

2022 | June



THE BORDER BULLETIN

EL PASO CHAPTER OF MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Nationally Ranked Five-Star Chapter • MOAA Affiliate from January 23, 1956 • Our **66th** Year

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El Paso Texas Flags Across America

9550 Gateway N Blvd El Paso, Texas 79924

Photo by:

William Oseles

EL PASO CHAPTER NATIONAL AWARDS

Levels of Excellence

Runner-up 2000 and 2001

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Runner-up 2008 thru 2011

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Communications Award Website

Five-Star 2015 thru 2020
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Runner-up 2009 and 2014

INPUT

**Deadline for
August 2022
Border Bulletin
25 June**

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Advertising contained on the website and in the newsletter and directory are not endorsed by the Chapter and does not represent any recommendation to the membership. Opinions expressed in articles contained herein are not necessarily those of the membership as a whole or the Chapter. Questions should be directed to the Editor, at the Chapter office.

The advertisements that appear in this publication/website do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or the El Paso Chapter.

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Report a Retiree Death

Monday – Friday

0730 – 1700

915-568-5207

After Hours (Installation)

915-569-6950/6951

Or visit:

<https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary>



President's Message

Mike Hester

Happy Memorial Day team! Hard to believe that another summer is heading our way but that is the truth. I know you like me take Memorial Day a bit more seriously than our civilian counterparts. It is a very important day when we take a moment to remember the lives and sacrifices of so many young men and women that gave their last full measure in defense of our be-

loved country. I hope you have a great day and remember to educate our civilian brothers and sisters on the sacrifices of so many, the day has to be more than cookouts and cold beer.

I like to remember a young Ranger named George Olsen who was writing a letter to his hippie girlfriend Red in Berkley California in 1971. He was writing his letter in a radio relay tower in Chu Lai province in Vietnam and was trying to explain why he was in Vietnam. The words he wrote to her have stuck with me for over thirty years when I first read them. In his letter he wrote, "I truly envy the honest pacifist who can stay home and not take part in this conflict, I wish I could do the same. But the pacifist ideal cannot drive one burning objection to it from my mind. The fact that any pacifist can live in an orderly society is because someone, be they police or Soldiers are taking the risks to keep the wolves away. To be a sheep in a world of sheep is one thing, to be a sheep in the world of predators something else, and if someone stays home while another has to take his place over here to keep the wolves away, well that is something I cannot see or do not when I can't believe in it." He goes on to say that he will see her soon but never got the chance he was killed in a firefight soon after the letter was mailed and is laid to rest in upstate NY. Men like George Olsen is why we celebrate Memorial Day. Have a great one and please tell our story so we never forget men and women like George Olsen.

We had a great lunch in April and COL Venable, the hospital commander, gave a great presentation, thanks COL V! Our next lunch is Saturday 11 June and I hope to see many folks there. It is going to be a great day filled with good folks and great comradery!

I know there is some chatter about our policy change to renege on the lifetime membership. Unfortunately, we have been hemorrhaging monies and although life membership still applies, we will be going back to collecting annual dues. The cost is \$20 for an annual membership that includes a hardcopy Border Bulletin and the other option is \$15 for a membership but without a hardcopy BB. If anyone needs help with the monies, please contact me and we can figure out a way to keep you on the books.

We have a few new members to our leadership board and I can't wait to onboard these folks soon. COL Paul Garcia is recently retired and wants to help out. Also, we have COL (R) Bob Wagner, and LTC (R) Charles Valentine who will assist with the Foundation and other matters Welcome aboard gents!!

Finally, I am always looking for feedback so do not be shy. Send any comments or recommendations to me at mikehester65@gmail.com or call anytime at 760-969-2102.

I hope everyone is doing well and I look forward to seeing you at the April Lunch Meeting!

See you on the high ground! Proud to serve!

