



Jayhawk Chapter MOAA Newsletter



This newsletter is published bimonthly by the Jayhawk Chapter of Kansas, Military Officers Association of America, as a service to all members. The Jayhawk emblem is used with the permission of the registered trademark owner, the University of Kansas. The newsletter is only as good as the material available, so each member is requested to forward news and other items of interest to the editors.

5-STAR CHAPTER

2004



May Program:

Jim Marchiony, Associate KU Athletics Director for External Relations, will talk about "The Business Behind KU Athletics."

President's Corner

by *Bob Longino*

Jayhawk Chapter Members:

I hope the spring season finds you all doing well! Hopefully not so well that you don't make it to our May dinner. Ray Finch has lined up an interesting guest speaker.

Speaking of chapter dinners, what a great turnout we had for the March dinner! It is fantastic to see the Lawrence Country Club folks scurrying around to provide seating. Let me also apologize to those of you who had problems hearing the guest speaker. The sound system in the club is not the most adequate and up-to-date system so your Board of Directors is looking into options of how we might be able improve the sound system.

Our membership has dropped slightly this year as several previous members did not renew their memberships. We will be in contact with those folks to encourage them to re-up! If you are aware of folks in the area that should be members, please give them an invitation to our May dinner. For that matter, if you know of Jayhawk Chapter members who don't usually attend, give them a call and a personal invite to join us in May!

Finally, I hope you get the chance to read the article by Harry Malnicof in this newsletter. Harry is the President of the Kansas Council of Chapters and he recently returned from a trip to Washington, D.C., and a national MOAA meeting. He put together an interesting article about his trip and what MOAA is up to currently.

See you on the 17th!

Semper Fi,

Bob Longino

Volume X, Issue 3

1 May 2005

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Inside this issue:

May Program	1
President's Message	1
Jayhawk Chapter News	2
Amy News	3
Navy News	3
Air Force News	4
Council of Chapters Report	4 - 5
MOAA Legislative Updates	5 - 8
Dinner Reservation Form	9

• Reservations should be sent to Jim Cooper by 14 May.

IF YOU NEED A RIDE TO MEETINGS, PLEASE LET US KNOW ON YOUR RESERVATION FORM



JAYHAWK CHAPTER NEWS

TAPS

Captain Russell W. Dittmar passed away 03 March 2005 at Lawrence Presbyterian Manor. He served in the U. S. Army during World War II from 1942 to 1945; during the Korean War from 1950 to 1951; and in Korea from 1961 to 1962. He received a Bronze Star and Purple Heart in Sicily and the Legion of Merit in Anzio and retired from the Army as a Captain in 1965. Following his military retirement, Russell worked for the U. S. Postal Service from 1965 to 1978. In addition to being a member of our Jayhawk MOAA Chapter, he

was a member of the Dorsey-Liberty Post 14 of the American Legion.

Russell is survived by his wife, Mary Margaret, a son, Russell W. Jr., of Marysville, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at First United Methodist Church on 07 March, with military graveside services following at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Perry. The family suggested memorials to the church, sent in care of Warren-McElwain Mortuary.



From Ardis Comfort:

Habitat for Humanity will start a house in North Lawrence next February 20th, Clay's 76th birthday, to be dedicated in late May 2006, weather permitting. It will be called "Clay's House" and the very special news, it will be one of 22 houses built on Comfort Lane and Comfort Court bisecting Walnut Street! A very special honor for him and another step in the healing process for my family.

From Alan Van Loenen:

I am a member of Btry B 3rd Kansas Civil War re-enacting artillery unit and below are the dates of some close re-enactments and/or living history events that our unit will be taking part in:

May 20-22: Shoal Creek - Hodge Park - Liberty, MO.

Aug. 19-21: Civil War Western Frontier Days - Lawrence, KS

Oct. 1-2: Harrisonville Civil War Days - Harrisonville, MO.

There many other re-enactments that Btry B 3rd KS takes part in, but these are the ones close to Lawrence.

