

CINCINNATI MILITARY OFFICERS NEWS

VOL 53 No. 3, August 2025

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

REPORT ON JUNE 13TH MEMBER CELEBRATION WITH NEWS ANCHOR CRAIG MCKEE

On June 13th, 2025, dozens of the MOAA faithful gathered at Clovernook Country Club for an informative presentation by Craig McKee, News anchor from Channel 9. We also celebrated the 250th birthday of the United States Army. Craig is moving out west to a new job, but spoke in glowing terms of his time as Hamilton County Veteran of the year, his interplay with the Hamilton County Veteran's Commission, and his time at the US Air Force News Agency. Following his presentation, the MOAA Troubadours led the assembled multitude in the Air force song for Mr. McKee, and, of course, in honor of the Army's birthday, the Army song, ending with a rousing chorus of God Bless America. As always, a great time was had by all participants.



President Rick Bevington and Craig McKee



MOAA guests enjoy a great program and a fine buffet

Right: Cake for the Army birthday with General Tom O'Brien's Saber. BG Tom O'Brien and CPT Dale Stalf did the honors of cutting the cake.

The Crowd enjoyed the MOAA Troubadours for the Air Force Song, the Army Song, and a rousing finale, "God Bless America."



SPECIAL FELLOWSHIP ON A HALLOWED DAY, SEPTEMBER 11, AT HOPPIN' VINES 5-7 PM!

Service to our nation is paramount to the mission of the Military Officers Association. We enhance that mission at this active chapter by fostering fraternal relations among retired, active and former officers of the uniformed services. To that end, we are hosting a convivial gathering of all current, new and prospective members in the Greater Cincinnati Chapter MOAA area on 11 September starting at 5:00pm. The venue for this Happy Hour event will be Hoppin' Vines, 8150 Montgomery Road (45236). This popular bar and eatery is located just east of the Kenwood Towne Center and was recently named the "Best Bar in Cincinnati" by Cincy Beat Magazine. It features a wide array of local craft beers, fine wines, top-drawer spirits and good bar food. It also offers duckpin bowling which provides all the fun of traditional bowling without the smelly, rented bowling shoes. There will be a nice spread of hors d'oeuvres and refreshments; and, at some point, we'll present a short overview of our Chapter's mission, makeup and activities. We will also honor those that fell on this special day with the singing of God Bless America. Please join us on this special day.

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
Co-Secretary CAPT Alan Echt, USN 573-0315
Co-Secretary CAPT Hank Gurry, USN 459-0465
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Chaplain CPT Dick Swan USA 217-521-2559
Legislative Ofc CAPT Alan Echt, USN 573-0315
Spouse/ Surviving Spouse Liaison
ILT Ken Bowman, USA 600-4094

State Council

Delegate

COL Richard Bevington, USA 741-9727
Alt Delegate Immediate PP or 1st or 2nd VP

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Programs CAPT Hank Gurry, USN 459-0465
Membership LTC Dan Shea, USA 792-0344
ROTC/JROTC LtCol Brad Hamant, USAF 439-3140
Historian CPT Dale Stalf, USA, 374-6127
Sympathy/ ILT Ken Bowman, USA 600-4094
Personal Affairs
Vietnam Commemoration/
Public Affairs LTC Al Brauer, USA 677-8320
TOPS LtCol Brad Hamant, USAF 439-3140
CinMoaaNews LTC Rob Croskery, USA 8132445580
Webmaster Lt Col Matt Wenzel, USAF (805) 450-4571

Service Representatives

Army BG Tom O'Brien, USA 421-0118
Navy/MC CAPT Steve Drefahl, USN 752-4097
USPHS LCDR Karl Feldmann, USPHS 815-1537
Air Force Lt Col Brad Hamant, USAF 439-3140
Space Force Lt Col Matt Wenzel, USAF (805) 450-4571
CG/NOAA CAPT Steve Drafahl, USN 752-4097

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS 2025

Please mark your calendars.

