



The OWRC Briefing Board

The Newsletter of the Ohio Western Reserve Chapter, An affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America
September 2026 | Volume 26 Issue 9| OWRC.net and MOAA.org
For questions contact the Chapter Webmaster at andy@andrewemanuele.com



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President's Notes

Hey members!



It is the end of summer on Tuesday 22 September. It is the Autumnal Equinox! As I write this, on Saturday, 8 August, some stores are already putting out Halloween candy items!

In the old days, you did not see such merchandise until the first of October. Oh well, times do change. Labor Day on Monday 7 September; the Full Harvest Moon on Saturday the 26th.

As we watch the Congress try to pass a budget, it seems we may wind up with a continuing resolution again. This hurts our entire government, not just the military branches, as funds are frozen at last year's levels. Do you want more ammunition? Sorry, you can only get what was ordered last year. No increases. Do you want more care at the VA? Sorry, only doctors, nurses and supplies will be available at last year's levels.

I ask all members to "vote" on the MOAA website under the Advocacy listing. This will tell our Congress what benefits we need for our



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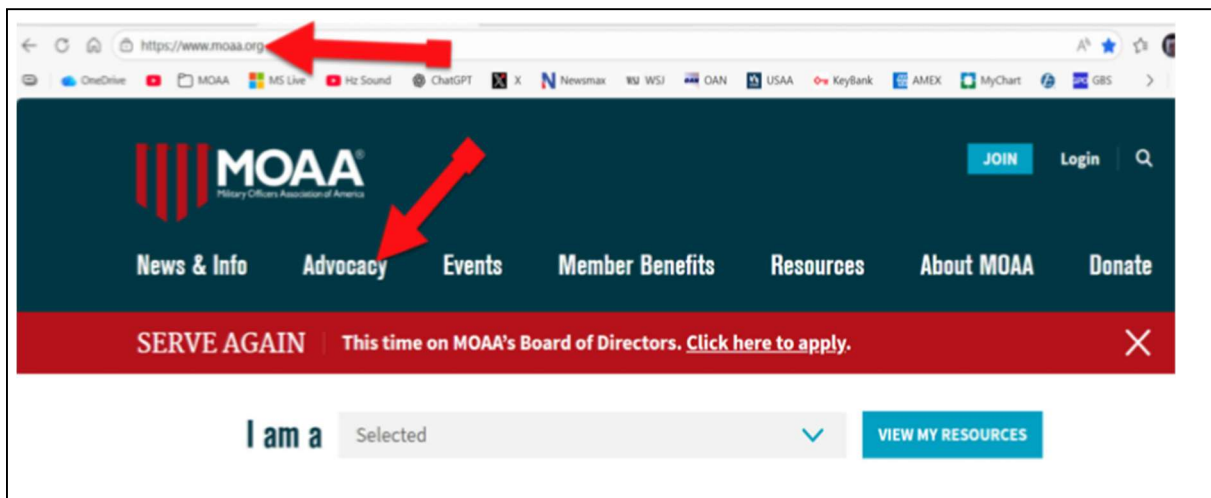
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service people and for all dependents. But bigger than this is the money to run our government. So, take the time to write, email or call your Congress person and ask them to get a good budget passed. Okay, I have stepped off my soapbox. The Annual Picnic at the VFW had 15 attendees. I wish more members could attend these events. The MAPS Museum at the Akron-Canton airport is having a pancake breakfast on

Sunday 27 September from 08:00 to 13:00. And sausages too! The S.A.M. Center in Canal Fulton has the Breakfast Club, Wednesdays at 09:00. Attend and meet other vets and have conversations. And get breakfast - free! Go to servingareamilitary.org for more information.

Major William J. Maki, President, OWRC
22 August 2026



You can click on the legislative items that have the word "Write" by them. You may have to fill out your name, street and city address, and other items. Once you do this, next time the areas may automatically fill in for you. So, it will be easier and faster the following months.

<http://www.moaa.org/takeaction>

There are also five areas on the bottom of the screen, like Currently Serving, Families and Survivors, Retirees and Veterans and more. You may click on those to see special legislative requests that MOAA is also advocating. EVERY TIME YOU "VOTE" MOAA CAN TAKE THOSE VOTES TO OUR ELECTED MEMBERS. THIS SHOWS THEM THE ACTIVE AND RETIRED AND SURVIVING SPOUSES WANT ACTION!

So please, fellow members, do your part. Send in your requests each month.



