



Bridge View



Charleston Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

April – Issue 04 2026

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Web site: www.charlestonmoaa.com

Chapter Luncheon with CAPT Shawn Lansing, USCG Coast Guard Sector Charleston Commander

Third times the charm? We think the DHS funding impasse might be resolved by then, so we're going to try once again to meet CAPT Shawn Lansing, who assumed command of Coast Guard Sector Charleston last summer.

- Place:** Logan's Roadhouse
211 Azalea Square Blvd
Summerville, SC 29483
843-851-8666
- Date:** Friday, April 24, 2026
- Time:** Social Hour 11AM accompanied by a cash bar
- Lunch:** 12 Noon
- Menu:** Plated Lunch served with Water or Tea



Choose between these two entrees:

Sirloin: 8 oz. hand-cut Choice steak, aged and seasoned with our special spices and grilled to perfection over an open mesquite flame.

OR

Southwest Chicken: 8 oz. fresh boneless chicken breast topped with BBQ sauce, Monterey Jack and cheddar cheese smothered with sautéed onions, mushrooms, bacon bits and diced tomatoes, served over a bed of rice.

All entrees include Roadhouse dinner salad, Logan's famous homemade yeast rolls, & choice of our sugar & Cinnamon mix sweet potato; baked potato; fries; rice pilaf; or broccoli.

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

Dress: Casual.

RSVP: Make checks out to MOAA Charleston. Check to arrive NLT Monday, April 20, 2026, or use **ZELLE**.

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

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

Check out our interesting member biographical sketch on page 3.

Legislative Summary

Submitted by: Bud Schneeweis



CAPT, USCG (Ret)

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

Advocacy in Action

This month, on April 15th, leaders from the South Carolina Council of Chapters will attempt to call on each member of the South Carolina Congressional delegation on Capitol Hill. MOAA's AiA 2026 continues to emphasize grassroots advocacy, including:

- Protecting earned pay and benefits for servicemembers and veterans veterans
- Supporting legislation such as the Major Richard Star Act and the Military Spouse Hiring Act
- Engaging members in TRICARE access and healthcare advocacy

If we can't reach a principal, we try to engage with appropriate staffers and leave printed material supporting MOAAs agenda. As always, please communicate your support or concern to you elected officials. They want to hear from you.

From MOAA's President: Building a Stronger Association in 2026 By: LTG Brian T. Kelly, USAF Ret.

I'm now a few months into my fourth year as your association president. In my first year, we defined **six enduring challenges** we need to tackle over time to secure the health of MOAA into the future.

Annually, I also share with the MOAA staff a list of carefully selected priorities I believe will have the biggest positive impact on our members while also ensuring the strength and longevity of our association by helping to address our enduring challenges.

MOAA's Enduring Challenges

- Ensuring MOAA's long-term financial security.
- Improving the self-sufficiency of The MOAA Foundation.
- Sustaining and increasing paid membership.
- Assuring the viability of our chapters and councils.
- Strengthening our brand and reach.
- Maintaining our key advocacy positions and mission focus.

We rely on your support for MOAA's mission, so it's incumbent on me to provide transparency regarding our efforts.

Execute TotalForce+ at or above first-year levels: Our first-ever people-focused conference had more than 2,500 registered attendees, gained hundreds of new members, yielded new business partners, and brought together voices across the currently serving, veteran, industry, and academic populations. Even facing headwinds from a government shutdown, we were able to meet sponsorship goals and garner a large turnout with satisfied reviews from all who attended.

Continued on page 5.

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

Col Paul S. Bolen, USAF (Ret)



Steve Rowe, Realtor®



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

This month's interesting biographical sketch

Maj William Reckert, USMC (Ret)

MAJ Reckert was raised in Indiana and had a football scholarship to the University of Evansville, Indiana. He majored in Law Enforcement. He decided to join the Marine Corps and went through their Platoon Leaders Class Program and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. Initially he wanted to fly and be a policeman, so he was sent to flight school in Pensacola, Florida, but had an eardrum rupture, sinus infections and was unable to be a pilot. He was assigned to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Bill had 10 years on active duty in the Marine Corps and completed his service for retirement in the Marine Reserves and National Guard. Bill joined active duty in the Marine Corps in 1975 and retired from the National Guard in 1996.

