



The OWRC Briefing Board

The Newsletter of the Ohio Western Reserve Chapter, An affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America

May 2025 | Volume 25 Issue 5 | OWRC.net and MOAA.org

For questions contact the Chapter Webmaster at andy@andrewemanuele.com



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May 2025 President's Notes

Congratulations! We made it a successful ROTC/JROTC Banquet. 77 attended. 55 ROTC/JROTC staff and students and 22 MOAA members and spouses/guests

On the 26th of April I attended the Ohio Council of Chapters at the National Veterans Museum in Columbus Ohio. Takeaways: the age of members; where to hold a statewide conference in 2026: Advocacy in Action was organized by the MOAA and it was different from previous AiA meetings; Motion made to hold the meetings via Zoom. -- discussion resulted in holding the meetings in person, meeting by Zoom only for weather, sickness of member, or other contingencies.

I will attend two JROTC events in May - more on that next month. We are still reviewing John Walker's book on Non-Hostile deaths in Vietnam when he was stationed there.

Does anyone want to go over to the Youngstown area and visit/play at the world's largest pinball arcade? Let me know!

Major William J. Maki, USAF (Ret)

Dave Riegler, a long-time OWRC member, past Treasurer and Webmaster of OWRC, participated in an Honor Flight to Washington D.C., 25 April 2025

Honor Flight Network is a nonprofit organization that invites veterans to share in a day of honor at the nation's memorials in Washington DC. This is a big honor and Dave and Jean have been looking forward to it. Honor Flight was also a very long and busy day. Here is the itinerary for the day. Notice that the flight leaves Cleveland at 0725 and Dave had to be at the airport at 0530 on 25 April.



5:30 am	Veterans & guardians arrive Cleveland Hopkins Airport
5:30 am - 7:25 am	Check-in, go through security, board Southwest Flight 2837
7:25 am - 8:40 am	SWA Flt 2837 from Cleveland (CLE) to Baltimore (BWI)
8:40 am - 9:15 am	Deplane, move through terminal, load Marts bus
9:15 am - 10:15 am	Travel to World War II Memorial
10:15 am - 11:00 am	Group photo, tour World War II Memorial
11:00 am - 11:15 am	Travel to Lincoln Memorial w/ National Park Police escort
11:15 am - Noon	Walk to Vietnam Wall, tour Memorial
Noon - 12:30 pm	Walk to Korean War Memorial, tour Memorial
12:15 pm	Box lunches delivered by Arby's
12:30 pm - 1:00 pm	Eat lunch on bus while traveling to Air Force Memorial
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Tour Air Force Memorial
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Travel to and tour Marine Corps Memorial (Iwo Jima statue)
2:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Travel to Arlington Cemetery & Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Observe Changing of the Guard (3:30 pm)
4:00 pm - 4:45 pm	Travel to and tour Navy Memorial
4:45 pm - 6:30 pm	Travel to Mission BBQ 7746 Governor Ritchie Hwy, Glen Burnie, MD - 410-773-9888
6:30 pm - 7:00 pm	Travel to BWI Airport
7:00 pm - 9:55 pm	Process through security, move to gate, board SWA Flt 827
9:55 pm - 11:15 pm	SWA Flt 827 from Baltimore (BWI) to Cleveland (CLE)
11:15 pm - Midnight	Get veterans to families and friends, gather up equipment



That means it was a very early wake up and a very late day.

Dave was very happy about participating in Honor Flight and being able to see all the monuments in Washington. It is a very meaningful and memorable experience.

Tuskegee Airmen at MAPS and OVMP, 30 and 31 May 2025. Special events at two locations



Ohio Veterans Memorial Park (OVMP) and MAPS Museum

Hosting **Tuskegee Airmen** (commemorative Air Force group)

FREE - Friday, May 30th from 9am to 5pm
(School Children by **Scheduling ONLY** - from 10am to 4pm)
(School Children Will Receive **FREE** Ticket to MAPS)
also Open To Public



FREE - Saturday, May 31st from 9am to 5pm
Open To Public

Ohio Veterans Memorial Park (OVMP)
8005 Cleveland-Massillon Road
Clinton, Ohio 44216

(Theater showing **Red Tail** documentary held at **OVMP**)
(Questions, Call Erin Rader 440-315-2371)



MAPS Air Museum
2260 international Pkwy North
Canton, Ohio 44720
(Red Tail aircraft & Tuskegee Airman at MAPS)

We are looking for sponsor's! Would you or your organization like to make a donation to help bring this event to our area?