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OWRC Legislative Report, September 2026

As part of the MOAA AiA Summer Program, MOAA's President has listed three priorities. These affect veterans and servicemembers and their families right now, and where meaningful progress is within reach this congressional session. These priorities are:

- **Expanding the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) to military spouses.** WOTC expired at the end of 2025. Reauthorizing it — and adding military spouses as an eligible group — would give employers a meaningful incentive to hire a population that has faced stubbornly high unemployment for more than a decade.
- **Restoring GLP-1 coverage for TRICARE For Life (TFL) beneficiaries.** In August 2025, TRICARE ended coverage of GLP-1 medications for TFL beneficiaries being treated for obesity-related conditions. Thousands of retirees are now paying out of pocket or going without treatments that were improving their health.
- **Supporting combat-injured veterans with the Major Richard Star Act.** Combat-injured veterans who were medically retired before reaching 20 years of service currently lose a dollar of earned retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation they receive. Legislation to correct that injustice has strong bipartisan support and multiple paths forward in Congress.

MOAA asks every member to participate in their digital campaign. Sending a message through MOAA's Legislative Action Center takes just a few minutes, but it adds your voice to a chorus Congress cannot ignore heading into an election year.

Within Ohio legislative actions, Senate Bill 92: Homestead Exemption for Totally Disabled Veterans is in the Senate Committee. This bill will provide a total property tax exemption for the homesteads of totally disabled veterans and qualifying spouses. The bill remains in the Senate Ways and Means Committee, where it received its first hearing on February 18, 2025.

As an aside, I encourage you to join me help veterans at the Summit County Stand Down on September 15. You can sign up for morning or afternoon shifts, or both. Breakfast and lunch are provided for you and the veterans. For more information go online to Home – Lauras Summit County Stand Down at <https://summitcountystanddown.org/>



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OWRC MEETING NOTES

Minutes of the 12 Aug meeting:

--Attendees: Lisa Rivedal, BG Luczynski, Lt Col Emanuele, Maj Allen, Maj Maki (Note: quorum not established)

--Started time 11:50. Pledge of Allegiance and prayer. Reminder that all members should vote at the MOAA website for Advocacy in Action each month. We need a 1st VP to be in line when BG Luczynski becomes president in January 2027.

--Lisa Rivedal wishes to resign as treasurer also, and we need a new treasurer for 2027. Discussion was about combining the secretary and treasurer positions. Checking account \$3,895.02 and Savings \$6,189.91.

--There will be an Alpha 11 meeting on Saturday 12 September at the S.A.M. Center in Canal Fulton. Starts at 11:00 and ends at 14:00. I need a second person to attend. We have 15 attendees signed up for annual steak, chicken and corn roast at the Cuyahoga Falls VFW on 16 Sunday 16 August.

--The Christmas Party on Friday 4 December at Lucias Steakhouse, 4769 Belpar St NW, Canton at 17:00.

--For New Business, we discussed having the Akron Community Foundation (ACF) come to our 9 September luncheon and present a program on Designated Funds. This would replace our need to raise funds for the ROTC scholarships and JROTC funds. It will take a lot of money, more than we have now.

--Discussion on having a Thursday night monthly meeting or on a weekend monthly meeting to attract new members.

--Discussion on applying to MOAA for a grant - consensus was we could not use the grant to set up a scholarship fund.

--Cheddar Up is working, but Lt Col Emanuele has to pass the money through to go to our bank. (Note: by this evening, 12 August, he had done so and Lisa said it appeared okay in the bank). MOAA absorbs any fees associated with the transaction, saving money for the members.

EOR Maj Maki



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OWRC 2026 Calendar:

September 7th Labor Day

18th – POW/MIA Event Lunch & Learn, SAM Center/Stark County – see flyer page 21

Summit County Stand down (14-15)

Weekly Wednesday luncheons

October 14th OWRC General meeting at Michael's A.M.

17th OCC Quarterly meeting – Columbus

17th Saturday Luncheon, Persian Gulf Veterans Benefits SAM Center/Stark County – see flyer page 21

20th OWRC Quarterly meeting - Akron VSC

Weekly Wednesday luncheons

November 11th Veterans Day

13th – Veteran's Appreciation Luncheon Guest Speaker SAM Center/Stark County – see flyer page 21

18th Doughboy Breakfast and Annual Business Meeting

(select next year's officers)

26th Thanksgiving

Weekly Wednesday luncheons

December 4th Annual Christmas/Holiday Party

4th VA Healthcare/Ancillary Benefits Lunch & Learn SAM Center/Stark County – see flyer page 21

25th Christmas

31st New Years Eve

Weekly Wednesday luncheons

USAA Driver Safety Information

USAA Can Help You REDUCE Your Auto Insurance Bill!

USAA has a cell phone app (program to me) that tracks your driving.

When you sign up/enroll you get 15% off on your auto insurance bill.

You have to have your phone on when you drive.

I am getting a power cord to plug into my phone. There was a warning the phone battery could be "severely depleted" on long trips.