Address Change: Bill Venohr
403 Trent Court (66049)
785-218-3418

From John Halladay:

We had a large turn-out for the Habitat Golf Tournament at Lawrence Country Club on 26 April. Thanks to the members for their contribution to Habitat in sponsoring one of the holes.

Richard Peters reports that Kathy had a hip replaced in December and since has been fighting a staph infection, for which she had to be treated at St. Francis Hospital in Topeka. Her kidneys shut down and she is now undergoing dialysis. Please keep Kathy in your prayers.

We have a few members who still have not paid their 2005 dues.

If your Newsletter label shows "04", please call Jim Cooper (842-7037) or John Halladay (843-6184) immediately; otherwise we will not be able to include you in the upcoming Membership Directory.



Army News

MAJ Jeff Maxcy

Greetings Jayhawk Chapter!

Since returning to school from spring break at the end of March, the Army ROTC unit at Kansas University has been extremely busy with training and academics. However, the cadets have not only met the challenge but excelled.

The Jayhawk Battalion conducted its spring field training exercise (FTX) the second weekend of April in the Ft. Leavenworth area. The cadets completed four land navigation courses with two courses during the day and two at night. They also participated in weapons qualification and rappelling and ran an obstacle course. Instead of only eating MREs during their three days and two nights in the field, the cadets were treated to two hot meals prepared by an MKT. The highlight was a Blackhawk ride from Ft. Leavenworth to Lawrence at the end of the FTX.

The next major event was the Ranger Buddy Team Competition on 23 April 2005 at West Campus. The cadre and cadets of the Jayhawk Battalion sponsor this event and were honored when COL Jack Humphrey, 11th Brigade Commander, attended the event. Cadets from 24 schools and nine states participated. Of the 102 teams, the three

Jayhawk male/male teams placed 17th, 19th and 42nd in their division. The highlight for the Battalion was when the Jayhawk female/female team placed first in their division!

With the major training events completed for the school year, the Jayhawk Battalion is looking forward to graduation, commissioning and summer training. We invite each of you to attend the Commissioning Ceremony at 1000 hours on 23 May 2005 to help us congratulate many new 2LTs. This summer, 20 cadets will attend the Leadership Training and Assessment Course (LDAC) at Ft. Lewis and five cadets will attend the Leadership Training Course at Ft. Knox. With the quality training these cadets have received, we know that they will do well. Check out our new website at www.ku.edu/~kurotc/ for our upcoming events.

JAYHAWKS LEAD THE WAY!

MAJ(P) Jeff Maxcy



Navy News

CAPT Rich High, USN



Greetings to the Chapter Membership.

It is hard to believe that the spring semester is almost at an end. The Navy has a lot of events scheduled over the remainder of the semester, culminating with Graduation of our 13 Seniors on 22 May followed by their commissioning ceremony the next morning, 1000 hours 23 May, at the Kansas Union Bldg. Of note, the commissioning ceremony is a joint service commissioning so not only will we have the Navy/Marine Corps graduates but also the Army and Air Force graduating seniors. I have asked Congressman Jerry Moran to be our principal speaker but unfortunately can not yet confirm his attendance. Additional events for the month of May include our Spring Semester award ceremony which takes place on 04 May at the Dole Center starting at 1530 hours. We are looking forward to having a number of corporate and organization representatives as presenters of their particular awards as well as finishing the event with our Midshipmen Battalion change of command and a follow-on reception. Last day of classes takes place on 13 May with final exams scheduled the next week.

After the commissioning ceremony our underclass Midshipmen will be getting prepared to do their various summer cruises. This is the time that many of our Kansas Midshipmen get their first real look at the "fleet". We will be sending our newest Mids to both coasts where they will have the opportunity to acquaint themselves with Naval aviation, surface ships and submarines by spending a week with each of the communities. Our upperclass Midshipmen will be spending their summer with the community of their choice to become better acclimated with what they hope will be their future active duty community once they are commissioned. For Navy ROTC this is one of our busiest periods as we prepare for commissioning and summer cruises.