Mike Hester

Retiree and Annuitant Pay Dates for 2022

Entitlement Month	Retiree Pay Date	Annuitant Pay Date
January 2022	February 1, 2022	February 1, 2022
February 2022	March 1, 2022	March 1, 2022
March 2022	April 1, 2022	April 1, 2022
April 2022	April 29, 2022	May 2, 2022
May 2022	June 1, 2022	June 1, 2022
June 2022	July 1, 2022	July 1, 2022
July 2022	August 1, 2022	August 1, 2022
August 2022	September 1, 2022	September 1, 2022
September 2022	September 30, 2022	October 3, 2022
October 2022	November 1, 2022	November 1, 2022
November 2022	December 1, 2022	December 1, 2022
December 2022	December 30, 2022	January 3, 2023



Foundation Officers 2021

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JUNE GUEST SPEAKER

Alice Coleman

Manager Fort Bliss Army Fisher House



Alice Coleman is the Fort Bliss Army Fisher House manager. She has been an El Paso resident for over 23 years and loves to give back her time to the community. After being raised in the Army, Alice knows the importance and meaning of giving back. She was a government employee for six years in Germany and came to El Paso worked as the Mayor for Fort Bliss housing for 6 years. She worked at the Fort Bliss Armed Forces Bank as a financial advisor for soldiers, Budget Analyst, and Customer Service Representative for over nineteen years. She has also spearheaded the Dinner on a Dime and BOSS Program on Fort Bliss.

Outside of her work at the Fisher House, Alice volunteers at William Beaumont Army Hospital, VA, Race for the Cure, PTSD outreach, feed the Hunger, Helping Hands, Women helping Women and does different community outreach programs through the American Legion Auxiliary which she has been the President for over ten years, she has served as the District and Division President under the Department of Texas, She participates in many fundraisers and chairs different fundraising events throughout El Paso. She believes in the importance of service and helping others as well as keeping El Paso Strong.

Alice is married of 38 years to a Retired Service member and is a mother of 3 Veterans two Army one Navy. She is a grandmother to 13, with 5 currently in college and 1 serving in the Navy. In her free time, Alice loves riding her motorcycle, cooking, and reading. Her life motto is "Don't talk about it, be about it."

A collage of military health system announcements. The top banner reads "GENESIS Will Go Live June 11 2022" and "MHS GENESIS = MODERN". It features the "DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MHS GENESIS MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM" logo and the text "New Electronic Health Record". Below this is a banner for "William Beaumont Army Medical Center". At the bottom, there are banners for "COVID-19" information, "COVID-19 Rapid Tests Now Available", and a "COVID-19 Self Testing Kit" box. The Tricare logo is in the bottom right corner.



Pharmacy Hours

Short notice changes to Pharmacy Operation Hours due to Command approved hospital activities will be posted to the WBAMC Facebook Page.

<https://www.facebook.com/WBAMC1>

Closed on federal holidays

Hospital

Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Main Pharmacy - West Clinic Building 1st Floor

18511 Highlander Medics St, El Paso, TX 79918,

(for hospital discharge only)

915-742-9490

Mendoza

Monday - Friday 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Every Third Thursday 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

11335 SSG Sims St, Fort Bliss, TX 79918,

915-742-1400

Freedom Crossing

Monday - Friday 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

1611 Haan Rd, Fort Bliss, TX 79906

915-742-9017

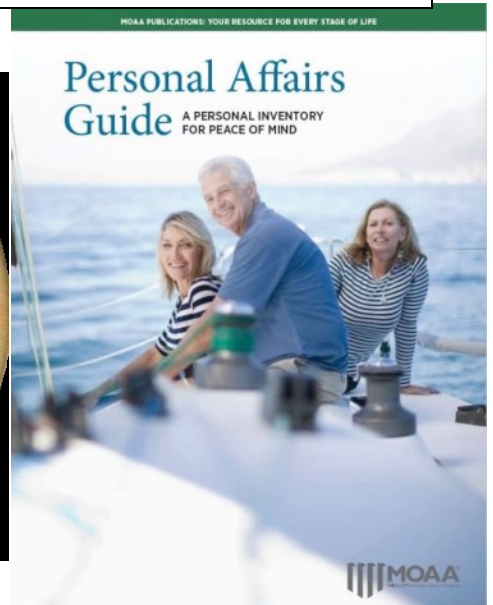
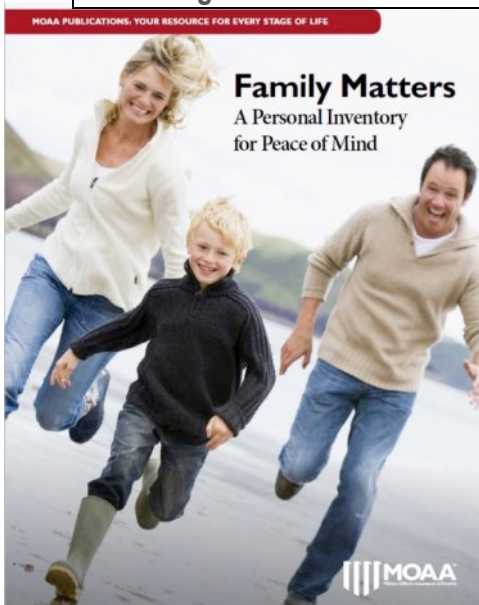
Note: If a high volume of patients needing to be serviced for the day and not enough staff is available, the kiosk may be shut down early in order to ensure all patients that have a ticket can be serviced for the day.

