available to the public, making it easier for patients to understand the safety standards of their local health care facilities.

"Our participation in this program showcases the consistent rigor our teams apply to safe, effective

health care delivery," said Cordts. "We are proud of our medical teams' effort to meet the quality and safety metrics that Leapfrog has set."

The 16 military hospitals that received an "A" grade in Spring 2025 are:

81st Medical Group, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi
673rd Medical Group, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska

Alexander T. Augusta Military Medical Center, Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Blanchfield Army Community Hospital, Fort Campbell, Kentucky
Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas

Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center, Fort Cavazos, Texas

Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Fort Eisenhower, Georgia

Evans Army Community Hospital, Fort Carson, Colorado

Madigan Army Medical Center, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington

Martin Army Community Hospital, Fort Benning, Georgia

Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina

Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Portsmouth, Virginia

Naval Medical Center San Diego, San Diego, California

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland

William Beaumont Army Medical Center, Fort Bliss, Texas

U.S. Naval Hospital Guam, Guam

"We remain steadfast in our commitment to regular and transparent reporting about the quality of DHA's health care," said Cordts. "These latest grades should bolster our patients' confidence that they are receiving exceptional care at our military hospitals."

(Source: DHA Communications and Public Affairs Division, May 2025)

MEMORIAL DAY — 2025



At the Rockville ceremony, our chapter's memorial wreath was presented by Lelia Jackson, Art Glover, and Dave Peterson.



At Gaithersburg, our chapter 's memorial wreath was presented by Bob Gunderson, Bob Norton, and Gary Palmer.

SEEN ON THE INTERNET



Wisdom of the Ages

Thought 1: My interest is in the future because I am going to live the rest of my life there.

Thought 2: A fool is one whom bigger fools believe to be a man of merit.

Thought 3: We give advice but we cannot give the wisdom to profit by it.

Thought 4: You are never so easily fooled as when you are trying to fool someone else.

Thought 5: What a blessing it would be if we could open and shut our ears as easily as we do our eyes.

Editorial Policy: This newsletter is prepared six times per year and contains information and articles believed to be of interest to chapter members. In publishing this newsletter, it should be noted that **both the national MOAA organization and the Montgomery County Chapter as an affiliate, are non-partisan advocates for the uniformed services community.** The chapter is unaligned with any political party and, as an organization, does not endorse or support any individual candidates for elective office. This newsletter is provided electronically to all members for whom the chapter has an email address. Newsletters are also sent by postal mail to other members.

(No part of this newsletter was knowingly generated by AI)

Upcoming Events at Manor Country Club
14901 Carrolton Road, Rockville, Maryland

June 18 Luncheon at 1200

Penny Collins

Fleet Reserve Association Director, Maryland Military Coalition

Update on Maryland Women Veterans Memorial

July 16 **DINNER**

RADM Samuel Cox, USN (Ret) (Invited)

Curator of the Navy

The Story of and Recovery of the Submarine CSS HUNLEY

August 20 Luncheon

CAPT Craig McLean, NOAA (Ret)

Former Acting Chief Scientist, NOAA

“The Oceans and Ocean Science: Why They Are Vitally Important”

Harken ye, to truth...



Here endth the lesson. Let us all remember it.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER (MD-05)
APPLICATION FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL

Date: _____

____ I am applying as a **new member** in the Montgomery County (MD) Chapter

____ I am **renewing my membership** in the Montgomery County (MD) Chapter

I am _____ am not _____ a national member of MOAA.

MOAA Natl. Member # (if applicable & known) _____

Member number may be found on 2nd line of magazine mailing label

NAME _____ **Date of Birth** _____
(Last, First + Middle Name or Initial) (MM/DD/YYYY)

)

Rank _____ **Service** _____ **Status** _____

Active Officer, Retired Officer, Former Officer, Reserve Officer, National Guard Officer, Widow / Widower
(Auxiliary Member; see footnote)

MAILING ADDRESS

Street and number Apartment Number

City State Zip Code

Telephone Number: Residence _____ **Work** _____

E-Mail Address _____

Please print clearly

Spouse's Name _____

Enclosed are my dues for: (Make check payable to Montgomery County MOAA)

_____ **1 year: \$17 (for 12 months)** [Last Update of this form: May 21, 2017]

_____ **2 years: \$30 (for 24 months)**

Sponsor's Name: _____

Only if you are a widow(er), provide deceased spouse's name, rank and service

Auxiliary Member: Widow or Widower of any individual who would, if living, be eligible for membership with full voting privileges.

Mail application to:

Montgomery County MD Chapter Secretary:

Military Officers Association of America

P.O. Box 7564, Gaithersburg, MD 20898-9996 [Questions: Capt. Dave Peterson, NOAA (Ret.)]

(301) 233-8090; kmpdhp@comcast.net

For Chapter use only:

Recorded into Data base _____ **Mailing label prepared**

(Form updated 8/25/2021)