Ohio Veterans Memorial Park (OVMP) is a tax exempt 501c3 organization,
EIN # 20-3904984

Event 1: Tuskegee Airmen "Rise Above" Traveling Exhibit at Ohio Veterans Memorial Park (OVMP) 8005 Cleveland-Massillon Road, Clinton, OH 44216. Friday and Saturday, May 30 and 31. Mobile movie theater featuring the compelling original short film **RISE ABOVE** that tells the story of the Tuskegee Airmen and the obstacles they overcame to be able to serve their country during World War II.



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Event 2: P-51C Mustang Tuskegee Airmen Aircraft and Tuskegee Airmen Permanent Exhibit at MAPS Air Museum, 2260 International Parkway N, North Canton, OH 44720.

Interested in Veteran History? Reserve Your Seat on the Bus!

Summit County Veterans who are interested in joining us for our quarterly visit to the National Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus Ohio are invited to contact David Burden at 330-643

-7636 to secure your spot for the 13 May trip. Admission to the museum is FREE ;for U.S. Military veterans, active-duty military members and /gold /star Families. The National Veterans Memorial and Museum affords us the opportunity to explore and celebrate those who have served our nation

"The Ohio State University Max M. Fisher College of Business, in collaboration with the National Veterans Leadership Foundation (NVLF), has announced the availability of up to five full-tuition scholarships for highly qualified veterans and military-connected individuals to attend Fisher's Full-Time MBA (FTMBA) program."

The Ohio State University Max M. Fisher College of Business, in collaboration with the National Veterans Leadership Foundation (NVLF), has announced the launch of the National Veterans Leadership Foundation Scholarship Program at Fisher.

The initiative aims to broaden educational opportunities for veterans and military-connected individuals, reinforcing Fisher and NVLF's shared commitment to empowering service members and their families through access to world-class business education.

"We are honored to collaborate with the National Veterans Leadership Foundation in enhancing our long-standing support for service members and their families," said Trevor Brown, interim dean at Fisher College of Business. "The NVLF Scholarship Program unites our expertise in delivering world-class business education with the needs of veterans and military-connected individuals who are eager to advance their careers as leaders and professionals."

The program provides financial support to military-connected individuals, if selected, enabling them to enroll in specialized Executive Education programs at Fisher. These two-day, on-campus experiences are designed to accommodate the demanding schedules of professionals, offering focused learning on critical industry topics such as finance, leadership, business analytics, artificial intelligence, information technology, and supply chain management.

Thanks to NVLF funding, Fisher will award two scholarships for each of its 15 Executive Education programs, making high-quality business education more accessible to the military community. This initiative equips participants with essential skills and knowledge that align with the evolving needs of today's industries and businesses.

As a reminder Memorial Day is being celebrated on Monday, 26 May this year. Do not forget to put your flags out

The chapter donated \$200 for a memorial paver in the new Veterans Memorial in Norton Ohio. The dedication and opening of the park will be held on Memorial Day, 26 May 2025. The park is in Norton at 4060 Columbia Works Drive. The opening ceremonies will include a pancake Breakfast and the Dedication. More information will be provided as we get it.



What the Proposed \$1 Trillion Defense Budget Means for Servicemembers, Families, and Retirees

By: MOAA Government Relations Staff

The first-ever proposed \$1 trillion defense budget includes [\\$150 billion in new spending](#) that addresses key MOAA priorities, including \$2.9 billion to restore the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) and end the need for servicemembers to pay 5% of their anticipated housing costs out-of-pocket.

The House Armed Services Committee's budget reconciliation draft would also fund improvements to unaccompanied housing, address child care and spouse employment concerns, and add \$2 billion to the DoD health care budget, along with the temporary BAH increase. The legislation passed the panel April 29 by a 35-21 margin and heads to the House Budget Committee, but as it moves forward under the budget reconciliation process, the final bill remains uncertain while Congress seeks to capture \$1.5 trillion in spending cuts across the government.

Other key provisions addressing MOAA priorities found in the \$150 billion spending increase:

Active Component

- **Unaccompanied Housing Funding:** Over \$1.2 billion in increases for facilities sustainment, restoration, and modernization.
- **Tuition Assistance:** A \$100 million boost to tuition assistance programs.
- **Temporary Lodging Expense (TLE) Expansion:** \$590 million to extend the time to house-hunt from 14 to 21 days.

