



Charleston Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

September — Issue 08 2026

Published monthly, except July

Web site: www.charlestonmoaa.com

Chapter Luncheon with COL Patrick K McClintock, USAF

Commander, 437th Airlift Wing, Joint Base Charleston
Help us welcome the new Commander of our local airlift wing, who assumed command this summer.

Place: Logan's Roadhouse
211 Azalea Square Blvd
Summerville, SC 29483
843-851-8666



Date: Friday, September 25, 2026

Time: Social Hour 11AM accompanied by a cash bar

Lunch: 12 Noon

Menu: Plated Lunch served with Water or Tea

Choice of two entrees:

OR Baby Back Ribs: a half rack of ribs, so tender they fall off the bone!

Teriyaki Grilled Chicken: 8 oz. fresh boneless chicken breast, marinated in a blend of pineapple juice, teriyaki sauce, herbs, and spices.

All entrees include Logan's homemade yeast rolls, a Roadhouse dinner salad, and a baked potato.

Cost: \$30.00 per person. This is a dessert-free luncheon.

Dress: Casual.

RSVP: Make checks out to MOAA Charleston, or use ZELLE (See page 7 for instructions.)
Checks to arrive NLT Monday, September 21, 2026,

Mail to: CAPT Bud Schneeweis USCG (Ret), 6 Wappoo Creek Pl, Charleston, SC 29412

Please indicate your meal preference on your check on in the NOTE section of ZELLE.

For additional information - CAPT Bud Schneeweis @ 703.300.0811 or
wschneeweis@verizon.net

Check out our interesting member's biographical sketch on page 3.

Legislative Summary

Submitted by: Bud Schneeweis



CAPT, USCG (Ret)

Special, Check Out: MOAA's [Take Action Center](#)

Republican Primary

As of this writing, it appears that Senator Darline Graham has defeated Congressman Ralph Norman in the GOP Primary runoff election. That means that Sen. D. Graham will face Dr. Annie Andrews, a local pediatrician, in the November 3rd election. South Carolina will be represented by a woman Senator for the next full term, regardless of who wins in November. This is a historic first for South Carolina.

November is only two months away. Please be sure that your voting registration is up to date Everyone should plan to vote in the November elections!

This Spouse-Employment Boost Requires a Different Path on the Hill ... and Needs Your Support

Many MOAA-backed pieces of legislation designed to improve quality of life for military families have become law through the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). But that path isn't available for our work to create a new line of support for military spouse employment.

Many people are surprised to learn that adding military spouses to the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) cannot be accomplished through the NDAA. Instead, the change must be achieved through tax legislation, which is under the jurisdiction of the House Committee on Ways and Means and the



Senate Committee on Finance.

WOTC is a tax credit, and any legislation that creates, modifies, or reauthorizes a tax credit is considered tax legislation. This includes:

The Military Spouse Hiring Act (H.R.2033 | S.1027), which would add military spouses as an eligible group under the WOTC.

The Improve and Enhance the Work Opportunity Tax Credit Act (H.R. 6231 | S. 3265), which would reauthorize the now-expired WOTC (a move that would benefit veterans, who are already a WOTC group), increase the amount of the tax credit, and add military spouses as an eligible group.

The NDAA falls under the jurisdiction of the House and Senate Armed Services committees. While these committees are responsible for many military personnel and family issues, they do not have authority over tax policy. Consequently, adding military spouses to the WOTC cannot be accomplished through the NDAA.

Instead, this reauthorization and modifica-

Continued on page 5.

Thank You
The following have renewed their membership for Five or More Years:

Unfortunately, nothing to report.



Steve Rowe, Realtor®

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For every referred Client I donate \$100 to the MOAA Scholarship Fund!

This month's interesting members biographical sketch

COL Matthew Tyler, USA (Ret.)

COL Matthew Tyler, U.S. Army (Ret.), is a South Carolina native who grew up in the Charleston area and graduated from Middleton High School in 1987 (Middleton and St. Andrews High Schools merged in 2000 to become what is now West Ashley High School). He earned a bachelor's degree in computer science from The Citadel and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1991.

During a 30-year Army career, Matthew served around the world, including one combat tour in Iraq and two in Afghanistan. He considers his most rewarding assignment to have been commanding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District in Wiesbaden, Germany, where he led more than 400 military and civilian personnel and oversaw a major program of U.S. military and U.S.-funded foreign military construction across Europe and Israel. He concluded his active-duty service at the Pentagon in 2021.

