

## In This Issue

General Membership Meeting .....	2
Membership .....	3
Welcome New Chapter Member .....	3
Legislative Affairs .....	4
2025 Advocacy in Action .....	5
Capitol Advocacy Day .....	6
Alameda Chapter Awarded Level of Excellence and Harris Communications .....	7
ROTC Awards .....	8
Month of the Military Child .....	8
Tax Season Reminders for Veterans .....	9
Northern California Coast Guard All Services Retiree Seminar ...	9
2025 National Veterans Day Poster Contest is Underway .....	10
Veterans Affairs Commission Town Hall Meeting .....	11
Photo Gallery: Advocacy in Action (AIA) .....	13
PGA HOPE - Helping Our Patriots Everywhere .....	14
2025 Alameda MOAA Membership Application .....	18



## President's Message

*Paul Gonzales, LTC USA (ret.)*

The April General Members meeting will be on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Wed, at the Elks Lodge Alameda. Our Guest speaker will be Col Randy Van Rossum the Navy ROTC Commander at UC Berkeley. Please plan to attend this meeting as we need as many members in attendance to vote on a new Board Member.

We are awaiting approval of my written request for full Coast Guard Island base usage from the CGI Commander. MOAA National General Counsel determined through his Coast Guard contacts that usage should be restored and our dilemma was a knee-jerk reaction to the new Administration's general guidance to all military chain of commands. We hope to be fully back to normal General Member meetings at CGI for the September meeting.

The Advocacy in Action, AIA, campaign has concluded on 11 April where all State MOAA Chapter representatives met with Congressional and Senate legislators. Our Chapter had Susan Gonzales and Ramona Chávez from Alameda Chapter as part of the State team, and I attended as a self-paying guest, but sat in all training

**Editor: Ramona Chávez, Capt., USAF (Ret)**



**MOAA – ONE ASSOCIATION, ONE  
VOICE– YOURS**

**Take Action:**

<http://takeaction.moaa.org>

<b>2025 General Meetings *</b>
Location TBD
11:00 – 13:00
Wednesday, Apr 23 Elks Lodge Alameda
Thursday, September 11 <sup>th</sup>
Thursday, November 13 <sup>th</sup>

<b>Board of Directors Meetings</b>	
Coast Guard Island, Alameda	
10:30 – 12:00	
Apr 1, Tue	May 6, Tue
Jun 10, Tue	Jul 2, Tue
Aug 12, Tue	Oct 7, Tue
Nov 4, Tue	Dec. 2, Tue

**Stay Informed**

2025 Alameda MOAA Board Members.....[15](#)  
 Membership in National MOAA.....[15](#)  
 Resources at Your Fingertips.....[17](#)  
 2025 Alameda MOAA Membership Application....[18](#)

<b>Apr. 26</b>	<a href="#">Coast Guard, All Retiree Seminar</a>
<b>May 2</b>	CAL ROTC Awards Ceremony
<b>May 31</b>	<a href="#">2025 Women Veterans Engage</a>
<b>Jun 11</b>	<a href="#">Capitol Advocacy Day / CSCVC</a>
<b>Oct. 9</b>	San Francisco <a href="#">Fleet Week</a> Special Event
<b>Dec 6</b>	MOAA Holiday Party

**...President’s Message**

Meetings. They advocated on the five MOAA issues:

- Accompanied Housing Improvements on Bases for Troops and families.
- Better Health Access Care on bases.
- Legislation to assist Military spousal hiring due to frequent moves.
- Veteran caregiver support to VA systems.
- Veteran Toxic Exposure – Reduction in time it takes from exposure acknowledgement to presumption of side effects like Cancers. Their presentations were well received by our lawmakers and staff.

I’ve been tracking membership renewals, and we are still short about 23 members who have not renewed for 2025. Thank you for renewing!

*Paul Gonzales*  
[pkg666@aol.com](mailto:pkg666@aol.com)

**AlamedaMoaa.Org**

**General Membership Meeting**

- **April 23rd, 11:00 – 13:00**
- **Alameda Elks Lodge #1015**, 2255 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda.
- **Dress:** Business Casual
- **Lunch:** ~ \$30 per person. Lunch service at the Elk Lodge. The catered lunch includes Salad, Chicken w/ mustard sauce, Roasted Grecian potatoes, Veggie Medley and Carrot Cake. Please RSVP to Susan Gonzales, [slspkg509@aol.com](mailto:slspkg509@aol.com) or 510-325-5577.