His most rewarding assignments included being assigned in Iwakuni, Japan where he was the OIC of an Engineer Platoon and was the Wing Engineer providing engineering support for the Marine Wing. He also had an opportunity to work for a month in Korea. Learning the culture in these countries was a valuable life experience as well as his military work.

The next assignment he enjoyed was in Camp Pendleton, California where he was a company commander in a Combat Engineer Company. He again enjoyed the work and the location. The other assignment he felt was fulfilling was the Inspector Instructor assignment in Peoria, Illinois in the Marine Engineer Reserves.

Later in his career, he earned his Master's Degree in Management from Oakland City University in Indiana and has been a faculty Adjunct until 2023. Bill retired in State Police work after 30 years in Indiana.

He met his wife, Shelli, while she was working as a State Police Officer. Both are retired now and enjoy a variety of activities. Bill volunteers two days a week at Patriot Point and also does some contract work at Patriot's Point with the Flight Academy. Their daughter is a Junior at The Citadel. She is a cheerleader and is contracted to join the Navy. Bill has a son, Quentin, that works for the Navy in Indiana in mechanical engineering. Bill and Shelli have 6 grandchildren.

Bill has chosen to be a member of the Charleston MOAA Chapter and attends our luncheons as his schedule permits. Bill and Shelli enjoy traveling back to Indiana as well as other locations. Although they have family and friends in Indiana, they call Summerville their home and don't have plans to return permanently to Indiana. Thanks to Bill for making Charleston MOAA one of the organizations he chose to join. Please welcome Bill and Shelli when they can attend our luncheons.



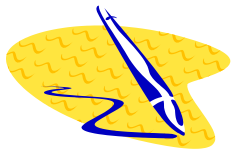
Bill and Shelli with their daughter Claire at the December 2025 Christmas Candlelight Service. The gold stars represent the highest academic award for that semester and she also wears the Deans' List medal for academic achievement.



Rest in Peace

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

Thankfully, nothing to report this month.



President's Pen

Welcome to Uncle Sam's Favorite Day!!!

April 15th is right around the corner. At this writing, South Carolina has not accepted the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) as passed by the US Congress after the South Carolina Legislative Session adjourned in May 2025. Therefore, the SC Tax Code is presently under the 2024 Internal Revenue Service Code.

House Bill 3368 - which contains full conformity - has passed the House and has gone to the Senate. The Senate Finance Committee debated the bill and found it favorable. It now goes to the full Senate for consideration. It would behoove everyone to contact your Senator and express your concerns about passage as there are considerable consequences with everyone's tax returns for 2025 until this matter is resolved.

Dare I say "government shutdown"? Bud has some great speakers lined up for our up-coming luncheons that had been scheduled to do their presentations last year and had to cancel due to the "government shutdown" and talking with MOAA members is not part of their "critical mission". Our March luncheon speaker was scheduled to be from the USCG and fortunately, Lt Col Jim Albert, President, SC Council of Chapters was able to rearrange his schedule and filled the gap. Hopefully, the third time will be the charm with our USCG speakers in the very near future.

As I mentioned last month, spring is here and with that comes our annual ROTC and JROTC Awards ceremonies. Bob McKay is already in the process of scheduling our members to carry the junior and senior JROTC cadets their certifi-

cates, medals and cash gifts at each of their school locations. Please let him know which schools you are able to assist with as your schedule allows. If you have not done this in the past, Bob has an outstanding packet of instructions that he gets to you with the certificates, medals and the crisp \$50 bill. He does make it very easy to accomplish the mission!

Unfortunately, we still have some members of our Chapter that have not renewed their membership dues for 2026. MOAA National requires that we remove them from our roster list as of the 31st of March. We have sent our FINAL REMINDER post cards to those members and hope that they renew before we have to drop them from our roster list.

The 2026 Fort Jackson Annual Retiree Appreciation Days are scheduled for 14 - 16 May 2026. Events include: Garrison Commander's Virtual Welcome at 0730; the Retiree Breakfast; the 22nd Annual Golf Tournament on the 15th; the RAD EX-PO from 0900 - 1200 at the Solomon Center and ID cards from 0900 - 1200 at the Strom Thurmond Building, Room 109. More information available at the Retirement Services Office at 803-751-6715/5495.