I look forward to seeing you all again in May.

Sincerely,

R. D. High
CAPTAIN, USN



Air Force News

Col Mike Lee, USAF

AF ROTC Det 280

It might be a matter for debate, but sometimes I think the cadre looks forward to commissioning more than the new 2Lts! Commissioning time is here again and we will pin 16 new second lieutenants on Monday, 23 May 1000 hours at the KU Union. The lieutenants commission as pilots, navigators, intel officers, engineers, scientists, communicators, acquisition specialists, a nurse, and even a future dentist. They will be home-based in Alaska, Ohio, New Mexico, Kansas, Georgia, California, Texas and Missouri. Most will attend training for a few months or go to a flying base to await training. We may yet pick up a JAG slot and send one off to Law School. We just finished a pretty hectic April. We visited McConnell AFB for 2 days and flew refueling sorties. We planned and enjoyed our annual Dining-In, hosting a Special Operations Special Tactics Commander as speaker. We also helped plan and execute the KU Korean War memorial, provided a color guard for a brief ceremony adding a name to the Campanile, ran a Red Cross blood drive, teamed up with the Navy to clean Memorial Stadium after the Kansas Relays (proceeds going

to the local Red Cross), ran a grocery cart race at the KU Relays with all proceeds going to local foodbanks, and provided part of a 4-service color guard for Senator Dole's speech on 26 April. In all this year, the cadets supported the call for help from over 20 different organizations.

Just to keep from getting bored with so little to do, we also ran a combat survival refresher out at Clinton Lake on 22-23 April with combat survival instructors from Whiteman and McConnell AFBs. We worked with NVGs at night and vectored in live aircraft during the day. We will send 17 cadets to Field Training this summer, and another eight to other summer programs across the country. We look forward to hosting MOAA representatives at our annual awards ceremony on 10 May, then we hope to see many at the joint commissioning program on 23 May. Thanks again for all you do to support us.

Mike Lee

Colonel, USAF



FROM THE KANSAS COUNCIL PRESIDENT

I have just had the pleasure of representing the State of Kansas at the annual Council Presidents Seminar for the Military Officers Association of America in Alexandria, VA. Included as part of the seminar is what is referred to as "Storming the Hill." This is an event where the 50 state Council Presidents visit with their respective Legislators to request their support for legislation which will benefit our military veterans. The main focus for this year's effort was to request support for eliminating the offset to Survivors Benefit Pay (SBP) when a dependent is receiving Dependent and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and also to request acceleration of the 2008 effective date for the paid-up provision for SBP.

It was my hope to visit with both Senators and our four Representatives personally, but due to events out of our control only one Representative was still in town. Due to the death of the Pope, all sessions of Congress

were cancelled; therefore our legislators were either in Rome or back here in Kansas. I did get to visit with Representative Dennis Moore of the 3rd District and was successful in obtaining his support as a cosponsor of the bills to correct the inequities stated above. I pled our case to all the Military Legislative Assistants for the other legislators and requested they recommend support for our efforts and to cosponsor S. 185, H.R. 808 and 968 as appropriate. I did not receive any definite commitments on the spot but was encouraged by the tone of the conversations. I will be following up with each office to see what action they are taking. I would encourage each chapter member to contact their Senators and Representatives and request their support. We must follow-up even further if we are successful to getting their support to cosponsor the legislation by also requesting a vote in favor of the legislation if and when it comes up for a vote.

The seminar provided many opportunities to exchange ideas with other State Council Presidents. I am proud to report that, in my opinion, our Chapters in the State of Kansas are doing very well and accomplishing things that Chapters in other states would like to try. I was proud and delighted to pass on any information I could about our Best Practices.

I also had the pleasure to be one of just a few select Presidents to accept, on behalf of the Sunflower Chapter, but more specifically their newsletter editor CWO3 David Kennedy, the first place 2004 Communication award for the Category III Newsletter Competition. They only presented the competition winners at the seminar but I have been informed that our Wichita Chapter was selected as Category II, 2d runner-up for their Website submission. Congratulations are in order for these two awards.