Guest Speaker will be CAPT Randy Van Rossum, the Commanding Officer of the Navy ROTC Unit at UC Berkeley. He will address the history of ROTC at UC Berkeley and the status of the Corps of Cadets for each branch of the military.

**Zoom at Noon:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88337813017?pwd=dGYW3JurFjZTeibPi5fR2qIHEFZPPW.1>

Meeting ID: 883 3781 3017  
 Passcode: 131723

## Membership

*Rudolf Bredderman, Membership Director*

I received 10 membership renewals for 2025 in March and four more in April so far bringing our membership up to 66 including our two new members who have joined in 2025. We are still in the process of confirming our Active-Duty membership.

We still have 23 of our 2024 members who have not renewed for 2025. I have sent emails and made several calls to each, but my calls have not been answered. I am still hopeful that some will renew soon.

If you have not renewed for 2025, please do so! Our Chapter dues remain \$20 for regular members who are not on active duty and \$5 for spouses and surviving spouses, on an annual basis, i.e. January through December.

If you are being transferred or just moving, please let me know. Please let me know of any changes to your contact information, i.e., telephone number, mailing address or email address. The best way is to send me an email [bredderman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bredderman@sbcglobal.net).

When you make contact with other military officers living or working in our vicinity, please make them aware of MOAA and put in a good word about our Alameda County Chapter. Send me their contact information, i.e., telephone number, address, or an email address for them and I will contact them. It would be best if you could have them join us in a Chapter meeting.

Our Chapter's Membership Application and/or Renewal Form for 2025 can be found on [page 13](#).

# Welcome

## Welcome New Chapter Member

Commander Joshua Forrest Jones was born and raised in Arizona. He attended the United States Naval Academy, earning a BS in Economics in 2002. He completed primary flight training at NAS Corpus Christi and advanced flight training at NAS Whiting Field, earning his "Wings of Gold" as an unrestricted Naval Aviator in May 2004.



Jones' operational tours include HSL-43 in San Diego, two Western Pacific deployments aboard USS Reuben James (FFG 57) and USS Antietam (CG 54) supporting Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom and conducting anti-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia. Jones also served as the Operations Officer for U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) Detachment Iraq stationed in Baghdad, Iraq as a volunteer Individual Augmentee. From April 2011 to March 2013, CDR Jones was stationed on the USS Peleliu as the Assistant Air Officer and conducted a Western Pacific Deployment supporting the PELARG and 15th MEU before transitioning to the MH-60R and returning to the "Battle Cats" of HSM-73. There, he served as the Safety Officer, Combat Element Four Detachment OIC on USS Sterett (DDG-104), and squadron Maintenance Officer, and

completed a 10-month deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve as part of Carrier Strike Group One and Carrier Air Wing Seventeen.

His shore duty assignments include a tour at the VT-28 “Rangers” as a Primary Flight Instructor. He also earned his Executive MBA through Naval Postgraduate School and attended the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island receiving a Master of Arts degree in Defense and Strategic Studies. Jones served as the Operations Officer for U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay, Crete, Greece. He simultaneously served as the NSA Souda Bay Executive Officer. In 2019, Jones was selected as a Secretary of Defense Executive Fellow and was assigned to VMware, Inc. in Palo Alto, California. Most recently, Jones was the Executive Officer of NAS Fallon, Nevada from December 2021 until his retirement in January of 2024.

Upon retirement, Josh moved to Oakland, California where he lives with his girlfriend, their dog, and two cats. He spends the majority of his time golfing and traveling.



## Legislative Affairs

*Ramona Chávez, CALMOAA President*

[Assembly Bill 53](#) Personal income taxes: exclusion: Military Services Retirement and Surviving Spouse Benefit Payment Act, has been placed on the Assembly Revenue and Taxation suspense file, which is where bills with costs exceeding \$100,000 are typically reviewed. The deadline for the committee to move the bill off the suspense file and forward it to the Appropriations Committee is May 22. However, it is possible that this process could be completed sooner – we will keep you posted.

