



Montgomery County Chapter

Maryland

THE "EIGHT FOR AMERICA" NEWSLETTER



February 2025

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

Col. Kevin Doxey, USA (Ret)

Kevin.doxey@verizon.net 703-216-0567

First Vice President

MAJ Anna Makela, USA (Ret)

Second Vice President

Lt. Col. David Maldonado, USA (Ret)

Secretary/Treasurer

Capt. Dave Peterson, NOAA(Ret)

kmpdhp@comcast.net



A CY 2023 Winner



A CY 2023 Winner

NOTE CHAPTER MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. BOX 7564

GAITHERSBURG, MD 20898-9996

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On Sunday, Feb. 2, Punxsutawney Phil predicted six more weeks of winter. But I understand of late he has only been correct 35 percent of the time. So, there is a good chance he is wrong!

As we emerge from winter, it's nearly impossible not to feel the possibilities inherent in the turning of the season. Nothing matches the rising energy of spring. And it's not always that things are so different, but our perspective changes. The promises of warmer weather, longer days and new beginnings motivate us to be thankful for what we have and commit to family and friends. Whether it's planting a garden, starting a new hobby or just getting out of the house and enjoying what the region has to offer.

If you have an opportunity, spend a little time on MOAA's website, it has some great programs and resources, which can equip you with knowledge and tools to help you stay informed and empowered. I learn so much every time I go on the website.

Our Chapter does a lot for the community and for each of us; and I am especially thankful to all our members and their fellowship. I look forward to seeing everyone and our upcoming lunches and dinner.

December 18

Regrettably, somehow your editor managed not to get any photos of this most delicious, and certainly enjoyable, well-attended annual Holiday celebration. All hands left the event with a door prize, as is our custom, and the good wishes of all for a memorable holiday season.

January 15



Our January speaker was Andrew Friedson, the immediate past president of the Montgomery County Council. Andrew represents Council District 1, which covers part of southern and all of western portions of the county.

We invited him to speak on recent county legislative achievements with respect to matters of interest to veterans, primarily property tax credits. In his extended remarks, he showed himself to be a clear advocate of more affordable housing in the county, which he described as a critical need. He commented on the chapter's recent efforts to establish a veterans home on the site of Rockville's Redgate golf course. He acknowledged that there was little unzoned and open land in the county for such a development to be realized.

This commentary led to a discussion of the county's Agricultural Reserve, which is in his district. This open land is not available for development for any residential project and never can be.

He was asked about the situation with White's Ferry, and with that, he had much to say on the subject, as he was the Council president during the most recent efforts at finding a solution. Suffice it to say, he expressed regrets that the parties to the dispute were private entities and had proved to be rather intransigent in finding some acceptable compromise that would lead to the Ferry's reopening.

He wished us well in all our efforts to support the entire uniformed services community, saying that we should never hesitate to reach out to our elected representatives in county government.



CHAPTER RECRUITING

Chapter Recruiting 2025 is now underway. Membership email and letter invitations are being sent to national MOAA members with addresses in our catchment area that are to be by MOAA HQ. Our receipt of current listings continues to be affected by delays in the new national MOAA administrative management system going live. As soon as all the bugs are worked out of this system, we will reach out to all latest names that are provided. Since the last newsletter, we have added one new member to our roster:

MAJ Cathy Hampton, USA (Ret)

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:

Ms. Susan Fonti, Surv Spouse

ADML Gerd Glang, NOAA (Ret)

VADM Nancy Hann, NOAA

Col. Harvey Kaplan, USA (Ret)

LTC Bruce St. John, USAR (Ret)

Col. David Wollman, 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 \(quorum.us\)](http://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.

