

Newsletter of the Hawaii Aloha Chapter, Affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America,

a nonpartisan, nonprofit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors.

Hawaii State Chapter — Chartered **23 July 1959**; Aloha Chapter — Chartered **27 January 2000**

Hawaii Aloha Chapter — Established **1 May 2015**

Both the national Military Officers Association of America and the Hawaii Aloha Chapter are non-partisan organizations

Volume No. 11, Issue No. 1 <http://www.moaa-hawaii.org> January, 2025

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President's Message



Happy and Healthy New Year to each and every one of you! Let's hope that 2025 is much better than 2024. As we announced last month, we elected three Board members at our Annual General Membership meeting on 8 November, Toni Correia, Tom Stirling, and Kathy Ebay. The Board approved these nominees and all three were elected unanimously. The Board met on 29 Nov to elect new officers to replace outgoing Toni who was elected as the new Secretary, but we had a tough time finding a new President. But once Dave Perrine volunteered to take over my responsibilities as Programs Chair, I'm proud to say that I'm your new President. New Board members and officers will be installed into their respective chapter positions at our January luncheon meeting at the Oahu Veterans' Center.

I am pleased that our chapter's Annual Christmas Brunch, held on 25 December proved to be a major success with 33 people attending. More on that below.

The new Board will meet on 18 Jan to further determine if steps should be taken to dissolve the chapter due to low attendance at OVC meetings and other events, and then take the final decision to the general membership. If the Board decides to continue the chapter, they will also discuss whether to continue with meetings on an every-other-month basis for the time being and monitor attendance, return to monthly events, or further modify our meeting schedule.

Your Hawaii Aloha Chapter, MOAA, is always looking for new members—active duty and retired officers and surviving spouse members. All are welcome and will enjoy the camaraderie of our chapter. Make it your goal to recruit at least two new members this year. Print out the Application for Membership Form at the bottom of this newsletter, or on our website (<http://www.moaa-hawaii.org/>) and carry it with you to be readily available whenever an opportunity for recruiting arises.

Finally, we sent out, via both email and snail mail, a letter to the membership asking for updated contact information, along with a willingness to take a more active role in the chapter. While Jenn Kishimori has agreed to take over

Chairmanship of the Membership Committee, we still need “worker bees” for both Membership and Programs. Please fill out and return the letter with updated contact info by 17 Jan.

- Mike

Our Previous Meeting



Our annual Christmas Brunch was a big success on Sunday, 15 Dec, at the Tradewinds Club on Hickam Field. Participation is improving with 33 members and guests in attendance. After the Invocation by our Chaplain, Debby Fricano, we enjoyed a sumptuous brunch buffet. We sang some Christmas carols, with music provided by the Fricano's henai daughter, Caitlin Spidle. Then, it was time for the anticipated grand finale to a memorable event: the “Door Prizes and Giveaways.” Mike had each winner pull the next name out of a hat that each person had written on a slip of paper. There was a total of \$300 in gift cards, with many for \$5 and \$10, and a few \$25 or more gift cards to numerous local retail stores and restaurants. Everyone agreed that the venue, the food, and especially the fellowship helped to make this a very successful and memorable event. Chaplain Debby provided a benediction to close out the event.

January 2025 General Membership Meeting

Our first meeting of the new year is scheduled for Friday, 24 Jan 25, 11:15 AM at the OVC. New chapter Board members and officers will be inducted then. Our guest speaker will be HFD Battalion Chief Christopher Cabasa, and he'll present an HFD Overview. A reservation form is attached at the end of this newsletter. Please fill it out and mail it, along with a check for the appropriate amount, to our mailbox, by Friday, 17 January. **PLEASE GET YOUR RSVP FORMS IN ON TIME! Please do not mail, email, text or call your RSVP in to Mike Fricano or Dave Perrine.** Send them by mail to the chapter PO Box.

Future Events

All of our scheduled meetings for 2025 are listed in the Events Calendar, below. Please block your calendars now to ensure you can attend. However, our new Programs Chairman, Dave Perrine, is reviewing that schedule, and it may change. Stand by for news!

MOAA Leads Effort to Address Military Spouse Employment Challenges in Federal Workforce

By: Jen Goodale

MOAA, in collaboration with leading military family support organizations, has urged the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) to prioritize a pressing issue affecting military families: the retention of military spouses employed by the federal government.