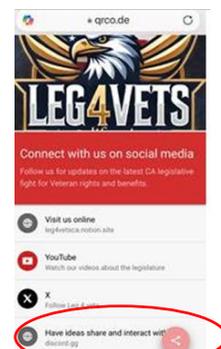
### How to Engage

- Use the tools provided to contact your state representatives
- Share your personal story and why this issue matters to you
- Educate and encourage fellow Veterans and your civilian community to join the campaign

### Tools

- California Veterans Legislation Hub <https://leg4vetsca.notion.site/>
- California Legislature Position Letter Portal <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>
- Sign up for Campaign Notifications: <https://calcommanders.org/take-action/>
- Talk with your representatives
  - CA: [findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov](https://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov)
  - National: [usa.gov/elected-officials](https://usa.gov/elected-officials)
- Engage with your community: Ask for letters of support be sent to Committees, Governor
- Engage committees and members
  - 1<sup>st</sup> house committee (Feb-Apr)
    - [SB- 1 Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee, March 12<sup>th</sup>](#)
    - [AB-53 Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee March 17<sup>th</sup>](#)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> house Floor votes (Apr-Jun)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> house committee (Aug)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> house floor votes (Sep)

**Join the discussion on Discord:** <https://discord.gg/2Pyesk4c>. Check in daily for updates and to engage with other Veterans. To join the discussion, use the bottom link: “have ideas to share...”



## 2025 Advocacy in Action

*Ramona Chávez, CALMOAA President*



*Front Left to Right: Patty Wernet, Sue Gonzales, Sharron Mackey | Back Left to Right: Ramona Chávez, Rina Cai, Kristen Dennis, Bill Nelson, Marvin Heinz, Jim Camaron*

Last week, MOAA and more than 150 volunteers took to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., for Advocacy in Action 2025, meeting with over 330 congressional offices. Together, we delivered a unified message: ***Congress must do all that it can to protect service-earned pay and benefits.*** We had five people from CALMOAA representing California in an effort to meet with as many as the 52 legislators that represent the state. The team included:

- Ramona Chávez, Alameda Chapter - MOAA partner Joelle Cox, HQ Staff
- Kristen Dennis, Silverstrand Chapter - MOAA partner Lincoln Smith,
- William Nelson, Miramar Chapter - MOAA partner Marvin H. Heinze | Board of Directors
- Sue Gonzales, Alameda Chapter - MOAA partners Jim Camaran and Rina Cai | HQ Staff
- Patty Wernet, Contra Costa Chapter - MOAA partner Sharron Mackey | Board of Directors

However, the fight is not over.

The 119th Congress is just getting started, and lawmakers need to keep hearing from constituents like you. The work we did on Capitol Hill last week must be reinforced by MOAA advocates from across the country.

We urge you to take action on MOAA's top legislative priorities:

- **Incentivize Military Spouse Hiring**: 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.
- **Unaccompanied Housing Improvements**: 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.

- [Ending the Wait for Toxic-Exposed Veterans](#): Pass legislation to shorten how long millions of veterans must wait before receiving service-earned care and benefits.
- [Support Veteran Caregivers](#): Champion/cosponsor the passage of the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act.

And do not forget — every message does make a difference. The pressures on service-earned pay and benefits aren't going away — but neither is MOAA.

We need every voice and every advocate to help us keep fighting, and to remind Congress that the greatest asset to our nation's security and prosperity is not a weapon system — *it's the men and women in uniform and their families.*

Visit MOAA's [Legislative Action Center](#) and take action today.

[Advocacy in Action Overview](#) – Learn more about the issues we will be discussing, including detailed issue papers and topic training videos.

[MOAA's C&C Legislative Leaders Webpage](#) – Other important details about this year's event, along with additional advocacy-related resources you can leverage throughout the entire year.

### Capitol Advocacy Day

The California State Commanders Veterans Council (CSCVC) will be hosting its annual Capitol Advocacy Day and Council meeting in Sacramento. This is an opportunity for Veterans to visit state legislators and their staff to advocate and educate on issues of importance to Veterans. We welcome all of our members to attend. Note it is open to the first 50 Veterans who RSVP.



