30 September 2025

Volume XIII, Issue 9

THE METRO DETROIT METEOR

Chapter Board Members

President - LCDR Rich Higgins, USN (Ret)
Vice President - 1LT Rob Kull, ARNG
Treasurer - Vacant
Secretary - LTC Larry Powell, USA (Ret)
Surviving Spouse Liaison - COL Noreen Diedo, USA (Ret)
Past President - CDR Roy Yaple, USN (Ret)

Chapter Address

Chapter Digital links:

- Chapter web site, www.semimoaa.org
- MOAA web presence.

https://www.moaa.org/chapter/southeasternmichigan/

For all non-digital correspondence use the following address:
560 Barrington Rd. Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230

Important Information

Chapter Meeting

The next Chapter General Meeting will be on 16 October via Zoom. The following link will take you to the registration page. Click **HERE**.

Chapter Elections

This month a nominating committee will begin the election process. More below.

Disclaimer

- The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a nonprofit military and 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.
- The Southeastern Michigan Chapter of MOAA (SEMI M OAA) is affiliated with the Michigan Council MOAA and the national MOAA Organization and are all nonpartisan
- All material or other information - including links - contained in the SEMI MOAA newsletter is provided as a public service to military service members and their families.
- The contents of this publication is subject to periodic updating.
- Although every attempt is made to ensure that information is accurate and timely, the content is presented "as is" and without warranties.
- Use of the information is strictly voluntary and at the user's sole risk.

Membership

Membership is open to those who hold or have ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and their surviving spouses.

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military servicemembers and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers. MOAA members proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country: Never Stop Serving. Although membership in the national MOAA organization is not a requirement to join this Chapter, we strongly encourage you to join. The basic level of MOAA membership is free.

To become a member click HERE

US Representative Names and Districts

Click to open webpage

5 - Tim Walberg
6 - Debbie Dingell
7 - Tom Barrett
8 - Kristen Rivet
9 - Lisa McLain
10 - John James
11 - Haley Stevens
12 - Rashida Tlaib
13 - Shri Thanedar

119th Congress

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"Never Stop Serving" – What It Means to Us

Fellow Members,

MOAA's motto, Never Stop Serving, is more than a phrase – it is a call to action, a reminder that our duty to country and community does not end when we hang up the uniform. Each of us carried the values of integrity, leadership, and selfless service throughout our military careers. Now, as members of the Southeastern Michigan Chapter of MOAA, we are called to live out those values in new and meaningful ways.

What does it mean to "Never Stop Serving"?

It means continuing to advocate for those who wear the uniform today and for their families. It means mentoring younger generations and helping them understand the importance of service and leadership. It means lending our voices in legislative efforts to ensure promises made to veterans and their families are kept. And it means extending a hand to those in need within our own communities.

How can we exemplify this together?

- *Advocacy: Support MOAA's efforts at the state and national level by writing, calling, or meeting with your elected officials. Sign up for MOAA's Legislative Action Center and the support the legislative priorities of the Michigan Commanders Group. Your voice carries weight, and together we can influence positive change.*
- *Outreach: Invite a fellow officer or surviving spouse to attend a Chapter meeting. Growing our Chapter strengthens our ability to serve.*
- *Volunteerism: Share your time and talents in Chapter initiatives – whether mentoring ROTC cadets, helping with veteran relief projects, or supporting the veteran organizations we sponsor.*
- *Engagement: Stay informed, attend meetings, and participate in our events. Your presence and input keep our Chapter vibrant and effective.*

In living out this motto, we honor our past service and continue to make a difference today. Our Chapter is stronger because of the dedication of each member. Together, let us ensure that in Southeastern Michigan, MOAA's motto rings true: Never Stop Serving.

Sincerely,
Rich Higgins, LCDR, USN (Ret.)
President

2025 Meetings

Board Meetings			Chapter/Other Meetings		
Jan 16	Feb 20	Mar 20	Jan 30 Chapter Lunch	Apr 7-10 Advocacy in Action	May 1 Chapter Dinner National MOAA Visit
Apr 17	May 14	Jun 19	May 10 International Armed Forces Dining out	Jun 12 Chapter Lunch	Jul 9 Chapter ZOOM Meeting
Jul 17	Aug 21	Oct 16	Sep 18 Chapter Luncheon	Sep 20 Retiree Appreciation Day	Oct 16 Chapter Zoom Mtg
			Nov 6 Chapter Mtg / Election of Officers	Nov 9 Veteran's Day Remembrance	Dec 13 Wreaths Across America

Due to the extensive geographic footprint of the chapter, we do not have a standard meeting location. Rather, we move the meeting location around to accomodate our members. The meetings are announced well in advance via email, our website and this newsletter. If you need information about chapter happenings, contact one of our Board members at this link.

Legislative Corner

The MOAA Advocacy Update

Every week, MOAA's advocacy leaders and other experts discuss issues of importance to our members and the uniformed services community. Watch the latest **here**.

To stay informed, you can subscribe to the MOAA YouTube channel **here**.

To contact your legislators and to learn about what MOAA is working on with Congress, click **here**.

