2026 | September



THE BORDER BULLETIN

EL PASO CHAPTER OF MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Nationally Ranked Five-Star Chapter * MOAA Affiliate from January 23, 1956 * Our70th Year

70 Years of Service to Fort Bliss and El Paso

Inside this issue:

3 President's Message

4 Pharmacy Information

5 Chaplain's Corner & Auxiliary

5 Outreach Foundation

7 Membership Form

8 Legislative News

9 MOAA News

10-11 Jun Luncheon

12 - MOAA News

13 Guest Speaker

14 Luncheon Reservation

15 Doc's Corner

16 Legislative Continued

17 New Members & Renewals, Key Dates

18 Retiree & Annuitant Pay Dates

Transmountain Road
Elevation 5154'
William Oseles
13 July 2026

EL PASO CHAPTER NATIONAL AWARDS

Levels of Excellence	
Runner-Up	2000 and 2001
Five Star Chapter	2001 thru 2018
Communications Award Print Newsletter	
Five Star	2015, 2016, 2018 - 2022, 2024-2025
Four Star	2017
Winner	2004, 2012, 2013, and 2014
Runner-Up	2008 thru 2011
Communications Award Print Legislative Coverage	
Winner	2008,2009, 2011 and 2012
Communications Award Website	
Five Star	2015 thru 2022, 2024-2025
Four Star	2023
Winner	2020 thru 2013
Runner-Up	2009 and 2014

INPUT
Deadline for December 2026 Border Bulletin 30 October

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

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Editorial Policy

MOAA national and the El Paso Chapter (a MOAA affiliate) are independent, nonprofit, and politically nonpartisan organizations

DANIEL S. WASHBURN, M.D.

OPHTHALMOLOGY-EYE SPECIALIST

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PH. 915-757-3937
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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

COL Robert Wagner, RET El Paso Chapter MOAA President

Our 70th Anniversary is half over with two more luncheons left. I ask you to talk to your friends and Family to let them know we made this milestone and invite them to attend our luncheon in September!!! It is a special event with the very important but little talked about of surviving spouse. As Dave Ramsey says, we don't do a great job of planning for death when we plan for everything else in life, even though it's that and taxes are guaranteed. Please!!! Please!! Help get the word out.

To reemphasize: Ms Gail Joyce, a Gold Star Mother and MOAA National Board member will join us in September to tell her story and will be especially focused on our spouses. I hope to get the Ft Bliss Spouses organization to join us in September. We are planning to have a panel discussion on surviving-spouses topic of setting up a battle plan. The panel will consist of Ft Bliss Chaplain, Veterans Benefit Administration representative, an estate planning lawyer and a financial planning representative, along with Gail Joyce. It's a tough topic but one that is beneficial if the bad stuff happens. Please plan on attending September 12th and please invite Family and Friends.

In June, we had the Garrison Commander, COL Michael Soyka. He was informative and answered many questions. The most interesting information was regarding the Ft Bliss Data Center. COL Soyka emphasized the construction as a strategic military necessity and will be a positive net for electricity and water for the Elpaso Community.

On June 18th our chapter presented the first MG Greer and BG Kotter awards to excellent nominees. Congratulations to the recipients. The Active Army awardee names were also put on an annual plaque that will be placed in the 1AD HQs. BG Kotter's son was in attendance and I sent pictures to MG Greer's son.

Also, on August 8th, MOAA El Paso Chapter was inducted into the Purple Heart of El Paso Trail. Along with other organizations and individuals this was an honor accepting this recognition on behalf of our chapter.

Our December speaker will be COL Gray the commander for William Beaumont Army Medical Center. The clinics and hospital are one of the best in our military. Also in December we will collect donations for the Armed Forces YMCA and celebrate Christmas! Looking forward to seeing everyone dressed up for the occasion. Plus we will be inducting our officers for 2027!!

It's that time of year Folks, we need your continued effort to build membership and help us grow into the future. Please help our organization continue to be a viable and important part of Ft Bliss and the Elpaso community. We need your help. Please let me know if you are interested in helping us as a member of the board and other positions. My two years as president will be up in December, so we need to be searching for a volunteer to become our next president. Also, Lennie has taken on the presidency of the outreach and we need someone to take that over as well next year.