The event is open to Veterans who are members of organizations that belong to the CSCVC. Organizations include:

- AMERICAN G.I. FORUM
- AMERICAN LEGION
- AMVETS ASSOCIATION OF THE U.S. ARMY
- CA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS
- DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
- ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE U.S.
- FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION
- GOLDEN GATE COMMISSIONED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
- JEWISH WAR VETERANS
- MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
- MARINE CORPS VETERANS ASSOCIATION
- MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
- MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART
- NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
- NATIONAL VETERANS FOUNDATION
- PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
- RESERVE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA
- SCOTTISH AMERICAN MILITARY SOCIETY
- U.S. SUBMARINE VETERANS
- VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
- VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

- WOMEN VETERANS ALLIANCE
- AFFILIATE: SACRAMENTO VETERANS AFFILIATED COUNCIL



*Ramona Chávez, CALMOAA President, (middle) was presented the Level of Excellence and Col. Marvin J. Harris Communication Awards for multiple chapters in the MOAA California Council. Left: [Gen. Thomas D. Waldhauser, USMC \(Ret\)](#), MOAA Chairman of the Board. Right: [Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF \(Ret\)](#), MOAA President/CEO.*

### **Alameda Chapter Awarded Level of Excellence and Harris Communications**

MOAA announced the 2024 MOAA Levels of Excellence and Col. Marvin J Harris Communication Award winners. This year, their judges considered 169 LOE award and 255 Communications award nominations. Our Alameda Chapter achieved both the LOE and Harris Communications Award for the eighth year in a row!

Multiple Chapters throughout the state also received recognition for their efforts throughout 2024. The full list is below:

### **2024 Levels of Excellence Awardees**



Out of almost 400 MOAA affiliates, 166 councils and chapters earned LOE award recognition this year. These councils and chapters excel at supporting and fostering programs that directly support the MOAA mission and their communities.

- [DOWNLOAD THE FULL LIST \(PDF\)](#)
- [PHOTO GALLERY](#) |
- [MORE ABOUT MOAA CHAPTERS](#)

Congratulations and THANK YOU to all the selfless volunteers who work tirelessly within our affiliate network on behalf of this association!

#### **California**

- Alta Chapter of MOAA
- Alameda County Chapter, MOAA
- Miramar Chapter
- Monterey County Chapter
- Solano County Chapter
- Orange Empire Military Officers' Club
- Silver Strand Chapter
- Ventura County Chapter
- Mojave Desert Chapter

### **2024 Harris Communication Awardees**



The annual Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Awards recognize councils and chapters that achieve excellence in communicating with their members and communities. MOAA affiliates

nominated themselves in two categories: newsletters (print or electronic) and websites. Submissions were judged on design and content. For the 2024 program year, there were 225 communications awards. Congratulations to all!

### California

- Alta Chapter of MOAA: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter; 5-Star Website
- Alameda County Chapter, MOAA: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter; 5-Star Website
- Miramar Chapter: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter
- MOAA Alamo: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter
- Monterey County Chapter: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter
- Silver Strand Chapter: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter
- Ventura County Chapter MOAA: 4-Star Print/E-Newsletter
- Mojave Desert Chapter 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter

### ROTC Awards

*Paul Gonzales, ROTC Programs*

Our Alameda Chapter MOAA will be presenting the Berkeley ROTC cadet scholarships of \$1500.00 each to three third year Cadets and Midshipmen. I will present the awards with a MOAA Medal and Certificate to the following third year student/Cadets:

- Army: CDT Mackenzie Grohn \$1500
- Navy: MIDN Karansher Sidhu \$1500
- Air Force: CDT Sedat Altun \$1500
- Air Force: CDT Michel Rezae & 750 (Col Vance Mitchell Grant)

It is important to remember that all our memberships and donations from participation go to fund the \$4500 annual scholarships we present to these deserving Cadets and future Officers. Please continue to support our Chapter and renew your membership, if not having done so already.



---

### Month of the Military Child

<https://www.dodea.edu/month-military-child>

April is designated as the Month of the Military Child, underscoring the important role military children play in the armed forces community. Sponsored by the Department of Defense Military Community and Family Policy, the Month of the Military Child is a time to applaud military families and their children for the daily sacrifices and the challenges they overcome.

DoDEA joins the Department of Defense and the military community in celebrating April as the Month of the Military Child. In DoDEA communities worldwide, our most essential strategic imperatives are establishing an educational system that progressively builds the college and career readiness of all DoDEA students and establishing the organizational capacity to operate more effectively and efficiently as a model, unified school system. We aim to challenge each student to maximize their potential and excel academically, socially, emotionally, and physically for life, college and career readiness.

Throughout the month, DoDEA will encourage schools to plan special events to honor military children and have administrators and principals incorporate this month's themes into their everyday duties and responsibilities. These efforts and special events will stress the importance of providing children with quality services and support to help them succeed in the mobile military lifestyle.