In a joint Nov. 18 letter to SASC Chairman Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.) and Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), the committee's ranking member, the organizations called on the committee to adopt Section 1113 of the House version of the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This provision seeks to address the unique employment challenges military spouses face, particularly those in the federal workforce.

[\[READ THE LETTER\]](#)

Military Spouse Employment: A Critical Issue

Military spouse unemployment remains at 21%, more than three times the national average. Frequent relocations due to PCS moves disrupt careers, often forcing spouses to leave federal employment. These disruptions undermine financial stability and intensify the economic challenges faced by military families.

“Military families face immense pressure from childcare shortages and inadequate housing to the added burden of high unemployment and underemployment rates of military spouses. In many cases, a dual income is vital ... to achieve financial stability,” the letter states.

“Section 1113 provides a commonsense, cost-neutral solution that benefits both military families and the Department of Defense by ensuring military spouses can continue contributing to their family’s financial security and military readiness.”

Provision Breakdown

Section 1113 introduces flexible measures to improve job retention for federally employed military spouses:

1. **Remote Work Flexibility:** Federal agencies would evaluate positions for remote work potential, enabling military spouses to continue their roles despite PCS moves.
2. **Reassignment and Alternative Worksites:** Agencies could offer equivalent positions at new duty locations or alternative worksites, minimizing disruptions to careers.
3. **Leave Without Pay (LWOP):** For those unable to work remotely or relocate within the agency, LWOP would ensure continued employment status and retention of non-financial benefits such as security clearances. This provision would align with the duration of PCS orders, easing workforce reentry when opportunities arise.

The Federal Government’s Role

Private employers, including Amazon, Starbucks, and Boeing, already have implemented initiatives to support military spouse employment, inspired by the [READINESS Act](#) framework which serves as the basis of Section 1113.

However, the federal government has lagged in offering comparable accommodations, a significant oversight given its position as the nation’s largest employer and an executive order calling on the government to be the “[employer of choice](#)” for military dependents.

Federal agencies “should be setting be the gold standard for supporting military spouse employment,” the letter states. “For many spouses stationed overseas, the federal government is often the only viable employer.”

A Win for Military Readiness and Retention

MOAA emphasizes the broader implications of military spouse employment for military readiness and retention. Financial instability caused by lost spousal income can hinder a servicemember’s ability to focus on their mission, placing unnecessary strain on families.

By enabling military spouses to retain employment, Section 1113 would ease financial burdens, improve quality of life for military families, and strengthen overall force readiness.

As MOAA and its partners push for the inclusion of Section 1113 in the NDAA, the message to lawmakers is clear: Retaining military spouses in the federal workforce is not just a benefit for families, it is a strategic imperative for the nation’s defense.

With the NDAA under deliberation, military families are hopeful this critical provision will garner the support it needs to become law. Use MOAA’s [Legislative Action Center](#) to ask your senators to support efforts to retain federally employed military spouses.

Army, Navy Surveys Will Help Identify Needs for Military Families

By: Kevin Lilley

Two ongoing surveys will allow Army and Navy servicemembers and families to weigh in on programs critical to the readiness and morale of the all-volunteer force.

Why take part? MOAA and other advocacy groups use data from these and similar surveys to set legislative agendas, determining which focus areas will make the most difference for the wider uniformed services community. Only by

identifying chokepoints, faulty programs, or areas of concern across the services can MOAA succeed in its efforts to improve quality of life for all in uniform, regardless of rank or branch.

Beyond the surveys, servicemembers and dependents can use the new [DoD Housing Feedback System](#) to address more direct housing concerns, such as submitting new maintenance orders, beginning the dispute resolution process on existing orders, and finding contact information for landlords/property managers, housing offices, or other DoD resources.

Some details about the ongoing surveys, including eligibility and open dates:

Navy Military Personnel Housing Survey

What: Survey-takers will be asked about their current housing (type, costs, etc.), how they make housing-related decisions, and how family concerns affect housing needs.

Why: Results will inform Housing Requirements Market Analyses (HRMAs), which are used to determine housing allotments on or near installations. Learn more about the importance of those reports – and some issues with DoD’s timeliness in their completion – [at this link](#).

Details: Survey results are confidential. The survey takes 5 to 10 minutes and is open through Dec. 20. [Click this link](#) to learn more and to take the survey – have your Unit Identification Code (UIC) ready.