You receive reports on your driving. Speed, stops, acceleration, etc.

If your combined score - after a while - exceeds 87 (out of 100) you could get a lower drivers insurance bill.

So try it out.

Bill Maki, President, OWRC

[USAA Website](#)



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GCC MOAA General Membership Meeting & Legislative Update

with Guest Speaker

Peter Magnuson
Vice President, Communications
Military Officers Association of America



Date: Thursday, September 10th, 2026/1800

Place: Creekside Restaurant
8803 Brecksville Rd, Brecksville, OH 44141

Buffet Dinner/Cost: \$35 per person

RSVP by: Thursday, September 3rd, 2026

to: COL Bart Stovicek, USA, Retired
(216) 857-0444 or **bart.stovicek@att.net**

or

Register **[HERE](#)**



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VALUABLE MOAA RESOURCES

- [moaa.org] MOAA Home Page
- You don't have to Login but you have more access if you do
- Click on [Resources]
- Select [Surviving Spouse Corner]
 - Click on [Go Now}
- Here you will find monthly informational articles from the past 12 months plus archived articles from several years
- Go to [I am a] and select [Surviving Spouse]
 - Select [View My Resources] - Six green squares appear
 - Select [Survivor Publication from MOAA] You will see a list of all publications that are available to you from MOAA arranged by topic area. There are three that are specifically directed to Surviving Spouses
 - Use back arrow and return to the six green squares

Select [Surviving Spouse FAQs and More] You will find a list of frequently asked questions and answers. There is also an extensive list of MOAA LINKS that take you straight to website references on a plethora of topics. There is also a Suggested Reading list on several topics. Check out the other four squares as well as Chapter Membership information on this page.

-Information courtesy of Roy Yenchsky via Janet Oglesby



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The chapter is looking for a new 2nd Vice President

2d Vice President duties are described in Section 65 Article V of the Chapter Bylaws:

Section 6. The Second Vice-President shall be a person who can be expected to serve in the future as President. This person is prepared to assume the duties of the First Vice-President in the event of the death/disability of the First Vice-President. In the absence of both the President and the First Vice-President, the Second Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President. Additional duties include:

- Serves as a member of the Executive Committee
- Has executive oversight of the Membership Committee
- Is Chairman of the Legislative Affairs Committee (Government Affairs). [This may be delegated or assigned to another member.](#)
- Assists the First Vice-President in the development of the Chapter's annual income objectives
- Serves as principal assistant to the First Vice-President in the State Council Convention affairs
- Shall perform other tasks as the President may assign when those tasks are not specifically assigned to another by these by-laws.

If you are interested in helping the Chapter please contact the Chapter President, William Maki at william_maki@att.net.



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Fighting for TRICARE For Life Beneficiaries Left Behind

By: Karen Ruedisueli

JULY 27, 2026



OMaltseva/Getty Images

On Aug. 31, 2025, TRICARE [ended coverage of GLP-1 medications](#) for TRICARE For Life (TFL) beneficiaries being treated for obesity-related medical conditions. Thousands of military retirees and family members suddenly faced a difficult choice: Pay hundreds of dollars each month out of pocket or discontinue treatment.

For many, the decision felt especially painful because coverage remains available to other TRICARE beneficiaries.

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Reinstate TFL Coverage of GLP-1 Medications](#)]

More Than a Weight-Loss Drug

GLP-1 medications such as Wegovy and Zepbound are treatments approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for serious conditions including cardiovascular disease, obstructive sleep apnea, and metabolic-associated steatohepatitis.

TFL beneficiaries previously had access to these medications through the [TRICARE Pharmacy Program](#). That changed in 2025, when TRICARE ended coverage for obesity-related conditions for TFL beneficiaries, even as coverage continued for TRICARE Prime and Select enrollees and for all patients with Type 2 diabetes.

MOAA seeks to restore this coverage not just to allow beneficiaries to continue effective, doctor-prescribed treatment plans without unexpected costs, but to ensure the TRICARE Pharmacy Program does not become a two-tracked system, with separate formularies for TRICARE and TFL users.

Meanwhile, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is testing initiatives to expand access to GLP-1 medications for Medicare beneficiaries, highlighting the growing disparity facing many military retirees. Because these programs require Medicare Part D enrollment, [they exclude most TFL beneficiaries](#).



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[RELATED: MOAA.org/SummerAiA]

Real Veterans, Real Impact

More than 800 beneficiaries have contacted MOAA since the policy change, sharing stories of improved cardiovascular health, lower blood pressure, reduced sleep apnea symptoms, and significant weight loss while taking GLP-1 medications.

