

GVC ONLINE

14 Consecutive Years of 5-Star Levels of Excellence!

6 Consecutive Years of MOAA Communications Awards!

MOAA Legislative Action Center: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>

GVC Membership Information email: info@gvcmoaa.org

Pay online for GVC Dues, Dinners & Events:

<https://gvc-payments.mycheddarup.com>

SERVING ALL MILITARY, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

***** Apr 2025 *****

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Official Spring Greetings to you all!

We just kicked off our 2025 events with our MOAA ROTC/JROTC Awards Dinner and I am always impressed by the caliber of cadets that are selected by their unit staff for this award. Check out the pictures later in the newsletter.

Our next Chapter Dinner is coming up fast on Sun 27 Apr 2025, and you won't want to miss it, as we have a fantastic guest speaker lined up; Lt Col Travis Ireson, an MQ-9 Reaper pilot and Chief of Wing Safety at the 107th Attack Wing, Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. Look for the details below...again, you won't want to miss it!

MOAA's 2025 Advocacy in Action (AiA) is also fast approaching in April and there will be more on that in the newsletter as well. Norma Weissend and I are honored to accompany New York Council of Chapters President, Skip Bebernitz, to go to Washington DC as part of the three-person team representing New York to visit the NY Congressional Delegation.

On May 19, 2025, the chapter will take part in the "Our Community Salutes" event for Monroe County, where high school seniors will be ceremoniously sworn into the branch in which they have chosen to serve.

With each chapter dinner we target one specific charity for donations, with April's dinner we are asking for your support of Honor Flight Rochester. Find out more about Honor Flight Rochester: <https://honorflightrochester.org/>.

Upcoming Honor Flight Rochester Missions:
Mission 88, May 3-4, 2025 (59 vets)
Mission 89, May 31-1 Jun, 2025 (62 vets)

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Sun 27 Apr 2025, 1 pm / 2 pm

Location: Rochester Yacht Club

Guest Speaker: Lt Col Travis Ireson, MQ-9 Reaper Pilot & Chief of Safety, 107 ATKW
Designated Charity: Honor Flight Rochester

Sun 8 Jun 2025, * 3 pm / 4 pm *****

Location: Canandaigua Yacht Club

Guest Speaker: CAPT Frank Michael, MOAA

New Chapter Officers Installation Ceremony

Designated Charity: Veterans Outreach Center

GVC MOAA ROTC/JROTC Awards Dinner

We recently had the privilege to honor four cadets from area ROTC/JROTC programs.

Each year we ask the commanders and/or instructor cadre to tell us about their awardees and why they were chosen; it is always truly outstanding to hear the accolades and leadership qualities of these young individuals.

Unfortunately, the UR Navy ROTC and RIT AF ROTC units were unable to attend this year, but we plan to attend awards programs at each of those units to present the awards.

GVC MOAA ROTC/JROTC Awards Dinner,
23 Mar 2025, Spencerport American Legion



GVC President, Tim Vaughan, Army ROTC Cadet Jacob Lytle, RIT Army ROTC Professor of Military Science, LTC Michael Sim



Group photo includes: MSG Michael Metzger, RIT; Mileny Caraballo, Cadet Corona's Aunt; and LTC Bill Carr, Rochester ECI HS JROTC

ROTC/JROTC Awards Dinner Photos (con't)



GVC President, Tim Vaughan, SUNY Brockport Army ROTC Cadet Nicholas Dunham, SUNY Brockport Army ROTC Professor of Military Science, MAJ Trent Bailey



GVC President, Tim Vaughan, Rochester Early College Int'l HS JROTC Cadet John Corona



GVC President, Tim Vaughan, Padilla HS JROTC Cadet Nadia Dinkins, Padilla HS JROTC Instructor, MSG Eric Meister

Chapter Officers Needed!

We're coming up on the end of two-year terms for all chapter officer positions and are looking for members who would be interested in filling chapter officer and/or Board positions. Volunteers would serve from June 2025 thru June 2027.

If you are interested in serving as a chapter officer, please contact me or one of the following nominating committee members: Pete Ingalsbe, Barb Green or Norma Weissend. Our contact information is listed in the Board of Directors section near the end of this newsletter. *Your chapter needs you!*

MOAA 2025 Advocacy in Action (AiA)

This year's campaign will take place the week of 7-10 April 2025, where members from each state will visit members of their Congressional Delegation on one day, Wed 9 Apr 2025.