East Bliss Closed

SFMC Closed

Rio Bravo Closed

Desert Sage Closed



<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/moaa-publications/moaa-publications/>



CHAPLAINS CORNER

MRS CONNIE SULLIVAN

In life, there are some people that make an impact in us, not only because of their demeanor but also for what they have done. We have admired the dedication of their way of life but especially how they have loved and serve our country, with so much passion, loyalty and self-sacrifice. General Greer is one of those persons.

He has been an example of love for our nation, for those of us that know him and care about him, for as long as we have known

him and to hundreds of soldiers whom he served with, trained and helped. His diligence and dedication to our country has been incredibly impressive.

There was an article written about him by Ancella Bickley in the Spiral Artic L.E..Bound.

WEST VIRGINIA'S FIRST BLACK GENERAL

Major General Edward Greer was promoted to Brigadier General in the U.S. Army in 1972. He became the first black person from West Virginia to achieve that rank. "I was not surprised when he was named a general" LTC (Ret.) Preston Davis of Washington, D.C., said, "Of the many officers that I've known, Greer had all of the attributes for promotion to general the character, the Military experience, and the warmth of personality that well fitted him for the tasks that the Army set before him. He was always a person to be greatly admired".

With a career spanning more than 32 years, three wars, and numerous Military postings, General Greer was among the early group of black men whose leadership capabilities propelled them into spotlighted positions in the early days of racial integration of the Armed Forces.



General Greer entered West Virginia's State College which had a ROTC Program and he and his friend Preston Davis both enrolled in it. At that time, rather than be drafted since World War II was in progress, all of the males in their class enlisted in May 1943.

When WWII ended, both Greer and Davis went back to West Virginia's State, finished their degrees and were commissioned as Army Officers.

In 1950, he and Preston Davis, served in Korea together in the 159th Field Artillery Battalion, supporting the 24th Infantry Regiment, a black unit honored for its deployment in the West in the early days of settlement there and known as the Buffalo Soldiers. Greer and Davis have maintained their friendship for over 60 years.

General Greer received his second star the promotion to Major General in 1974. He retired in 1976. His last assignment was as the Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Army Military Personnel Center at the Pentagon.

I am so honored to write this article on General Greer. He and I were in the Retired Officers Association and have memorable experiences setting up programs. Unfortunately, I don't have enough space to write about all his achievements and accomplishments as the article is 6 pages long and are awesomely impressive

Continued on Page 19

Junior Enlisted Family Center

• Food Pantry • No-Cost Thrift Store • Baby Project • Soldiers Kits • Volunteering

Located on the corner of Sheridan and Cassidy at
2004 Sheridan Rd. Fort Bliss, TX



Donations

Duration Varies

JEFC Donations: Clothing, Shoes, Accessories, Toys, Nursing, Maintenance, Media, Electronics, Seasonal, Uniforms, Household, Furniture, Appliances, Sports Gear, Hygiene, Military Gear, Crafts and Books.

Food Pantry Donations: Non Perishable foods such as – Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruits, Bagged Grains, One box meals, Canned Protein, Breakfast items and Snacks.

Baby Project: Baby Wipes, Diapers, Baby Food, Baby Cereal and Formula.

Monetary Donations: Give online: www.asymca.org/donate-el-paso Donate over the phone: (915) 263-7164

Mail a check: 7060 Comington St. El Paso, TX 79930

Volunteering at the JEFC

Duration Varies

Offering active duty service members, military spouses and Fort Bliss Youth a positive opportunity to earn volunteer hours in their community. Volunteers can earn up to 52 hours a month during business hours to go towards school credit, promotion points or resumes.

Volunteer Requirements: - Current Physical - Must be registered in Amilia.