One beneficiary wrote: “I have not felt this good since Airborne School. The dosage for my hypertension medications has been revised downward, and my obstructive sleep apnea has greatly improved. As a veteran with 23 years of service, I ask myself why retirees are being targeted.”

Another member shared: “I’ve been on TFL for one month, and immediately my health is in greater jeopardy because of that. That’s not TRICARE For Life ... that’s TRICARE For Some.”

One spouse of a wounded Vietnam veteran and TFL retiree wrote: “Our veterans upheld their commitment to this country. The least our nation can do is uphold its commitment to them.”

MOAA Continues the Fight

MOAA continues to press Pentagon leaders and members of Congress to restore GLP-1 coverage for TFL beneficiaries.

During Summer Advocacy in Action, members can help by [sharing their experiences](#) and [urging lawmakers to restore coverage](#). For many affected beneficiaries, this issue is about more than a prescription; it is about preserving access to treatments that improved their health and honoring commitments made to military retirees.

Read more at: [Tricare for Life Challenges](#)



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Rep. Brennan Introduces V.E.T.E.R.A.N. Benefits Protection Act To Combat Fraud And Protect Ohio Veterans

June 22, 2026

Sean P. Brennan News



COLUMBUS – **State Rep. Sean Patrick Brennan (D–Parma)** today announced the introduction of **House Bill (HB) 961**, the **Veterans Empowerment Through Ethical Representative and Navigation (V.E.T.E.R.A.N.) Benefits Protection Act**, legislation designed to protect Ohio veterans from unaccredited individuals and companies that charge excessive fees and make misleading promises while assisting veterans with benefits claims.

HB 961 was introduced with **Rep. Daniel P. Troy (D-Willowick)** following months of collaboration with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and other veterans' organizations throughout Ohio. Under current federal law, individuals and firms providing assistance with veterans' benefits claims must be accredited through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). However, Ohio law currently contains no enforcement mechanism or penalties for those who operate without accreditation. As a result, some veterans have been targeted by companies that charge excessive fees, misrepresent their qualifications, or abandon veterans during critical stages of the claims process. **HB 961** closes that loophole by requiring compliance with all federal accreditation requirements and establishing state-level penalties for violations. The legislation would classify noncompliance as an unfair or deceptive act under Ohio's Consumer Sales Practices Act.

"Our veterans answered the call when our nation needed them. The very least we can do is make sure they are protected from bad actors seeking to profit from their service," said Rep. Brennan. "Too many veterans have been misled by unaccredited companies charging excessive fees and making promises they cannot keep. This legislation ensures that anyone offering assistance with veterans' benefits in Ohio is properly trained, accredited, and held accountable. I am proud to work alongside **Representative Troy**, the VFW, and veterans' organizations across Ohio to strengthen these protections and help ensure that every veteran receives the benefits they have earned through their sacrifice and service to our country."

The legislation is modeled after the bipartisan federal GUARD VA Benefits Act and would require all third-party benefits representatives operating in Ohio to maintain VA accreditation, complete ongoing training requirements, comply with federal fee limitations, and refrain from guaranteeing specific benefits outcomes or award amounts.

Read more at: [V.E.T.E.R.A.N. Benefits Protection Act](#)



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Military Sexual Trauma Survivors Can't Sue the Government. A New Bill Could Change That

Survivors of military sexual trauma have long been barred from suing the government over assaults and the failures that allowed them to happen. A bipartisan bill would give them a path to court

BY [SONNER KEHRT](#) AUGUST 13, 2026

•

When Mayra Diaz opened the door of her Army barracks room in 2022, she didn't realize it was the beginning of the end of her military career.

She had never met the soldier standing in front of her, Sgt. Greville Clarke. She didn't know he had sexually assaulted three other women on base over the past 15 months, including one he threatened at knifepoint.

Diaz remembers Clarke lifting his uniform top to show he was armed with a handgun. She can't recall much else after he forced his way into the room, where she lived alone, and assaulted her. It wasn't until a full day later that a friend found her on the floor with fresh bruises on her neck. Clarke went on to attack a fifth woman before he was finally caught.

In April 2025, Clarke was convicted in a court martial at Fort Hood, Texas, on 29 specifications—including rape, attempted premeditated murder, and kidnapping—for attacking five women. Not long after he was given a life sentence, in September, he died of [an apparent suicide in his](#) cell at the Army's prison in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, according to Stars & Stripes.

Meanwhile, Diaz soured on her dream to serve until retirement, leaving the Army just two years after she joined.

"I wanted to make it far in the military," she said. "But I couldn't stand being in the same uniform."

This year, Diaz filed a claim against the Army, accusing Fort Hood leadership of failing to provide a safe environment on base. Historically, lawsuits from service members against the military have faced a near-insurmountable barrier: a legal principle known as the [Feres doctrine](#), which bars troops from suing the government for harms incurred during military service.