I've said it before but we really need more members and need to get your help to make this happen. Remember, for two new members your annual dues will be paid by me. Any ideas on how to increase our membership is greatly appreciated. I believe the spouses and especially surviving spouses are a population we could direct attention to with your help. We need your help to make every effort and focus on continuing the life of our organization.

I again want to reiterate my vision for the El Paso Chapter of MOAA which are three main lines of effort:

- Improve the membership program to not only give you as a current members a positive experience but to increase new membership. – tell me how we doing??
- Increase the visibility of the El Paso Chapter of MOAA in the El Paso community by educating the officers living in the area and community organizations supporting our military about the benefits of MOAA and the importance of supporting MOAA locally as well as nationally. - we continue to be included in the monthly Community Information exchange (CIE), and the selection to the Purple Heart Trail meet this focus area but we will do more.
- Develop a fund raising conceptual plan that will not only provide funds for the organization to continue but also to support the outreach program. – we have updated our advertising fee schedule and looking for new advertisers. We need your help to get this information out and to get corporate sponsors please. Any ideas or anyone wanting to take a lead on this focus area is truly appreciated.

These three focus areas will keep the organization alive in my opinion. We continue to need your feedback and support.

Again, I thank you for your confidence in me and our BOD Team, and thank you for being a member of the El Paso Chapter of MOAA. Never Stop Serving!! Bob



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

Pharmacy Contact Information

Main Pharmacy - West Clinic Building 1st Floor

18511 Highlander Medics St, El Paso, TX 79918,
Monday-Friday 7:30am-4:30pm

Training Holiday & Minimal Staffing Hours:
7:30am - 4:00pm

Freedom Crossing (PX) Pharmacy

1611 Haan Rd, Fort Bliss, TX 79906
Monday-Friday 9:30am-6:00pm

Training Holiday & Minimal Staffing Hours
8:30am - 5:00pm

Mendoza Soldier Family Care Center Pharmacy

11335 SSG Sims St, Fort Bliss, TX 79918,
Monday-Friday 7:00am-4:30pm

Training Holiday & Minimal Staffing Hours
7:30am - 4:00pm

East Bliss Pharmacy

21227 Torch St, Fort Bliss, TX 79918
Monday-Friday 7:00am - 3:30pm

Training Holiday & Minimal Staffing Hours
7:00am – 11:00am

William Beaumont Army Medical Center Pharmacy link:

EL PASO VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM PHARMACY

There are four convenient options for refilling prescriptions which can then be mailed directly to your home. Choose any process that is easy for you to use:

- Call the automated phone system at (915) 564-6100 ext. 6110 or 1-800-672-3782 ext.6110.
  Follow the directions to process your refill.
- Mail in your refill slips.
- Drop the refill slip in the mail-out box located in the pharmacy.
- Use the MyHealtheVet Website: www.myhealth.va.gov

Please note, window service at the Pharmacy will be limited to new prescriptions only. So, for all refills, please use one of the 4 options listed above.
Location: 2nd Floor, West Hallway.
Hours: Mon - Fri.,
8:00am-4:30pm; Except Tues.,
9:00am-4:30pm

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

CHAPLAINS CORNER—Daria Sawyer

About 20 years ago, I was working as a teacher at a residential treatment facility. I was working Monday through Friday with no holidays off or summer break. I commuted an hour to and from work. This became very tedious and I quickly got burned out as a teacher. I applied for numerous teaching jobs over the course of a year but was never hired. I wasn't sure what to do but I knew I had to make a change because I was miserable. I spoke with a friend that I ministered to and she suggested that I quit my job. I told her that I couldn't do that because I was a single mother with three children and I had to work to provide for them. However, I thought at length about what she said and wondered how I could make this work. My neighbor was a nurse and she stated that I would be a wonderful nurse and that I should look into going back to school. I was terrified of making a bad decision so I asked my church leader for a priesthood blessing.

He asked me what was going on and I told him that I needed help making a decision about whether or not I should quit my job. He gave me a blessing and when he finished he asked me if I knew what I was supposed to do. I replied no, I don't know what I should do. He said that the choice was mine and that I needed to have faith. I decided to quit my job. I didn't have another teaching job lined up so I decided to take a course to be a CNA and eventually become a nurse. Within a week of quitting my job, I went to the mailbox and there was a stack of checks. My ex-husbands checks were garnished and I never received the money. Those checks were enough to pay for my bills for one month. I completed the CNA course and got a job at the hospital working as a CNA. I was blessed by my Heavenly Father. I know that he was waiting for me to have faith and to make a decision so that I could be blessed.

