

The “*Eight for America*” Newsletter

Montgomery County Chapter

Maryland



August 2026

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A CY 2025 Winner



A CY 2025 Winner

NOTE CHAPTER MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. BOX 7564

GAITHERSBURG, MD 20898-9996



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As summer is winding down and schools are beginning to start up, the “unofficial start of Fall is just around the corner. I will be looking to get the most out of the last few weeks of summer and hope that you will too. It is a great time for taking vacations, planning family events or even looking forward to the sales. But, for military members and veterans it's more significant.

The sacrifices of military personnel — defending freedom, serving in challenging conditions, and making personal sacrifices for the nation — parallel the dedication of laborers, that we celebrate on Labor Day. It's a fitting occasion to pay tribute to the labor that the military community put into their roles and for military families to come together, share stories, and offer support to one another. Whether it's a neighborhood barbecue or a community event, these gatherings foster a sense of belonging and camaraderie that is essential for military families.

Montgomery County is a great community that offers hometown charm and many cultural experiences. I would encourage you to check out their website and see the many small-town parades (e.g. Kennington or Gaithersburg), lively street festivals, or a relaxing afternoon browsing local art (Glen Echo). These events provide a fun way to soak up the last days of summer. I also came across this great resource guide that Montgomery County updated for 2026—It's worth a read and has all that Montgomery County has to offer in one place.

[Resource Guide | Beacon](#)

Thank you all for being part of our Chapter and sharing your experiences. I am always amazed by the depth of knowledge of our members and the dedicated commitment each of you have for our shared goals of preserving and protecting our earned benefits.

Never stop serving!

June 17



Our June speaker holds the local office with whom we, or our survivors, will someday deal. Paul Dollahite is the county's Register of Wills. Our personal Wills are a fundamental aspect of our legal estates and are extremely important in guiding our Personal Representatives in carrying out our final wishes.

In his informative presentation, he addressed the requirements for a valid will, who should make a will, how the lack of a will in an estate is legally handled in Maryland. He touched on how a will should be handled for safekeeping, the proper procedure for changing one's will, and how the validity of an out-of-state will is determined and handled in this state.

He pointed out that a will is primarily the legal vehicle for handling probate assets, especially if there is a legal trust covering other assets. While he commented that there are "create your own will" packages available on the internet, he definitely encouraged having professional legal assist in drawing up the document.

There were additional topics discussed during his presentation, but he made available his PowerPoint slide deck for anyone who wishes to see it. If interested in receiving these slides, simply email our request to the Chapter Secretary. Email address can be found on page 1 of this issue.

July 15



For our July dinner, we were honored to host MOAA's National President and CEO, Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), as our speaker. It was the most well-attended chapter meeting in two decades.

Gen Kelly built his general remarks around the five topics he addresses in his regular online briefings to our National Board of Directors: MOAA Long-Term Financial Stability, MOAA Charities, Sustaining and Increasing MOAA Membership, Chapter System Viability, Strengthening MOAA's Brand and Reach.

MOAA's long term financial stability is an existential factor because when revenues lag expenses, it requires larger use of the investment portfolio. The post-merger effective operation of MOAA Charities is essential for ensuring long-term success in meeting MOAA's charitable giving goals.

In addressing membership realities, he noted that overall membership is growing via the free Basic option, paid membership options are declining. Digital campaigns to encourage membership upgrades are underway with encouraging early results. MOAA is working to reinforce the chapter affiliate system, as chapter members are the most involved advocates on all of MOAA's issues.

MOAA's brand is an asset that must be a constant feature of engagement that is essential to meet all the various goals that make MOAA what it is to its 355,000 members.

General Kelly gladly accepted our chapter's contribution to MOAA Charities as a "thank you" for his telling us like it is. We appreciate all he does as our leader.

CHAPTER RECRUITING

Chapter Recruiting 2026 is underway. Our efforts will be overseen by our Chapter Membership Chair Lt Col Gary Palmer, USAF (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 MOAA Administrative Management System. Since the last newsletter, we have added six new members to our roster:

CAPT Shelby Biedenkapp, USPHS (Ret)

MAJ Louis Boston, Jr., USA (Ret)

LTC William England, Jr., USA (Ret)

CAPT James Moore, USPHS (Ret)

CAPT Gary Schumacher, USPHS (Ret)

CAPT Edwin Spirer, USPHS (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:

Cpt Asha George, USA (fmr)

CAPT Lynn Nash, USPHS (Ret)

Those of you coming up for renewal will receive an email from the Treasurer when the time comes. We always hope for a renewal form and check in reply.