Ages 17 and under must be accompanied by parent or legal guardian.

To register visit: www.asymca.org/el-paso-sign-in

Baby Project

Duration Varies • Free to military E6 and below

Junior Enlisted military families in need are allowed one bundle of diapers, baby wipes and up to 10 baby food items per week during hours of operation while supplies lasts.

Hours of Operation: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:30am - 2:30pm

Location: 2004 Sheridan Rd. Fort Bliss, TX

Emergency Food Pantry

Duration Varies

Military families in need can pick up a voucher for further assistance while visiting ACS, which can then be redeemed at our JEFC during our hours of operation.

Hours of Operation: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and 3rd Saturday of the month from 10:30am - 2:30pm

Location: 2004 Sheridan Rd. Fort Bliss, TX

Army Community Services 2494 Ricker Road 915-568-0768

Shopping

Duration Varies • Free to military E6 and below

Free new and gently used items to Junior Enlisted E6 and below military families in need.

-Clothing, Shoes, Accessories, Toys, Nursing, Maintenance, Media, Electronics, Seasonal, Uniforms, Household, Furniture, Appliances, Sports Gear, Baby items, Hygiene, Military Gear, Crafts and Books.

Hours of Operation: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and 3rd Saturday from 10:30am - 2:30pm

To register visit: www.asymca.org/el-paso-sign-in



elpasomoaa.org

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BASIC MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT

☒ YES! Sign me up as a **FREE BASIC MOAA Member**

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Branch of Service _____ Rank _____

☐ Retired ☐ Active ☐ Former

☐ Reserve ☐ National Guard ☐ Auxiliary*

☐ Graduation Year (Cadet/Midshipmen) _____

Email Address** _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

To ensure deliverability of MOAA communications, please provide a personal email without a ".mil" domain if available.

We value your privacy. MOAA does not rent or sell its members' emails to third parties. If you include your email address, you will receive e-communications from MOAA as a member benefit. Visit www.moaa.org/email for details.

Date of Birth _____

Spouse Name _____

Your spouse has access to all of your MOAA member benefits.

*Surviving spouse of eligible officer

**Email address required for BASIC Membership

or

Chapter MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT

☒ YES! Sign me up as an El Paso Chapter Member

Name _____

Branch of Service _____ Rank _____

☐ Retired ☐ Active ☐ Former

☐ Reserve ☐ National Guard ☐ Auxiliary*

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Add your own voice to the fight.





April
2022 Luncheon





elpasomoaa.org

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June 2022 Membership Meeting & Lunch

The General George V. Underwood, Jr. Golf Course

3200 Coe Ave., El Paso, TX 79916

Date: Saturday, 11 June 2022

Time: 1130 -1400

Guest Speaker:

Ms. Alice Coleman Manager, Fisher House, WBAMC



Menu

Baked Italian Lasagna w/Beef
Sicilian Steamed Blend of Garden Vegetables
Garlic Bread w/Butter
Tossed Green Salad w/Dressing
MOAA Cake;
Water, Coffee & Iced Tea

Dress: Casual

Cost: \$20/person

Lunch Treasurer: treasurer@elpasomoaa.org

Membership or email queries: membership@elpasomoaa.org

Mail To: El Paso Chapter MOAA, Attn.: Treasurer, PO Box 6144, Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0144

Please fill in this acceptance slip, and return to the Treasurer by Wednesday, 6 April 2022 with a check for \$20 per person, the cost of the luncheon. **Late Reservations**, call Bob Pitt, 915-533-5111 or Dave Powell, 915-491-1272, by Noon, Thursday, April 7, and pay at the door.

Lunch will be on Saturday 11 June 2022 at 11:30 a.m.

Please print guest names clearly to ensure the correct spelling on the registration listing.

I will / will not attend the lunch and there will be _____ attendees in my party.

My check for \$ ____ (\$20.00 per person) made payable to the "El Paso Chapter" is enclosed.

Name of Member: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Name(s) of Guests: _____

Name(s) of Guests: _____



Doc's Corner

Daniel Washburn, M.D.

The following are some medical advances over the past few years. This is a short article, so this list is far from comprehensive, and I am not promoting any of these products/treatments, just putting them out there for your information.