As attendees, we had the pleasure of observing the presentation of the Arthur T. Marix Congressional Leadership Award, given by National MOAA, to Senator Mary Landrieu (LA) and Representative Jeff Miller (FL). Also, a MOAA Distinguished Service Award to the CEO of Home Depot for their support and treatment of veterans, especially those Guard and Reserve personnel who are employees and serving in

Iraq. Another highlight was to hear an address by Senator Chuck Hagel (NE) at our Thursday dinner.

It was a very fast paced and exciting three days, and MOAA National did their usual outstanding job of hosting a great seminar. We had presentations from several of their staff who prepared us well for our Storming the Hill visits. We were also very fortunate to be in Washington, D.C., at the height of the blooming of the cherry blossoms. It was just a magnificent sight to see all the trees in bloom. The most exciting and yet very somber visit was visiting the World War II Memorial. It is an outstanding memorial to our "Greatest Generation" and magnificently done and was long overdue in getting completed.

Again, it was my pleasure to represent all of you and hope I was able to accomplish the goal of support for all our military veterans and active personnel whether regular or reserve.

Harry Malnicof

Major USMC(Ret)

President, Kansas Council

MOAA LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

MOAA's Legislative Update for Friday, March 4, 2005:

Issue 1: Warner, Davis Push for Healthcare Savings

The event highlighted the reintroduction of Warner's and Davis' bills (S. 484 and H.R. 994, respectively) that would let active and retired servicemembers and survivors pay TRICARE Prime enrollment fees, TRICARE Standard supplemental insurance premiums, and TRICARE dental premiums with pre-tax dollars. This measure also would allow federal retirees to pay Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan (FEHBP) premiums with these pre-tax dollars. This "premium conversion" plan deducts premiums from paychecks before federal and state income taxes are calculated. This saves the beneficiary anywhere from 25% to 40% of the premium cost in taxes.

Issue 2: Senate Denies Military Bankruptcy Protections

At a Tuesday press conference, Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL), Evan Bayh (D-IN), and Mary Landrieu (D-LA) announced they were sponsoring an amendment to better protect service families against harsher bankruptcy penalties envisioned

under Senator Chuck Grassley's (R-IA) Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 (S. 256), currently pending before the Senate.

Senator Durbin noted that lengthy call-ups in some cases were causing "dire financial consequences" for Guard and Reserve members, particularly those who operate small businesses. He and his amendment cosponsors asserted that servicemembers driven into bankruptcy because they were called to serve their country deserve fairer treatment.

MOAA's Legislative Update for Friday, March 11, 2005:

Issue 1: MOAA Briefs Hill Staffers

Last Friday, MOAA representatives presented a special SBP briefing to House legislative staffers to educate them on remaining Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) inequities that affect older retirees and survivors of active duty and retired members who die of service-connected causes.

Issue 2: New Bills of Interest

S. 558 (Sen. Harry Reid, D-NV) would authorize full concurrent receipt of retired pay and veterans' disability compensation for all disabled retirees who were eligible to retire independent of any disability. This is the Senate counterpart of Rep. Mike Bilirakis' H.R. 303.

H.R. 772 (Rep. Jim Matheson, D-UT) would allow activated reservists who accrue two years of non-consecutive active duty within five years of Sept. 11, 2001, to qualify for full educational benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill.

MOAA's Legislative Update for Friday, March 18, 2005:

Issue 1: SBP Cosponsors Needed

In a continuing effort to win legislators' support for much-needed fixes to the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), the MOAA staff presented a special SBP briefing to educate senators' staffers on SBP inequities that affect older retirees and survivors of active duty and retired members who die of service-connected causes.

The briefing also highlighted how Congress inadvertently penalized older retirees by delaying the effective date of 30-year, paid-up SBP coverage until 2008. Under current law, retirees who signed up for SBP in 1972 will end up paying 34% more SBP premiums than a member of the same grade and years of service who retired in 1978.