## Tax Season Reminders for Veterans

*Sue Stewart, Personal Affairs*

Earlier this week, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) started accepting electronically filed tax returns as well as paper returns. The IRS reminds taxpayers that filing electronically is the most accurate and safest way to file a tax return, as well as the fastest way to get a refund. For more info: <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/veterans-tax-information-and-services>



Additionally, here are some helpful reminders for Veterans and beneficiaries:

- VA benefits are tax free
- No federal income tax on VA insurance proceeds
- Veterans on a service-connected disability rating may benefit from local property tax exemptions

If you have already filed your federal tax return and you want to know when you will receive your refund, you can check on the IRS website:

<https://www.irs.gov/wheres-my-refund> or you can download the app, [IRS2go](#).

Please also watch out for tax scams and fraud. Scammers mislead you about tax refunds, credits, and payments. They pressure you for personal, financial or employment information or money. It is fake:

- **A big payday** - If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Bad tax advice on social media may convince you to lie on tax forms or mislead you about credits you can claim.
- **Demands or threats** - Impersonators want you to pay “now or else.” They threaten arrest or deportation. They do not let you question or appeal the amount of tax you owe.
- **Website links** - Odd or misspelled web links can take you to harmful sites instead of [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov).

Know how and when the IRS contacts you to avoid impersonators. The IRS typically contacts you the first time through regular U.S. mail delivered by the U.S. Postal Service. To verify the IRS sent the letter or notice, you can [search for it on IRS.gov](#).

### **The IRS will not contact you and demand the following:**

- Threaten to call law enforcement or immigration officials
- Threaten to and/or take your citizenship status, driver's license, or business license
- Leave pre-recorded voicemails (robocalls)
- Mail tax debt resolution advertisements
- Ask you to accept gift cards or prepaid debit cards as payments

ALL SERVICES  
RETIREE SEMINAR

### **Northern California Coast Guard All Services Retiree Seminar**

*Jason Kuroiwa, Northern California Coast Guard Retiree Council*

Presented by the [Northern California Coast Guard Retiree Council \(NCRRC\)](#).

What: All Services Retiree Seminar

When: Saturday, April 26, 2025, at 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Where: Gresham Hall – Coast Guard Island, Alameda, CA (42 Eagle Road, Building 4, Alameda, CA 94501)

Who: Retirees/Spouses/Caregivers from All Uniformed Services

Military ID Card and/or Real ID Required at the Gate

- 0730-0800 hours: REGISTRATION & Continental Breakfast
- 0800-1300 hours: Speakers & Presentations on the following subjects of interest:
  - Tri-Care and Tri-Care for Life - Retiree Legal Issues
  - Fraud and Identity Theft Protection - Space “A” Travel Recent
  - Legislation Affecting Military Retirees and More!!

Information Tables from various organizations of interest to retirees will be available from 0800-1300 hours.

ID Cards and DEERS Services -- Starting at 0800 hours in Bldg. 21. For more information call (510)437-5648

Seminar Reservation is NOT required. Spouses are Welcome!

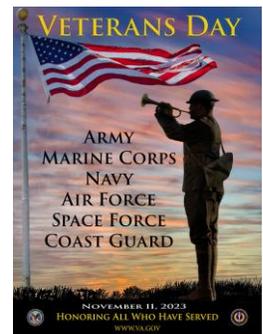
Lunch Reservations **are required** for the Coast Guard Galley. It is open from 0900 to 1200 during the seminar. PAY \$9.70 per person at the Galley entrance. For Lunch Reservations, contact MCPO David Swanson, USCG (Ret) at: [ddswanson@msn.com](mailto:ddswanson@msn.com) or Call 510-390-6312 (Please Leave a message).

For more information reach out to Jason Kuroiwa, [jason.kuroiwa@gmail.com](mailto:jason.kuroiwa@gmail.com) .

### 2025 National Veterans Day Poster Contest is Underway

*Cherie A. Parker, Retired, U.S. Army  
Program Specialist - National Veterans Outreach Office*

Calling all artists! Here is your opportunity to show off your talent and use your artwork to honor Veterans. VA and the Veterans Day National Committee are now accepting entries for the 2025 Veterans Day Poster Contest. Submissions are due by 11:59 p.m. (EDT) on May 2, 2025.



This contest is open to all, and your art should reflect this year’s theme: “Service to our Nation.”

To ensure your submission meets the technical requirements, please review our design submission guidelines before engaging your creativity. Successful designs are very simple, with minimal imagery and verbiage.

To view examples of past winning submissions, visit [The Veterans Day Poster Gallery](#).

