



Charleston Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

October - Issue 9 2025

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Web site: [www.charlestonmoaa.com](http://www.charlestonmoaa.com)

## Chapter Luncheon with CAPT Shawn Lansing, USCG - the newly arrived Coast Guard Sector Charleston Commander

*Join us on Friday, 24 October 2025 to meet CAPT Shawn Lansing, who assumed command of Coast Guard Sector Commander this summer*

**Place:** Fleet Reserve Association  
99 Wisteria Rd.  
Goose Creek, SC 29445  
(843) 569-2692

**Date:** Friday, October 24, 2025

**Time:** Social Hour 11AM accompanied by a cash bar

**Lunch:** 12 Noon

**Menu:** Lunch served with choice of: Water, Tea

**Choice between two entrees:**

Baked Flounder with Lemon Almond Sauce Shrimp *OR*

Baked Black Forest Ham with Pineapple Cinnamon Glaze

Sides include Red Potatoes with garlic butter and parsley and Italian Green Beans

Dessert will be provided

**Cost:** \$30.00 per person. Make checks payable to Charleston MOAA.

**Dress:** Casual.

**RSVP:** Check to arrive NLT Saturday, October 18, 2025

**Mail to:** BG Ernie Brockman, USA (Ret), 119 Pine Valley Drive, Summerville, S. C. 29483

For addl. info - call or txt: 843-743-4379 (cell) *OR* email: [ebrockman@att.net](mailto:ebrockman@att.net)



# Legislative Summary

Submitted by: Bud Schneeweis



CAPT, USCG (Ret)

Special, Check Out: MOAA's [Take Action Center](#)

## Here's How State-Level Support Improves Quality of Life for Military Families

While most Americans live within 100 miles of where they grew up, moving to a new state every two to three years is commonplace for military families. These moves bring unique challenges impacting employment, education, community representation, and more.

The Defense-State Liaison Office (DSLO) was established in 2004 to address such challenges. DSLO staffers work directly with state policymakers to reduce barriers, improve quality of life, and ensure military families receive the support they need wherever they are stationed.

The DSLO's eight regional liaisons build relationships with state officials, provide data-driven recommendations, and share best practices to inform policy development. The office has an impressive track record: Since 2012, its efforts have contributed to the passage of more than 1,275 state laws, covering areas such as occupational licensing, consumer protection, child care, voting access, and education.

By focusing on the state level, the DSLO addresses critical needs influencing military readiness, family stability, and retention. Education policy, employment opportunities, and access to health care and child care are just a few areas where consistent, supportive policies make a significant difference for mobile military families.

### 2026 State Policy Priorities

Each year, the DSLO highlights specific areas where state action can have the greatest positive effect. For 2026, the group's priorities reflect the continuing challenges military families face:

**Occupational Licensure Interstate Compacts:** Ensuring military spouses, 35% of whom work in licensed professions, can transfer credentials seamlessly across states.

**Military Spouse Employment Preference:** Allowing states to create hiring and procurement preferences to help reduce a stubborn 20% unemployment rate among spouses.

**Military Clause in Family Leave Laws:** Guaranteeing family leave covers military-specific needs, such as deployments and training.

**Solutions for Military Homeschoolers:** Expanding access to extracurriculars and JROTC programs, and simplifying homeschool requirements.

**State Exemption for Family Child Care (FCC) Homes:** Exempting Pentagon-certified in-home providers from duplicative state licensing to expand availability and access for families.

**Support for Special Educational**

Continued on page 6.

Thank You  
*The following have renewed their membership for Five or More Years:*

Mrs. Pat H. Ishmael, SurSp



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## This month's interesting biographical sketch

### CDR David J. Tomayko, USN (Ret)

CDR David Tomayko started his military career when he was in college at the University of Detroit earning a BS in Civil Engineering. He earned his MS in Civil Engineering from the University of Michigan in 1974. He decided to sign up for the US Navy. There was a need for his training so he earned his Professional Engineer credential and worked on active duty in the US Navy from 1966 until 1981 when he retired. David served in Vietnam and a variety of other assignments throughout his career.