Families

- **Child Care Fee Assistance:** As DoD continues to find solutions to address child care shortages, the bill includes \$100 million to provide fee assistance to more military families.
- **Military Spouse Licensure:** The development of interstate compacts is a key component of ensuring military spouses working in licensed or credentialed fields can PCS across state lines with minimal interruptions. The bill includes \$10 million for continued efforts to enhance license portability.

DoD Health Care

- **Defense Health Program (DHP) Funding Increase:** DHP will see \$2 billion more in funding, designed to address challenges across the military health system. However, the funds will not address TRICARE parity gaps or otherwise expand the military health care benefit.

What Is Budget Reconciliation?

Budget reconciliation is a limited, but expedited, legislative process for Congress to align spending with the budget resolution. In early April, Congress adopted a budget resolution agreeing to a reduction in federal spending. Now, lawmakers are using the budget reconciliation process to conform with the budget resolution they passed.



This process can only be used to pass provisions that directly affect federal spending, revenues, or the debt limit – discretionary spending remains subject to the annual appropriations process. Additionally, this process cannot be filibustered, meaning a simple majority is needed in the Senate. And any adjustments cannot be in perpetuity – no permanent changes for issues like concurrent receipt, for example, can be made through this process. Even with these guardrails, lawmakers have a lot of latitude to reshape spending for the next decade.

The \$150 billion increase in defense spending has answered the call on many MOAA priorities, which will have positive effects for servicemembers, their families, and retirees. However, the potential impact on the network of services our community relies on through other departments and agencies remains uncertain. MOAA will continue advocating for improvements to our community's quality of life while striving to preserve the benefits we have earned.

What REAL ID Rules Mean for Military-Connected Travelers

By: Kevin Lilley

All DoD-issued identification – to include IDs with indefinite expiration dates – will remain valid for airline travel after new REAL ID compliance rules take effect May 7, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officials confirmed with MOAA.

DoD IDs, including those issued to dependents, are [on the official TSA list of acceptable identification](#) “and will still be an acceptable form of ID following the implementation of REAL ID,” an official said via email. VA-issued [Veteran Health Identification Cards](#) (VHICs) are also on the approved list.

MOAA has fielded concerns from members who have encountered long delays or other challenges when using DoD-issued IDs at airports. Military.com first reported on issues faced by holders of IDs with [“INDEF” expiration dates](#) in 2024; at the time, TSA reportedly was considering removing “INDEF” IDs from the approved list because of issues with screening technology.

A [recent Military.com report](#) noted confusion surrounding the issue, including a since-deleted social media post from an Army installation falsely stating retiree and family member IDs would no longer be accepted after the REAL ID changeover.

Rejected ID?

Asked what a military-connected traveler should do if their ID card is rejected, a TSA spokesman told MOAA via email that “[a] military ID should not be rejected, as it’s an acceptable form of ID. If this does happen, they should ask for a Supervisory Transportation Security Officer (STSO).”

For more about the REAL ID changeover, travelers can:

- [Access state-specific guidelines](#) and other REAL ID implementation information.



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- Get [answers to frequently asked questions](#) about the REAL ID process.
- Contact [TSA Customer Service](#).

More ID Card News

The REAL ID card move comes months before DoD completes an unrelated phase-out of its paper-based ID cards in favor of the Next Generation Uniformed Services ID Card.

“Replacement of all paper based USID cards with 4- or 5-year expiration dates will occur by December 31, 2025,” according to a March email to MOAA from the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), which stated that replacement of “INDEF” cards, such as those used by retirees and incapacitated dependents, “must be completed at the customer’s convenience prior to the paper-based card [form’s] termination in 2026.”

DoD has not announced a specific date when the paper cards would no longer be accepted. Those with older “INDEF” cards seeking a replacement can do so using the guidance available at [MOAA’s ID Card page](#).

MOAA Strengthens Ties With Pentagon Officials to Advance State-Level Advocacy

By: Jen Goodale

MOAA council and chapter leaders met with key DoD representatives recently to explore ways to deepen coordination on issues affecting servicemembers and their families.

Members of MOAA’s State Legislative Exchange Forum spoke with Lee Kelley, acting deputy assistant secretary of defense for [Military Community and Family Policy](#) (MC&FP), and Geraldine Valentino-Smith, director of the Defense-State Liaison Office (DSLO). Discussions focused on how MOAA’s 400-plus nationwide councils and chapters could enhance MC&FP’s advocacy impact — particularly as DSLO continues to advance key legislative goals in all 50 states.