Senators Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Jon Corzine (D-NJ) have joined to sponsor legislation (S. 185) that would fix both problems, effective Oct. 1, 2005. In the House, Rep. Henry Brown's (R-SC) H.R. 808 would end the SBP-DIC offset. Rep. Jim Saxton's (R-NJ) H.R. 968 would move up the effective date of paid-up SBP.

Issue 2: Death Benefit, VA Funding, Reserve Tax Credits Action

The Senate version of the Budget Resolution also included Sen. Mary Landrieu's (D-LA) plan to provide significant tax credits for employers who make up pay differentials for employees whose military pay is lower than their civilian salary. Landrieu's initiative would provide such employers tax credits equal to 50 % of the salary differential payment. It would also provide tax credits to help compensate employers who have to hire temporary workers during periods when the permanent employee is mobilized.

House and Senate leaders will now have to negotiate these and other differences between their respective versions in hopes of winning full congressional passage of a compromise resolution next month.

The House also approved its version of the FY2005 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act (H.R. 1268) this week, including a survivor benefits increase for families of members killed on active duty. The Act would increase the military death gratuity to \$100,000 and maximum Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) coverage to \$400,000. Currently those coverages are limited to \$12,000 and \$250,000, respectively.

The House-approved plan would provide retroactive benefit increases to survivors of certain members killed on active duty since Oct. 7, 2001. The additional \$150,000 insurance coverage (in the form of a "special death gratuity") would be paid to families of members who died as a direct result of illness or injury incurred "in performance of military duty" as determined by the Secretary of Defense.

Issue 3: Bill Seeks Equity for Chapter 61 Retirees

Concurrent receipt champion Rep. Mike Bilirakis (R-FL) has introduced a new initiative (H.R. 1366) to help address a long-standing inequity affecting disabled members who were forced to retire from service before serving 20 years because of combat- or operations-related conditions.

Currently, only members who served long enough to retire independent of any disability are eligible for Combat-Related Special Compensation. Those who were medically retired short of 20 years still have to forfeit \$1 of military retired pay for each \$1 they receive in VA disability compensation.

MOAA's Legislative Update for Friday, March 25, 2005:

Issue 1: MOAA Meets With HASC Chairman, Staff

On Monday, MOAA representatives met with the Committee staff to discuss more specifics on these issues and others, including:

- * TRICARE improvements;
- * Continuing combat zone pay for wounded members during hospitalization;
- * Housing allowances for Guard/Reserve members mobilized more than 30 days;
- * Concurrent receipt inequities for members designated "unemployable"; and
- * The inequity of denying military members the same pre-tax payment programs federal civilians and virtually all corporate employees enjoy to save hundreds or thousands of dollars a year on out-of-pocket health, dental, optometry, and dependent care expenses.

Issue 2: Reserve Retirement Back in the Spotlight

New Jersey legislators Rep. Jim Saxton (R-NJ) and Sen. Jon Corzine (D-NJ) have teamed up again to sponsor companion bills that would lower the age of reserve retirement eligibility from 60 to 55.

H.R. 783, the Saxton bill, was introduced on February 10 and already has attracted 62 bi-partisan cosponsors. The companion bill (S. 639) offered by Senator Corzine on March 16 has nine cosponsors. Lowering the reserve retirement age is a top MOAA legislative priority for the National Guard and Reserve components.

MOAA's Legislative Update for Friday, April 8, 2005:

Issue 1: MOAA Storms Hill for Survivors

Council and Chapter Presidents from the 50 states and Puerto Rico, accompanied by members of MOAA's national Board of Directors and headquarters staff, swarmed Capitol Hill Thursday to visit representatives' and senators' offices on key MOAA legislative initiatives.

The "Hill stormers" thanked their legislators for phasing out the SBP age-62 "widows tax" last year and urged their attention to several remaining issues affecting the military community.