During his service in the US Navy he worked in the Seabees for about 4 -5 years. The Seabee nickname is a heterography of the initial letters "CB" from the words "Construction Battalion." Today, the Seabees have many special task assignments starting with Camp David and the Naval Support Unit at the Department of State and for the US Science program in Antarctica. Seabees serve under both Commanders of the Naval Surface Forces Atlantic/Pacific fleets as well as many Public Works and UN diving commands. He had many public works projects for many commands.

One of the most rewarding and interesting assignments for David and his wife Ann, was in Yokosuka, Japan. He was responsible to the Navy for public works and also worked with local civilians involved



in facilities for the Navy as well as civilians involved in designing needs. David and Ann lived and worked in Yokosuka, Japan for three and a half years. The base provides comprehensive support services for U.S. Navy vessels, including maintenance, logistics, and personnel support and hosts various military units and commands. The base is recognized for its critical role in Indo-Pacific naval operations and strong U.S. -Japan defense cooperation.

After completing his active-duty service in the Navy, David accepted a position as the Project Manager at the College of Charleston where he worked for 20 years before retiring a second time. David and Ann had lived for years in the Summerville area. Later, they lived in Myrtle Beach and were active in the Grand Strand Chapter. They moved to Mt. Pleasant near their daughter. David and Ann have three grown children which are spread from coast to coast with a son and his family in California and a son and his family in Georgia as well as the daughter in Mt. Pleasant.

They have chosen a lovely community called Restore in Mt. Pleasant which has many activities and keeps them busy. David is a proud Life Member of MOAA National and enjoys the camaraderie with the local MOAA chapter where they live. They recently reached out to our chapter and look forward to attending some of our luncheon meetings and meeting our other members. Charleston MOAA Members, please give David and Ann a warm welcome and get to know them in our upcoming meetings! Welcome aboard!

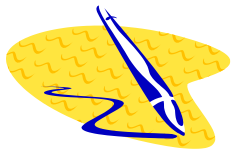


### Rest in Peace

*Military Brothers and Sisters. Your Service  
to Our Country is Recorded and Honored.*

*Maj Donald D. Taffinder, USAF (Ret)  
passed away 02 September 2025. He  
is survived by his wife Oveda "Mickie"  
Taffinder and family. Please keep  
them in your thoughts and prayers.*





## President's Pen

Charleston MOAA members, as we move into fall, I want to say again what an outstanding group of members we have in our Chapter. We realize that all of our members may not be able to attend all or possibly any of our MOAA luncheons, but you continue to support us by your membership, your separate donations both at the luncheons and through those mailed to us for our Toys for Tots program we support each fall as well as our Future Military Officers Scholarship fund.

Your membership helps us support two ROTC programs: The Citadel and Charleston Southern as well as 26 high school JROTC programs in our Tri-county area as well as a Sea Cadet program and a Civil Air Patrol squadron. Your personal desire to volunteer to take the awards in the spring of the year to present to those students and speak to them is valuable. Other organizations often send their awards to the school, but are not there as a representative of the organization to personally shake their hand and congratulate them. Follow-up by writing an article for our newsletter with pictures of the presentation allows other members to realize how the Charleston Chapter influences our future leaders. The newsletters are sent to the JROTC instructors to be shared with the cadets to celebrate their accomplishments.

Please invite your neighbors if they have served any period of time as a commissioned or warrant officer in any of the branches to one of our luncheons. Invite friends and neighbors periodically to our luncheons even if they have not served to learn more about our organization and what we do in the communities and counties we serve. Let the board know if you are interested in volunteering when our political leadership asks for leaders to interview potential candidates for the military academies. Email or call members of the board to let them know you might like to help us grow our membership or assist in any aspect of our organization.