2025 MOAA AiA Issues Summary

Incentivize Military Spouse Hiring

- The Ask: Actions to combat stagnant, high rates of unemployment among military spouses must include measures to incentivize their hiring. Cosponsor the Military Spouse Hiring Act to add a military spouse target group to the Work Opportunity Tax Credit program.

Continue Unaccompanied Housing Improvements

- The Ask: Transparency is key to supporting lawmaker oversight of this ongoing issue and addressing a \$137 billion maintenance backlog. Ask Congress to require DoD to make reports on unaccompanied housing installation conditions publicly available.

Improve Access to Health Care for Military Families

- The Ask: Servicemembers and military families must have a better option for reporting and getting assistance with access-to-care problems within the Military Health System (MHS). MOAA is asking Congress

to establish a Digital Access Assistance System for MHS patients.

Ending the Wait for Toxic-Exposed Veterans

- The Ask: Pass legislation to shorten how long millions of veterans must wait before receiving service-earned care and benefits.

Support Veteran Caregivers

- The Ask: Champion/cosponsor the passage of the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act.

Support the 2025 Advocacy in Action Campaign Now by Using MOAA's Legislative Action Center to TAKE ACTION NOW!

<https://moaa.quorum.us/>

Here is a Chance to Put Your Own Grass Roots Advocacy Efforts Into Action...

Major Richard Star Act Reintroduced in House, Senate

By: Jeff Goldberg, Mar 19, 2025

www.moaa.org - *Online Article*

Lawmakers in both the Senate and House recently reintroduced the Major Richard Star Act, a bill which would provide combat-injured retirees with their full earned benefits.

The legislation ([S. 1032](#) | [H.R. 2102](#)) addresses a long-standing and unjust offset by authorizing concurrent receipt of DoD retired pay and VA disability for those injured in a combat zone and forced to medically retire.

“This measure corrects one of the deepest injustices in our present veterans’ disability system,” said Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), who introduced the bill in his chamber. “It is unacceptable that tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans are denied the full military benefits they earned. Our bipartisan bill will right this longstanding injustice and finally provide these military retirees who have already sacrificed so much of their full VA disability and Defense Department retirement payments.”

The Star Act enjoys bipartisan support, with [185](#) cosponsors in the House and [43](#) in the Senate as of March 18. MOAA and our veterans service community partners are working diligently to increase this support. It is imperative that we obtain as much engagement as possible so that this critical piece of legislation can cross the finish line.

To do this, we are reaching out to congressional offices in both chambers to allay misconceptions and advocate on behalf of combat-injured veterans. However, MOAA requires your support and sustained engagement to help advance this bill and make its importance known to members of Congress. Your voice is crucial and will amplify our message to ensure lawmakers do not forget about our combat-injured veterans and their service to our nation.

We urge you reach out to your lawmakers and [encourage them to support combat-injured veterans](#), and to visit MOAA's [Legislative Action Center](#) to keep track of all MOAA legislative priorities.

Concurrent receipt for combat-injured veterans is just one of many issues impacting servicemembers and their families. MOAA encourages advocates to make use of the Legislative Action Center to support the full force, to include currently serving members, veterans, retirees, military families and survivors, and caregivers. You can follow the link to learn more about MOAA's other key advocacy initiatives and the legislative topics that make up our signature spring advocacy event, [Advocacy in Action](#).

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, MOAA's advocacy efforts are truly a year-round endeavor and need ongoing and persistent grassroots support. We can all assist in this effort by using MOAA's Legislative Action Center, so please, get busy and *TAKE ACTION!*

TRICARE Improves Coverage of Early Alzheimer's Treatment

By: Karen Ruedisueli, Mar 25, 2025

www.moaa.org - *Online Article*

TRICARE addressed a critical coverage gap by approving provisional coverage of a new type of drug for the treatment of early stage Alzheimer's disease – a move [supported by MOAA](#) and fellow key military and veterans groups.

For up to the next five years, TRICARE will cover Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved monoclonal antibodies (MABs) lecanemab (brand name Leqembi) and donanemab (brand name Kisunla), for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease in patients with mild cognitive impairment or in the mild dementia stage of the disease. The assistant secretary of defense for health affairs approved the change last October.

MOAA has worked to fix this coverage gap since the 118th Congress alongside stakeholders like The Military Coalition (TMC) – a group of military and veterans service organizations representing nearly 5.5 million members combined.

Reimbursement Options

MOAA has confirmed reimbursements for Leqembi and Kisunla are in effect. Beneficiaries whose claims were paid by Medicare but denied by TRICARE should contact the WPS customer service team for assistance in ensuring those claims are now processed under TRICARE For Life.

