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March Program

Please join us for our March dinner meeting as we welcome Brigadier General Daniel J. Kramer, the Assistant Adjutant General-Air for the Michigan National Guard. As the senior leader for the Michigan Air National Guard, Brig. Gen. Kramer commands a force of 2,500 dedicated Airmen supporting global operations, safeguarding the homeland, and serving communities across Michigan. Brig. Gen. Kramer will share insights on the current state and future direction of the Michigan Air National Guard, as well as the key challenges and opportunities ahead.

March 2026 CAC MOAA Dinner Meeting (\$32)

When: Thursday, 12 March 2026

Our dinner meeting will take place at Coral Gables, located at 2838 East Grand River Avenue, East Lansing MI, Thursday, 12 March. Social hour begins at **5:00** and dinner begins at **6:00**. The meal is buffet style which includes: Grilled Chicken, Meatballs, Penne Pasta with Tomato Sauce, Tossed Salad, and Ice Cream with Chocolate Sauce. **Cost is \$32 dollars**. Please RSVP by Monday, 9 March 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 SFC Andrew Jay. SFC Jay recently concluded his tour of duty as the 41st Sergeant of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery. His presentation outlined the history, significance, and challenges facing the soldiers who take on the responsibility of a guard. A video of his last walk in June is available on-line on youtube. I encourage all CAC MOAA members to watch this most powerful event. Thank you again Andrew, we wish you well in your future endeavors!

VA Releases, Then Reverses, New Rule on Veterans' Disability Benefits

A new VA rule designed to “clarify existing policy” regarding veteran disability ratings met sharp criticism from veterans and advocates in the hours after its release, leading VA Secretary Doug Collins to announce the department will be “[halting enforcement](#)” of the rule immediately.

“MOAA joins others in thanking and applauding Secretary Collins’ decision to halt the implementation of the interim final rule,” MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), said after the VA announcement. “We appreciate the secretary’s continued focus on veterans’ concerns and on ensuring veterans receive all benefits they have earned as quickly and conveniently as possible. Veterans should never have to consider whether seeking treatment or taking medications could lead to a reduction in their benefits.”

Veterans’ advocates stated [the rule](#) could allow the VA to lower disability ratings (and compensation) for veterans whose conditions are controlled or improved by medication. Such a rule could lead to unintended consequences and may not account for a medication’s side effects or other ways a veteran’s daily life may be impeded by their ailments.

Many also took issue with the VA’s rulemaking process, which did not include the customary notice-and-comment process or meaningful engagement with veterans service organizations and other stakeholders. Although comments were not solicited before the rule was considered final, there reportedly were [nearly 9,000 comments](#) on the Federal Register website within 48 hours of the rule’s posting.

“Transparency, clarity, and trust are bedrocks for veterans and are non-negotiable elements in supporting the continuance of the all-volunteer force,” Kelly said.

In a social media post announcing the reversal, Collins said the intent of the rule was “to clarify existing policy and protect Veterans’ benefits in the wake of an ongoing court action. But many interpreted the rule as something that could result in adverse consequences.”

The VA “does not agree with the way this rule has been characterized,” Collins continued, but noted that “the department always takes Veterans’ concerns seriously.

MOAA looks forward to continuing work alongside the VA to ensure the delivery and maintenance of service-earned benefits, Kelly said.

***** Chapter Scholarships *****

Scholarship Applications are due 15 March. The size of our Scholarship fund will determine how many scholarships we can grant. We had over \$11,100 available to award in each of the last two years thanks to your generosity.

Now is the time to make a donation and help us reach a goal of providing a scholarship or book award to all eligible applicants. Make checks payable to Capitol Area Chapter MOAA and bring to the next Chapter Meeting or mail to: Maj DeLee Dankenbring, 4775 Village Dr Apt 133, Grand Ledge, MI 48837

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Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, 5 March 2026 @ 11:30 am @ Piazzano's, 1825 N Grand
River Ave, Lansing MI 48906

2026-2028
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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>



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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 call (800) 273-8255 and press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 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!