Submit electronic versions as jpg/jpeg images or PDF files to [vetsday@va.gov](mailto:vetsday@va.gov), and [cherie.parker@va.gov](mailto:cherie.parker@va.gov).

Questions? Please email the Veterans Day Coordinator at [vetsday@va.gov](mailto:vetsday@va.gov), and [cherie.parker@va.gov](mailto:cherie.parker@va.gov).

VA Mission: "To fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors."

### **Veterans Affairs Commission Town Hall Meeting**

*Omar Farmer*

**When:** Monday, April 21st, meeting from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**Location:** CSU East Bay, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd, Hayward 94542. In the CORE Library, building (bldg.) CB. HUB Rooms 178/179.

The meeting is in the new CORE Library building CB, HUB Rooms 178/179. Park in Lot A and follow the signage. The meeting flyer is also attached in case you need to click on the links for the map, etc. The entire Brown Act presentation is also attached.

Below is a link to media coverage of our National Vietnam War Veterans Day event on the USS Hornet last month.

CBS summary: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Xzd9QnXyeRY>

Guest speakers: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9\\_I\\_GnOoVg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_I_GnOoVg)

Check out our finalized 2024 Year in Review through the following Bitly link to learn more about what we do: <https://bit.ly/3CMYoGd>

Campus Directions: From Carlos Bee turn right at Loop Rd (W). Park in Lot A. Cross the street, go up the stairs or ramp in between the PE & Health buildings. Turn left at the top of the stairs. Walk straight up a second set of stairs. Turn right at the top. Walk straight until you see the new CORE Library. Enter from the left side of the bldg. Follow the signs.

[Click here for the campus map](#)

### **A New Month, A New Year!**

*Sue Gonzales, Surviving Spouse Liaison*

Experiencing Advocacy in Action (AIA) for the very first time was such a great experience. I learned so much and met so many wonderful and dedicated folks from all over the states. It was interesting listening to their stories about their lives in the military. I hope that I will be able to join again next year and won't be so nervous!

I was able to speak to legislative staff from each office, both congressional and senate on the topics that were the focus. For my team, our issues were:

1. Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment and Retirement Act. Legislation has been introduced in both houses HR 2148 and S879. We asked the legislators to co-sponsor these bills and help them to be passed in both houses.

2. Ending the Wait Report Priorities. We urged Congress to expedite toxic exposure benefits for veterans by addressing decades-long delays in the presumptive process by strengthening the legal framework.
3. Military Spouse Hiring Act. This addresses the high unemployment for spouses which is over 20%. Legislators were asked to include military spouses as a category in the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) to reduce unemployment and improve financial stability for military families.

## Women Veterans Engage



We are thrilled to announce Joyce Abbott as our distinguished Keynote Speaker for the 2025 Women Veterans Engage event! If you recognize her name, it is because she is the real-life namesake behind the beloved TV series, Abbott Elementary! A dedicated Army veteran, passionate educator, and respected leader, Joyce Abbott has devoted her career to shaping young minds and leaving a profound impact on her community.

Mark your calendars for May 31, 2025, and join us either in person or online for a day dedicated to empowerment, networking, and valuable resources tailored for women veterans. This is a unique opportunity to hear from an extraordinary woman whose leadership and service have touched countless lives.

[Join a Veterans Service Group](#) - women can do great things.

### Engage 2025 Partners

- [California - Rocklin/Sacramento - Women Veterans Giving](#)
- [California - Chula Vista/San Diego - Uncle Keith's Gourmet Foods](#)
- [Colorado - Colorado Springs - Women Veterans Giving](#)
- [Florida - Orlando - SEA WAVES](#)
- [Illinois - Richton Park/Chicago - 3 Vets is a Charm](#)
- Massachusetts - Bedford - VA Bedford Healthcare System
- Michigan - Detroit - Woman Veteran Strong
- New York - Albany - Military Family Foundation & Albany County Veterans Service Bureau
- New York - Buffalo - WNYHeroes, Inc
- North Carolina - Mooresville/Charlotte - OptiVets
- Oregon - Forest Grove - Dauntless Wine Co
- [Texas - Addison - Abilene Christian University](#)
- [Texas - Harker Heights/Belton - KMC Digital](#)
- [Texas - Dallas - Arabella Wellness Center, Inc.](#)

Cannot make it in person? [Join us online!](#)

Photo Gallery: Advocacy in Action (AIA)



## PGA HOPE - Helping Our Patriots Everywhere



PGA HOPE (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere) is the flagship military program of PGA REACH, the charitable foundation of the PGA of America. PGA HOPE introduces golf to Veterans and Active-Duty Military to enhance their physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being.