Auxiliary - Casey

Dear Members, September is already here and it's amazing how time flys by.

Hope everyone had a wonderful and safe summer.

For those precious members that lost their loved ones, our hearts and prayers are with them and their families.

September is a month when people start thinking about the up coming holidays, others are busy about exercising to get in shape for the parties and festive days.

Some busy with their children getting them ready for school. And some like myself, reflecting on the blessings and miracles that God has given us.

My beloved God and my Savior have granted me many miracles through out my life.

Two that I have no words to thank them for, they brought my Son back home safe from Iraq and Afghanistan, when he was serving in the Army.

The second one has also to do with my Son.

When my husband was alive, we traveled extensively to as many States as we could here in the United States.

In one of our trips, when we were passing through Arizona, we stopped at a gift shop and bought gifts for my children.

I bought my two daughters bracelets and barretts. For my Son, I chose a medallion the size of a half dollar bill coin. It was blue with a beautiful face of a Sun on it and had a black cord.

My Son loved it and always wore it. At that time he was living in Hawaii working for his father-in-law that was a contractor building houses in Maii.

Casey, my Son, said that he would put the medallion inside his T-shirt to get it out of the way of work.

One day, working on a roof of a house nailing shingles, one of the nails slipped off of the nail gun and hit him with tremendous force on the left side of his chest.

The nail hit and broke the medallion in half. With Supreme Divine intervention, the nail did not go through his chest. He said that he looked down and that there was no blood.

If it had gone through and pierced his heart, he would not be alive today.

God had other plans for him, to serve his country with one tour in Iraq and two in Afghanistan as an Army Ranger.

God is great and is with us no matter what we do or where we are at, because His love for us is eternal.



EL Paso Chapter Outreach Foundation

Lennie Enzel, Acting President
Colonel, US Army, Retired

Hopefully, by the time you read this our temperatures will have moderated. There are few things as wonderful as Fall in El Paso.

A big thank you to those of you who continue to donate and support our charitable efforts. We continue to fund 3 scholarships to help our young people with their ever-rising college expenses. I encourage you to spread the word about that opportunity. We also continue to support the Soldier Art Workshop, the Homeless Veteran Standdown, and numerous VA programs. None of that would be possible without your generosity.

In October, we will again be contributing to the annual VA White Cane event which supports our blind and low vision Veterans. Last year we purchased Meta glasses which helped them read documents, navigate their surroundings, and live more independently. Combined with that will be the adaptive cycling event. I will try to get the word out on when/where it will be held. I strongly encourage you to come out and watch these Veterans experience the freedom of riding bicycle adapted for their disability. Based on their needs, they are given specialized equipment like handcycles, recumbent trikes, and tandem bikes. The look of joy on their faces and the interaction between the Veterans and their trainers is unforgettable.

Again, none of these valuable programs would be possible without your contributions. Please continue to donate at https://www.elpasomoaa.org/donation_checkout.asp?donationid=1. Please let me know if you are aware of other military/Veteran opportunities in our community worthy of our support,

El Paso, Texas
CHAPTER
MOAA
Military Officers Association of America
Outreach Foundation
a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization



elpasomoaa.org
El Paso Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
PO Box 6144
Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0144

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*
[ ] Friend of the Chapter
*Surviving spouse of eligible officer

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____ Phone Number _____

Unit_____

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

MOAA Number _____

Date of Birth _____

Spouse Name _____
Your spouse has access to your El Paso Chapter MOAA member benefits

[ ] One-Year Hard Copy Membership $20

[ ] One-Year Electronic Membership $15

[ ] Multi-Year Memberships—— Contact Membership Chair

Method of Payment

[ ] Check (please make payable to El Paso MOAA) [ ] Visa [ ] Discover [ ]MasterCard [ ] AMEX
Charge my card $_____
Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____ CVS _____

Dues to MOAA are not deductible as a charitable contribution for federal tax purposes.

Send Check to: El Paso Chapter MOAA , PO Box 6144, Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0144

Never Stop Serving!