The primary focus this year was on ending unfair Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) penalties affecting survivors of members who died of service-connected causes and "Greatest Generation" retirees who enrolled in SBP in the early 1970s. The MOAA representatives carried a wealth of information supporting our goal, including an information brochure outlining the problems and the needed fixes.

Issue 2: Marix Awards Honor Military Supporters

Wednesday evening, MOAA held a Capitol Hill reception to honor six men and women for their leadership on a wide range of issues affecting the military community in the past year. MOAA Board Chairman Gen. Jay Hendrix (USA-Ret.) and President VADM Norb Ryan, Jr. (USN-Ret.) presided at the ceremony.

Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA) and Rep. Jeff Miller (R-FL) received MOAA's Arthur T. Marix Award for Congressional Leadership for championing last years' successful effort to phase out the SBP annuity reduction for survivors age 62 and older.

Rep. Bill Young (R-FL) also received the Marix Award for his years of work as Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee in ensuring funding for military health care, pay and allowances and other programs, including his leadership in ending subsistence charges for hospitalized servicemembers. The Marix Award is named after MOAA's founder, Colonel Arthur T. Marix (USMC-Ret.).

The Home Depot, Inc., represented by Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Bob Nardelli, was honored with MOAA's Distinguished Service Award, presented each year to an individual outside of Congress who makes an outstanding contribution to the military community. The Home Depot makes up any salary loss suffered by the more than 1800 Home Depot employees mobilized in the war on terror and has voluntarily provided home repairs for the families of those mobilized members. It has donated \$1 million in tools to rebuild Iraq, and has hired 25,000 veterans since the beginning of 2003.

The Paul W. Arcari Meritorious Service Award, named after the MOAA Director of Government Relations who retired in 2001, recognizes extraordinary work by Congressional staff members. This year, the recipients were Mr. Mike Higgins and Ms. Debra Wada, professional staff members on the House Armed Services Committee. Their diligent efforts last year were instrumental in developing legislation to phase out the widows' tax, establish statutory protections for commissaries, and

authorize permanent military ID cards for older spouses and survivors, among other initiatives.

MOAA's Legislative Update for Friday, April 15, 2005:

Issue 1: Senate Considers Key Amendments

This week, the Senate began consideration of the FY2005 Emergency Supplemental Wartime Appropriations Act (H.R. 1268). This legislation provides supplemental funding to cover the cost of the war in Iraq as well as tsunami relief and a variety of other needs. Because it is considered "must pass" legislation, it has attracted a large number of amendments.

Action on amendments of interest to the military and veterans' community included:

- * Defeat of Sen. Patty Murray's (D-WA) initiative that would have added nearly \$2 billion for veterans' health care.

Issue 2: TRICARE For Life Under Fire

An April 14 New York Times article headlined, "A New Call To Arms: Military Health Care" (http://moaaonline.org/ct/Q7z_irK1mRMD/NYT) makes the case that the growing cost of TRICARE For Life (TFL) will create growing pressures on the defense budget in the "people vs. things" cost debate.

The article quotes Defense Department leaders and certain others in and out of government as claiming that the rising cost of health care could crowd out other defense needs.

TRICARE For Life was authorized less than five years ago because Congress recognized that military retirees had earned and deserved Medicare-supplement coverage that previously had been denied to them.

Issue 3: House Minority Leaders Announce "GI Bill of Rights."

Minority Leader Pelosi (D-CA), along with Rep. Ike Skelton (D-MO), Rep. Lane Evans (D-IL), and General Wesley Clark, USA (Ret.), introduced the legislation. Skelton serves as Ranking Member of the Armed Services Committee and Evans is the Ranking Member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

The GI Bill for the 21st Century would:

- * Eliminate the SBP-DIC offset (referred to as the "Military Families Tax" at the press conference);
- * Extend fee-based TRICARE to all members of the National Guard and Reserve forces and their families;
- * Increase VA health funding by \$3.2 billion over the administration's budget request;
- * Eliminate the "Disabled Veterans Tax" (full concurrent receipt);
- * Authorize a \$1,000 bonus for those who have served in Operations Iraqi Freedom (Iraq) and Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan); and
- * Increase educational and job training benefits under the GI Bill

"Just as soldiers leave no one behind on the battlefield, we will leave no veteran behind once they've come home," said Pelosi.