Spring sessions start in March! Find your course here: [PGA HOPE - Northern California Section](#)  
###

## 2025 Alameda MOAA Board of Directors

### ELECTED POSITIONS

- President: LTC Paul Gonzales, USA (ret.)
- Immediate Past President: CAPT Fred Jaffin, USN
- Second Vice President: This role will not be filled
- Treasurer: CAPT Warren McDonald, USCG
- Secretary: LTC Rodney Grayson, USA
- Surviving Spouse Liaison Mrs. Susan Gonzales (spouse)

### APPOINTED DIRECTORS

- Director of Membership: CDR Rudolf Bredderman, USN
  - Membership Committee: MAJ Sidney Jordan, USA (ret.) and CAPT Gary Spenik, USCG (ret.)
- Legislative Affairs: COL James "Skip" Phair, USA (ret.)
- Personal Affairs: CAPT Susan Stewart, USN (ret.)
- Director of Programs: CAPT Perry Milton, USN (ret.)
  - Program Committee: CDR Lance Sapera, USN (ret.)
- Director of Communications: Capt., Ramona Chávez, USAF (ret.)
- Director of Scholarships: LTC Paul Gonzales, USA (ret.)
- Facilities Coordinator: LCDR Jerry Jacobs, USNR (ret.)
  - Facilities Committee: LTC Rod Grayson, USA (ret.), LTC Paul Gonzales, USA (ret.), LTC Ingo Biscoff, USAR
- Assistant Treasurer Mrs. Marvera Kline (Spouse)

## Membership in National MOAA

### *Rudolf Bredderman - Acting Membership*

Our Chapter does not get credit for your Chapter membership if you are not also a member of MOAA at the national level. National MOAA has set a goal to have all Chapter members be, at least "Basic" members of national MOAA.

All but two of our Chapter members are members are "Basic" members of MOAA at the national level. MOAA is encouraging all "Basic" members to become either "Premium" or "LIFE" members, i.e., dues paying members.

It is important that Chapter members who are Premium (Annual) members of national MOAA keep their national MOAA membership current with the payment of annual dues; or upgrade to "LIFE" membership in national MOAA.

Please visit the national MOAA website <[www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)>. It provides current information of significance to military personnel, active, former, and retired and to spouses of military personnel; and it is easy to navigate. Access to much of the MOAA website requires logging in as a MOAA member. To do so, you will need to enter your MOAA membership number, and you will have to create a password.

If you do not know your MOAA membership number, please contact me bredderman@sbcglobal.net or (510) 796-2485. I should be able to tell you your MOAA membership number. If you have a problem logging in to the MOAA website, email <msc@moaa.org> or call 1-800-234-6622 for assistance. Some of the <MOAA.org> web site remains down for “data system migration” but should be available to us again soon.

## MOAA Membership Costs as of 1 January 2024

**Basic MOAA membership is FREE!**

### **Premium (Annual) Membership: Annual Dues**

	<u>Regular Members</u>	<u>Surviving Spouses**</u>
One Year	\$62	\$56
Two Years	\$106	\$95
Three Years	\$140	\$126

Note\*\* If you are the surviving spouse of a military officer who was a LIFE Member of MOAA, you are a LIFE Member of MOAA and do not pay annual due.

**Life Membership:** LIFE membership costs vary from \$921 for someone 49 years old or less to \$107 if you are 95 to 99 years old. If you are over 100, LIFE Membership is FREE. LIFE membership passes to your spouse if you predecease your spouse.

MOAA membership is incredibly significant when MOAA lobbies Congress on issues important to the military community. To join national MOAA visit <https://www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa/>

If you need help in becoming a member of national MOAA, let me know. If I have your written permission, I can sign you up to be a “Basic” MOAA member at no cost. The best way is to send me an email <bredderman@sbcglobal.net>



National MOAA and the Alameda MOAA Chapter are nonpartisan organizations.