MOAA

Legislative News

Congress' Plate Is Full ... and the Clock Is Ticking

(https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/advocacy/congress-plate-is-full-and-the-clock-is-ticking/)

By: Brenden McMahon

After a super-sized Independence Day celebration (and recess), Congress returns to Washington next week to face a packed agenda of must-pass authorizations and appropriations, critical veteran and military family-related legislation, and individual priorities of lawmakers – all needing resolution before the end of the 119th Congress.

Here's a look at three of MOAA's key priorities for the waning days of the fiscal year and the legislative session. Get updates on these bills and others by registering at our Legislative Action Center. (https://moaa.quorum.us/)

The NDAA: Where Does It Stand?

Congress has passed a National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) every year since 1961, a streak that's held through recessions, shutdowns, and periods of deep political division. The NDAA remains one of the few pieces of legislation that reliably becomes law regardless of the climate in Washington.

Next week, both chambers move their versions forward. Before taking up its draft, the House first must adopt the rule that will structure floor debate and determine which amendments receive a vote. The Senate is working in parallel, taking up its own version and its own amendments as floor consideration begins.

[MORE NDAA NEWS: Senate Markup | NDAA and TRICARE | Preventing Health Care Facility Closures]

(https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/advocacy/senate-ndaa-markup-complete-what-it-means-for-military-pay,-health-care,-and-other-key-benefits/)

(https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/benefits/ndaa-and-tricare-what-house-amendments-could-mean-to-your-coverage/)

(https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/advocacy/ndaa-draft-would-reverse-planned-cuts,-closures-at-41-military-hospitals-and-clinics/)

The Budget: Can It Be Passed on Time?

Unlike the unbreaking continuity of the NDAA, the last time all 12 regular appropriations bills were passed on time was for FY 1997. In the years since, Congress has repeatedly leaned on continuing resolutions to keep the government funded past the deadline and on occasion has been unable to agree even on that stopgap, resulting in a shutdown. That history is the backdrop for this year's appropriations fight

With less than 90 days before the fiscal year ends, Congress faces the same question it faces every year: whether spending bills get finished on time, get pushed past the deadline under a continuing resolution, or stall out entirely and trigger a lapse in funding.

Critical Veterans Legislation: How Do We Get It Signed Into Law?

The Take Care of America's Veterans Act (TCAVA) adds another item to an already crowded congressional calendar. This comprehensive veterans package would advance more than 20 standalone MOAA-supported bills, bringing reforms the association has championed in this Congress and previous sessions on behalf of servicemembers, veterans, caregivers, survivors, and their families.

That scope is exactly why the bill will need careful negotiation among lawmakers and stakeholders to move forward – negotiation that must happen as Congress finishes the NDAA and its budgetary duties.

If either of those priorities slips into the last quarter of the year, the veteran omnibus bill will have only a small window to advance as it competes with other legislation seeking passage before the end of the 119th Congress.

[READ MORE: MOAA Takes Pragmatic Approach to Supporting Landmark Veterans Bill | Comprehensive Veterans Package Includes Several Top MOAA Priorities]

(https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/advocacy/moaa-takes-pragmatic-approach-veterans-omnibus-legislation/)

(Continued on page 16)

WEST TEXAS
PURPLE HEART TRAIL
INDUCTION CERIMONY
8 August 2026







Congratulations

to the following nominees for induction into the

WEST TEXAS PURPLE HEART TRAIL

AUGUST 8, 2026
10:00 AM
EPCC TRANSMOUNTAIN CAMPUS AUDITORIUM

WEST TEXAS PURPLE HEART TRAIL

DI NOLA CONSULTING
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SPJST
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VFW "DAVIS-SEAMON" POST 812

UAVO
UNITED AMERICAN VETERANS ORGANIZATION
EL PASO, TEXAS

FORT BLISS NATIONAL CEMETERY
Department of Veteran Affairs
Serving Fort Bliss and El Paso since 1894

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO SERVICE,
HONOR, AND SUPPORTING AMERICA'S COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS.

June 13th Luncheon




















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The City of El Paso's 2026 Veterans Needs Assessment is now open. Veterans, active-duty service members, National Guard and Reserve members, military spouses and families, caregivers, survivors, and organizations serving the military and veteran community are encouraged to participate.

Your feedback will help guide future programs, partnerships, resources, and planning. Responses are confidential and will be reviewed collectively.