Army MWR Survey

What: The Customer Needs Survey from Army Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (Army FMWR) is open to servicemembers assigned to Army installations or support activities (regardless of branch) and their family members, along with any other eligible Army MWR participants. It covers the full range of MWR offerings, to include child care, dining, gyms, and more.

Why: “We’ll use it to improve existing programs and develop new ones that better serve our customers – and create a more fulfilling Family and MWR experience for everyone,” Josh Gwinn, director of Family and MWR programs, said in a [news release announcing the survey](#).

Why Else: Survey-takers will be entered to win a five-night trip to any [Armed Forces Recreation Center Resort](#).

Details: The survey is confidential and takes about 10 minutes. It closes in January. [Click here](#) for details, to take the survey, and to enter the trip sweepstakes. Email amy.m.leon.naf@army.mil with questions.

Do you have concerns about housing or family readiness issues that aren’t covered by your survey, or do you fall outside the survey pools? MOAA is always seeking feedback from currently serving members and their families to ensure DoD programs are working as intended and quality of life challenges are addressed. Email legis@moaa.org to reach us.

Military Families Will Keep Access to Critical Children’s Hospital

By: Kevin Lilley

A Colorado health care provider serving more than 15,000 military-connected children will remain in the TRICARE network, reaching a deal with new regional managed care support contractor TriWest days after announcing plans to leave the network.

Children’s Hospital Colorado “worked closely with TriWest and achieved important improvements in the new contract that will help us maintain access to care,” according to [a Dec. 24 press release](#). The day before, MOAA and the National Military Family Association (NMFA) wrote to DoD health affairs leadership urging the department to work with TriWest and the hospital to reach an agreement.

[\[READ THE LETTER\]](#)

“Many Colorado military families sought assignment there because they were assured that their medically fragile children would receive treatment at a nationally recognized children’s hospital,” the letter states. “We ask you to act to ensure that

those families continue to receive the care they need and deserve, and that the TRICARE network remains robust and able to serve the needs of America's military families.”

Members of the Colorado congressional delegation put out a joint statement Dec. 17 asking the hospital and TRICARE officials to [return to the bargaining table](#).

Children's Hospital Colorado [filed a legal challenge in 2023](#) claiming TRICARE reimbursement rate cuts, including a nearly 40% cut to outpatient care rates, would not cover the cost of some patients' care. A judge [ruled in favor of DoD](#) in April.

Despite agreeing to remain in the network, “TRICARE reimbursement rates remain well below the cost of providing care,” said Jena Hausmann, president and CEO of Children's Colorado, in the press release. “We will continue engaging with the Department of Defense and elected officials to ensure that Children's Colorado can maintain high-quality, specialty pediatric care for all kids in Colorado.”

Taking Care of Military Families

A new DoD policy enacted in October 2023 eliminated an exemption for children's and cancer hospitals which had allowed them to receive higher reimbursement rates for outpatient treatment. The old policy aligned with similar hold-harmless language used to set Medicare reimbursement rates; the new policy amounts to a benefit cut, despite [ongoing promises](#) to offer “world-class healthcare” for servicemembers and families.

Many military families with children who need specialty health care build their careers around providers like Children's Colorado – family-centered facilities that can offer pediatric expertise and life-changing treatment through the TRICARE network. If these facilities leave the network, families already facing long wait times and difficulty securing appointments would see even greater access issues ... and what begins as one family's medical concern would become a readiness issue for the all-volunteer force.

Fair reimbursement for all children's specialty care providers is a critical part of the overall TRICARE benefit, and will remain a key advocacy priority for MOAA as the 119th Congress begins. Keep up with the latest on this issue and others by registering at our [Legislative Action Center](#).

3 Million Enrolled in VA Life Insurance Programs Will See Lower Rates in 2025

By: Kevin Lilley

Servicemembers, veterans, and spouses holding VA life insurance policies will see premiums fall this spring, [the department announced Dec. 12](#), with discounts varying by program and the age of the policyholder.

A snapshot of the savings, which will affect about 3 million total policyholders:

- Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI): Policyholders will pay between 2% and 17% less, with the average policyholder saving 11%.
- Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI): Policyholders will see a reduction in premium rates from 6 cents per \$1,000 in coverage to 5 cents. Those with the maximum \$500,000 in coverage will pay \$25 a month, down from \$30. Rates do not include an additional \$1 a month for [SGLI Traumatic Injury Protection](#).
- Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (FSGLI): Spouses holding these policies will pay between 11% and 22% less, with an average savings of 13%.