Diabetes: Continuous glucose monitors (CGM) now help many diabetics monitor their blood sugar without constantly pricking their finger. CGMs have a small probe that is placed under the skin on the arm and can record sugar readings to a cell phone. CGMs must be replaced at regular intervals and finger pricks are occasionally necessary to calibrate the CGM but it does save diabetics the large inconvenience of multiple daily finger sticks. Other types

of even less invasive and simpler ways of monitoring blood sugar are under investigation.

Sleep Apnea: Most people with sleep apnea spend each night with a CPAP machine. However, if CPAP is not a good option, an implantable device is now available. Small incisions are placed under the chin and on the chest wall during an outpatient procedure to insert the implant. The device is turned on at night to gently stimulate the throat muscles and keep the airway open.

Smart Pill: Pills with tiny sensor are now available. The sensor sends information to a phone so people can track when and how much of the medication was taken. Smart pills are only available in some medications to treat mental health disorders but may soon expand to other medications. This will greatly improve a person's compliance and accuracy in taking needed medications.

Skin Cancer: Dermatologists are beginning to use artificial intelligence to help diagnose skin cancers. A photo of a skin lesion is taken, and computer software compares the photo to photos of other skin lesions that were proven to be cancerous or benign. This method has shown very high accuracy in clinical trials and may enhance early and accurate detection of skin cancers.

HIV: For many years, excellent drugs have been available to control the once devastating effects of the HIV virus. However, these drugs only control HIV but don't cure it so the drugs have to be taken long term. Now, researchers in Washington D.C. may be on the verge of getting approval of a new treatment to cure HIV.

Alzheimer's: in 2021, aducanumab was approved by the FDA for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. This drug does not cure the disease but gives a reasonable chance of reducing the mental decline associated with Alzheimer's. However, the drug is very expensive, and it is still controversial how effective it is.

Cancer: Cancer treatment is way beyond the scope of this short article. However, I will very briefly mention several things. Better ways of detecting and treating various forms of cancer are constantly being researched and developed. The oral medication Olaparib, previously approved for breast and ovarian cancer, is also showing success in treating prostate and pancreatic cancer. A urine test for cervical cancer and blood test for breast cancer are also being developed.

Peanut Allergy: Some people may develop a dangerous reaction to peanuts if exposed. Palforzia is a medication now available that gives a person a small, daily dose of the peanut protein. This builds up the body's immune tolerance to the protein, greatly reducing the severity of a reaction if exposed to peanuts.

Miscellaneous: new drugs are also now available for the treatment of multiple sclerosis, cystic fibrosis and hepatitis C.

Daniel Washburn, M.D.
Former Chief Eye Surgeon at WBAMC



Surviving Spouse Liaison MRS CONNIE SULLIVAN

Oh, My Dear Members, what a roller coaster we have been on for two and a half years of anxiety, frustration and stress because of the Covid and now extreme hopelessness and helplessness to see a beautiful country being destroyed right before our eyes.

The emotional sentiment we feel of not knowing why it happened overwhelms us to no end. Even as strong as our faith is in God, we still question the horrific reason that has come about of genocide that is occurring in that country.

When I see what is happening in that war in the news, it reminds me of an article I read many years ago about a young girl that lived in Germany in a village right next to the railroad tracks.

She said that when they would go to church, they could hear the trains go by and heard the cry of the Jewish people in the railroad cars and all they would do was sing a little louder so they could not hear the cry and shouting of distress that was coming from those trains.

This might be the way some of us feel, not knowing what to do with our hearts going out to the Ukrainian people, because we as citizens can do nothing about the situation except call on God to help them and contact our elected officials to do something about it.

Tragic but true and some still, even believe that it cannot happen to us here in our country and all we have to do is think back at 911.

For unbelievers, we know not what they think but for us who believe in God, know that things happen for reasons that we are unable to comprehend, for only our Supreme Being knows why.

So as followers of Almighty God and His Son, we stand strong in our faith in them and know that the time will come when HE, our Heavenly Father, himself will take care of the situation and yes, also the time will come when God will do the reckoning of this life; for His promise is that vengeance is His. So as always, "IN GOD WE TRUST".



