



NEVER STOP SERVING

TIMELY TOPICS

Capitol Area Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
Chapter Website: www.cacmoaa.com

Vol 2026 No 4

IN THIS ISSUE

- APRIL PROGRAM
- FAMILY HEALTHCARE ACCESS
- MI STATEWIDE CONFERENCE
- MOAA VACATIONS
- MOAA INSURANCE



April Program

We are pleased to welcome Ryan Bearss, a doctoral student in Michigan State University's Turfgrass Management Program, as our April guest speaker. MSU's internationally recognized program is collaborating with the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) and the University of Tennessee to develop the natural grass playing surfaces for the FIFA World Cup 2026. As a primary researcher on this project, Ryan will provide an overview of the initiative, share key research findings, and discuss the development of the specialized growing process behind these world-class playing surfaces.

April 2026 CAC MOAA Dinner Meeting (\$32)

When: Thursday, 9 April 2026

Our dinner meeting will take place at Coral Gables, located at 2838 East Grand River Avenue, East Lansing MI, Thursday, 9 April. Social hour begins at 5:00 and dinner begins at 6:00. The meal is buffet style which includes: Baked Meat Lasagna, Penne Pasta with Tomato Sauce or Pesto Sauce, Salad bar with assorted dressings, and Ice Cream with Chocolate Sauce. Cost is \$32. Please RSVP by Monday, 6 April to www.cacmoaa.com or contact Jim Sigmon at (517) 582-0962, or email at FASigjrs@aol.com



Chapter President Bruce Bahr presents the CAC MOAA Certificate of Appreciation and chapter coin to guest speaker Brigadier General Daniel Kramer, the Assistant Adjutant General-Air, of the Michigan National Guard. BG Kramer gave a detailed account of the current and future state of the Michigan Air National Guard, including future aircraft coming to Michigan, as well increased training areas now available to all branches of the military.

Thank you for your time and insight into the future of Air Force aviation training and readiness, Michigan MOAA chapters are grateful for your service!

Can You and Your Family Access the Health Care You've Earned? This Bill Could Help

Access to timely, reliable health care remains one of the most persistent concerns among servicemembers and their families. Senior enlisted leaders underscored this reality during a recent congressional hearing, identifying health care access as a [top complaint](#) across the force.

MOAA has led efforts on the Military Care, Access, Reporting and Evaluation (CARE) Act ([H.R. 6796](#)), a bipartisan bill designed to address these concerns by combating long-standing access challenges at military clinics and hospitals. Staffing shortages at these military treatment facilities (MTFs) have increased wait times, reduced appointment availability, and led to a surge in patient complaints.

As part of [Advocacy in Action](#), MOAA's annual spring advocacy event, MOAA members will build support for this important bill requiring the Pentagon to establish a digital system that allows TRICARE beneficiaries to report and track MTF access-to-care issues, sends access complaints to the proper patient advocate, and aggregates those data points for use by the Defense Health Agency (DHA) to help officials identify and address widespread problems.

Patient submissions will create a data set that does not exist today – one that will improve transparency in the patient experience, provide details on specific access-to-care challenges, and allow for accountability in addressing fixable systemic problems.

MOAA members took this solution to Capitol Hill as a concept during [last year's Advocacy in Action event](#) and were instrumental in building support that led to the bipartisan bill's introduction by Reps. Steven Horsford (D-Nev.), Jen Kiggans (R-Va.), Chrissy Houlahan (D-Pa.), and Don Bacon (R-Neb.)

MOAA is in discussions with member offices to secure a Senate companion bill and advance this reform across both chambers.

TRICARE has policies to facilitate access to care – including [access-to-care standards](#) – but compliance is inconsistent. When MTFs cannot meet access standards, patients are not always referred out to the TRICARE network.

When patients encounter MTF access challenges, they cannot readily switch their care to civilian providers because TRICARE policy limits plan changes to certain timeframes – the [annual open enrollment season](#) or after a [qualifying life event](#). This policy is consistent with commercial plan practices, but it fails to account for the unique nature of the military's direct care system that has the potential to trap beneficiaries in an MTF that does not meet their needs.

Barriers to MTF access can impact any patient, but they disproportionately affect currently serving members and their families – those who are most likely to rely on military hospitals and clinics for their medical care.

Military families who can't readily seek care elsewhere must have a more effective option for reporting MTF access problems and finding help navigating the military health system (MHS) – an option that also increases transparency regarding beneficiary challenges and leads to greater MHS accountability and oversight.

Please support MOAA's efforts by visiting our Legislative Action Center and [contacting your elected officials](#). Encourage them to cosponsor the Military CARE Act to drive health care access improvements for servicemembers and their families.

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Military CARE Act](#)]

[RELATED: [A Look at the Military CARE Act](#)]

Regent All-Inclusive Luxury Cruises



The World's Most Luxurious Fleet™ offers the most inclusive luxury travel experience at an extraordinary value. If you compare Regent's all-inclusive voyages to the competition in Alaska, Asia, the Tropics, the Mediterranean and Northern Europe the research shows Regent Seven Seas Cruises® offers the best value in each of these regions.

Included on your Regent cruise

- Exquisite dining including all specialty restaurants
- Dynamic entertainment and enrichment experiences
- Unlimited Beverages including Fine Wines & Premium Spirits
- Customizable in-suite mini bar
- Valet Laundry
- Unlimited Shore Excursions
- Unlimited WiFi
- Pre-Paid Gratuities
- Transfers

PLEASE JOIN US for an online webinar – use the QR code or call for the date & time for the next presentation.



MOAA Exclusive Amenity
\$250 per suite Shipboard Credit
 on ANY Regent cruise departing 2024-2027

Visit www.MOAAvacations.com or scan the QR code for more information on this month's specials

THE NAME YOU CAN TRUST FOR YOUR NEXT VACATION



Toll-Free: **1-800-211-5107**
 Email: mail@moaavac.com

Scan this code with your cell phone.