A new bill in Congress could change that. The [Military Sexual Trauma Accountability Act](#), which has bipartisan support, would allow service members to sue the military for sexual misconduct and related



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issues, such as failing to investigate reports of misconduct or for negligence in creating an unsafe environment where sexual assault or harassment is allowed to fester.

In 2024, the military received more than 8,000 reports of sexual assault, the majority allegedly committed by service members. That's a decline of about 4% from the previous year. But researchers with Brown University's Costs of War project [estimate that the total number of sexual assault cases](#) is two to four times higher than the reported cases.

Read more at : [Military Sexual Trauma Survivors](#)

VA RESEARCH WRAP UP

VA's Office of Research and Development recently published three [News Briefs](#) highlighting a new drug safety tool, therapy for chronic pain, and the connection between metabolic syndrome and C. diff infection.

MVP leads to new tool predicting drug safety risks

VA Million Veteran Program researchers led a team that developed a genomic atlas to predict adverse drug reactions.

The research team then released an [interactive web interface of the atlas](#) that allows for filtering by gene, drug phase, and how a drug works on the body. The team analyzed almost 17,000 genes, demonstrating the capacity to predict hundreds of known adverse drug reactions for approved medications and suggest other potential adverse interactions.

Genetic variants linked to immune-related pathways were particularly prominent in drug reactions, suggesting attention should be given to medications that work on these pathways. The new gene atlas could be a powerful new tool to predict and improve drug safety.

[View the full study from "PLoS Genetics."](#)

Brief behavioral therapy improves chronic pain interference

Researchers from the VA Center for Integrated Healthcare demonstrated that brief cognitive behavioral therapy can rapidly improve chronic pain interference.

The study divided 184 Veterans with moderate to severe chronic pain into two groups: those receiving the usual pain care and those receiving six, 30-minute sessions of psychoeducation,



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behavioral and cognitive skills, and relapse prevention, along with the usual pain care, delivered over 12 weeks.

Veterans receiving the brief cognitive therapy had greater improvements in how much pain interfered with life during treatment and still sustained those improvements three months later. The behavioral treatment was also associated with improved physical quality of life and sleep quality.

The results suggest even brief behavioral therapy can lead to improvements in pain outcomes.

[View the full study from the journal "Pain."](#)

Metabolic syndrome increases risk of C. diff infection

Metabolic syndrome is a condition combining obesity and factors such as insulin resistance, high blood pressure and low, good cholesterol, which increases the risk of heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes.

A Tucson VA study found it also nearly doubles the risk of *Clostridioides difficile* (C. diff) infection, a contagious bacterium that causes diarrhea and colon inflammation.

The analysis of almost four million patients from 30 countries revealed metabolic syndrome increased the odds of C. diff infection by 94%, while obesity alone increases the risk by 14%, and diabetes alone increases the risk by 11%.

Metabolic syndrome can alter the gut microbiota and increase chronic inflammation, altering the immune system, according to the researchers. The results suggest a need to consider patients' metabolic health to prevent and treat C. diff infection.

[View the full study from "Open Forum Infectious Diseases."](#)

For more Office of Research and Development updates, visit [ORD online](#) or go to https://www.research.va.gov/news_briefs/.



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Vietnam's First All-Black Special Ops Team Is Coming to Theaters in 'Soul Patrol'

Director J.M. Harper revisits the all-Black Vietnam patrol behind Soul Patrol and the war that followed its veterans home.



By [Ryan Thomas LaBee](#)



Company F, 51st Infantry, including Ed Emanuel.

Members of Team 2/6,

In the spring of 1968, six young Black soldiers were preparing to go to Vietnam when the country seemed to be coming apart around them. Ed Emanuel, Thad Givens, Lawton Mackey Jr., Willie Brown, John Willis and Norman Reid were in basic training when Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated.

Two months later, while flying to Vietnam, they learned that Robert F. Kennedy had been killed. Soon they would become Team 2/6 of Company F, 51st Infantry, a [six-man Army long-range reconnaissance patrol](#) that became known as the "Soul Patrol."

Nearly six decades later, their story is headed to movie theaters.



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Director J.M. Harper's documentary *Soul Patrol* follows the men who served on Team 2/6, the first **all-Black U.S. special operations team** to serve in Vietnam. The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January, where Harper won the Directing Award in the U.S. Documentary Competition. Kino Lorber acquired North American distribution rights in May and plans an awards-season theatrical release this fall.

The film made another stop Saturday at the Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival, where an Aug. 8 screening was followed by a discussion with Harper, former Secretary of State and Vietnam veteran John Kerry and Harvard historian Henry Louis Gates Jr.