The discounts will be automatic, according to the VA news release announcing the new rates, with no action required by the policyholder.

The VA insures 5.6 million servicemembers, veterans, and families with \$1.5 trillion in overall coverage. The department launched a new life insurance program, [VALife](#), in January 2023.

MOAA [supported a 2023 law](#) that raised the VGLI coverage maximum to \$500,000 from \$400,000; it was the first such increase since 2005.

5 Reasons to Join The Army and Navy Club in 2025

By: Tony Lombardo

The Army and Navy Club in Washington, D.C, is steeped in military history and at the same time active and engaged in the present. On a given evening, you'll see currently serving officers and veteran officers gathering together from around the country for camaraderie, an excellent meal, and meaningful discourse.

"You're among people like you, who share that common bond of service, and it's a very special thing," says Col. Marc Warren, USA (Ret), club president and a MOAA Life member.

There are many reasons to consider joining the club, and one of them is that every MOAA Life member receives a significantly reduced initiation fee of \$100.

Here are four more reasons:

- Gain access to clubs around the world. You don't need to live in Washington, D.C., to experience the value of club membership. A membership also grants access in reciprocal clubs in cities such as New York, London, Paris, Stockholm, and Hong Kong. Countries include Argentina, Chile, Japan, Thailand, and South Korea. [See the full list here](#)
- Experience elegant and affordable hotel stays in Washington, D.C. Especially ideal for out-of-town members, The Army and Navy Club offers hotel rooms and suites for its members. These rates do not increase during peak tourist and conference season, making it a trusted and savvy place to stay.
- Enjoy diverse drink and meal options and upgraded facilities. For dining, the club offers an upscale dining room and The Eagle Grill, a more casual bar and restaurant. The popular Daiquiri Lounge will undergo renovations in 2025. The club offers an expanding and evolving calendar of events that includes book readings and whiskey tastings. The club's library just reopened after an extensive renovation and boasts one of the largest private collections in the country. Many members enjoy perusing the rows of academy yearbooks. Amenities like these earned the establishment a Five Star Platinum Club rating, signifying it is among the Top 50 City Clubs in the United States.
- Peruse military history in every room and hallway. You will see dozens of portraits and military artifacts displayed across the club, items donated by members over the years. This includes a restored portrait of Adm. Joseph James "Jocko" Clark, the first Native American to graduate from the Naval Academy; the saber of Lt. Cmdr. Roy H. Boehm, who was instrumental in developing the Navy SEALs; and a convent table used to as a barricade during a skirmish in the Philippines during the eve of the Spanish-American war.

Outside the Eagle Grill is a wall of every *Time* magazine cover that featured one of The Army and Navy Club Members. It demonstrates the significance of the club and its members have played over the years. But at its heart, The Army and Navy Club is and remains focused on building camaraderie across generations. Will you join the community?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

24 Jan 25	1115 General Membership Meeting and Installation Ceremony (Friday)	OVC, HFD Bn Ch, Christopher Cabasa, TOPIC: HFD Overview,
28 Mar 25	1115 General Membership Meeting (Friday)	OVC, Guest Speaker/Topic TBD
23 May 25	1115 General Membership Meeting (Friday)	OVC, Guest Speaker/Topic TBD
25 Jul 25	1115 General Membership Meeting (Friday)	OVC, Guest Speaker/Topic TBD
26 Sep 25	1115 General Membership Meeting (Friday)	OVC, Guest Speaker/Topic TBD
7 Nov 25(T)	1730 Annual General Membership Meeting (Friday)	TBD
14 Dec 25(T)	1000 Christmas Brunch/Party, (Sunday)	TBD

2025 Hawaii Aloha Chapter Leadership

Board of Directors

(Term Expires Year Indicated)