After retiring from the Army, Matthew joined Amazon, supporting the construction of robotic fulfillment centers around the world. He later returned home to the Lowcountry in 2022 and, in late 2025, joined James White Construction, a heavy civil sitework contractor serving the Charleston tri-county area since 1981. He is the company's Director of Project Integration and Technology.



Matthew and his wife Michelle live in a historic home built in 1880 in Summerville. They have three grown children: twins Jordan, who works in local government in the Tampa, Florida area, and Jessica, a licensed mental health clinician in Florida; and Joshua, a lead senior software developer with Caterpillar in Chicago, Illinois. Jessica and her husband, Greg, who is on active duty, live in the Tampa area with Matthew and Michelle's two grandchildren.

An avid runner, Matthew regularly participates in the Cooper River Bridge Run (the nation's third-largest 10K) and has completed the Boston Marathon. He and Michelle enjoy traveling, Citadel football, and performances by the Flowertown Players in the historic James F. Dean Community theater in Summerville. Their Citadel tailgate group earned 2025 "Tailgate of the Year" honors. Matthew is a lifetime member of the VFW, serves on the board of the Summerville Citadel Club, and is a lifetime member of MOAA. Please welcome Matthew and Michelle to the Charleston MOAA Chapter.

Upcoming Events

October 30, 2026: Luncheon will be on the **5th** Friday at Fleet Reserve Association at Goose Creek. Our speaker will be CAPT Anne O'Connell, CO, USCG Stone to talk about Caribbean operations.

November 20, 2026: Luncheon will be on the **3rd** Friday. Venue to be determined. Social meeting without speaker.

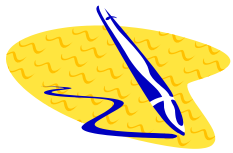
December 18, 2026: Luncheon will be on **3rd** Friday. Venue to be determined. Social meeting without speaker.



Rest in Peace

Military Brothers and Sisters. Your Service to Our Country is Recorded and Honored.

CWO3 Jerry K. Stout, USN (Ret)
passed away on 09 June 2026. He is
survived by his wife Christine and
Family.



President's Pen

I owe the Stout family a huge "I am sorry"! CWO3 Jerry K. Stout, USN (Ret) passed away on 09 June 2026 after attending our May luncheon. We did not publish a newsletter in July; therefore, his notice should have been listed in the August issue. Unfortunately, that did not happen. Jerry was a very loyal member of our chapter. A loyal attendee to our monthly luncheons, he often brought one or more guests with him. He will be missed at our events. His wife Christine is now a member of our Chapter as a Surviving Spouse. The belated notice of his passing is included in this month's issue of our newsletter with our sincere apology.

With the summer recess of our governmental leaders, MOAA National has begun a special Advocacy in Action program to enlist the assistance of all its members to personally work with their representatives to encourage them to pass three items of legislation. MOAA National asks that when we contact our representatives at their local offices that we discuss only these three AiA items. Bud Schneeweis covers these in more detail in his Legislative column this month. We only ask that each of you please contact your representatives personally to encourage their support. Thank you, in advance for your support.

We are approaching our fall luncheon schedules and we usually meet on the 4th Friday of each month. However, with some up-coming events, we are going to have to move our luncheons to different Fridays. October, November and December are the months that will be affected. In October, MOAA National has a mandatory meeting in DC; therefore, Bud will have to attend and we are moving the luncheon to the 5th Friday. With Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays, we are moving the November and December luncheons up to the 3rd Friday. Just making you aware of these up-coming changes so you can note them on your calendars.

Thank You

**Lt Col Edward D. Knowles Toys for
Tots Benefits Program**
30th Year

Current Toys for Tots Fund

\$ 1,229.17

Thank you again for your continued support to the Charleston Chapter!!

Ernie

MOAA Legislative Update for September 2026 Newsletter (continued from page 6.)

Changes include reducing Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs) from 18 to five, establishing health service regional areas, and piloting a 30-day hiring initiative to accelerate recruitment.

Keeping the Promise Through Action

The conference reinforced a central message: Serving veterans requires coordinated action across federal agencies, states, VSOs, health care systems and community organizations. MOAA will continue working with NASDVA; federal, state, and community leaders; fellow VSOs; and Congress to advance timely access to VA health care, benefits, and necessary resources to veterans, servicemembers, their families, caregivers, and survivors who earned them through service and sacrifice.

Use MOAA's Legislative Action Center to urge Congress to support the Take Care of America's Veterans Act and turn years of advocacy into meaningful results for veterans and their families. The legislation will allow our nation to keep its promise to those who serve and have served.

Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to those who are celebrating in September and a belated Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to those who celebrated in previous months!

tion to the tax credit must be included in what is called a “tax title” package. These packages arise infrequently, and they must originate in the House.

Why Does This Matter?

The lawmakers MOAA typically works with on military quality-of-life issues are not necessarily the same ones deciding whether to reauthorize the WOTC or amend it to include military spouses.

There are also fewer legislative opportunities to advance WOTC-related bills. The last tax title-related legislation that became law was part of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which passed in July 2025.

This is why continued education and advocacy are vital to MOAA’s advocacy. Members of Congress who serve on tax-writing committees need to understand how unemployment affects veterans, military spouses, and currently serving families. When the next tax package starts to take shape, we need to ensure WOTC and the needs of military families are a part of the conversation from the very beginning.

How You Can Help

Personal stories are one of the most effective advocacy tools available.

If you are a veteran, military spouse, or member of a currently serving family negatively impacted by unemployment because of military service, share your story with your lawmakers by personalizing this message. Explain how employment barriers have impacted your family and ask them to support the Improve and Enhance the Work Opportunity Tax Credit Act.

Rest in Peace Spouses

For Your Support to our Military Brothers and Sisters. Your Service is Recorded and Honored.

Lt Col Kruger B. Smith, USAF (Ret) passed away 09 July 2026. He is survived by his wife June.

By sharing real-world experiences, you can help policymakers better understand why reauthorizing WOTC and expanding eligibility to military spouses is so critical.

Take action and personalize your message today.

Take Care of America’s Veterans Act in Spotlight During Recent Conference

MOAA joined fellow veterans service organizations (VSOs) alongside state directors, federal leaders, and community partners at a recent conference covering the ongoing challenges that shape veterans’ benefits, health care, long-term care, memorial affairs, and transition assistance.

CDR René Campos, USN (Ret), MOAA’s senior director of Government Relations, took part in a VSO roundtable at the annual conference of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA), held August 9-12 in Savannah, Ga., with representatives from Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and AMVETS. Panelists covered legislative priorities and current advocacy campaigns, with the Take Care of America’s Veterans Act taking center stage.

The measure has produced an active debate within the veteran community. Campos affirmed MOAA’s support for the bill and stressed the urgency created by the limited number of legislative workdays left in the 119th Congress.

With both chambers in recess and adjournment scheduled for Dec. 18, the fall congressional calendar will be demanding. MOAA continues to advocate for action on the omnibus veterans package and urges Congress to move meaningful bipartisan legislation forward.

A separate congressional roundtable with House and Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee majority and minority staff members also focused on the bill. The discussion was engaging and candid, particularly regarding its proposed funding mechanism, and participants articulated their respective positions. Despite their differences, the panelists recognized significant work remained after the recess and expressed interest in collaboration and bipartisan progress.

Continued on page 6.

State Directors' Challenges

Throughout the conference, state directors emphasized several operational and policy concerns:

State veterans homes need substantially greater access to VA construction grants and adequate reimbursement for complex care, staffing challenges, and expensive medications.

Veterans continue to encounter inconsistent access to mental health beds, especially when civilian residential care requires travel far from home.

Nonprofit veterans' services vary widely in quality and availability.

VA compensation and pension exams remain inconsistent. Medical records and other health information do not always transfer smoothly among VA medical centers, civilian providers, and state veterans homes.

VA prescription and dental benefits can be disrupted when a veteran enters a state veterans home. Homes may not receive coverage for high-cost medications or dental services previously available through VA direct care.

These concerns align with NASDVA's priorities and many VSO advocacy priorities, which include increased State Home Construction Grant Program funding, improved appointment scheduling, better community care coordination, and continued oversight of electronic health record modernization.

VA Leadership

Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Paul Lawrence framed VA's mission around a simple theme: "Promise only matters when it is fulfilled." The VA is working to keep its prom-

ise to veterans and their families by expanding benefits and care, Lawrence said - modernizing compensation examinations, restarting electronic health record modernization, and restructuring the Veterans Health Administration (VHA).

Lawrence also called on NASDVA members and conference participants to help locate veterans who are not connected with the VA. Finding those veterans, assisting individuals who received less-than-honorable discharges, and encouraging veterans to give VA another opportunity after a disappointing first encounter are essential parts of improving access.