Six Men Sent Ahead of Everyone Else

The term "special operations" needs some context when applied to Team 2/6.

The soldiers were not Green Berets, and the military did not organize special operations forces in 1968 exactly as it does today. Team 2/6 was part of Company F (Long Range Patrol), 51st Infantry, under II Field Force Vietnam. Army histories classify the organization as a long-range patrol unit, commonly referred to by the acronym LRP or the older LRRP, for long-range reconnaissance patrol. Their job put very small teams well ahead of conventional forces.

Army doctrine built LRRP units around five- or six-man patrols that could move quietly through enemy-controlled territory, collect intelligence and report what they saw. Direct offensive combat was generally discouraged except in self-defense, although what actually happened in Vietnam was often messier than the doctrine.

Company F was stationed at Bien Hoa and occasionally operated around Cu Chi and Phuoc Vinh. Its principal mission was gathering intelligence needed to protect the region around Saigon. Veterans interviewed for an Army historical study described operations that also included ambushes and attacks supported by artillery, aircraft and helicopter gunships.

The company had considerable firepower waiting behind its patrols. Its six-man teams could be inserted and extracted by dedicated helicopters, with gunships, a quick-reaction force and other support available when things went wrong. Team 2/6 was one of those patrols, and the six-man structure became central to how the veterans later discussed their experience.

During an Aug. 8 Q&A following a screening of *Soul Patrol* at the Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival, Harper recalled his first phone conversation with Emanuel. The veteran asked him a question that sounded simple: "Do you understand what a team is?"



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Harper told him he did.

“I did not understand,” Harper said. “It took me about four years to understand that if the team survived, that was the point.”

Emanuel later wrote about the experience in his 2003 memoir, *[Soul Patrol: The Riveting True Story of the First African American LRRP Team in Vietnam](#)*. That book eventually found its way to Harper, which in turn inspired his documentary.

Read more at: [All Black Special Ops Team](#)



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Air Force Pilots Are Learning How to Command Autonomous Wingmen in Combat

Air Force has taken their Collaborative Combat Aircraft beyond controlled testing to test human accompanied mission.



By [Matthew Reisdorf](#)



Members of the Royal Netherlands Air and Space Force observe a U.S. Air Force YFQ-44A Fury aircraft assigned to the Collaborative Combat Aircraft Experimental Operations Unit at Creech Air Force Base, Nev., July 21, 2026. The U.S. and the Netherlands are sharing the development of platform-agnostic, open architecture based, semi-autonomous capabilities enabling seamless data sharing and interoperability in combined operations. (U.S. Air Force photo by William R. Lewis)

The Air Force has a vision for the future of aerial warfare. Instead of flying solo, pilots could enter combat accompanied by several [drone](#) partners, carrying a variety of weapons, sensors, and electronic systems.

Turning these aircraft into effective wingmen goes beyond reliable autonomy. The Air Force must first determine how pilots can use these [effectively](#) in battle, and how costly mistakes can be.



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From Test Range to Realistic Operations

A recent exercise at Creech Air Force Base, Nevada, offered the service another opportunity to work through these challenges. The service's Collaborative Combat Aircraft Experimental Operations Unit operated semiautonomous aircraft during a multiday Agile Combat Employment Exercise that was designed to test how this aircraft could be used to serve effectively and, most importantly, safely, in dangerous operations across an extremely unknown battlefield.

The unit generated multiple sorties, integrated Collaborative Combat Aircraft, or CCA, with crewed platforms in local airspace and simulated missions across a distributed battlefield. Airmen also tested how the aircraft could be deployed, fueled, armed and relaunched from a forward operating location.

"This exercise was about getting the systems into the hands of the war fighter," Lt. Col. Matthew Jensen, commander of the Experimental Operations Unit, said in an [Air Force release](#). "We are focused on operating CCA outside a traditional test environment so we can continue to learn, inform, and rapidly iterate."

These lessons will help to reshape the tactics, training, and overall mission procedures that will be used to integrate this style of aircraft in the future. What also will be determined is how much time the pilots must devote to directing the aircraft during actual missions.

Avoiding Overmanagement of Tech

CCA's are not meant to be micromanaged. The aircraft are designed to perform many functions simultaneously while following the objectives and guidelines set for the effective success of an air combat mission.

This is an essential rule for finding the perfect balance between management styles in missions. For the aircraft to be more effective than they are not, the autonomy needs to be safe while allowing mission parameters to be set by the pilot.

Read more at: [Autonomous Wingmen](#)



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Stark County's DAR chapters join together to serve US patriots

Gary Brown

Special to The Canton Repository

June 14, 2026, 5:33 a.m. ET

Editor's Note: One of a series of periodic articles in 2026 about the observance of America's 250th birthday.