Fred W. Brunson, CDR, USN (2025)
808-234-8481

Toni Correia, LTC, USA (2027)
808-721-0401

Kathy Ebey, Surviving Spouse (2027)
808-271-2826

Wesley F. Fong, COL, USA (2026)
808-595-6127 & 808-220-5266

Mike Fricano, Col, USAF (2026)
808-386-8575

John S. S. Kim, Lt Col, USAF (2026)
808-988-3349 & 808-780-5901

Calvin "Kelly" Lau, MG, USA (2025)
808-373-7938

Jason C. Seal, Col, USMC (2025)
808-277-7536

Tom Stirling, LTC, USAR (2027)
808-383-1454

Officers & Committee Chairs

President: Mike Fricano, Col, USAF
808-386-8575

Vice President Vacant

Secretary: Toni Correia, LTC, USA
808-721-0401

Treasurer: John Kim, LTC, USAF
808-988-3349

Surviving Spouses: Kathy Ebey,
808-271-2826

Chaplain: Debby Fricano, Spouse
808-386-8577

Community Affairs: John Ma, BG, USA
808-486-4805

JROTC/ROTC Awards: Toni Correia, LTC, USA 808-721-0401

Legislative Liaison: Robert Lee, MG, USA 808-486-1488

Committee Chairs & Activities

Membership: Jenn Kishimori, COL, USA 808-679-5564

Membership Deputy: Kathy Ebey, Surviving Spouse 808-271-2826

Personal Affairs: Lou Crompton, Lt Col, USAF 808-526-3022

Programs: Dave Perrine, COL, USA 808-386-8575

Publications: Vacant

Veterans Affairs: Vacant

Golf: Leslie Bise, LTC, USA 808-625-1010

Webmaster: Bob Rinaldo 203-758-1898

Scholarship Fund Trustees

Chairman: Jason Seal, COL, USMC 808-277-7536

Hawaii Aloha Chapter, MOAA, Membership/Application Form

Revised: March 2024 . All prior forms obsolete. Check All Applicable Boxes

Enroll me as a Regular Member: Each year of membership = \$20 ___ = No. of Years Five Years = \$90

Enroll me as a Spouse Member: (i.e., spouse of a Chapter Regular member, or Surviving Spouse of a deceased officer)

Each year of membership = \$15 Five Years = \$60 NOTE Include Regular Member/deceased officer RANK Below

PLUS Partial Year Membership: APR - JUN = \$15; JUL - SEP = \$10 OCT-DEC = \$5 = Total

Active Duty or 90 Years and Older = FREE

Current/Retired/Last Rank held: _____

Name Last, First Middle/Initial(s) (PLEASE PRINT) DOB MM/DD/YYYY

Address

City, State, Zip

Spouse's Name

H _____ C _____

Telephone Numbers H=Home/C=Cell

E-mail

Applicant's Signature

Recruiter/Sponsor's Name

*Mail Application Form and Membership Dues Check to
Hawaii Aloha Chapter, MOAA
P. O Box 201441
Honolulu, HI 96820*

CHECK APPLICABLE BOXES

STATUS	SERVICE
<input type="checkbox"/> Active	<input type="checkbox"/> US Army
<input type="checkbox"/> Reserve	<input type="checkbox"/> USAF
<input type="checkbox"/> National Guard	<input type="checkbox"/> US Navy
<input type="checkbox"/> Retired from AD	<input type="checkbox"/> USCG
<input type="checkbox"/> Retired from Res.	<input type="checkbox"/> USMC
<input type="checkbox"/> Former Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> USPHS
<input type="checkbox"/> Surviving (indicate	<input type="checkbox"/> NOAA

Rank above and check Service of Spouse)

National MOAA Member:

MOAA No. _____

ACTIVE DUTY WAR VETERAN

KOREA 06/27/50 - 01/31/55

VIETNAM 02/28/61 - 05/07/75

OIF/OEF 08/02/90 - TBD



Hawaii Aloha Chapter, MOAA

RESERVATION FORM

Luncheon Meeting

Catered Buffet Luncheon

1115, Friday, 24 January 2025

Oahu Veterans' Center

1298 Kukila Street, Foster Village, Honolulu, HI 96818

Lunch: Boneless BBQ Teriyaki Chicken, Breaded Fish with Tartar Sauce, Meat Jun with Sauce, White Rice, Potato Macaroni Salad, Tossed Salad with Italian Dressing, and Cake

Guest Speaker: HFD Battalion Chief Christopher Cabasa

Member: _____ Spouse: _____

Guest(s): _____

Cost = \$14.50 per person _____ x \$14.50 = \$ _____ +

Donation to your Chapter's General Fund for Sustaining Operations: \$ _____

Total = \$ _____ Payable in Advance. A firm head count is required.

Please send in your reservation ASAP to arrive NLT **Friday, 17 January 2025** Make

Checks Payable to: Hawaii Aloha Chapter, MOAA

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 201441
Honolulu, HI 96820

For more information, contact Dave Perrine at 808-679-5401

Please do not mail, email, text or call your RSVP in to Dave Perrine. Send them by mail to the chapter PO Box.