It is just a month away!! The South Carolina Council of Chapters is gearing up for the 2025 South

Carolina State Conference to be held on Saturday 8 November 2025 from 0845 until 1500 hours at the Inn on the Square in Greenwood, South Carolina. There are pre - Conference activities scheduled for Friday 7 November for your enjoyment: There is a golf tournament at the Greenwood Country Club beginning at 1300 at a cost of \$55 per player. There are two tours offered for free: one at the 96 National Historical Site and another tour at Museums & Art Center. There is a dinner at the Inn on the Square at 1800 hours for \$35 per person. The cost of the Conference is \$40 per person and it is open to all members of MOAA Chapters. To register on line with a credit or debit card go to website: [www.grandstrandmoaa.org/event-6275140/](http://www.grandstrandmoaa.org/event-6275140/)

Registration. NOTE: the Grandstrand Chapter is handling the registration for the Star Fort MOAA Chapter. For questions, email: [tgreenfield@wctel.net](mailto:tgreenfield@wctel.net). Cell/text (864) 377-9053. I hope to see many Charleston MOAA members present for this Conference.

There are a couple of challenges we are currently dealing with: we are still having trouble with our VENMO account. Therefore, it is not available for making luncheon reservations or renewing your annual dues for the Charleston MOAA Chapter. Our treasurer is working with the vendor to get this corrected as quickly as possible. Please keep checking on your newsletter for the latest information concerning the VENMO account returning to active duty. As always, you can pay at the door for our luncheons after you have established your reservations with Bud. Thank you for your patience.

We have an outstanding printer and mailer that we have worked with over the years. They have printed and mailed our 200+ copies of the newsletter each month without a hitch. Unfortunately, the "Renewed thru 20XX" had been left off those newsletters that are delivered by the USPS. We have contacted our vendor and they have assured us that error has been corrected and this should not happen in the future.

It is getting to that time of the year when we start looking for our members to renew their memberships for the following year(s). Please note that I did add that "s" on purpose as we do accept renewals for multiple years and not just single year renewals.

We welcome our newest member of the Charleston MOAA Chapter: CDR David Tomayko, USN (Ret). He and his wife Ann live in Mount Pleasant. His bio can be found on page 3. Please welcome them when you see them at a future luncheon.

Thank you again for your continued support to the Charleston Chapter!!

*Ernie*

## Thank You

**Lt Col Edward D. Knowles Toys for  
Tots Benefits Program  
29th Year**

***Current Toys for Tots Fund***

**\$ 1,177.28**

## **CHARLESTON MOAA CHAPTER 2025 ROTC/JROTC AWARDS**

Each year our Charleston MOAA Chapter recognizes outstanding cadets in local ROTC and JROTC programs. Chapter members present the awards in person at each program's award ceremony. Special thanks go out to Steve Rowe for printing all of the certificates and to Nick Anderson, Willis Clark, Paul Lassanske, Rich Rima, Bob Ticknor, Jerry Stout, Phil Bernstein, Marvin Pontiff, Bob McKay, Nat Rob, Ron Buchholz, David Stamps, David Zoellner, Drew Wise, Beverly Brockman and Ernie Brockman for volunteering to present this year's awards. Congratulations to all the award recipients!