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, chapter membership chair, and chapter president. Contact info for these officers, respectively:

(301) 233-8090 kmpdhp@comcast.net

(240) 994-9995 gtbdpalmer@verizon.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.



2026 FLAG FLYING DAYS

Sept 1 Labor Day

Sept 11 Patriot Day

Sept 17 Constitution Day

Sept 19 POW/MIA Recognition Day

Oct 12 Columbus Day

Oct 27 Navy Day

Nov 11 Veterans Day

Nov 26 Thanksgiving

Dec 7 Pearl Harbor Day

Dec 25 Christmas

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

At an earlier zoom board meeting, the chapter board adopted the following goals to guide our chapter through 2026. This is a “living” document and may be updated or amended in response to legislative or organizational developments. Quite likely, most of these will extend into 2027 as well.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER MOAA

2026 GOALS & PRIORITIES

Aligned with MOAA National, the Maryland Military Coalition (MMC) and Montgomery County

ADVOCACY

Protect Earned Benefits

- Support legislation safeguarding retirement pay, TRICARE, survivor benefits, and VA healthcare etc...
- Advance MMC priorities such as expanding Maryland tax relief for retirees and surviving spouses.

Support Currently Serving Personnel

- Advocate for improvements in housing, childcare, spouse employment, and PCS stability.
- Promote State and County programs benefiting the Uniformed Services, retirees and serving spouses.

Enhance Support for Veterans

- Champion better access to healthcare, mental health resources, and employment pathways.
- Support MMC efforts to expand credentialing reciprocity and state benefit access.

Amplifying Our Voice

- Engage in MOAA National advocacy campaigns and MMC working groups.
- Actively engage with the Montgomery County Council by providing testimony, participating in public hearings, and contributing to the County’s annual legislative priorities process.
- Maintain a rapid response network for legislative alerts.
- Partnership the County’s Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Veterans Affairs (within HHS), and the County Executive’s Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Support Local Veterans & Families

- Provide emergency assistance, mentorship, and resource navigation.
- Partner with nonprofits and county agencies to address a myriad of veteran issues

Engage Youth & ROTC/JROTC

- Offer scholarships, leadership awards, and mentorship.
- Promote pathways to military service and leadership development.

Honor Service & Build Awareness

- Participate in community ceremonies and events honoring veterans and Gold Star families.
- Collaborate with schools and civic groups to highlight military service.

Expand Charitable Impact

- Grow fundraising and partnerships supporting veteran wellness and family resilience.
- Align with MMC-supported charitable initiatives across Maryland.

MEMBERSHIP

Grow & Diversify Our Chapter

- Recruit Uniformed Service from Active, Guard, Reserve, retired officers, and surviving spouses.
- Prioritize outreach to younger officers and transitioning service members.

Strengthening Member Engagement

- Offer high-value programs: speakers, policy briefings, and member interest items.

Develop Leadership & Volunteer Capacity

- Build a sustainable leadership pipeline through mentorship and committee involvement.
- Encourage participation in MMC, MOAA National and County initiatives.

Enhance Communication & Visibility

- Improve outreach through newsletters, social media, and community partnerships.
- Deliver timely updates on advocacy, events, and volunteer opportunities.



Montgomery County Chapter-MOAA
P.O. Box 7564
Gaithersburg, MD 20898-9996

Dear Montgomery County Chapter,

Thank you so much for the warm welcome last month during my visit with you and your members. I would also like to extend my appreciation for your generous contribution to MOAA Charities. Your support reflects not only a commitment to our mission, but also a true belief in the impact we are striving to make.

For more than 75 years, our programs have had a positive impact on the lives of families and individuals across the country. With your support, MOAA Charities ensures that critical programs and resources remain free and accessible to all members of the uniformed services community and their families.

We are proud to count you among our dedicated supporters. Your gift allows us to respond quickly and compassionately when our community faces unexpected hardship, and strengthens our programs and their long-term impact.

Please know how much we value your generosity, and your leadership in both your community and the broader MOAA membership. Thank you again for your investment in our mission and your steadfast belief in this work. Together, we will *Never Stop Serving*.

With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B.T. Kelly", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret)
President and CEO



August 6, 2026

Montgomery County Chapter-MOAA
P.O. Box 7564
Gaithersburg, MD 20898-9996

Dear Montgomery County Chapter,

On behalf of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), thank you for your generous donation of \$1000 on 7/17/2026 to MOAA Charities. Your support plays a vital role in helping us provide essential programs and services to the broader uniformed services community.