Legislation had not been introduced for the new "GI Bill of Rights" as of this writing. But, separate bills already address a number of the initiatives including SBP-DIC (S.185, H.R. 808) and TRICARE for all of the Guard and Reserve (S.337, S.32, H.R. 558). These can be viewed at: http://moaaonline.org/ct/Qdz_irK1mRMJ/Capwiz/.

MOAA's Legislative Update for Friday, April 22, 2005:

Issue 1: SBP-DIC Champion Seeks President's Support To End Offset

Late last week, Senate SBP champion, Sen. Bill Nelson, D-FL, sent President Bush a letter urging his support in ending the unfair SBP-DIC offset that affects thousands of military widows. The issue was one of several survivors' issues raised by a group of widows the President met with during a visit to Ft. Hood, Texas.

In the letter, Sen. Nelson noted that his bill, S.185, fixes the SBP-DIC offset problem and that he had filed an amendment to the Iraq Supplemental Appropriations Bill that would repeal the offset. Under current law, military survivors' SBP entitlement is offset dollar-for-dollar by their DIC entitlement - currently \$993 per month.

The unfair practice hit home with the widows of the war on terror at Ft. Hood and they let the President know it.

But Sen. Nelson's amendment was ruled "not germane" in a cloture vote on the Supplemental. Other survivor benefit upgrades however, were included in the package.

Despite the setback, work continues on building cosponsor support for the legislation. Twenty-one cosponsors are now on board S. 185, nearly double the number for a similar bill in the 108th Congress. In the House, companion bills H.R. 808 (Rep. Henry Brown, R-SC) and H.R. 968 (Rep. Jim Saxton, R-NJ), are also ahead of the last Congress' House cosponsorship of similar bills.

To help build momentum on these issues, please call your representatives using MOAA's toll-free Capitol Hill Hot Line at 1-877 762-8762. Just ask the Capitol operator to connect you to your legislator's office. Or write them by visiting MOAA's Web site at http://moaaonline.org/ct/2pz_irK1mNP/CapWiz/ and clicking on the "Cosponsor SBP Fixes" link to send your senators and representative a MOAA-suggested message.

Issue 2: Associations Meet with Senate Minority Leaders

Admiral Ryan said there was an urgent need to increase the Army's and Marine Corps' strength to relieve enormous pressure on the all-volunteer force. He warned that the force was in danger of "sliding into a ditch" if action is not taken. Ryan also thanked Senator Clinton and Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) for sponsoring legislation to extend fee-based TRICARE to all members of the National Guard and Reserve Forces. (See, S.337 http://moaaonline.org/ct/w1z_irK1mNQ/Bills/). And, he

urged support for helping surviving spouses of the war on terror by eliminating the SBP-DIC offset.

Senator Patty Murray said there was a "train wreck" coming in the VA health care system due a shortage of funds to treat thousands of new veterans from the war on terror and to maintain commitments to veterans of earlier conflicts. Senator Murray earlier had sponsored an unsuccessful amendment to earmark \$2 billion dollars for VA care from the Iraq Emergency Supplemental funding measure.

The president and CEO of the National Mental Health Association, Mr. Michael M. Faenza, urged increases to mental health services for returning combat veterans, noting there is a need for "stigma busting" over PTSD and other mental health conditions in the military and veterans community.

Issue 3: DoD Takes Next Steps To Implement Pharmacy Co-payment System.

- * Nexium® (esomeprazole), to treat stomach problems and ulcers;
- * Teveten® (eprosartan);
- * Teveten HCT® (eprosartan with hydrochlorothiazide), for high blood pressure

Depending on where the prescription is filled, beneficiaries will have a \$22 copay for a 30 day supply from a retail pharmacy (TRRx) or a 90-day supply from the mail order program (TMOP); or, the higher of \$22 or 20 percent in retail non-network pharmacies.

