



# ABOUT MOAA



## About MOAA

We are a coalition of leaders who have dedicated our lives to service. We are the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), the nation's leading membership organization for military officers.

Our members are as diverse as they are passionate, hailing from all branches of the armed forces and committed to looking out for one another. Our duty as an association of more than 85 years lies at the forefront of these efforts, as we protect the interests of the military community on Capitol Hill and fight to uphold the earned benefits of our servicemembers.

In addition to our tireless advocacy efforts, MOAA supports members and their families through scholarships, career development and transitioning services, health insurance, financial and travel services, and much more. Our promise to our members is simple. In fact, it's the same promise they made to their country: Never Stop Serving.

### Purpose

While the association does advocate a strong national defense, it does not, as an association, become involved in matters pertaining to military strategy or individual weapons systems of the various services. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically non-partisan organization.

The association's board of directors has long believed that such decisions can be made only by those who have all of the facts available to them: today's actively serving military leadership.

The association plays an active role in military personnel matters and especially proposed legislation affecting the career force, the retired community, and veterans of the uniformed services. MOAA's overarching goals are captured in its resolutions, which reflect the views of the entire mem-

bership. The membership provides input and votes on resolutions every two years (on even years).

While MOAA is permitted by law to lobby — and does so actively — its status as a tax-exempt veterans organization precludes it from participating in political activities, which are defined as intervening directly or indirectly in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Stated briefly, the association may advocate issues, but it may not advocate the election or defeat of particular candidates or political parties.

### History

MOAA was founded in Los Angeles Feb. 23, 1929. The first leaders of the association hoped that by joining together they could provide assistance and advice to other military officers. This concern for others fostered natural fraternal relations among members from all branches of the uniformed services.

By the beginning of World War II, MOAA's leaders realized they needed to reorganize and expand to become an effective force on behalf of their members. In what turned out to be a wise decision, MOAA moved to Washington, D.C., in 1944 with a membership of 2,600.

After a membership vote in September 2002, the association changed its name from The Retired Officers Association (TROA) to the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), on Jan. 1, 2003.

Today, MOAA is the country's largest military officers' association. MOAA's purpose also has grown to include career-transition assistance, improved member products, military benefits counseling, educational assistance to children of military families (to include enlisted), and strong involvement in military professionalism activities.

## **Leadership**

The association is governed by a board of directors consisting of 36 officers from the seven uniformed services. Four of the association's national officers — the chairman of the board and three vice chairs — are elected by the board of directors. Also elected as association officers by the board of directors (from outside the board membership) are the president, chief financial officer, and secretary, all of whom serve on MOAA's professional, salaried staff.

The president and staff directors conduct daily business from the headquarters in Alexandria, Va.

## **Membership**

Membership is open to active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retired, and former commissioned officers and warrant officers of the following uniformed services: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Memberships also are available for surviving spouses of deceased officers.