A special welcome to our newest member to the Charleston Chapter: CWO3 Eric R. Erwin, US Army. A former helicopter pilot, he came to our luncheon with some of our members from the Nex-ton community. Erwin and his wife Lynn live in Summerville. Please welcome them when you see them at a future luncheon.

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

Ernie

SC C of C President Visits

A very special "thank you" to Lt Col Jim Albert, USAF (Ret) and President of the SC Council of Chapters to change his schedule and address our March luncheon as the US Government Shutdown again cancelled the USCG speaker.

Lt Col Albert had an excellent slide presentation defining the structure and priorities of MOAA National as well as the priorities of the SC Council of Chapters and the ten (10) Chapters across the state.

He outlined how MOAA National, along with most other organizations, are experiencing a loss of

Continued on page 6.

Thank You

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

Current Toys for Tots Fund

\$ 652.17

In 2026, we will host a series of smaller TotalForce+ roundtable events to build on our momentum as we prepare for the second full conference, Feb. 1-3, 2027.

Meet or exceed previous-year fundraising and programming goals for MOAA Charities: We had record demand for scholarships and grants in 2025. Our Crisis Relief Program also felt the strain of increased need as families faced natural disasters and hardships beyond their control.

Our team is taking significant steps to support both programs, and I am confident we are making exciting strides for 2026.

Continue and expand younger cohort commissioning activities: In 2025, outreach at the U.S. Military Academy led to one of the year's biggest membership wins. We also started similar relationships at the Air Force and Naval academies that we will expand this year. And we intend to launch efforts with at least seven ROTC programs, some representing the biggest officer-producing universities.

Support member recruitment for councils/chapters: At headquarters, we are making it easier for chapter leaders to reach out directly to national MOAA members in their own communities and invite them to a local MOAA experience.

Continue executing our advocacy while developing metrics to measure outcomes: In 2025, we identified areas of focus that spanned our community while also taking time to support our fellow military and veterans service organizations. New this year, we are improving analytics to better identify strategies that can bring legislative wins. I look forward to sharing key data with you.

Expand MOAA's data-driven decision-making: Data is a recurring theme of our 2026 goals. We have a wealth of information that our team will use to answer important ques-

Rest in Peace Spouses

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

Thankfully, nothing to report this month.

tions so we can become more attuned to the needs of our members and of the new generation of servicemembers.

While these might be top priorities for 2026, please know our day-to-day work involves much more. The MOAA staff and I are honored to get the job done for you and our entire association.

Legal Case Seeking GLP-1 TRICARE For Life Reversal Makes Headlines After Lawyer's Firing

A legal case seeking to reverse the Pentagon's revocation of some GLP-1 drug coverage for TRICARE For Life beneficiaries has made headlines thanks to courtroom drama ... but the unfair underlying policy remains the real story for MOAA and all military retirees, both present and future.

A high-profile firing and the ongoing concern in the legal community surrounding "AI hallucinations" led to a flurry of news reports. Few of the reports looked into the heart of the case: The Pentagon's 2025 decision to end coverage of GLP-1 drugs under TRICARE For Life while maintaining it in similar circumstances for other TRICARE users.

Since the move, which took effect Aug. 31, MOAA has worked to reverse the coverage change, engaging with lawmakers and Defense Health Agency officials.

Some non-AI-generated background:

The change effectively establishes two classes of drug coverage: One for TRICARE, one for TRICARE For Life. MOAA believes this setup goes against the intent of Congress in its establishment of the TRICARE Pharmacy program.

Should this dual-track coverage move forward, it would set a dangerous precedent - other drugs could be added to the TRICARE-approved list but remain excluded from the TRICARE For Life coverage, weakening an earned benefit relied upon primarily by uniformed services retirees and their families.

GLP-1 users who've seen improvements while taking this medication face a stark choice: Pay sometimes-exorbitant costs to continue the medication outside of their prescription plan or risk the progress they've made ... and their overall health.