Daughters of the American Revolution. Sons of the American Revolution.

Can either organization, both of which have chapters in Stark County and elsewhere in Ohio, be more aptly named during this 250th anniversary year of the United States of America?

"Daughters of the American Revolution has been relevant since it existed," said Stephanie Martin Shively, a founding regent of North Canton's Jacob Gaskins Chapter of the National Association of the DAR. "But do I think it's getting more attention because of America250? Of course.

"I think of us as an example of what makes our country great. People from different places and different careers. We're a microcosm of the founding of this country – so many folks who came together at a certain point in history to form a nation."

DAR members are proven through genealogy research to be descended from someone with a connection to the Revolutionary War.

"I originally intended to volunteer to do research for those who are members of DAR," said Martin Shively, who continues to assist individuals using genealogy skills she has developed since she was 12.



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"During (the COVID years), my mother asked me if there was any way she could join DAR. I had done research on our whole family so I knew we had an ancestor who dated to the Revolutionary War. My mother joined and I ended up joining myself."

Organization dates back a century

Martin Shively notes that Daughters of the American Revolution has existed as a national organization for a little more than a century and owes its formation to the fact that chapters of the older Sons of the American Revolution wouldn't let women join.

"The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution was founded on Oct. 11, 1890, during a time that was marked by a revival in patriotism and intense interest in the beginnings of the United States of America," explains a history at the website for DAR. "Women felt the desire to express their patriotic feelings and were frustrated by their exclusion from men's organizations."

Read more at: [DAR](#)



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2026 Calendar

Sept 12	T-34 "Fly In"
Oct 2-3	SAM Veterans Resource Fair
Oct 25	Fall Military Show
Oct 30-31	The Big Show
Nov 1	Ham Radio "Ham Fest"
Nov 7	Veteran's Day Program
Dec 6	Santa "Fly In"



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VETERANS

& DEPENDENTS

THE VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION OF STARK COUNTY & SAM CENTER

are providing Lunch & Learn & Service Officer Breakouts at the SAM Center Veterans Resource Center in Canal Fulton

PRE-REGISTER AT

330.956.6162

press ext. 2

8101 Manchester Ave NW
Canal Fulton, OH 44614

2-3 Oct 2026

**SAM CENTER
Veterans Resource Fair
MAPS AIR MUSEUM**

VSC Claims Clinic On Site

* Claims Filing

* Claims Status Checks

Pre-Registration Not Required

LUNCH & LEARN

LUNCH SERVED AT 11:30 AM | MUST PRE-REGISTER
*NEW IN 2026 - MONTHLY COMMUNITY CONNECTION SPEAKERS

23 Jan 26

Non-Service Connected
Pension | COLA Updates

13 Feb 26

Vietnam Era Veterans Benefits

13 Mar 26

Survivor Benefits
DIC | Survivors Pension | Burial

10 Apr 26

Service Connected
Compensation

8 May 26

Ohio Veterans Nursing Homes

12 Jun 26

Women Veterans Appreciation

17 Jul 26

County Veteran Service Officer
Panel | Q & A

7 Aug 26

Purple Heart Event | Guest Speaker

18 Sep 26

POW | MIA Event

17 Oct 26

Saturday Luncheon

Persian Gulf Veterans Benefits

13 Nov 26

Veterans Appreciation
Luncheon | Guest Speaker

4 Dec 26

VA Healthcare | Ancillary Benefits

SERVICE OFFICER BREAKOUT

ONE-ON-ONE CLAIM CONSULTATIONS
12:30 PM-4:00 PM | PRE-REGISTRATION RECOMMENDED

21 Jan 26

18 Feb 26

18 Mar 26

15 Apr 26

20 May 26

17 Jun 26

15 Jul 26

19 Aug 26

16 Sep 26

21 Oct 26

18 Nov 26

16 Dec 26



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ARMY
MARINE CORPS
NAVY
AIR FORCE
SPACE FORCE
COAST GUARD

**LAURA'S
21ST ANNUAL
SUMMIT COUNTY STAND DOWN
APPRECIATION DAY**

**GUY'S PARTY CENTER
500 E. WATERLOO RD
AKRON, OHIO 44319**

***MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND
AT
[HTTPS://SUMMITCOUNTYSTANDDOWN.ORG](https://summitcountystanddown.org)

MONDAY
14 SEPTEMBER 2026
09:00 — 15:00**

**EDUCATIONAL CLASSES &
WORKSHOPS
(*MUST REGISTER)**

DENTAL CLINIC (*MUST REGISTER)

- EXAMS
- FILLINGS
- CLEANINGS
- EXTRACTIONS

**VA HEALTH SCREENINGS
SHOWERS (NO REGISTRATION)
CLEAN CLOTHING (NO REGISTRATION)
VA PRE-BURIAL SERVICES
(NO REGISTRATION)**

