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TIMELY TOPICS

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

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November Program

Shawn Turner is the general manager of WKAR Public Media at Michigan State University, serving Michigan’s capital region, and is a professor of strategic communication at MSU. Shawn currently serves on the board of directors for National Public Radio, the Michigan Veterans Facility Authority, and the German Marshall Fund. He is also a retired United States Marine Corp Officer with 21 years of service. Shawn will talk about the WKAR media coverage and its importance to the community of Mid-Michigan. He will address the status of public radio and TV in light of US Government budget cuts nation-wide.



November 2025 CAC MOAA Meeting (Cost \$32)

When: Thursday, 13 November 2025

Our dinner meeting will take place at Coral Gables, located at 2838 East Grand River Avenue, East Lansing MI, Thursday, 13 November. Social hour begins at 5:00 and dinner begins at 6:00. The meal is buffet style which includes: Baked Ham, Roast Sliced Breast of Turkey with Stuffing, Whipped Potatoes and Broccoli, with a Tossed Salad and Carrot Cake. Cost is \$32. Please RSVP by Monday, 10 November to www.cacmoaa.com or contact Tony Kruckeberg at (517)575-9386, or email at armyblkhawk@yahoo.com



Christina and Bruce Bahr are presented the CAC MOAA Certificate of Appreciation from chapter president Tony Kruckeberg for their October presentation describing their April 2025 trip to MOAA National, attending the “Advocacy in Action” event. Bruce and Christina are current chapter members and we are thankful they participated in the event, and gave us a behind the scenes look during the October meeting. Thank you, and we hope to have more chapter members participate in future MOAA National events.



Shutdown FAQ: Servicemember and Retiree Pay

Q. BLUF: Will I get my next paycheck?

A. The Pentagon has been directed by the president to provide servicemembers their Oct. 15 paychecks, and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) had processed mid-month Leave and Earnings Statements as of Oct. 13, a precursor to sending out payments.

The [Coast Guard announced Oct. 13](#) that servicemembers would receive mid-month paychecks between Oct. 15 and 17, with funds secured by the Department of Homeland Security. The service had previously announced the checks would not be processed if the shutdown continued past Oct. 13.

There is no indication whether the stopgap measures to provide for military member paychecks would last through another pay cycle.

The Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Commerce have not announced plans for payments to members of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps or the NOAA Commissioned Corps, respectively. Those officers are paid on a monthly cycle.

Q. Troops were paid during the last shutdown, right?

A. Yes, but with some significant caveats. The 2018-2019 shutdown was a partial funding lapse – money for the military had been secured through an appropriations bill [signed into law](#) Sept. 28, 2018. Members of the Coast Guard and the NOAA Corps did not receive their mid-January 2019 paychecks, as they fall under the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Commerce, respectively.

Some members of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps were paid depending on whether their assigned agency was part of the partial shutdown, and some HHS departments moved funds to cover salaries.

Q. Will I get back pay?

A. Yes. [Federal law](#) mandates all government employees required to work during a shutdown be “compensated on the earliest date possible after the lapse ends.” The Coast Guard expects its uniformed members to receive a delayed paycheck “about two days after the shutdown ends,” [per its website](#).

Q. Has this ever happened before?

A. The Coast Guard’s missed 2019 paycheck [was seen as a historic first](#) for a U.S. armed service, though soldiers [weren’t paid for much of 1877](#) until a November bill authorized funds for a 25,000-man Army.

Q. Can’t my bank/credit union front me the money?

A. Some financial institutions serving the uniformed services community – [USAA, for example](#) – will offer zero-interest loans and other support for those facing missed checks. Note: These programs are not automatic – you must apply for the assistance. Reach out to your bank or credit union to determine eligibility.

Q. Why does MOAA support the Pay Our Troops Act?

A. Even though the country is both politically and socially divided, it should be clear that under our nonpartisan approach at MOAA we will, have always, and should always support our uniformed servicemembers, veterans, family members and survivors regardless of what party controls each branch of government. We’ve been consistent in demonstrating that over the years. Irrespective of personal feelings or political affiliation, we hope all MOAA members can unite in support of that idea and the need to ensure our servicemembers get paid on Oct. 15 and every pay period after that.

[Our current call to action](#) reflects MOAA’s nonpartisan mission and long-standing commitment to the well-being of the uniformed services community. It does not represent a position for or against any current federal officeholder or political party, but rather a reaffirmation of our core purpose: to ensure that earned benefits are honored and protected.

Q. I’m a military retiree. Will I get my next check?

A. Yes. Military retirement is paid from the Military Retirement Fund, not from yearly appropriations.

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These individuals and companies 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, November 6th 2025 @ 11:30 am - 1:00 pm @ Piazzano's restaurant, 1825 N. Grand River Ave,
Lansing

2024-2026

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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 advocating 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.org. For questions regarding membership please contact Joe Mika at 517-719-3486 or email at: jmika61@gmail.com. **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!