Advocacy in Action continues

Last month, during the Summer Advocacy, MOAA members sent over 20,000 messages to over 500 Congressional offices.
Your collective outreach supported key issues imperative to the current and future all-volunteer force, including:

- Passing the Major Richard Star Act, which would end the unfair "wounded warrior tax" penalizing combat-injured veterans.
- Enacting the Military Spouse Hiring Act, which would break down barriers to employment for military spouses.
- Advancing Access to Care for military families using TRICARE, including prenatal and OB-GYN care.

Advocacy Cont'd.

Congress has returned to Washington and is working on the FY 2026 NDAA and averting a government shutdown.

How you can help:

- Stay informed. Visit the Advocacy News Page on the MOAA website. Subscribe to the MOAA newsletter.
- Prepare to Take Action. Register on MOAA's Legislative Action Page.
- Amplify Your Voice. Share important issues on social media, encourage colleagues to become advocates.

This article appears on MOAA's website. To see more details on this article, or other related advocacy news, click this **link**.

MICHIGAN COMMANDERS GROUP

Call for the State of Michigan to combat suicide caused by overprescribing and known risk profiles of antidepressants and other commonly prescribed psychiatric drugs.

133,867 U.S. Military veterans died by suicide between 2001 and 2021. Over 40,000 of these suicides occurred for veterans who had been using the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for their care.

Prescription rates of psychiatric drugs prescribed to veterans have nearly doubled in the past 20 years. More than 68% of all veterans treated at the VA are prescribed psychiatric drugs and 28% are prescribed antidepressants. The Food and Drug Administration requires Box Warnings for many classes of these medications - antidepressants, benzodiazepines and others - which warn of suicide risk.

Based on the known risk factors of these medications and the high prescription rates, we should not be surprised to find that veterans have the highest rate of suicide than any other demographic in the United States today.

Urgent action is needed by the Michigan Legislature and the Governor to save lives and ensure more Michigan families do not suffer further tragedies.

Contact your representatives today. Click on this **link** to send an email to them right now.

Total Force + is coming

October 28 and 29 in National Harbor, MD, more than 75 speakers, over 150 exhibitors and 3,000 attendees will meet to collaborate on changing the quality of life for the military community.

TotalForce+ brings together the entire uniformed services community – past and present – to spotlight solutions that honor your service and support your future.

At TotalForce+, you'll find:

- Benefits updates and advocacy insights.
- Career transition and personal development resources.
- New connections across military, government, and private sectors.
- A platform where your lived experience drives real change.

Registration is open to the following categories:

Complimentary Registration

- Currently serving U.S. military, uniformed service members, and their spouses
- Academy Cadet/Midshipman & ROTC
- Members of congress and congressional staff members
- Currently serving DoD/VA/USPHS/NOAA civilians, and their spouses

Paid Registration

- Other current U.S. federal government employees (GS/SES) not included in the departments listed above, and their spouses
- Representatives of industry companies
- University professors and students
- Representatives of foreign military, embassies, government
- Retired military or veterans (not currently employed in an industry related to the DoD), and their spouses

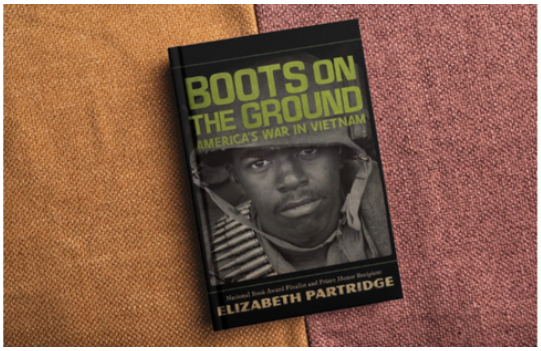
Registration fees: $350 for MOAA members, $750 for non-members
includes access to all educational sessions, Exhibit Halls and Reception

For all the details go to this **link**.

Boots On The Ground: A Conversation with Elizabeth Partridge

On October 4th at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, Elizabeth Partridge will share the personal stories of eight people, centered on their role in the Vietnam War. Six soldiers, one military nurse and one Vietnamese refugee. It promises to be a wonderful experience.

The event runs from 10:00am to 12:00pm and is free, but requires registration. To register, click here.



Upcoming Events

Chapter Elections are Just Around the Corner

We are looking for chapter members to serve on the nominating committee. If you are interested in supporting the Chapter, please contact Roy Yaple (yapler@comcast .net).

The nominating committee will provide the slate of officers who will then be listed in next month's newsletter.

WREATHS —across— AMERICA

In 100 days, communities across the country will gather at over 5,000 locations to honor service members laid to rest. Volunteers are needed to fulfill the mission to Remember, Honor and Teach. If you would like to volunteer, or sponsor wreaths. Go to this link.