Valentino-Smith praised MOAA state leaders: “Who’s influencing the legislators? MOAA members have relationships with state lawmakers who trust their expertise,” she said. “This should complement our efforts.”

Each year, DSLO publishes a list of [10 state legislative initiatives](#) that serve as focal areas for the regional liaisons. In turn, legislative leaders within MOAA’s councils and chapters are empowered to work these initiatives at the local level. This engagement helps expand the reach of DSLO, which has just eight [regional liaisons](#) who each cover no less than five states each.

MOAA forum leaders expressed appreciation for MC&FP’s efforts and shared concerns about potential cuts to quality-of-life programs that support military families. Kelley highlighted the direct ties between MC&FP programs and readiness of the total force – along with DSLO, MC&FP oversees child and youth programs; morale, welfare, and recreation efforts; and casualty and mortuary affairs.

Shaping Longer-Term Priorities



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Valentino-Smith acknowledged the challenges presented by DSLO's battle rhythm, which involves identifying legislative priorities for each calendar year. While many priorities are retained in follow-on years, approximately four new priorities are added annually.

DSLO is working on a process to identify priorities that will span a two-year period to allow regional liaisons and supporting organizations, like MOAA, to achieve more progress, Valentino-Smith indicated.

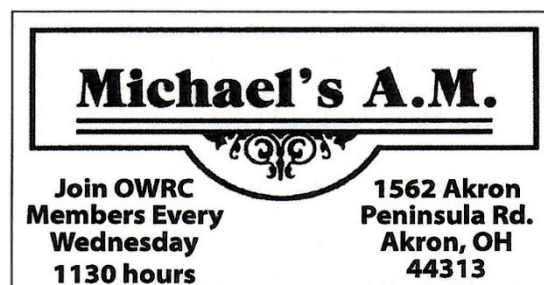
This proposed change was well-received by MOAA leaders, as new issues typically may require nearly a full year worth of research and lawmaker-education efforts. MOAA leaders also stressed the desire to be proactive rather than reactive, which a two-year cycle would enable.

Get Involved

Bringing MOAA State Legislative Exchange Forum leaders to the Pentagon signals an enhanced effort to find opportunities for our councils and chapters to engage with all levels of the process. We appreciate all those who have worked tirelessly on behalf of MOAA and the greater military and veteran community to advocate for changes and improvements at federal and state levels.

If you are a MOAA affiliate legislative leader and looking to get involved, email chapters@moaa.org.

Don't Forget our weekly luncheon at Michael's AM





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Application for Ohio Western Reserve Chapter, an Affiliate of MOAA

Name: _____ Military Status: _____ Spouse Name: _____
Component: _____ Branch of Service: _____ Rank: _____ Applicant DOB: _____ Spouse DOB: _____
☐ Regular Member (Retired, Former, Active officer of the eight uniformed US Services) **Membership \$25/year**
☐ Widow(er)-Surviving Spouse membership is available for surviving spouse of officers **Membership \$10/year**
Address: _____
Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____
email: _____
Chapter Member Dues = \$25/yr January 1 to December 31, Annually.
☐ Newsletters will be emailed, check this box if you prefer USPS Mail

Make check Payable to OWRC-MOAA
Mail to: OWRC-MOAA P.O. Box 4272 Copley, OH 44321.
or go to OWRC Website <https://OWRC.net> for application and pay via credit card or PayPal.

Donation to (check one)
☐ Stand Down
☐ ROTC/JROTC Scholarship
☐ Fisher house (Wade Park VA)

Enclosed is a check for: _____

NEVER STOP SERVING®



OWRC Purpose and Mission Statement

To support the purposes and objectives of the Military Officers Association of America; promote camaraderie among the officer (retired, active and former) within the OWRC region and relationships with other veteran organizations; and support projects for those pursuing military service (ROTC programs) and assisting veterans (wounded, jobless and homeless).

Legislative Contacts:

MOAA Legislative Update [MOAA | Legislative Action Center \(quorum.us\)](https://www.moaa.org/legislative-action-center/quorum.us) .

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Senator Jon A. Husted (R) U.S. Senate SR-198 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Phone:(202)224-3353 <https://www.husted.senate.gov/>

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Representative Emilia Sykes (D) US Congressional **OH District 13.** 1217 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Tel: (202)225-6265 [Congresswoman Emilia Sykes \(house.gov\)](https://congresswomanemilia.org)
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