There is no need to submit a corrected claim – simply reach out with details on the affected claims for reconsideration.

You can contact the WPS customer service team through the TRICARE4u.com portal or by calling (866) 773-0404. Coverage is retroactive to Oct. 23, 2024, the provisional decision approval date.

Filling the Gap

Several impacted MOAA members initially alerted MOAA to this coverage gap; we appreciate their outreach, along with the support of members who reached out to their lawmakers on this issue via our [Legislative Action Center](#).

Before the provisional coverage decision, TRICARE's outdated policy excluded coverage of MABs, including Leqembi, even though the drug has had full FDA approval since July 6, 2023. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved Medicare coverage for Leqembi, and federal employees have had access to Leqembi under the BlueCross BlueShield Federal Employee Program, a key benchmark plan for evaluating TRICARE coverage.

Treatment for Alzheimer's disease is most effective when administered early – delays can result in irreversible disease progression – which made this prolonged TRICARE coverage gap particularly egregious.

MOAA will continue its work to ensure TRICARE coverage keeps pace with plans offered in the federal and civilian sectors, protecting the value of your earned benefit and preserving your access to world-class care. Learn more about [our work on access-to-care issues](#) as part of next month's Advocacy in Action event – if you've faced access barriers, reach out to MOAA and [share your story](#).

Did You Know MOAA Has Seven Virtual Chapters? They Are:

Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter;
Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter;
Public Health Service Virtual Chapter;
Chaplains Virtual Chapter;
Judge Advocate Virtual Chapter;
Advocacy for Servicewomen and Military Families Virtual Chapter;
MOAA Public Affairs and Communication Professional Virtual Chapter

Virtual chapters are intended to increase awareness of the MOAA brand by accessing previously untapped networks. Because virtual chapter membership requires national membership, and because virtual chapters encourage their members to also join their local geographic chapter, the potential effect is increased membership at all levels. MOAA, in fact, is seeing that effect from these virtual chapters.

By creating these groups, MOAA can attract potential chapter members who are not otherwise able or inclined to attend physical meetings.

A virtual chapter should be bound together by a shared affinity (e.g., warfare specialty) and/or mission (e.g., health care advocacy).

Check out www.moaa.org for more about MOAA Virtual Chapters and how to join one that aligns with your affinity/circumstances.

Cheddar Up Chapter Dues & Events Payment Portal

Access GVC Cheddar Up portal...

- via the GVC weblink:

<https://gvc-payments.mycheddarup.com>

or,

- via the GVC QRC shown below.



Note: GVC only sees the last four digits of your credit card when using Cheddar Up.

Account sign-up is NOT required! Questions? Contact Norma, nweissend@gvcmoaa.org.

Farmington AMVETS 2025 Women Veterans Dinner Schedule

Farmington AMVETS Post 332 hosts a women veterans' dinner several times a year on select Wednesdays... 26 Mar, 16 Jul & 19 Nov 2025

Check: <https://amvetsny332.org/>

POC: Tammy Bresette, (262) 384-1302, or bresettetammy178@gmail.com

CompeerCORPS Male Veterans Dinner

CompeerCORPS Rochester hosts a male veterans group dinner each month...

First Wednesday of each month. Check: www.compeerrochester.org/compeercorps

POC: RYoung@compeerrochester.org

GVC Support Coordinators: Need Help?

Nancy Swanson, (585) 944-5637, or

Tim Vaughan, (585) 412-6425

Your Chapter Dues at Work...

GVC donates to Honor Flight Rochester, the Veterans Outreach Center, Wreaths Across America and The MOAA Foundation. Additionally, we conduct MOAA ROTC/JROTC awards programs each spring for cadets and midshipmen. We are grateful for membership support of these programs.

GVC Chapter Dues

Have you paid your 2025 chapter dues? If you are not sure of your status, please reach out to Norma Weissend at nweissend@gvcmoaa.org. GVC annual dues are \$25/year. If you've paid already, we sincerely grateful for that!

Tired of paying Chapter dues? Consider Chapter Life Membership... Cost is based on member's age.

Surviving Spouse Liaison

Kathy Green is the chapter's Surviving Spouse Liaison (SSL). You may contact Kathy at, kgreen@gvcmoaa.org regarding Surviving Spouse issues and MOAA membership.

Check out MOAA's Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter by emailing mssvc02@gmail.com or go online at: [MOAA - Surviving Spouse Corner](#).