Christina Bahr
 REALTOR®

517.294.4203
christina.bahr@cbpmichigan.com
 447 N Canal Rd,
 Lansing MI 48917

Christina Bahr COLDWELL BANKER PROFESSIONALS

HH Mobil
FUELS, SERVICE & TOWING
 1500 Haslett Rd • East Lansing, MI 48823 email: contactus@hhmobil.com

24 Hour Towing
 517-332-6335
www.hhmobil.com

O'CONNOR LAW OFFICE, PLLC
 7572 Roxborough Lane
 Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837
 (517) 599-1500 (Direct) | (517) 522-2550 (Office)
joseph.oconnor01@gmail.com
**CRIMINAL LAW, CIVIL LAW, FAMILY LAW
 ESTATE PLANNING, IMMIGRATION LAW**

Docs Automotive Inc
 Quality Automotive Repairs
Jose Alvarado
 Owner
 2939 Jolly Rd
 Okemos, MI 48864

517-324-5487 phone
 517-324-5425 (fax)
docsauto.okemos@gmail.com

Lake Lansing Road Mobil Service, Inc.
 Complete Auto Service
 Touch-Free Car Wash

Google
 twitter
 Find us on Facebook

2704 Lake Lansing Road
 Lansing, Michigan 48912
 (517) 484-2300 ext 18
 Fax (517) 484-1462
www.lakelansingrdmobil.com

RICH BRATSCHI
 Owner
rich@lakelansingrdmobil.com

Support our Sponsors

The individuals and companies below provide support for our Capitol Area Chapter. We encourage you to support them through your patronage. When doing so, please mention that you saw their advertisement in our monthly newsletter!!

Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, 2 April 2026 @ 11:30 am @ Piazzano's, 1825 N Grand
River Ave, Lansing MI 48906

2026-2028
EXECUTIVE BOARD of DIRECTORS

President

COL Bruce Bahr

1st Vice President

Col Lawrence Reedy

2nd Vice President

COL Joe Mika

3rd Vice President

CDR Jason Wilkinson

Secretary

Liz Sigmon

Treasurer

Maj DeLee Dankenbring

Director-at-Large

MG James Pocock

Past Presidents

CW4 Anthony Kruckeberg

LTC Jim Sigmon

LTC Joe O'Connor

Newsletter Editor

COL Bruce Bahr

Website Administrator

LTC Jim Sigmon

Surviving Spouse Program

Christina Bahr

State of Michigan Commanders Group

The Michigan Commanders Group is the coalition of Michigan's congressionally chartered Veterans Service Organizations. Collectively, these organizations represent Michigan's 550,000+ veterans and their families, and have been the state's leaders in successfully advocacy for this population for nearly 100 years. The following link takes you to state and federal legislative priorities as well as the ability for you to contact your State and Federal legislatures: <https://michigancommandersgroup.org/Contact.php>



**Standing with you
at every stage.**

1-800-247-2192
www.moaainsurance.com/plans

100392

Membership

For membership inquiries please use this link: www.cacmoaa.com For eligibility or other questions regarding membership please contact Bruce Bahr at (517) 526-2406. **Why join?** <https://youtu.be/42YD9d8W15Q>

CAC Mission Statement

Our mission is to support legislative and charitable initiatives at the local, state, and national levels to enhance our families, communities and country.

Support our Scholarship Program with a Kroger Card!!

We continue to increase our enrollment in the Kroger Community Rewards Program! Thank you for all of your support in signing up and shopping with Kroger. For those interested in beginning the program, our chapter non-profit organization number is: JR311, use this number when contacting Kroger for admission to the program and Kroger will donate a portion of your purchase to the CAC MOAA chapter scholarship fund.

Veterans Crisis Line

The Veterans Crisis Line connects veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can dial 988 then press 1, send a text message to 838255, or chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available.

Your local Capitol Area Chapter and National MOAA are nonpartisan groups representing all members regarding legislative issues and current events affecting you and your community! For more information regarding issues that affect you and your family members please use this link: <http://takeaction.moaa.org> or call (800) 234-6622/(703) 549-2311

REMINDER

Bring your cleaned and bagged bottles and cans to our next meeting to support chapter initiatives!

Michigan Council of Chapters announces first annual statewide convention

Dear MI MOAA Members,

The Michigan Council of Chapters of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is pleased to announce its first annual statewide convention, to be held on Friday, August 14, 2026, at the Doherty Hotel, 604 N. McEwan Street, Clare, Michigan.

This inaugural event will bring together MOAA members and chapter leaders from across the state for a day of collaboration focused on three key themes: Membership, Advocacy, and Community.

This is a no-obligation RSVP event, designed to encourage broad participation and engagement.

An introduction is posted on the Council website with a link to additional information and a no-obligation RSVP page so members can indicate their interest while we finalize program details.

You can view the page here:

<https://www.moaamcoc.com/meetings--events.html>

The convention will provide valuable opportunities to exchange ideas, share best practices, and strengthen our collective effectiveness in support of MOAA's mission and the uniformed services community we serve.

Program Time: Approximately 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Program Highlights Include:

- Presentations and discussions on membership growth, advocacy, and community engagement
- Sharing of chapter best practices
- Networking with MOAA members and leaders from across Michigan
- Continental breakfast and lunch provided during the program

An optional Friday evening dinner is also being planned for those who wish to stay and continue the conversation.

We hope you will join us for this important and engaging event. Please let us know if you plan to attend.

Respectfully,

Rich

LCDR Richard L. Higgins, Jr., USN (Ret.)

President

[Michigan Council of Chapters](#)

(509) 539-4094