

CINCINNATI MILITARY OFFICERS NEWS

VOL 53 No. 2, May 2025

Subscribe to a life membership in this chapter and national MOAA. See Page 4.

REPORT ON CINCINNATI CHAPTER MOAA'S DINING OUT—PAGE 3



Pictured above: Members and Guests attending the Dining Out at the Metropolitan Club in March to hear a fabulous speech from Colonel Brad Wenstrup and celebrate ties of fellowship in a grand military tradition. Full story page 3.

Please join us at the General Membership Meeting Clovernook Country Club: June 13, 2025 2035 W. Galbraith Rd., Cincinnati, OH (1130 hrs Social Time, 1200hrs Lunch and Program)

We are thrilled to have, as our **guest speaker Mr. Craig McKee**, an award-winning journalist and the evening news anchor on Channel 9. Mr. McKee is a nine year Air Force veteran, and hosts the weekly Homefront program focusing on veterans' issues and stories of service. He supports many veterans' activities and organizations, and in December 2024 he was named as the Hamilton County Veteran of the Year. Also come celebrate **the Army's 250th birthday** and join the MOAA Troubadours in rousing songs to celebrate the occasion. Reservations must be **received by June 5**.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP RESERVATION: Fiday, June 13th, Clovernook Country Club, 2035 W Galbraith 1130 hrs Social

Name: _____ Rank & Service: _____

Spouse/Guests: _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Buffet lunch Cost: \$25.00 per person, Total Reservations: _____ times \$25 = \$ _____

Make Checks payable to GREATER CINCINNATI CHAPTER/MOAA and mail to CAPT MICHAEL GLASER, 6788 Brookville Road, Oxford, OH 45056, (phone) 513-835-2491, or email michael.h.glaser@gmail.com. Please make reservations **NLT than June 5, 2025**. No cancellations with refund after that date

2025 CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD

(phone # prefix is area code 513 unless noted)

Executive Committee

President COL Richard Bevington, USA 741-9727
Immed PP Bill Heitbrink, USPHS 319-331-2466
1st VP Vacant
2nd VP Vacant
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Co-Secretary CAPT Hank Gurry, USN 459-0465
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Spouse/ Surviving Spouse Liaison
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COL Richard Bevington, USA 741-9727
Alt Delegate Immediate PP or 1st or 2nd VP

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Membership LTC Dan Shea, USA 792-0344
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Army BG Tom O'Brien, USA 421-0118
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Air Force Lt Col Brad Hamant, USAF 439-3140
Space Force Lt Col Matt Wenzel, USAF (805) 450-4571
CG/NOAA CAPT Steve Drefahl, USN 752-4097

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS 2025

Please mark your calendars.

Monitor www.cincymoaa.org for updates.

- **Next Meeting in 2025 is the June Membership Meeting** 13 June 2025; social hour 1100 hours
Clovernook Country Club
- Upcoming: Baseball game Dayton Dragons
--July 19
- Recruiting meeting and social TBD
Hoppin' Vines
- December General Meeting TBD

PURPOSES OF THE GREATER CINCINNATI MOAA CHAPTER

The purposes of Military Officers Association of America as stated by national are printed on the outside of each Newsletter. The corresponding purposes of our Chapter as stated in our BYLAWS, Article II are:

- (a) To promote the purposes and objectives of the Military Officers Association of America
- (b) To foster fraternal relations among retired, active and former officers of the uniformed services.
- (c) To protect the rights and interests of personnel of the uniformed services and their dependents and survivors.
- (d) To provide useful services for members and their dependents and survivors.
- (e) To serve the community and the nation.

Your officers and Board members welcome your comments and suggestions on steps that may be taken to strengthen our Chapter and its benefits to all members.

This newsletter is published by the Greater Cincinnati Chapter, which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are non-partisan. Articles in this newsletter are the opinions solely of the individual authors and do not necessarily express the policy or opinions of the newsletters editor or publisher and do not reflect an endorsement by the Chapter or the National organization of MOAA, unless so indicated. Advertisements that appear in this publication do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or this affiliate.

TAPS

If you are aware of an MOAA member who has passed away, please inform the Membership chairman, Thank you.

Board Meetings

2d Friday every month, 1200-1300 hrs, Red Cross Bldg,
2111 Dana Avenue, Cincinnati, with noted exceptions.
Spouses and Members are always welcome.

CONSIDER JOINING MOAA AS A LIFE MEMBER

Life membership in Cinci MOAA chapter is quite reasonable, Dues based on age at your nearest birthday.

Up to 55 years old.....	\$161.25
Age 56-70...	\$127.50
Age 71-89...	\$93.75
Age 90 and over...	Dues Waived

See <https://chapterdues/moaa.org/Membership.aspx> .
Also consider joining MOAA national as a life member.