### **COLLEGE**

#### **THE CITADEL**

Navy

Marine Corps

Army

Air Force

#### **CHAS SOUTHERN**

Air Force

### **NATIONAL MOAA MEDAL**

Cadet Noah Klepper

Cadet Peter Monaco

Cadet Brody McLaury

Cadet Tatiana Demcovich

Cadet Caleb Morante

### **HIGH SCHOOL**

Ashley Ridge - AF

Berkeley - AF

Cane Bay - AF

Colleton County - N

Cross - A

Fort Dorchester - AF

Goose Creek - A

Hanahan - A

James Island - AF

Lucy Beckham - CG

Military Magnet - A

North Charleston - N

Phillip Simmons - AF

RB Stall - AF

Scott's Branch - A

Stratford - A

Summerville - N

Timberland - A

Wando - AF

West Ashley - N

Woodland - A

### **NATIONAL MOAA MEDAL**

Cadet Mariah Stypula

Cadet Destinee' Sweet

Cadet Ryder Livingston

Ensign Mark Denton

Cadet Matthew Bradley

Cadet Christiana O'Neal

Cadet 2nd LT Alexa Sobrado

Cadet LtCol Sofia Bolanos-Calle

Cadet Benjamin Diephaus

Cadet Isabella Prevuznak

Cadet MaKayla Bradford

Cadet PO1 Iyonica Ravenal

Cadet Brian Stambaugh

Cadet Major Areyon Nixon

Cadet Tavashia Scott

Cadet CPT Madison Karcher

Cadet Chief Petty Officer Imari Guase

Cadet 1LT Akeirah Dodson

Cadet Jacob McAtamney

Cadet Akira Ivory

Cadet Captain Mercedes Breeland

### **OUTSTANDING CADET & \$50**

Cadet Nivea Lewis

Cadet Anthony Santos

Cadet Boston Schlink

Cadet LTCDR Lashombre Johnson

Cadet Tyra Lee

Cadet Brook Moore

Cadet 1st LT Dylan Anderson

Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Seth Parris

Cadet James Jefferies

Cadet Declan Holmes

Cadet Mar'Kayla Stafford

Cadet Ensign Jocelyn Haynes

Cadet Grant Liegl

Cadet Colonel Jaylne Manigault

Cadet Jaylen Resende

Cadet LTC Jacob Bradley

Cadet Commander Caroline Schouest

Cadet MAJ Nicholas Mitchum

Cadet Alexsii Zlati

Cadet Jason Shokry

Cadet Lt Col Demetria Riley

### **Rest in Peace Spouses**

*For Your Support to our Military  
Brothers and Sisters. Your Service is  
Recorded and Honored.*

**Mrs. Dorothy Palisi, wife of CDR Joseph J. Palisi,  
USN (Ret) passed away 18 August 2025.**

**Needs:** Ensuring timely services for military children with special needs following relocations.

**Education Policy Implementation and Information Enhancements:** Improving state communication and implementation of policies for military-connected students.

**Open Enrollment Flexibility:** Allowing military families to maintain consistent school placement despite frequent moves.

**Concurrent Juvenile Jurisdiction:** Ensuring military-connected juveniles have access to state justice systems and rehabilitative services.

**State Response to Military Interpersonal Violence:** Expanding access to protection orders and information sharing between civilian and military law enforcement.

**Military Community Representation on State Defense Councils:** Ensuring military voices are included on state-level advisory bodies focused on the defense community.

State lawmakers have the opportunity to directly improve the lives of servicemembers and their families by addressing these issues. The DSLO remains a critical resource, providing expertise, data, and advocacy to help states enact solutions that strengthen both military readiness and family well-being.

MOAA's State Legislative Exchange Forum frequently engages with members of the DSLO team to enhance their efforts by providing testimony, best practices, and advocacy at the local level. To take part in the Legislative Exchange Forum or join MOAA's grassroots advocacy at the local level, engage with our local Charleston Chapter.

### **VA Hospital Ratings Show Gains, But Challenges Remain**

The VA is reporting strong results in the latest Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) hospital quality ratings, underscoring the important role the VA direct health care system plays in serving those who have worn the uniform.

More than 75% of VA hospitals earned four or five stars in the top performance categories, according to the Aug. 29 CMS report. No VA hospital received the lowest rating, and over 90% either maintained or improved their score from last year.

"These ratings highlight the excellent care VA hospitals provide," VA Secretary Doug Collins said in the department's announcement of the scores. "Our job is to continue raising the bar for customer service and convenience throughout the department, so VA works better for the veterans, families, caregivers and survivors we are charged with serving."

The CMS ratings measure performance across five categories: mortality, safety of care, readmission, patient experience, and timely and effective care.

### **Progress and Challenges**

The VA announcement also pointed to several improvements across the department, including expanding access through the opening of new health care clinics, record processing of disability claims, and increasing investment in infrastructure. The department also continues to accelerate deployment of a modernized electronic health record system to improve care coordination across VA and community providers.

However, important challenges remain. Veterans still face long waits for some specialty care, limited access in rural areas, and persistent staffing shortages across the system.

And while expanding community care options can improve access and convenience, it also raises concerns about how to preserve VA's role as the primary coordinator of veteran-focused health care.

### **MOAA Priorities**

MOAA applauds the progress reflected in these ratings and VA's commitment to raising the quality of care. But lasting improvements require sustained investment, with support from both the department and lawmakers.