2024 WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

(Report by Captain Lynn Nash)

On December 11th, an amazing cold day with vivid blue skies, I was joined by CAPT(R), Dave Peterson, NOAA, Secretary of the MDMOAA CoC, Past President and Secretary MDMOCOC (MD05), and Past MOAA National Board member, COL. (R) Paul Hughes, USA, a historian and Montgomery County Chapter member (MD05), CAPT (R) USPHS Frances Gipson MD05 and Crystal Holmes, Women's Marine Society, in serving as the Maryland Wreaths Across America team at the U.S. Soldiers' & Air-men's Home National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. The cemetery is the first of two National Cemeteries, preceding Arlington with Civil War burials beginning in 1861. The cemetery is the final resting place for more than 14,000 veterans, including 21 recipients of the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military honor.

During the Civil War, churches and other public buildings around Washington were commandeered for use as military hospitals to care for wounded troops or those stricken with illness on the front lines. Just days after the Battle of Bull Run, in July 1861, the commissioners of the United States Military Asylum offered six acres of land at the north end of the home's grounds as a burial ground for soldiers and officers. The first burials were conducted later that summer.

From 1861 to 1864, the cemetery accepted thousands of soldiers' remains from across the nation, which quickly filled its six acres. By 1874, there had been more than 5,600 interments, including 278 unknown, 125 Confederate prisoners of war and 117 civilians (relatives of the deceased and em-

ployees of the home). In 1883, nine acres were added to the grounds, bringing the cemetery's size to nearly sixteen acres.

On Saturday, we joined almost 1,000 participants in laying wreaths. A somber, short program, conducted by Scouts, kicked off the event. The six military services laid wreaths, honoring specific members of their service, or in the case of the Space Service, someone who had contributed to their founding. Then, over the course of just 30 minutes, participants, some representatives of their service organization, scout troops and many families with small children, fanned out and completed the laying of the wreaths. As we did so, we stopped for a moment to recognize each service member by saying his or her name, and thanking them for their ultimate sacrifice. As we moved throughout the cemetery we listened to mothers and fathers teaching their children about the service men and women buried there. Our team was honored to represent the MOAA Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter.



MOAA Maryland Council of Chapters January Meeting

On January 11, the Maryland Council had its "Change of Command" ceremony.



National MOAA Board member (and MoCo Chapter member) Lelia Jackson administers the Leadership Oath to the relieving Council President (from Susquehanna Chapter and new MoCo Chapter member!) Cathy Hampton, 1st Vice President Mike Bowers (from Upper Potomac Chapter) and our own Chapter President Kevin Doxey, as 2nd Vice President. These new Council officers will serve two year terms.



Immediate Council Past President (and MoCo Chapter member) Gary Palmer was presented with some commemorative mementos marking his successful term as the Council leader.



This Council meeting was also the first time that the Council was able to present MoCo Chapter member Lynn Nash, the Council's Legislative Director, with the 2023 MOAA National Col. Steve Strowbridge Legislative Liaison Award. National Board member Lelia Jackson made the presentation on behalf of MOAA's National President Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, USAF (Ret)



Your 2025-2026 Maryland Council

Urge Your Lawmakers to Secure Federal Job Protections for Military Spouses

By: Jen Goodale

Military spouses working for the federal government provide more than just an often-untapped skill set for their agency or department – their careers make it more likely for a servicemember to remain in uniform, despite frequent moves and other potential professional derailments.

For this reason, MOAA welcomes recent guidance from the VA and other federal agencies designed to exempt military spouses on PCS orders from recent Office of Personal Management (OPM) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) directives regarding a federal hiring freeze, a return to in-person work for federal employees, and changes to probationary periods and administrative leave policies.

But not all agencies are making such exemptions part of their policies. And while some lawmakers are weighing in with letters to OPM and OMB urging consideration of exemptions for military spouses, they need to hear from you about how important this issue is to the financial wellbeing of military families, and to the health of the all-volunteer force.

Without this protection, the new guidance could negatively impact military spouses who have been offered federal positions, are in a probationary hiring status, or are currently working for the federal government.

Recognizing the Need

Three executive orders (EOs) in the past 17 years recognized and addressed persistent un- and underemployment challenges military spouses face. The FY 2024 NDAA further clarified the importance of expanding re-

mote and telework options for federally employed military spouses.