GLP-1 Basics

All TRICARE users, including those using TRICARE For Life, retain GLP-1 coverage if the drug is prescribed to treat Type 2 diabetes. But only TRICARE Prime and Select users retain GLP-1 coverage for

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weight loss; they must meet strict prior-authorization standards and have a comorbid condition such as sleep apnea or metabolic dysfunction.

TRICARE For Life users also needed to meet those requirements prior to the Aug. 31 discontinuation of coverage and would need to do so again if the coverage is restored.

Confusion over the use of GLP-1 medication for cosmetic purposes - a benefit not covered under any TRICARE plan and not sought by MOAA - may hinder efforts to reverse the Pentagon's decision. And the recent AI-generated publicity may spotlight a court case involving this unfair policy change.

But the bottom line for MOAA remains the same: We will fight to reverse this move and restore drug coverage parity for TRICARE and TRICARE For Life users not just for the hundreds of beneficiaries who've already shared their story with us, but for future retirees and family members who will transition into TRICARE For Life coverage in the coming years.

AI, the VA, and Fraud: What You Need to Know

The VA recently announced plans to review more than 1 million disability benefits questionnaires (DBQs) as part of efforts to identify signs of fraud in future claims. Initial reports on the plan raised concerns over whether automated processes, or those relying on artificial intelligence, could reduce veterans' benefits or make them more difficult to obtain.

The DBQ review would "flag claims with potential problems dating back to 2010," according to an initial Stars and Stripes report, with a process designed to "use artificial intelligence to look for signs that medical evidence was exaggerated or invented."

But VA officials instead plan to use a "data collection tool" on the DBQs that would help flag false or exaggerated claims in future filings, a spokesman said March 16. A follow-up article noted the tool would be powered by a program with AI features, but it would not use those features as part of the review, per the VA.

The initial report triggered negative responses from veterans and concerns from veterans groups, some of whom said the process could be used to reduce disability ratings and payments. The VA issued more details in follow-up press statements and communications with MOAA and

fellow veterans groups, saying no plans called for using the tool in a way that could result in a reduction or denial of benefits.

How MOAA Works to GUARD Your Benefits

MOAA appreciates the assurances from the VA regarding the preservation of VA-approved disability compensation. We will remain watchful as the new data-collection process unfolds to ensure all who have earned these benefits receive them in a timely manner.

We also want to ensure all legal avenues are available to combat fraud in the VA system, including criminal proceedings for bad actors who siphon benefits from veterans under the guise of "helping" with a VA claim. The Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act, a key part of MOAA's Advocacy in Action campaign, restores such criminal penalties, protecting veterans from paying for services that are available for free from accredited agencies.

Beyond AI

Fraud is committed in any large system, including VA disability compensation. MOAA applauds efforts to find out these bad actors, including the use of new technology as part of the department's wider AI strategy.

But finding these actors is only part of the solution. In fact, dozens of companies providing unaccredited services to veterans as part of the VA claims process have been found already and have received cease-and-desist letters ... only to continue advertising their programs. The GUARD VA Benefits Act moves from detection to protection - allowing enforcement beyond a simple letter and allowing veterans to keep the benefits they've earned through service.

SC C of C Presentation (cont)

Membership and how they are seeking to assist the local chapters in recruiting new members by providing the names of MOAA National members in the state who might not be a member of a local chapter.

He also provided several ideas that the Council is working to assist the local chapters in recruiting and retaining their members to ensure that all the existing and future chapters remain viable and active.

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 _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

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)

Zelle Payments

How to Send Payments Using Zelle®

We now accept payments through Zelle® for dues, lunches, and donations for Toys for Tots and Scholarship funds. Please follow these simple steps:

Step 1: Log in to your bank or Zelle® app. Use your bank's mobile app, online banking site, or the Zelle® app if your bank doesn't offer it directly.

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.

Step 4: Confirm and send. Review your payment details before submitting. You'll receive a confirmation from your bank or Zelle® once it's sent.

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- Zelle® payments go directly from your bank account to ours, usually within minutes.
- No fees are charged by Zelle®.
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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 - 211
Regular Members—165
Honorary Members - 4
Surviving Spouse Members - 41
Special Members—1
Members receiving the newsletter by email 132

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 have 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

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

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Chapter and MOAA
information?**

**Or you need to update your
contact information?**

Visit our Web Site

<http://www.charlestonmoaa.com>

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