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LEGISLATIVE CORNER DAVID GARCIA

**GREETING TO ALL,
THE ARTICLES OF ONE IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE
BILL SUPPORTED BY MOAA IS LISTED BELOW AND ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION ON BURN PIT EXPOSURE...
HR 3967-HONORING OUR PACT ACT PASSES THE HOUSE
House Makes Good on its Promise to Care for Toxic-Exposed Veterans**

WASHINGTON, D.C— Today, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Mark Takano (D-Calif) made the following statement after his comprehensive bill, H.R. 3967, as amended, the *Honoring Our Promise To Address Comprehensive Toxics Act Of 2021 Or Honoring Our PACT Act*, passed the House of Representatives with a bipartisan vote of 256-174. This legislation will finally treat toxic exposure as a cost of war by addressing the full range of issues impacting toxic-exposed veterans including access to earned benefits and healthcare through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). It has the strong of 42 Veterans Service Organizations, the Biden-Harris Administration, and advocates Jon Stewart And John Feal.

The Honoring our PACT Act will:

Provide **Priority Group 6 health care** for over 3.5 million toxic-exposed veterans

Provide **extension of combat eligibility** for health care from 5 to 10 years with a one-year open enrollment period for those veterans who missed their window.

Streamline VA's review process for establishing toxic exposure presumptions

Concede exposure to airborne hazards/burn pits based on locations & dates of service

Require medical exams/opinions for certain veterans with toxic exposure disability claims

Add hypertension and Monoclonal Gammopathy of Undetermined Significance to the list of presumptions for Agent Orange exposure

Establish a presumption of service connection for 23 respiratory illnesses and cancers related to burn pits/airborne hazards exposure

Create a **presumption of exposure to radiation** for veterans who participated in cleanup activities in Palomares, Spain, and Enewetak Atoll

Allow for a new tort claim for veterans and families exposed to toxic water at Camp Lejeune

Expand agent orange exposure to veterans who served in Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia

Improve **data collection** between VA and the Department of Defense

Commission studies related to incidents of cancer among veterans, health trends of Post 9/11 veterans and feasibility of providing healthcare to dependents of veterans

Require VA to provide **standardized training** to improve toxic exposure disability claims adjudications

Require VA to **conduct outreach** and provide resources to toxic exposed veterans

VA Adds 9 Respiratory Cancers to List of Conditions Related to Post-9/11 Burn Pit Exposure

The rare respiratory cancers that now are eligible for health care and expedited disability claims include:

- | | |
|--|---|
| * Squamous cell carcinoma of the larynx | * Squamous cell carcinoma of the trachea |
| * Adenocarcinoma of the trachea | * Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea |
| * Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung | * Large cell carcinoma of the lung |
| * Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung | * Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung |
| * Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung | |

The illnesses join three already considered to be linked to burn pits and overseas duty if they develop within 10 years of deployment -- asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis.

The presumptive designation allows veterans to apply for disability benefits without having to provide proof that their disease was caused by an exposure or injury when they served in the military.

Take These 3 Actions After Filing Your Taxes

By: Lila Quintiliani

If you were required to file 2021 taxes, hopefully you did so by April 18 ... or at least filed for an extension. This was the first time in two years federal taxes were due in April, and millions of taxpayers rushed to file at the last minute. While most folks would rather forget about their taxes for another whole year, there are a few actions that you should take before filing away all those forms and documents.

1. Check the Status of Your Return

The IRS says that it issues 9 out of 10 refunds within 21 days. However, some returns require additional review, and the IRS has issued a statement explaining why some might take more time, with reasons ranging from errors to suspected identity theft. One thing is clear: Don't count on receiving the money by any particular date. If you're curious about the status of your refund, you can use the IRS' Where's My Refund tool 24 hours after e-filing and four weeks after mailing in your return. The status is updated daily.

2. Have a Plan for Your Refund

You may not know when your refund will arrive, but you should have some idea what to do with it when it does. Whether it's boosting your emergency fund, paying off debt, or saving for your kids' education, have a concrete plan in place. Otherwise, that money may get treated (and spent!) as an unexpected windfall.

3. Revisit Your Withholding Amounts

If you had an unexpectedly large refund or, conversely, an unexpected tax bill, then you might want to adjust the amount withheld from your paycheck or your retired pay. Remember, a huge refund generally means that you gave the government an interest-free loan. On the other hand, if you withhold too little, you may be subject to penalties and be forced to make estimated payments in the future. The IRS has a withholding estimator you can use to figure out your federal tax withholding. If you have no earned income, only a pension, then you can use Form W-4P to determine the correct amount of tax to withhold. Visit [MOAA.org/Finance](https://www.moa.org/Finance) for the latest news, resources for MOAA members, and more

MOAA-Backed Bill Improving SGLI, VGLI Passes Senate

By: Kevin Lilley

A MOAA-supported bill increasing the amount of life insurance available to servicemembers and veterans via two popular VA plans took a major step forward last week, passing the Senate via a voice vote.