A VA memo issued Jan. 24 notes that the new federal policy “allows for exceptions for military spouses with permanent change of station orders. Current arrangements to include Domestic Employee Teleworking Overseas (DETO) arrangements will not be modified unless there is a basis for revisiting or revising the arrangement.” This memo should be a model for other agencies moving forward.

The same day, the Department of Health and Human Services issued an agency exemption to military spouses with permanent changes of station, noting, “Current Workplace Flexibility Agreements will not be modified unless there is a basis for revisiting or revising the arrangements.”

However, other department-wide guidance such as that issued by DoD and the Labor Department lacked similar provisions. Additional OPM and OMB guidance on return-to-office plans issued Jan. 27 included language in a footnote exempting military spouses working remotely under language in the FY 2024 NDAA. However, without more specific direction from OPM and OMB, there are significant concerns military spouses on the move could face additional difficulties keeping, or securing, federal positions despite their qualifications. Visit MOAA's Legislative Action Center and ask your lawmakers to urge OPM and OMB to establish exemptions for military spouses to ensure they can continue to make their valuable contributions to our federal workforce while helping support their families

SILVER SPRING



Connection.
Camaraderie.
Community.

Remembering Vietnam War Veterans

Save the Date

March 27, 2025

Knights of Columbus

Rosensteel Hall

9707 Rosensteel Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910

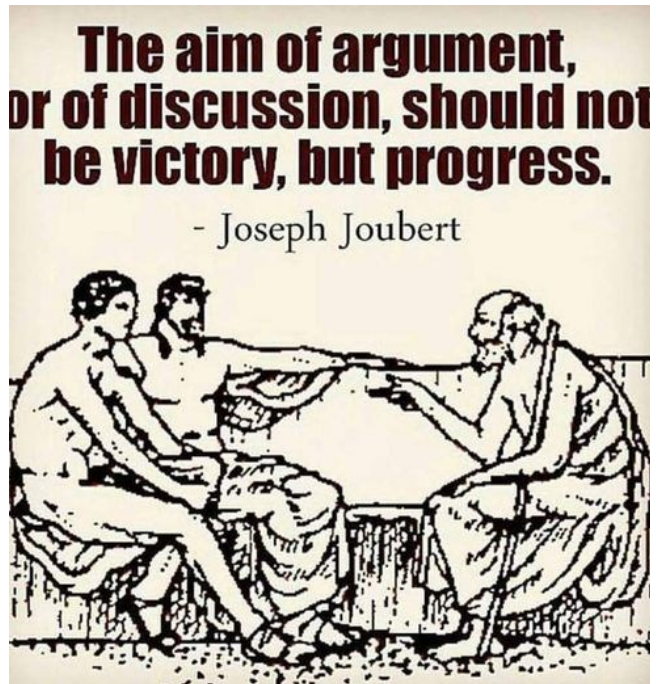
Time: 11:00am – 2:00pm



SEEN ON THE INTERNET



Sorry. Being a born and bred Maineiac, I
couldn't resist this!



Wisdom of the Ages

Thought 1: Injustice cannot reign if the community does not furnish a due supply of unjust agents.

Thought 2: Practical politics consists in ignoring facts.

Thought 3: No government can long endure without a formidable opposition.

Thought 4: Unanimity is almost always an indication of servitude.

Thought 5: Tyranny is always better organized than freedom.

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 generated by AI)

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

February 19@ 1200

Jim Resnick

Montgomery County Fire Rescue Service

A Seniors Safety Briefing

March 19 @ 1200

Pending

April 16 **Dinner @1800**

Grace Caulfield

Director/Vice President

The Steven A Cohen Military Family Clinic at Easterseals



The chapter board will meet, with advance notice, at the call of the President, either in-person or virtually. When announced, any chapter member wishing to is certainly invited to attend and lend your voice to the discussion. In the past, these meetings have typically lasted 45-60 minutes.

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)