To join, visit <https://www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa/>

**You defend the country. We defend your benefits.**

**[Join Now](#)**

## Resources at Your Fingertips

- [California Department of Veterans Affairs](#)
- [Alameda County Veterans Services](#)
- **Need a DD-214?** Visit <https://www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/>
- **DOL VETS:** <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets> The U.S. Department of Labor is the Congressionally mandated lead agency for programs and services to veterans, transitioning service members, and military spouses.
- **Alameda, MOAA Board Members for 2021:** <http://www.alamedamoaa.org/Chapter-Officers>
- **MOAA Alameda Membership/Renewal Application** Last page of newsletter or online here: <http://www.alamedamoaa.org/Join>
- **MOAA National application** <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Join-MOAA/Why-join-MOAA.aspx>
- **Alameda Chapter Website** <http://www.alamedamoaa.org>
- **Alameda Chapter Editorial and Privacy Policy:** <http://alamedamoaa.org/Editorial-and-Privacy-Policies>
- **MOAA Legislative Update/Action Center:** <http://alamedamoaa.org/Legislative-Update>
- **Useful Websites for California Veterans**
- **CA Legislation:**  
<https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml>
- **California State Senate:** <http://senate.ca.gov/>
- **California State Assembly:** <http://assembly.ca.gov/>
- To find CA Law, including the Military and Veterans Code: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml>
- Find your State and Local Legislator: <http://votesmart.org/>
- **CALMOAA Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/582556558468846>
- Northern California Coast Guard Retiree Council Website is [NCCGRC.org](http://NCCGRC.org)
- PACT Act General PSA (30) : [https://youtu.be/Rj1Eo0C\\_UNE](https://youtu.be/Rj1Eo0C_UNE)
- PACT Act General PSA (15): <https://youtu.be/1-MPpbhRPS0>
- PACT Act Veteran PSA (30): <https://youtu.be/tuIW0c76pCO>
- PACT Act Veteran PSA (15): <https://youtu.be/ohaeNLC6fRY>
- PACT Act Doctor PSA (30): <https://youtu.be/0qEf3wEr81A>
- PACT Act Doctor PSA (15): [https://youtu.be/P4Z04L16\\_2A](https://youtu.be/P4Z04L16_2A)
- PACT Act Caregiver PSA (30): [https://youtu.be/fDGw1ykpQ\\_0](https://youtu.be/fDGw1ykpQ_0)
- PACT Act Caregiver PSA (15): <https://youtu.be/W94lGxmqlFo>
- PACT Act Caregiver PSA (Spanish, 30): [https://youtu.be/l9o42\\_7COmY](https://youtu.be/l9o42_7COmY)
- PACT Act Caregiver PSA (Spanish, 15): <https://youtu.be/AzrE5Gdrejc>
- PACT Act Benefits PSA (30) : <https://youtu.be/LDH5rcSW0q0>
- [TRICARE For Retirees](#)
- [TRICARE For Life](#)
- [MEDICARE](#)
- [Social Security Administration](#)
- [Veterans Health Administration](#)
- [National Cemetery Administration](#)
- [Veterans Benefits Administration](#)

## 2025 Alameda MOAA Membership Application

<p><b>Please Check One</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal</p>	<p><b>Please Check One</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Officer   <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse   <input type="checkbox"/> Surviving Spouse</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Name and Rank of qualifying officer's spouse: _____</p>
--	---

**Military Status (please check one)**

Active Duty     
  Retired     
  Guard/Reserve     
  Former / Inactive

**U.S. Service (please check one)**

Army                     
  Air Force                     
  Coast Guard                     
  Marine Corps  
 Navy                        
  USPHS                        
  U.S. Space Force                     
  NOAA

Date: mm/dd/yyyy      National MOAA #\*: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*National MOAA # not required; however, you can acquire free basic membership at: <https://www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa/>*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: mm/dd/yyyy  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouses Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in participating in a Chapter office or committee     Yes     No

Membership is for the calendar year commencing 1 January of each year.

**Annual Dues: 1) Active Duty: \$0   2) Regular: \$20/ \$10 if joining after July 1   3) Spouse/Surviving Spouse: \$5**

New Members: Please attach a copy of your military ID, DD-214, or other proof of service as a military officer.

**Make checks payable to:** ALAMEDA COUNTY CHAPTER, MOAA or [Paypal](#) to [mcdepa@gmail.com](mailto:mcdepa@gmail.com)

**Submit:** Can be filled out electronically and emailed to [alamedamoamembership@alamedamoaa.org](mailto:alamedamoamembership@alamedamoaa.org) or mail MOAA Alameda County Chapter, c/o: Rudolf Bredderman, 35923 Romilly Court, Fremont, CA 94536.