Other key points from VA leaders during the conference:

VA Inspector General Cheryl Mason reported that, over the preceding 18 months, her office had uncovered approximately \$2 billion in fraud across VA programs. She said the VA is changing faster than ever and that the Office of Inspector General is adapting by producing oversight reports more rapidly. Community care, medical billing and services, fiduciary programs, education and identity theft were identified as major areas of concern.

Chief Veterans Experience Officer Dr. Lynda Davis discussed VA responses to disasters and ongoing efforts to improve information sharing with states. She also highlighted a key transition finding: Veterans are more likely to connect with the VA if they begin a relationship with the department before separation from military service.

Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits Margarita Devlin reported that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) processed more than 2 million claims during the previous year while reducing the disability-claims backlog and maintaining high accuracy rates. The VBA has conducted quality-control sprints to identify trends, strengthen employee training, make dependency and indemnity compensation payments more quickly, and simplify the disability claims form from 15 pages to four.

Participants also heard updates on VHA's reorganization, which is intended to reduce bureaucracy and improve safety and access.

Continued on page 4.

Charleston Chapter MOAA () Membership Application () Renewal () Change of Address. Chapter Dues: \$20.00 a year for Regular membership. Surviving Spouse membership \$5.00 per year. Multiple year dues are encouraged in order to reduce paperwork. Make check payable to "Charleston MOAA". Mail to: Charleston MOAA, P.O. Box 70421, Charleston SC 29415-0421.

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____

DOB _____ Rank _____ Service _____ Spouse's Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Member of National MOAA? Please provide your membership number _____

Your status : () Retired () Active Duty () Reserve () National Guard () Former Officer () Surviving Spouse Dues for Year (s) _____

How do you want to receive your newsletter () US Mail (B&W) or () E Mail (Full color)

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Step 2: Add our organization as a recipient. Send your payment to: charlestonmoaa@gmail.com.

Make sure the name shown is: Charleston Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

Step 3: Enter your payment details.

- Amount: Enter the correct amount for your payment.

• **Memo (important!):** Please include what the payment is for:

- Annual dues
- Luncheon/food choices
- Donation - Toys for Tots or Scholarship Fund

This memo helps us credit your payment correctly.

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SCHOLARSHIP/Web Site

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r2smart1@gmail.com

Prospective Chapter Members: If you are not a member of the Charleston Chapter, MOAA, you have received this copy as a courtesy invitation to contact any Officer or Director for information about joining our Chapter. News and Views herein are not necessarily those of any Government Department or another Chapter, or a Member's Chapter and non-partisan.

Membership News

LATEST INFORMATION

Total Members - 208
Regular Members—161
Honorary Members - 4
Surviving Spouse Members - 42
Special Members—1

Members receiving the newsletter by email 134

CHARLESTON MOAA MEMBERS: We are continuing our recruiting drive for new members. If you are uncertain of your status, just e-mail me at brockman1982@att.net and I will verify if you are current for another year or more or— if you need to pay dues for 2026. My cell number is 704-300-8739, but an e-mail is usually the best and most efficient. We value your membership and appreciate your support of our chapter.

As of January 1, 2026 our dues for Regular Members has been increased to \$20/year. The dues will remain at \$5 for Surviving Spouses—defined as widows or widowers of Regular Members. Please make checks payable to "Charleston MOAA" and mail to Charleston MOAA, PO BOX 70421, Charleston, SC 29415-0421. We now have an alternative method for payment of dues other than USPS. Please see the instructions for Zelle payments on page 7.

RECRUITING UPDATE - I ask everyone to think of our Chapter when you are meeting new folks in your community, neighborhood, church or other organizations. If they are interested in joining our Chapter, and meet the criteria, I will be glad to follow-up and share more information with them. Just provide my name, number and e-mail to them or send me an e-mail with their information and I will reach out to them.

ADDRESS/EMAIL CHANGES-Please keep me advised if you have a change to your address, phone or e-mail and I will update our records. When you have requested a newsletter to be mailed to you and your address has changed or you are on vacation, the Chapter must pay a fee to the Post Office for the newsletter to have the mail released. We will be glad to use your email during your time of travel only if you prefer.

We very much appreciate everyone's support of our Chapter and should you have any questions at any time,— feel free to call me at 704-300-8739 or e-mail me at brockman1982@att.net. I will be happy to answer your questions.

Thank you!
Beverly Brockman Col, USA (Ret)
Membership 2nd Vice President

Thank You

*For your gift in support of
Chapter programs:*

*LTC Ellen C. Beckmann, USA (Ret) ***

Thank you to all that contribute to our programs at our luncheons, too.

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**Many improvements were recently made,
and the work continues.**