Third tier drugs will not be stocked in Military Treatment Facility (MTF) pharmacies, but will be special-ordered if prescribed by an MTF physician with a medical necessity determination and may be special-ordered if prescribed by a non-MTF physician to whom the patient was referred and with a showing of medical necessity.

Beneficiaries who are taking Nexium®, Teveten® or Teveten HCT® should check with their doctor to see if a less costly alternative would be equally effective. To get a medical necessity determination, providers must show a valid medical reason why a patient must take the non-formulary 3rd tier medication.

Beneficiaries who have already established medical necessity for Nexium® with the TMOP program, must get another medical necessity determination by July 17th to continue on the medication at the \$9.00 formulary cost-share. Without an updated medical necessity determination, beneficiaries must pay the \$22 cost share.

Contact the retail pharmacy (TRRx) customer service line at (866) DOD-TRRX, (866) 363-8779, or visit: http://moaaonline.org/ct/w7z_irK1mNY/TRRX. For the mail order pharmacy (TMOP) go to http://moaaonline.org/ct/wdz_irK1mNR/TMOP or call (866) DOD-TMOP, (866) 363-8667. For additional information go to the Formulary Search Tool for additional information about medications, their availability and cost at: http://moaaonline.org/ct/wpz_irK1mNT/Formulary/.



JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA



A membership meeting will be held Tuesday, 17 May 2005, at the Lawrence Country Club.
Dinner cost is **\$20.00** per meal.

If your Newsletter label still shows "04", your dues for 2005 of \$20.00 are past due.

The Program: Jim Marchiony, Associate KU Athletics Director for External Relations, will talk about "The Business Behind KU Athletics."

Social Hour: 1800 hours

Dinner: 1900 hours

The Menu: *Pork Medallions, baked potato, vegetable, rolls, salad, tea or coffee and ice cream*

Send your reservation and check payable to **Jayhawk Chapter MOAA** to arrive no later than 14 May 2005, to:
CAPT (Ret) Jim Cooper
1115 Stone Meadows Drive
Lawrence, KS 66049-3961

If you have any questions, you may contact Jim at 842-7037 or John Halladay at 843-6184.

cut here

Yes, please make _____ reservations for me and my guests. (Spouse and other guests are welcome.)
The cost is \$20.00 per meal. I am enclosing a check for \$_____ for meal(s).

2005 dues of \$20.00 are enclosed: \$_____

TOTAL: \$_____

Name

Telephone

Dinner reservations are confirmed on Monday before the Tuesday dinner. Cancellations, if necessary, should be made prior to Monday noon; otherwise, the Lawrence Country Club will charge us for those meals.

ATTENTION ALL JAYHAWK MOAA MEMBERS:

If your picture is NOT in the Jayhawk MOAA Directory [or if you're unhappy with the picture that's there], please contact John Halladay immediately – call him at 843-6184 – email us a photograph (jwhalladay@sunflower.com) or "snail-mail" us a picture (which we will scan on the computer and return to you). We want everyone to be included, but time is running out. Thanks for your input.

**TEAR OFF AND RETURN THIS FORM WITH A CHECK PAYABLE TO:
JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA**

MOAA WEBSITE: www.moaa.org
JAYHAWK CHAPTER WEBSITE: www.jayhawkmoaa.org

2005 MOAA Calendar:

Tuesday	17 May	MOAA meeting	Tuesday	15 November	MOAA meeting
Tuesday	19 July	MOAA meeting	Tuesday	17 January 2006	MOAA meeting
Tuesday	20 September	MOAA meeting			



*Newsletter Editor
Jayhawk Chapter, MOAA
2403 Manchester Road
Lawrence, KS 66049-1646*

*Remember our
Fallen Comrades
on Memorial Day*