Monitor www.cincymoaa.org for updates.

- **Next Meeting in 2025 is the Social and Fellowship Meeting** on September 11 at 1700-1900 hours—come to this great event and bring a new MOAA membebr
- 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 it's 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

Normally the 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.

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

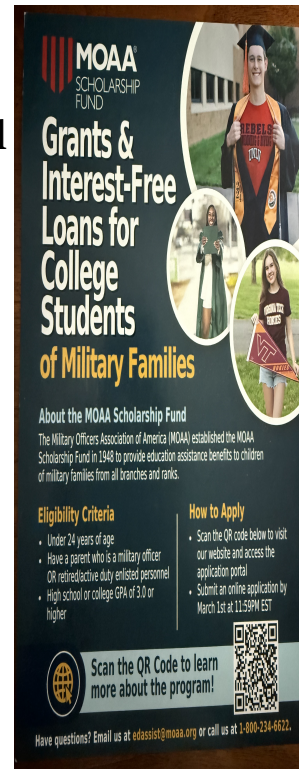
The attendees at the June meeting and lunch had a terrific time. Craig McKee, Channel 9 Newscaster and 2024 Hamilton County Veteran of Year, gave a fascinating talk about his career and service in the US Air Force news agency. BG Tom O'Brien, assisted capably by CPT Dale Stalf, cut the Army Birthday Cake with his saber, and all joined in singing the Army Song to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States Army.

LTC Otto Weening, USA Retired, joined us to celebrate his 90th birthday. As a boy in Indonesia, he, his mother, and his sister were all held prisoner in a Japanese internment camp and were scheduled to be executed, but were saved by the ending of the war. Afterwards, the family returned to the Netherlands, then emigrated to the United States. LTC Weening was commissioned in the US Army Corps of Engineers and served in Europe, followed by three tours in Vietnam.

Camaraderie is a critical part of our MOAA chapter. Our organization has many members with interesting service and civilian experiences that are worth sharing with others. Join us for our 3rd annual, informal, social event at Hoppin' Vines in Kenwood, 5-8 PM, Thursday, 11 September. Bring your stories! We will also commemorate the heroism of those who lost their lives 24 years ago, and raise a glass to their memory. It is a great day to spend, in part, with your comrades-in-arms remembering those who fell. Please join us.

One more thing. Cincinnati is on tap to host the State MOAA convention in Fall 2027. While not yet completely finalized, it appears very likely that our local chapter here in Cincinnati will be hosting our fellow MOAA members in beautiful Cincinnati, the Queen City, the City that Sings, and a great place to live. There is considerable work in putting together a first class convention. The Board appointed, as Convention Chair, LTC Robert (Rob) Croskery, US Army, Retired. LTC Croskery has chaired the Suncoast Army Ball. He ran a Disney entertainers' fundraiser, "Adventures in Charity", for six years, was President of Action Entertainment Talent Bureau, and has considerable additional experience in putting on top notch events. He is putting together a committee of capable volunteers, seeking out those believe they can contribute to this great event. Immediate goals are discussing dates, a venue, potential themes, and a schedule of events. Rob would welcome your help. Please call him on his cell phone at 813-244-5580, or email him at rcroskery@croskerylaw.com, if you would like to help. Of course, by the time the convention arrives, we will all be involved, but a job well begun is half finished, and he would welcome your talents and time in making this a terrific convention.

Again, see you on September 11th at our next gathering at Hoppin' Vines for an



MOAA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Grants & Interest-Free Loans for College Students of Military Families

About the MOAA Scholarship Fund
The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) established the MOAA Scholarship Fund in 1948 to provide education assistance benefits to children of military families from all branches and ranks.

Eligibility Criteria

- Under 24 years of age
- Have a parent who is a military officer OR retired/duty enlisted personnel
- High school or college GPA of 3.0 or higher

How to Apply

- Scan the QR code below to visit our website and access the application portal
- Submit an online application by March 1st at 11:59PM EST

Scan the QR Code to learn more about the program!