GVC/MOAA BOARD MEMBERS 2023-2025

President: Tim Vaughan, Col, USAF (Ret)

Email: tvaughan@gvcmoaa.org

1st VP: Preston Pierce, MAJ, USA (Ret)

Email: ppierce@gvcmoaa.org

2nd VP: Paul (Keely) Costello, CAPT, USN

Email: pcostello@gvcmoaa.org

3rd VP: Russ Green, LTC, USA (Ret)

Email: rgreen@gvcmoaa.org

Secretary: Jean Vaughan

Email: jvaughan@gvcmoaa.org

Treasurer & Past President:

Norma Weissend, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

Email: nweissend@gvcmoaa.org

Member-at-Large & Past President:

Bob Zale, Col, USAF (Ret)

Email: rzale@gvcmoaa.org

Legislative Chair & Past President:

Barbara Green, COL, USA (Ret)

Email: bgreen@gvcmoaa.org

Membership/Recruiting Chair:

Norma Weissend, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

Email: nweissend@gvcmoaa.org

Past President:

James Nielsen, CDR, USN (Ret)

Email: jnielsen@gvcmoaa.org

Past President:

Peter Ingalsbe, COL, USA (Ret)

Email: pingalsbe@gvcmoaa.org

Surviving Spouse Liaison: Kathy Green

Email: kgreen@gvcmoaa.org

Transition Liaison:

Tim Vaughan, Col, USAF (Ret)

Email: tvaughan@gvcmoaa.org

Your MOAA & GVC Membership Matters!

Tim Vaughan, Col, USAF (Retired)

MOAA GVC President

Never Stop Serving®

**GENESEE VALLEY CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

**Sunday, April 27, 2025
Rochester Yacht Club
8555 St Paul Blvd, Rochester, NY 14617
1300 - Social Hour (Cash Bar) / 1400 – Dinner**

ENTRÉE CHOICES

**Filet of Sirloin..... (\$45) or
Balsamic Chicken..... (\$42) or
Salmon Beurre blanc... (\$44)**

All meals come with:

Garden Salad, Mashed Potatoes &
Seasonal Vegetables
Dessert & Coffee
Cash Bar

GUEST SPEAKER:

Lt Col Travis Ireson, NYANG
MQ-9 Reaper Pilot & Chief of Wing Safety
107th Attack Wing
Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station

Please RSVP & Pay Here:

<https://gvc-payments.mycheddarup.com>

Reservations due ASAP, but NLT Wednesday April 16, 2025

Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Friday, April 18, 2025

Questions: Norma (585) 727-6190; nweissend@gvcmoaa.org

PLEASE CLIP AND SEND FORM BELOW *** DRESS: BUSINESS CASUAL ***

Participants may be photographed or recorded for MOAA chapter products.



**RESERVATION FORM FOR SUNDAY April 27, 2025 GVC MEETING at
Rochester Yacht Club, 8555 St Paul Blvd, Rochester, NY 14617**

ALL Name(s) Attending: _____

Phone # _____ Email: _____

Please indicate number of each meal desired: Filet of Sirloin, \$45 ea x _____ or

Balsamic Chicken, \$42 ea x _____ or Salmon Beurre blanc, \$44 ea x _____

Check included for (#) _____ Meal(s); Total \$ _____

Make an Honor Flight Rochester Donation \$ _____ Grand Total \$ _____

Preferred RSVP & Pay via Cheddar Up: <https://gvc-payments.mycheddarup.com>

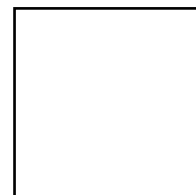
Or, RSVP and pay by mail; please make checks payable to **GVC MOAA** and mail to:

GVC MOAA

**c/o Norma Weissend
4587 Ridge Rd
Canandaigua, NY 14424**

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Genesee Valley Chapter
Military Officers Assn of America
PO Box 20874
Rochester, NY 14602-0874



April 2025 Newsletter

First Class Mail



Wegmans **MRB** | *group*



An advertisement for MOAA Insurance Plans. It features the MOAA logo (three vertical bars) and the text "MOAA INSURANCE PLANS" in a dark blue box. Below this, the text "Standing with you at every stage." is written in a large, bold, dark blue font. At the bottom, the phone number "1-800-247-2192" and the website "www.moaainsurance.com/plans" are listed. A small number "100392" is visible in the bottom right corner of the ad.

GVCMOAA.ORG

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