As you may know, effective March 1, 2026, The MOAA Foundation and the MOAA Scholarship Fund are uniting together as MOAA Charities to strengthen our operations and deliver even greater impact.

This merger strengthens MOAA Charities for the long term and positions us to meet the growing needs of the uniformed service and veteran community with clarity, efficiency, and confidence.

By operating as a single organization, we can focus more resources directly on the people we serve, streamline administration, and reduce duplication. This creates a clearer and more accessible structure for giving and recognition, making it easier for supporters to see how their generosity makes a difference. Past and future donations earmarked for specific programs will be honored, and donors and sponsors may still direct gifts as desired. More information can be found at charities.moaa.org/about-us/merger.

The mission has not changed. We remain fully committed to empowering uniformed service and veteran families by supporting their journeys, strengthening their lives, and honoring their service. Your philanthropic intent remains the guiding principle.

We are grateful for your ongoing support and commitment to Never Stop Serving. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

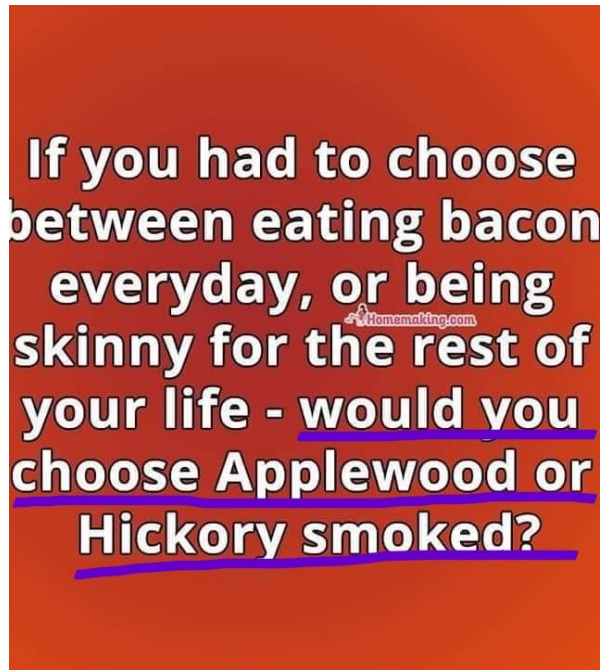
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Amanda Centers", is written in dark ink.

Amanda Centers
Vice President of Development

PLEASE RETAIN THIS LETTER AS YOUR RECEIPT.

The MOAA Charities (Tax ID# 54-1659039) is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization. No goods or services were provided in connection with this gift. Your donation is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

SEEN ON THE INTERNET



Wisdom of the Ages

Thought 1: It is better to debate a question without settling it than to settle a question without debating it.

Thought 2: One of the commonest ailments of the present day is premature formation of opinion.

Thought 3: Those who are fond of setting things to rights have no great objection to seeing them wrong.

Thought 4: The more you say, the less people remember.

Thought 5: Once men sang together round a table in chorus; now one man sings alone for the absurd reason that he can sing better.

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**

August 19

Cheryl Glang

“Preparing for Survivorship” (A reprise from 2024)

September 16 **Dinner**

Jim Calderwood & RADM Joyce Johnson, USPHS (Ret)

Commentary and Q&A on Mid-term Elections

October 21

Pete Freudenberger

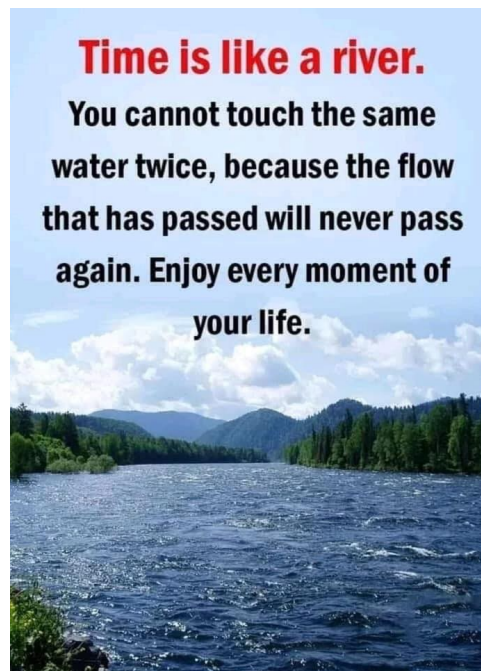
Director, Silver Spring Vet Center

“An Personal Introduction and Center Outreach”

November 18

Pending

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)