Have questions? Email us at eduassist@moaa.org or call us at 1-800-234-8622.

evening of comraderie, great stories, and honoring our fallen and our heroes.

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>



M.O.A.A. Greater Cincinnati Chapter

Cheers to the 3rd Annual Social Recruiting and Get-together over Great Beer and Appetizers.

GOOD TIMES BEGIN AT 5 P.M. ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

Hoppin' Vines Pub & Restaurant
8150 Montgomery Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45236

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.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AND THE MILITARY OFFICER MAGAZINE

by CAPT (Ret) Alan Echt, USPHS

Greetings. I urge you all to review the articles on the Major Richard Star Act (pages 16-17) and the Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act (page 18) in the August edition of *Military Officer* magazine, and then visit www.moaa.org/takeaction to send MOAA's summer advocacy messages to your lawmakers. *Military Officer* also notes that our legislators will be in their home states and districts in August, offering a prime time to visit their offices to advocate for MOAA's priorities. The Major Richard Star Act allows a veteran with a combat-related disability and fewer than 20 years of creditable service to receive full retirement pay. Major Richard Star was an Ohio native who had burn pit exposure in Iraq and Afghanistan and had an untimely death in 2021 without full retirement pay; this act in his honor would remedy that injustice. The Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act targets discrepancies in the Reserves about crediting paid points for eligibility and the lack of certain incentive pay received by active duty forces for comparable work. Both issues are worthy of your attention.

The Senate is not expected to take up the FY'26 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) defense policy bill until after the August recess. Both the House and Senate bills include provisions to involve the DOD in activities at the U.S.-Mexico border. The Senate bill includes new reporting and briefing requirements outlining how the DOD is using its assets to aid in the immigration crackdown. A provision is also included in the Senate bill that would require the Pentagon to submit monthly reports to Congress on the number of noncitizens held at Defense Department installations, broken down by location, as well as the total cost of detaining the noncitizens. Speaking of immigration, you may not know that U.S. Public Health Service officers staff the ICE Health Service Corps. IHSC, a component within ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations, is the only entity within ICE responsible for assessing an alien's fitness for travel as they prepare for deportation to their country of origin. IHSC oversees compliance with medical detention standards in contracted facilities and reimburses for off-site medical intervention received by aliens in ICE custody. IHSC supports ICE air operations for deportation flights and the U.S. Coast Guard with alien interdiction operations. U.S. Public Health Service officers from the IHSC Special Operations Unit (ISOU) serve as medical providers for ICE missions, both in the U.S. and abroad.

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST AND MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

A CHANCE TO MEET REPRESENTATIVE WARREN DAVIDSON ON AUGUST 8 AT 7:30 PM

MOAA Member Bob Gallagher notes that Friday August 8th the West Chester Liberty Rotary is hosting US Representative **Warren Davidson**. The meeting will be at Liberty Collective 6735 Lakota Lane, West Chester, OH. This event takes place just across from Lakota East High School. Time of the meeting is 7:30am. If you are represented by Warren Davidson and would like to hear him speak, please feel free to come to the meeting.

CINCINNATI MOAA MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

ORLANDO SONZA, a member of our Chapter who is currently the Chairman of the Hamilton County Veterans Commission, has just been appointed by President Donald Trump to be Counsel for the Civil Rights Division of the US Department of Justice. His final day with the Veterans Commission will be August 13th. At that point, he, his wife Jessica, and their children will move to Washington D.C.

RAFAEL PROFIT, a member of our chapter who has served as Cincinnati Fire District Chief, and a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserves, has announced that he is running for Cincinnati City Council. In so doing, he has announced, in the tradition of the U.S. Armed Forces, that Cincinnati needs "courageous, creative, selfless leadership" and promises to provide it.



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

Postmaster: Dated Material. Please Expedite



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*