Take the survey by Sunday, September 20, 2026.
https://engage.zencity.io/elpaso-tx/en/engagements/167881db-129a-4aa9-aaff-20aedf2611e2?utm_medium=referral

Respectfully,

William L. Moore
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army, Retired
Webmaster
http://elpasomoaa.org

elpasomoaa.org

El Paso Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 6144
Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0144

GUEST SPEAKER



Virginia "Gail" Joyce, Surviving Spouse
2nd Vice Chair; Affiliated Councils/Chapters, Executive, and Membership Committees; Scholarship Fund Board of Directors (Chair)

Joyce, who grew up in Abilene, Texas, married Larry Joyce in 1960, beginning a life-long adventure. Shortly after they married, Larry was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army. They moved to Fort Hood, Texas - the first of more than 20 moves over the next 20 years. In that time, Larry served two tours in Vietnam. Joyce's diverse career, from which she retired in 2005, has seen her work as an administrative assistant, a military youth activities director, a Military Family Center director, a Realtor, a program director, a high school and college English/literature teacher, a national program director for youth tobacco issues, and a bed and breakfast owner.

In 1983, she completed her Bachelor of Arts in English (cum laude). In 1986, she earned a Master of Arts in humanities. Her volunteer efforts include serving as volunteer chair and VIP event co-chair for the Granbury Wine Walk, as surviving spouse liaison and a founding member of MOAA Greater Granbury (Texas) Chapter, and as a Veterans' Council member.

She has served on the MOAA President's Surviving Spouse Advisory Council for six years and will serve as its chair beginning in October 2020. She's also co-chair of the MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter.

She also conceived and produced the Memorial Day Field of Flags from 2012 to 2020, helped organize Veterans Day ceremonies, and has spoken on behalf of local, state, and national organizations about life in the military and her son and husband's service to their country.

She is a Gold Star Mother. Her youngest son, Sgt. James Casey Joyce, an Army Ranger, died Oct. 3, 1993, in Mogadishu, Somalia; the story of the mission is told in *Black Hawk Down*.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Surviving spouse liaison and a founding member of MOAA Greater Granbury Chapter
- Established and produced the 2012-2020 Memorial Day Field of Flags
- Former director of Military Family Centers

MOAA®
Military Officers Association of America

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PO Box 6144
Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0144

September 2026 Membership Meeting & Lunch

Centennial Banquet and Conference Center

11199 Sergeant E. Churchill Street, Fort Bliss, TX 79916

Date: Saturday, 12 September 2026
Time: 1130 -1430

Guest Speaker:

Mrs. Virginia "Gail" Joyce

MOAA Board of Directors

2nd Vice Chair



Menu

Chicken Cordon Bleu

Wild Rice w/Broccoli-Belgian Carrot Mix

Tossed Green Salad

Coffee, Iced Tea, and Water

MOAA Cake

Dress: Casual

Cost: $25/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, 9 September 2026 with a check for $25 per person, the cost of the luncheon. **Late Reservations**, call Dave Powell, 915-491-1272, by Noon, Thursday, September 12, and pay at the door.

Lunch will be on Saturday 12 September 2026 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 $ _____ ($25.00 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.

Everyone knows the old saying, "an apple a day keeps the doctor away." But is there any truth to this and are there really any proven benefits of eating apples? It has been shown that there is some truth to this old saying as apples are very nutritious and help support heart health, digestion and diabetes prevention.

Apples are crisp, crunchy, juicy and taste great. Americans eat more apples and bananas than any other fresh fruit and the average American eats about 12-14 pounds of apples per year. While there are over 2,500 varieties of apples grown in the U.S., only a handful are commonly available in grocery stores. The most common varieties you can find are red or golden delicious, gala, fuji, honeycrisp, cosmic crisp, granny smith and pink lady. Other varieties that are less common but sometimes available are jazz, braeburn, envy, jonagold, jonathans, mcintosh and others.

One medium apple contains 95 calories, almost 5 grams of fiber and about 9% of daily Vitamin C needs along with other nutrients. Studies have shown that eating just one apple a day can significantly reduce your risk of major diseases. Apples are one part of a heart healthy diet. They have nutrients that lower blood pressure and cholesterol which is heart protective. One review found that people who ate apples daily had a 25% lower risk of dying from heart disease than those who didn't.