Cincinnati Chapter MOAA Dining Out at the Metropolitan Club

On March 29th, 2, 2025, around 60 members, spouses, and distinguished guests gathered at the Metropolitan Club on a beautiful spring evening to celebrate military fellowship and enjoy a marvelous experience. Following a delightful happy hour, the trumpet sounded Assembly, Ruffles and Flourishes and the General's March (Army) honoring BG Tom O'Brien. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the POW/MIA Tribute by Paul Fellingner (LTC, Retired) and Taps, the formal festivities commenced.



Brad Wenstrup
(COL, Ret. USA).

Col Bevington welcomed our many VIP guests. Then our members, spouses, and assembled guests enjoyed a splendid repast of beef and fish. At the appropriate time, we toasted the United States of America, the Uniformed Services, Servicemen and Servicewomen, the Families of those who serve, Our Fallen Comrades, and the Ladies. It was then time to hear from our Honored Guest and Speaker, COL (retired) and former Congressman

Brad Wenstrup. Col Wenstrup's speech was magnificent and inspirational. He spoke of his growing up in Cincinnati and enjoying his time in parochial school and at Xavier, of his

marriage to Monica Wenstrup and of his servicetime in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He included inspirational anecdotes, including saving a baby who was intolerant of gluten by taking up a collection from soldiers to buy special milk (and tracing her progress as a medical student). He spoke of the experience saving Congressman Steve Scalise, when 126 bullets were fired at Republicans practicing baseball. And he spoke of four inspirational movies that influenced him growing up: Boy's Town (there are no bad boys, only bad environments; training matters!); Stand and Deliver (the amazing story of Jaime Escalante, an East Los Angeles Math teacher who successfully taught advanced algebra and calculus to impoverished students in East Los Angeles against all odds; Cinderella Man, the incredible story of James Braddock, an Irish American boxer who became world heavyweight champion against all odds after breaking his hand and leaving the ring until called back as an unlikely substitute on an undercard. Finally, Col. Wenstrup focused on the part of Saving Private Ryan when a dying Captain Miller tells Private James Ryan "Earn this". Years later, Ryan returns to the graveside in Normandy years later visits Miller's tombstone, and looks back on his life. The speech was memorable and relatable: all left feeling uplifted and inspired. Following the speech, The MOAA Troubadours (General Tom O'Brien, LTC Dan Shea, and yours. truly) led the assembled multitude in The Army Song and God Bless America. It was a truly enchanting evening exposing many to a wonderful military tradition.



POW/MIA Table



Above: General O'Brien's Table: ,L-R BG Tom O'Brien, Ann Marie O'Brien LTC Dan Shea, Laurie Shea, and Melinda Crockery prior to Troubadours songleading.



Above: Guests enjoying a great dinner at the Metropolitan Club and a great military tradition: the Dining Out, when a unit brings spouses and Guests to enjoy fellowship together.

2025 DUES ARE DUE—

If you have not yet paid your chapter dues, please do so by sending a check to Dan Shea, LTC, US Army, (Retired) our membership chair, at the address below. If you are uncertain as to your status, call him at (513)254- 9836, or email him at dshea@cinci.rr.com to inquire. Dues are \$30 for three years, \$22 for two years, or \$12 for one year. A life membership in the chapter is \$161.25 for ages up to 55 years (nearest birthday), \$127.50 for ages 56-70, \$93.75 for ages 71-89, and waived for ages 90 and above. To renew, cut out and return the form below, or use this link: <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx0>

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Cincinnati MOAA Chapter Membership Renewal

Name _____ Rank _____

_____ E-mail address _____

_____ Renewing: 1 year (\$12)
_____ 2 years (\$22) _____ 3 years (\$30) _____ Life (see table) _____ Make your check payable to: Greater Cincinnati Chapter / MOAA Mail Renewal Form and Check to LTC Dan Shea, 5736 Woodsway Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45236

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NEWSLETTER LINKS FOR VETERANS AND RETIREES

Army: Army Echoes : <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/army-echoes>

Navy: Shift Colors: <https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Media-Center/Publications/Shift-Colors>

Air Force: Afterburner: <https://www.retirees.af.mil/library/afterburner>

Coast Guard/NOAA/PHS: The Long Blue Line

<https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Human-Resources-CG-1/Retiree-Services-Program/Newsletters>

Marines: Semper Fidelis

<https://www.hqmc.marines.mil/Portals/61/Docs/MMSR-6/VOL%2067%20NO%203%20JUL-SEP%202023.pdf?ver=Ff7NHwtmRHjufztGWsBOSA%3D%3D#:~:text=Semper%20Fidelis%20is%20published%20quarterly,or%20the%20Department%20of%20Defense>

Address newsletter questions to Rob Croskery (LTC, Ret. USA) to his email address:

rcroskery@gmail.com, or call 813-244-5580. Feel free to print and give out this issue.