MOAA urges lawmakers in the 119th Congress to:

- Provide timely, full-year funding so the VA can carry out its mission without disruptive stopgap measures.
- Invest in the workforce, human resources, and facility infrastructure needed to meet current and future demands.
- Preserve VA's direct care system and specialized services that remain the foundation of veteran-focused health care.

The latest CMS ratings are an encouraging sign that VA health care is on the right track. But progress must be sustained and expanded. MOAA will continue to advocate for policies and resources to ensure the VA remains strong, modern, and capable of delivering the care and support services veterans have earned — today and for generations to come.

Charleston Chapter MOAA ( ) Membership Application ( ) Renewal ( ) Change of Address. Chapter Dues: \$10.00 a year for Regular membership. Surviving Spouse membership \$5.00 per year. Multiple year dues are encouraged in order to reduce paperwork. Make check payable to "Charleston MOAA". Mail to: Charleston MOAA, P.O. Box 70421, Charleston SC 29415-0421.

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_

DOB \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Service \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Member of National MOAA? Please provide your membership number \_\_\_\_\_

Your status : ( ) Retired ( ) Active Duty ( ) Reserve ( ) National Guard ( ) Former Officer ( ) Surviving Spouse Dues for Year (s) \_\_\_\_\_

How do you want to receive your newsletter ( ) US Mail (B&W) or ( ) E Mail (Full color)

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<b>ASST AWARDS DIR</b>	COL Steve Rowe, USA (thru 2025)	843-303-7438	rowe@carolinaone.com

#### REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD (Appointed by the President)

<b>CHAPLAIN</b>	Col Mark Barnes, USAF	843-327-8138	emarkbarnes@me.com
<b>EDITOR</b>			
<b>SCHOLARSHIP/Web Site</b>	Col Rudy Smart, USAF	843-834-0474	r2smart1@gmail.com

**Prospective Chapter Members:** If you are not a member of the Charleston Chapter, MOAA, you have received this copy as a courtesy invitation to contact any Officer or Director for information about joining our Chapter. News and Views herein are not necessarily those of any Government Department or another Chapter, or a Member's Chapter and non-partisan.

# Membership News

## LATEST INFORMATION

Total Members - 210  
Regular Members—168  
Honorary Members - 4  
Surviving Spouse Members - 37  
Special Members—1

Members receiving the newsletter by email 133

CHARLESTON MOAA MEMBERS: We are continuing our recruiting drive for new members. If you are uncertain of your status, just e-mail me at [brockman1982@att.net](mailto:brockman1982@att.net) and I will verify if you are current for another year or more or— if you need to pay dues for 2025. My cell number is 704-300-8739, but an e-mail is usually the best and most efficient. We value your membership and appreciate your support of our chapter.

We are continuing to keep our dues at \$10 for Regular Members and no additional charge for spouses of Regular Members. The dues are \$5 for Surviving Spouses—defined as widows or widowers of Regular Members. Please make checks payable to "Charleston MOAA" and mail to Charleston MOAA, PO BOX 70421, Charleston, SC 29415-0421.

RECRUITING UPDATE - I respectfully ask everyone to think of our Chapter when you are meeting new folks in your community, neighborhood, church or other organizations. If they are interested in joining our Chapter, and meet the criteria, I will be glad to follow-up and share more information with them. Just provide my name, number and e-mail to them or send me an e-mail with their information and I will reach out to them.

ADDRESS/EMAIL CHANGES-Please keep me advised if you have a change to your address, phone or e-mail and I will update our records. When you have requested a newsletter to be mailed to you and your address has changed or you are on vacation, the Chapter must pay a fee to the Post Office for the newsletter to have the mail released. We will be glad to use your email during your time of travel only if you prefer.

We very much appreciate everyone's support of our Chapter and should you have any questions at any time,— feel free to call me at 704-300-8739 or e-mail me at [brockman1982@att.net](mailto:brockman1982@att.net). I will be happy to answer your questions.

Thank you!  
Beverly Brockman Col, USA (Ret)  
Membership 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

## Thank You

*For your gift in support of  
Chapter programs:*

*LTC Ellen C. Beckmann, USA (Ret)\*\**

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**Many improvements were recently made,  
and the work continues.**