Apples contain fiber in the form of pectin that feeds the beneficial bacteria in the gut and also absorbs water in the digestive tract, for more regular bowel movements. A healthy gut then provides better nutrient absorption and immune health.

Maybe one of the biggest benefits of eating apples is their link to diabetes prevention. Nutrients in apples improve insulin sensitivity and lower blood sugar. Research studies have shown that people who eat 2 servings of apple a day have a 36% lower risk of developing diabetes.

Studies have also shown that eating apples helps with weight control and due to antioxidants, may significantly reduce the risk of common cancers. Antioxidants in apples also protect neurons in the brain, helping to preserve memory and reduce the risk of degenerative brain disease such as Alzheimer's.

As part of an overall healthy diet, pick out your favorite apple variety to eat on a regular basis and help keep the doctor away with an apple a day.

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

(Legislative News continued from page 8)

How Does This All Fit Together?

These three items are only the tip of MOAA's much broader advocacy agenda. Beyond the NDAA, appropriations, and TCAVA, the association is engaging on a long list of other bills and priorities working their way through the 119th Congress before the session ends. Whether Congress can reach the finish line will be contingent on congressional leadership and both chambers working together.

For 250 years, the Fourth of July has marked not only our nation's founding, but celebrated the enduring responsibility and stewardship of self-governance. All citizens share in that responsibility, and as for Congress, its members bear the duty to fund the government, protect our nation's uniformed services, and safeguard the republic that generations before us built.

NDAA Provision Would Help Growing Military Families Find Crucial Prenatal Care

(https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/advocacy/ndaa-provision-would-help-growing-military-families-find-crucial-prenatal-care/)

By: Karen Ruedisueli

A key MOAA-led proposal to improve military health system (MHS) access to prenatal care cleared an important hurdle with its inclusion in the House Armed Services Committee's version of must-pass defense legislation.

The committee's draft of the FY 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) would establish a five-year pilot program allowing pregnancy to be treated as a qualifying life event (QLE) for enrollment in TRICARE Select. If enacted, the pilot would allow beneficiaries to switch from TRICARE Prime to TRICARE Select during pregnancy, giving them greater flexibility to seek prenatal care from civilian providers when access challenges arise within the MHS.

[TAKE ACTION: Ask Your Lawmakers to Support Growing Military Families]

(https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/133917/)

Such flexibility is not unprecedented. Before TRICARE's annual open enrollment requirement took effect in 2019, beneficiaries generally could switch between TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Select (formerly TRICARE Standard/Extra) at any time. The pilot provision would restore limited flexibility for one specific circumstance – pregnancy – when timely access to care is especially critical and linked to positive infant and maternal outcomes.

Commercial health plans typically do not have a QLE for pregnancy, but TRICARE policy must address the unique nature of the MHS, which integrates care from military treatment facilities (MTFs) and the TRICARE network of civilian providers.

Patients who encounter MTF access problems cannot switch TRICARE plans to move their care to civilian providers outside of the annual open season unless they undergo a QLE. While this policy aligns with civilian plans, it fails to consider the unique nature of the military's direct care system – a system with the potential to trap patients in a military hospital or clinic that does not meet their needs.

Enrollment flexibility is particularly important now as the Pentagon works to stabilize the MHS following years of reforms and persistent health care workforce shortages that have prevented some MTFs from providing military families with timely access to care.

[RELATED: NDAA Draft Would Reverse Planned Cuts, Closures at 41 Military Hospitals and Clinics]

(https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/advocacy/ndaa-draft-would-reverse-planned-cuts,-closures-at-41-military-hospitals-and-clinics/)

The NDAA provision mirrors the Improving Access to Prenatal Care for Military Families Act (H.R. 4381/S. 2239) but expands the pilot to include servicemembers as well as beneficiaries eligible for TRICARE Select.

The proposal would not expand or change TRICARE benefits. Coverage for pregnancy care remains the same across TRICARE Prime and Select – the pilot simply gives beneficiaries greater choice over where they receive their maternity care.

The committee-approved language represents an encouraging step forward, but additional work is required before the proposal becomes law. Please join MOAA in urging lawmakers to cosponsor the Improving Access to Prenatal Care for Military Families Act (https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/133917) to demonstrate widespread support for this legislation as it progresses through the NDAA conference process.