The Supporting Families of the Fallen Act (S. 2794) would increase the automatic maximum coverage under both the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) plans from \$400,000 to \$500,000. It would be the first coverage-cap increase for either plan since 2005.

"This legislation is ultimately about supporting the families of servicemembers," said MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret). "MOAA looks forward to growing bipartisan support for this important modernization of life insurance."

The bipartisan bill heads to the House for consideration. The House version of the bill (H.R. 3793), introduced in June 2021 by Reps. Chip Roy (R-Texas) and Mike Levin (D-Calif.), has 13 co-sponsors. Sen. Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.), who introduced the Senate version, told Military.com the bill "has good support" in the House.

The bill marks a major step toward adjusting SGLI and VGLI coverage for inflation. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics inflation calculator, \$400,000 coverage in January 2005 would represent more than \$595,000 in purchasing power in February 2022.

While the \$100,000 increase doesn't cover the entire amount, the legislation could set the stage for Congress to make further adjustments – moves necessary to protect the benefit of these insurance programs and preserve the financial security of military families.

New Members

COL Donna Diamond

Renewals

MAJ James Griffith

CPT Steve Mendoza

Mrs. Evelyn Kordek

Mrs. Beth Hutchins

CPT David Thackston

Col Bob Pitt

Mrs. Janet Rasmussen

MAJ Arthur Trantham

Mrs. Anne Broilett



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Surviving Spouse Corner: End-of-Life Documents

By: Barbara Ann Bowman

Most people would list among end-of-life documents a will, a trust, an advance directive, a DNR (do not resuscitate) order, and a durable power of attorney. But the list of documents that deal with end-of-life issues is much longer. Deeds to real property, beneficiary declaration for life insurance, and the signature card to a bank account are all end-of-life documents. They determine who gets what and through which legal procedure when someone dies.

Fortunately, checklists to help create an end-of-life plan are available through a number of trustworthy organizations. Among them:

MOAA's Help Your Survivors Now: A Guide to Planning Ahead

VA's Planning Your Legacy

Military.com's Military Retiree Survivor Checklist

State Bar Association articles and forms

Research these resources, pick a checklist, or create one of your own. Gather legal documents you already have, including will, trust documents, health care directives, powers of attorney, beneficiary designations, asset inventory, deeds, military papers, instructions to access digital accounts, and contact information for family. Consult professionals — lawyer, accountant, insurance agent, financial advisor — to help put together the plan, and then review, update, redraft, and re-execute documents, lists, and paperwork when needed.

At least once a year, review and update the plan. Have circumstances changed? Do the documents do what they are intended to do? Have state or federal laws affecting any of these documents changed? Are lists of assets current? Are titles to real estate, bank accounts, and vehicles correct? Are beneficiary designations still good? Discuss your plan with those who hold health care proxy, powers of attorney, and other authority over your person and property. Put documents in a safe place, yet where they can be accessed by those in whom you have placed trust. Be proactive. End-of-life documents are in reality life's documents. Deal with them now.



<https://www.moaa.org/content/about-moaa/meet-our-leaders/surviving-spouse-advisory-committee/surviving-spouse-corner/>

Termination of Chapter Life Memberships



A vote at the February 2022 Membership Meeting terminated chapter life memberships. LTC (R) Bill Moore will adjust life member renewal dates in the member database to 1 June 2022. Invoices (MEMB— \$20/yr. or MEMB-E— \$15/yr.) will be mailed in early May 2022.

If you have questions, please contact the undersigned.

Never Stop Serving and Stay Safe!

Very Respectfully,

Mike Hester

Colonel, US Army, Retired

President, El Paso Chapter, MOAA

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It suffice me to say, that to know of such a wonderful dedicated Patriot of our country is what has made the United States of America great and powerful. His life is incredibly beautiful, full of love of God, family and country. He is a hero to be remembered as an example to all of us that have crossed his path. It is evident that God has chosen him as one of the most courageous and best Military Officers in this life.

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