Cincinnati Chapter wins 2024 National MOAA Awards

Congratulations go out to:

CAPT Bill Heitbrink, immediate past president; **Level of Excellence Award** for 2024.

(for supporting MOAA mission for the earned benefits of all active and retired service members).

Bill earned this award for each of his past three years of service.

Lt Col Matt Wensel (webmaster) and **LTC Rob Croskery** (newsletter editor and publisher):

COL Marvin J. Harris Communications Award for 2024.

(for outstanding accomplishment in content and in communicating to chapter members.)

(The above awards are affixed to the Chapter banner: take a look next time you see it!)

Please consider your own ability to contribute: volunteer to join the Cincinnati MOAA Board!

From The Command Post by COL Rick Bevington (USA, Ret.)

First, congratulations to CAPT Hank and Crystal Gurry and LTC and Patti Fellingner for the successful Dining Out on Saturday, March 29th. Through their work, the chapter put its best foot forward. The guest of honor, ex-congressman and physician, COL Brad Wenstrup spoke about the value of our service to the country. Over sixty members and guest came to the Metropolitan Club for the camaraderie and for the inspiring speech on the American spirit of service and patriotism. Again, well done!

Second, many MOAA members believe that all is well since the successful passage of the TRICARE for Life Medicare supplement and non-taxation of military “retired” pay in Ohio. While these are positive developments, those recognitions of service are laws covering earned benefits; laws can change. Furthermore, other benefits issues must be addressed with our legislators. (See the article by Alan Echt immediately following). I urge you to get involved in the activities and leadership of the chapter as we advocate for all ranks in Washington DC and Columbus.

Third, there are open positions on the Chapter Board. We would welcome you joining; you may wish to serve as an assistant. Contact any Board member to step forward.

Finally, on June 13th the chapter celebrates the 250th anniversary of the US Army. In September TBD, an informal – casual – strictly social event is being planned. Mark your calendars for both.

CALL TO ACTION ON LEGISLATION (by CAPT Alan Echt, USN, Ret).

MOAA’s Five Key Legislative Priorities For 2025

Your April 2025 edition of *Military Officer* magazine gives a vital “playbook” on p. 46. Please Read.

1. Improve Access to Health Care by legislating a digital sytem to help military members:

1) by routing them to the right person to assist them 2) by documenting access issues, improving oversight and accountability, and 3) by removing access barriers.

2. Support Family Caregivers by passing the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act:

1) To enhance opportunities for education, employment, and retirement for caregivers, 2) To address their economic and emotional challenges, and 3) To enable them to achieve financial stability while reducing the long-term cost to the government.

3. Expand Ending the Wait Efforts to deal with veterans exposed to toxins. MOAA urges Congress to pass legislation that will:

1) establish a classification system that fills gaps in the evidence for exposures to toxins; 2) Make the legal process for presumptive decisions stronger, 3) Advance the science of understanding toxic exposures, and 4) Remove barriers that prevent veterans, survivors and families from accessing benefits derived from exposures to toxins.

4. Keep the Focus on Military Housing: Despite recent legislative efforts, thousands of servicemembers are housed in substandard, unsafe, and unsanitary barracks because of a costly backlog of deferred maintenance. MOAA urges Congress to require the Defense Department to:

1) Provide transparency on funding for barracks maintenance and upgrades, 2) Give Congressmembers the power to identify and address deficient housing in their states and districts,

5. Promote Military Spouse Hiring Act:. The military spouse unemployment rate is 21% due in part to frequent relocations and limited opportunities near many installations. MOAA urges Congress to add military spouses to the target groups under the Work Opportunity Tax Credit to:

1) Reduce the military spouse unemployment rate, 2) Offset the cost to employers to hire and train these highly skilled workers, and 3) Improve military family financial stability and improve recruitment and retention..

Please access the MOAA Action Center at <https://moaa.quorum.us/home2/>. There, you’ll see each of those issues highlighted. Just click on the blue Write button to send a message to your elected representatives about all of them.

PLEASE DONATE TO SUBMARINE VOA PARK!

Fellow MOAA Members,

An iconic memorial is being built in our own backyard to honor the Cold War service of the USS Cincinnati submarine! This project creates visibility and awareness for our military, educates visitors of the need for a strong national defense and strongly encourages our youth to pursue STEM and skilled trades careers. Additionally, the Memorial will provide a great venue for various military and patriotic ceremonies, events, and celebrations. Organizations that serve our veterans can provide information to the veterans and their families about their services at events throughout the year.

The Memorial is being built in the Voice of America (VOA) Park next to the VOA Museum in West Chester, Butler County. This phenomenal location will feature a full-size open-air submarine, 362 feet long, and include the USS Cincinnati's original conning tower/bridge, rudder, fins and emergency diesel generator.