MEMBERSHIP

Chapter Seeks New Members at Selfridge Retiree Appreciation Day at Selfridge

Past President Roy Yaple and Member Chair sought new MOAA Chapter members at the annual Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Mount Clemens, MI on September 20, 2025. About 300 veterans attended the RAD which featured a wide array of interesting presentations and representatives from organizations of interest to area veterans. While a large majority of RAD attendees are retired enlisted personnel, the chapter is always seeking interested officers and staffs a table at the RAD. Roy was pleased to be able the talk about the chapter's mission and make available various MOAA publications to those stopping by the table. We are hoping that three prospects will complete the application and become new members. Our chapter has recently approved a member incentive for new chapter members. Any new chapter member signing up in 2025 will be credited for calendar year 2025 and 2026. Note also that if you know an officer who has never been a MOAA national member, national MOAA is still offering a free one-year MOAA BASIC membership. If you have questions about membership, please contact Roy at yapler@comcast.net The chapter Join Form is available on the chapter **website**.

Dues for national MOAA and the chapter membership are separate. We encourage a member to join both organizations.

Chapter dues are for the calendar year of $20 are due each year in January. Dues can be paid by check for $20 made out to Southeastern Michigan Chapter MOAA or via the **dues link** on the website.

Please note that the main source of revenue for the chapter is member dues. Paying dues on time at the start of the calendar year allows the chapter to operate within the annual budget with confidence. We are grateful for timely payment of member dues.

Chapter Opportunities for Service

The chapter **Treasurer** position remains open. If you are interested in serving in this position, please contact rlhigginsjr@yahoo.com We will be happy to answer questions and provide training. The major activity for this position is tracking and crediting member dues payments.

The chapter is also looking for a person to manage the chapter **ROTC/JROTC MOAA medals program**. The main period of activity for this responsibility runs from January to the end of May and involves purchasing medals and certificates and communicating with schools for delivery of medals. Note that if you are aware of a school with a JROTC program that does not have an MOAA medal, please contact yapler@comcast.net and will can almost certainly add them to our list of high schools. We currently work with the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University and 12 metro area high schools.

Surviving Spouse Info

MOAA President's Currently Serving and Spouse Advisory Councils

The MOAA President's Currently Serving and Spouse Advisory councils advise the president on current and potential MOAA programs, plans, and policies – especially as they pertain to the recruitment, retention, and representation of the interests of those in uniform. They are made up of a diverse group of active duty, National Guard, and Reserve servicemembers and spouses from all uniformed services who also serve as MOAA ambassadors, support MOAA advocacy efforts, and volunteer at MOAA events. Their contributions are vital to the long-term success of our member-driven organization.

What Issues Do the Advisory Councils Address?

MOAA's strategic plan is the foundation of the topics on the councils' agenda. Key areas within MOAA's strategic plan such as advocacy, membership, member engagement and value, chapters and councils, and philanthropic efforts serve as focal points for guided discussion among the councils and MOAA's senior leaders.

Past councils have provided insights into what currently serving families are most interested in, areas where they need support, and ways to engage them.

As a result of these engagements, the councils have presented valuable recommendations to MOAA such as:

- Improvements to Advocacy in Action, MOAA's signature advocacy event.
- Creating a Military Spouse Networking Zone at MOAA's Annual Networking Forum to be more inclusive of military spouse job seekers attending the event.
- Engaging council alumni better through inclusion in a biweekly President's message, volunteer calls to action, and invitations to participate in MOAA events.
- Developing a foundational outline for a future, more robust volunteer program.
- Providing insight on issues to consider in how MOAA can better ensure and embrace equity, diversity, and inclusion within the organization.
- Assisting in the development and marketing of MOAA initiatives to provide needed support to veterans and currently serving families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

VA Healthcare, Pension and Compensation; Weekly Zoom Calls

If you are in the White Lake or Milford area, please feel free to contact Henry Storm or Roy Yaple (yapler@comcast.net) about the VA breakfast meetings, Monday and Friday at 7AM at Leo's Coney Island in White Lake and Wednesday at 7AM at the Americus Grill in Milford. Breakfast is pay as you go and a wonderful place to enjoy fellowship with other veterans and ask questions on VA-related topics.

If you are applying for VA Healthcare or considering filing a VA disability claim, and are looking for help, please consider attending the weekly 4PM Thursday Zoom coffee or the noon Sunday Zoom podcast on VA Healthcare and Disability Claim topics.
This is the **link** for you to save to access the Website. Here you will find all of the links that are individually listed below :

- 12:00 - 1:00 PM EST Sunday Noon Veteran Sitrep Podcast
- 4:00 - 5:00 PM EST Thursday Vet Talk
- Facebook Page Trusted Helpers: A daily update on what is happening with your VA benefits
- 550+ Videos, created by Air Force Veteran Ed Ruckle, answering questions veterans, like you, have asked.

Please note that the VA 1010EZ, the form for applying for VA Healthcare has been revised as of this month (July 2024). If you applied in the past and were denied VA Health Care, another look with the new form may be appropriate to see if you qualify for VA Healthcare).

The end of a relationship. Loss of a job. Housing instability. Feeling a loss of purpose. At some point, everyone will face a challenge. Some of those challenges may develop into a crisis.

Recognizing a crisis in yourself or those you care about can help you know when to find support.

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