**VOLUNTEERS AND VENDOR REGISTRATION AT:
[HTTPS://SUMMITCOUNTYSTANDDOWN.ORG](https://summitcountystanddown.org)
QUESTIONS? YOU MAY LEAVE A MESSAGE AT
Dial (234) 75LAURA
(234) 755-2872
OR EMAIL INFO@SUMMITCOUNTYSTANDDOWN.ORG
Parking Lot Opens at 7:00A.M.**

FREE TRANSPORTATION

**TUESDAY
15 SEPTEMBER 2026
09:00 — 15:00**

FOOT AND EYE CLINIC
HIV SCREENINGS
BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS
MENTAL HEALTH
FLU SHOTS
ID CARDS
GOODWILL VOUCHERS
HAIRCUTS
JOB AND COLLEGE FAIR
HOT BREAKFAST AND LUNCH
LEGAL AID
COATS, BOOTS AND HYGIENE ITEMS
CHAPLAINS AND FELLOWSHIP
FREE CELL PHONES FOR LOW INCOME
NON-PERISHABLE GROCERIES
MORE THAN 70 ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES

**ALL VETERANS ARE WELCOME
PLEASE BRING A FORM OF MILITARY ID/DD214/PHOTO ID**

ARMY
MARINE CORPS
NAVY
AIR FORCE
SPACE FORCE
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This Spouse-Employment Boost Requires a Different Path on the Hill ... and Needs Your Support

AUG 24, 2026

Providing tax credits to business that hire military spouses means working outside normal congressional channels.

[READ MORE](#)



Aiken Chapter Celebrates National Women Veterans Day

AUG 19, 2026

The inaugural event honored women veterans of all eras.

[READ MORE](#)

OWRC's regional coverage includes: Summit, Stark, Portage, Medina, and Wayne Counties.

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 \$35/year**

☐ Widow(er)-Surviving Spouse membership is available for surviving spouse of officers **Membership \$15/year**

Address: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

email: _____

Chapter Member Dues = \$35/yr January 1 to December 31, Annually.

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©



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OWRC Purpose and Mission Statement

To support the purposes and objectives of the Military Officers Association of America; promote camaraderie among the officers (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) .

President Donald J. Trump (R) The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Washington DC 20500 Switchboard: 202-456-1414 www.whitehouse.gov

Senator Bernie Moreno (R) SR-B33 Russell Senate Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510 <https://www.moreno.senate.gov> Cleveland Office, Carl B. Stokes U.S. Courthouse 801 W Superior Ave., STE 1400 Cleveland, OH 443113 T: (216) 522-7272

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/>

Representative Mike Rulli (R) U.S. Congressional **OH District 6** 4137 Boardman-Canfield Road, Suite 106 Canfield, OH 44406 Phone: (330) 967-7312 <https://rulli.house.gov/contact/> , or Washington, D.C. Office 421 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-5705 Clairsville Office 101 North Market Street, St Clairsville OH 43950 (740) 338-3738

Representative Troy Balderson (R) U.S. Congressional **OH District 12.** 2429 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-5355 <https://balderson.house.gov/contact/> 12931 Stonecreek Drive, Pickerington, OH 43147 (614)523-2555

Representative Emilia Sykes (D) U.S. Congressional **OH District 13.** 1217 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Tel: (202)225-6265

Contact | U.S. Congresswoman Emilia Sykes 121 South Main St Suite 107 Akron, OH 44308 (330)400-5350

Representative David P. Joyce (R) U.S. Congressional **OH District 14** 2065 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC, 20515-3514 Phone: (202) 225-5731 <https://joyce.house.gov/> or 8500 Station Street Mentor, OH 44060 (440) 352-3939



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16 August 2026 Steak Roast and Membership Meeting Cuyahoga Falls VFW Post 1062

We had 15 members and spouses attend, including LCDR John Bendele (R), president of the Ohio Council of Chapters for MOAA. Charlie of the VFW cooked the food and included Mexican Street Corn. The side dishes and desserts were in abundance. Since it was raining, we stayed in the dining hall, as opposed to being outside in the pavilion. The members thought this would be a good site to have this event in the future. The VFW is hosting a clam bake on Saturday, October 3rd. Tickets will be on sale in September. You must buy a ticket so they can prepare sufficient food.



John Martin, Brenda Alderson, Tom Luczynski,
Bill Bamler, Pat Bamler



Ron Smetana, Chaker Fadel, Bill Maki, John Bendele/OCC Pres



Trish Chapman, Linda Calta, Janet Oglesby



Debbie Allen, Andy Emanuele, Dick Calta,
Don Allen