The impact for the Greater Cincinnati and the Midwest should be outstanding. The large space will allow for citizens, veterans and their families to gather together at patriotic holidays. Total VOA attendance at all events and facilities in 2024 was 578,000. With this new memorial next door, tens of thousands should visit and enjoy this Exhibit.

We are in the midst of our fundraising campaign. The total construction costs are \$7.8 million dollars, with \$6.6 million dollars raised to date. We will also be raising \$500,000 to fund an endowment to maintain the memorial and \$1.0 million dollars to fund the educational component of the memorial and extra unanticipated costs mandated by the Park Board. The immediate need is to raise the additional \$1.2 million dollars for construction (we have officially broken ground). Please visit the terrific website, www.subcincy.org. Once on the website click on the "Watch Our Vision" icon for a short, impactful video.

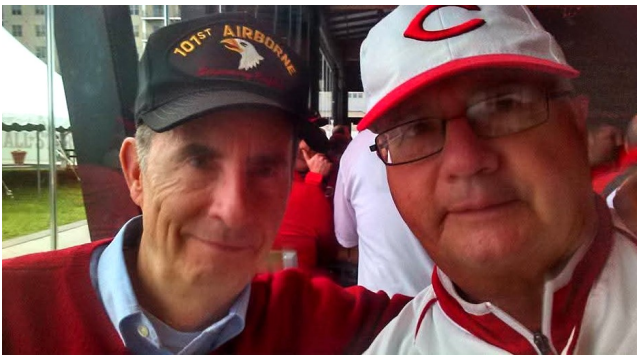
Please consider financial support. Any size gift will be greatly appreciated. To donate through the website, click on "Donate" in the upper right-hand corner. If you would like to be contacted directly please reach out to me at stevedrefahl@gmail.com or (513) 752-4097. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have. If you know of a company, organization or individual who might be interested in supporting our Memorial please let me know that as well.

Once the Memorial is completed we anticipate a celebrative event at the Memorial and VOA Museum.

Steve Drefahl
CAPT, USN, Ret.

**JOIN MEMBERS OF THE CINCINNATI AND DAYTON CHAPTERS TO
SEE THE DAYTON DRAGONS PLAY THE FORT WAYNE TINCAPS ON
SATURDAY, JUL 19 AT 1905 HOURS**

SAVE THE DATE! Great news for baseball lovers! We have 25 tickets for baseball lovers available on a first come, first served basis. Both the Dayton and Cincinnati MOAA chapters are invited. Get your tickets now. Come and see the Dayton Dragons, affiliates of the Cincinnati Reds, play the Fort Wayne Tincaps, affiliate of the San Diego Padres, Saturday, July 19th, @7:05pm at Day Air Stadium. These great tickets are for seats between the home plate and the 3rd base line. (Section 112, Row 14&15). Seats are protected from rain. If you'd like to meet for dinner before the game, please advise when you purchase tickets. Time to gather will be about 5:15pm. More on that plan later..



ABOVE: MOAA MEMBERS AND SPOUSES ENJOY A BALL GAME...THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT TICKETS AT THE DRAGONS COST THE PRICE OF A BEER AT THE REDS!

TICKET PURCHASE: Contact Denny Crouch at 937-426-6246 or denniscrouch@earthlink.net. From Dennis: "If you call, leave your telephone number & email address. The tickets are \$14.00 each. Please make reservations early and advise about dinner. Send check payment to me (pay to: MOAA Dayton Area Chapter) at 3069 Ranchfield Drive, Beavercreek, OH 45432. **Ticket process, I need your email address so I can electronically transfer the tickets to you. Download the Dayton Dragons App and you'll receive tickets on your App. You can then download digital tickets to your smart phone.** Please get your digital tickets ready **prior** to coming to the game. Click here for more information if needed on accessing your tickets. <https://www.milb.com/dayton/tickets/digitaltickets>)"



Greater Cincinnati Chapter
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA
1071 Celestial Street (The Highland Towers) #2104
Cincinnati, OH 45202

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

***PURPOSES OF
MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA***

- TO inculcate and stimulate love of country and flag;
 - TO defend the honor, integrity, and supremacy of our National Government and the Constitution of the United States;
 - TO advocate military forces adequate to the defense of this Country;
 - TO further the education of children of service personnel;
 - TO foster fraternal relations between all branches of the various services from which our members are drawn;
 - TO aid active and retired personnel of the various services from which our members are drawn and their dependents and survivors, in every proper and legitimate manner.
 - TO present their rights and interests when service matters are under consideration, and
 - TO foster the integrity and prestige of uniformed service.
- from the Preamble to the Association's Bylaws*