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TIMELY TOPICS

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

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October Program

For the October dinner program we welcome our own Christina and Bruce Bahr as our guest speakers. Bruce and Christina will discuss their trip to DC for the April 2025 MOAA Advocacy In Action annual meeting. They will give an overview of the event, how to prepare for attendance, and the overall experience of the trip to Capitol Hill for the event itself. Please join us for our October dinner program and bring your questions for Bruce and Christina as they are excited for the opportunity to share this great event!

October 2025 CAC MOAA Meeting (Cost \$32)

When: Thursday, 9 October 2025

Our dinner meeting will take place at Coral Gables, located at 2838 East Grand River Avenue, East Lansing MI, Thursday, 9 October. Social hour begins at 5:00 and dinner begins at 6:00. The meal is buffet style which includes: Roast Loin of Pork w/gravy, Baked Spinach Lasagna, Oven Brown Red Skin Potatoes, and Corn with a Greek Salad and Ice Cream with Chocolate Sauce. Cost is \$32. Please RSVP by Monday, 6 October to www.cacmoaa.com or contact Tony Kruckeberg at (517)575-9386, or email at armyblkhawk@yahoo.com



DeLee Dankenbring Named Veteran of the year by Michigan Council of Chapters



We are proud to share that DeLee Dankenbring, CAC MOAA Treasurer, has been awarded the Veteran of the Year by the Michigan Council of Chapters, a high honor recognizing outstanding service, leadership, and dedication to the veteran community. This award is given to veterans who go above and beyond in supporting fellow service members and their communities. DeLee's tireless volunteer work, advocacy, and leadership have made a lasting impact, reflecting the very best of what it means to serve — both in and out of uniform. Congratulations, DeLee, on this well-earned and meaningful recognition!

(photo — Michigan Council of Chapters President Mary Johnson presenting DeLee with the Michigan Council of Chapters Veteran of the Year award)

VA, Veterans Groups Partner for Progress on Mental Health

MOAA joined fellow veterans service organizations at a September VA stakeholders partnership meeting as part of both National Suicide Prevention Month and National Recovery Month, with the discussion focused on progress in mental health and suicide prevention.

Leaders from the Veterans Experience Office (VEO), the Office of Mental Health, and the Office of Suicide Prevention shared updates on innovative programs and critical resources available to veterans, families, and caregivers. Here are some of the ways the VA is advancing veteran mental health care:

Strengthening Community Connections: The [VetResources Community Network \(VRCN\)](#) continues to expand its outreach, connecting more than 10 million veterans and their loved ones with trusted local and national partners. By building relationships across communities, the VRCN helps bridge gaps in care, fosters trust, and ensures veterans can access resources that support their overall well-being.

Predictive Modeling to Save Lives: The VA recently upgraded its predictive analytics tool, [REACH VET 2.0](#) (Recovery Engagement and Coordination for Health-Veteran Enhanced Treatment), to better identify veterans at elevated risk of suicide or self-harm. By leveraging expanded clinical and social data contained in veteran electronic medical records, the program allows providers to proactively connect with veterans most in need. Results show fewer suicide attempts, reduced hospital visits, and more veterans engaging in safety planning.

Veterans Crisis Line (VCL): The [Veterans Crisis Line](#) remains a cornerstone of VA's suicide prevention strategy. The 24/7 service, accessible by dialing 988 and pressing 1, answers calls in less than 9 seconds on average. In addition to crisis response, the VA is piloting a program called [Caring Letters](#), which sends brief, supportive messages to veterans after they reach out to the VCL. Originally developed for civilian use, the approach has been shown to reduce suicide risk. VA is now testing its effectiveness with veterans through a multiyear evaluation initiative. These wraparound supports reinforce the message that no veteran has to face crisis alone.

Face Your Dragon: The [VA Face Your Dragon](#) campaign, part of VA's Keep It Secure initiative, uses the metaphor of confronting a dragon to represent the struggle of a suicide crisis. Developed with input from veterans, the campaign encourages safe firearm storage to create time and space for intervention, reduce stigma, and ultimately prevent suicide. The campaign uses the dragon as a symbol of life's burdens and the fight against suicidal thoughts in an effort to promote secure firearm practices as a simple, effective step to protect veterans in crisis.

MOAA strongly supports VA's continued investments in mental health services and suicide prevention.

Programs such as REACH VET, the VCL, peer support, and community partnerships highlight the power of combining data-driven tools with compassionate outreach.

As we mark National Recovery Month, MOAA reaffirms its commitment to working with the VA, Congress, and partners to strengthen services, expand access, and ensure no veteran faces crisis alone.

Resources for Veterans and Families

[Veterans Crisis Line](#) — Dial 988 (press 1) or text 838255.

[Make the Connection](#) — Veterans share real stories of recovery and resilience.

[VA Mental Health](#) — Tools, information, and support for veterans and families.

[VA Suicide Prevention](#) — Learn about programs, training, and ways to help.

[Face Your Dragon](#) — Secure your firearm. Create time and space.

[RELATED: [Veterans Face Access, Payment and Records Delays When Seeking Medical Care at Military Bases, Watchdog Finds](#)]

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Support our Sponsors

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, October 2nd 2025 @ 11:30 am - 1:00 pm @ Piazzano's restaurant, 1825 N. Grand River Ave, Lansing

2024-2026 EXECUTIVE BOARD of DIRECTORS

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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>



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/42YD9d8WI5Q>

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!