Why Join the El Paso Chapter of MOAA?

The local El Paso MOAA Chapter is the second oldest and continues to excel according to MOAA national standards. The local Chapter exists to promote the MOAA National's stimulation of love for our country and flag and to defend the honor, integrity, and supremacy of the national government and the Constitution of the United States. The Chapter aids members and member's interest in every possible way allowed by the Chapter By-laws. The Chapter supports El Paso area VSOs that provide services and protects the interest of the veteran community.

Local Meetings

For over twenty-five years, the Chapter has enjoying membership luncheons at the Ft. Bliss Centennial Club in East Fort Bliss. the Centennial club has become our home for a time of comradery, a guest speaker, and Chapter meetings on a quarterly basis.

Local Chapter Activities

The Chapter provides timely email alerts to educate and encourage participation in local and national legislative and health issues. The Chapter has initiated many important programs which are still honored to this day. The quarterly Chapter newsletter, *The Border Bulletin and web site:* http://elpasomoaa.org provide *timely information on Chapter activities, articles, and other items interests.*

Local Community Action

The Chapter put into motion the development of the El Paso Chapter Outreach Foundation a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization to support, fund, and enhance El Paso MOAA Chapter activities with sponsoring of two college financial opportunities, support local service members, units' needs, events, and special requests for support from Active, Spouses, and Beneficiaries in the local El Paso and Ft Bliss communities.

Key Dates 2026
MOAA Meetings & Luncheons
March 14, 2026
June 13, 2026
September 12, 2026
December 5, 2026
Input for the Border Bulletin
January 30, 2026
April 30, 2026
July 31, 2026
October 30, 2026

Board Meetings
31-Jan
25-Apr
25-Jul
31-Oct

New Members
Mrs. Maria Govea
Ms. Daina Hernandez
Ms. Missy Rivera
CPT Trung Tran
1LT Riana Williams
1LT Goldy Landau
CPT Roanny Gueits
Dr(CPT) Inga Schaus
Dr(CPT) Daniel Pinto
1LT Norberto Negron
MAJ Patricia Hammes
2LT Adam Garton
1LT Samuel Bailey
COL Wendy Gray
MAJ Douglas D'Angelo
CSM Jason Skaggs
2LT Nathan Davis
MAJ De'Angelo Criss
MAJ Joshua Roling
LTC Justin Rudolf

Renewals
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Mrs. Ellen Pipkin
Mrs. Arlene Worthy
CW4 Robert St Almond
WO1 James Schreiner
LTC Anthont Traficante
Mrs. Margie Powers
MAJ Betty Ritchley
LTC BJ Jackson
CAPT Joseph Quintana
Mrs. Ruth Fisher
Mrs. Dagmar Becker
Mrs. Evelyn Kordek
LTC John Robbins
Mrs. Maria Childress
LTC Diane Silva
CW2 Theodore Swager

Retiree and Annuitant Pay Dates for 2026

Entitlement Month	Retired Pay Date	Annuitant Pay Date
Jan-26	30-Jan-26	2-Feb-26
Feb-26	27-Feb-26	2-Mar-26
Mar-26	1-Apr-26	1-Apr-26
Apr-26	1-May-26	1-May-26
May-26	1-Jun-26	2-Jun-26
Jun-26	1-Jul-26	1-Jul-26
Jul-26	31-Jul-26	3-Aug-26
Aug-26	1-Sep-26	1-Sep-26
Sep-26	1-Oct-26	1-Oct-26
Oct-26	30-Oct-26	2-Nov-26
Nov-26	1-Dec-26	1-Dec-26
Dec-26	31-Dec-26	4-Jan-27

Foundation Officers 2025
President COL Lennie Enzel (RET)
Vice-President VACANT
Secretary VACANT
Treasurer LTC Dave Powell (RET)
Chapter Advisor COL Robert Wagner (RET)

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Ambassador, Military Org
Cpt (R) David Thackston (RET)
Chaplain Connie Sullivan
President, El Paso MOAA Chapter
COL Robert Wagner (RET)



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Secretary			
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Thrift Shop Liaison	**VACANT**		
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Awards/Grants	**VACANT**		
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Secretary	**VACANT**		
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Chairman, Fund Raising/ Giving Day Committee	**VACANT**		
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Military Officers Association of America

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