



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.

January Program:

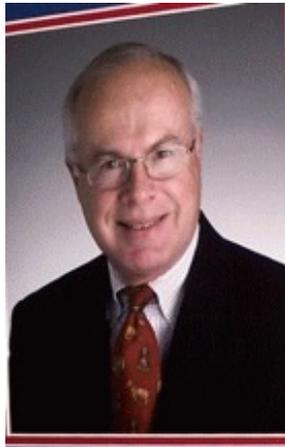
Our guest speaker (tentatively) will be Dr. Sheahon Zenger
K. U. Athletic Director

★★★★★ CHAPTER
awarded for
2002 / 2003 / 2005 / 2008
2009 / 2010 / 2011 / 2012 / 2013

★★★★★ CHAPTER
awarded for
2004 / 2006 / 2007

President's Comments. . .

With the elections of 2014 over and a new Congress coming in January, it will be even more important to follow the discussions in Washington concerning the future of the DoD Budget with a focus on the many proposed changes to military compensation and benefits coming from across the political spectrum. As all of us who have served know, it is the quality of our people that determines the success of every mission. MOAA as the premier advocate for military personnel will be a major voice in shaping this national debate. MOAA has been open to new and equitable suggestions and has been a quick, forceful and creditable voice in pointing out the strengths and weaknesses of the many ideas. We in Jayhawk can and should play a role in this debate. The information provided to us by MOAA can be very useful in providing accurate information to help in developing our personal opinions and making them known to our elected representatives. Of particular help in this effort is the information from MOAA shared with us by John Halladay via email. I strongly recommend that you read and use these.



In January I will be passing the leadership of our Chapter into the capable hands of Mike Miller. It has been both a privilege and a pleasure to be your President for the past year representing our Chapter at both the State and National level. The highlight was clearly accepting our latest Five Star Level of Excellence Award at the MOAA national meeting in Washington. It says more than I possibly could about the quality of our Chapter and its contributions to the community. I know I join each of you in pledging our ongoing support to Mike in his leadership of Jayhawk in 2015.

In closing, I want to remind everyone about our January 20th dinner meeting at the Lawrence Country Club where our new officers and board will be sworn into office. I look forward to seeing you there and again thank you for the opportunity and the privilege to lead Jayhawk in 2014.

Ed

Volume XX, Issue 1

1 January 2015

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*** Reservations should be sent
to Jim Cooper by
14 January**



JAYHAWK CHAPTER NEWS

REMINDER: Chapter Dues (\$20.00) are due in January.

Please send your check to CAPT (Ret) Jim Cooper, 1115 Stone Meadows Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049-3961

DIRECTORY NOTE: Anyone who does not have a picture in the Directory (or who would like to have a different picture), please see John Halladay at the January meeting (or you may send us a picture by e-mail – jwhalladay@sunflower.com)

From Dean Bevan: My new play, "Welcome to Happy Hill," will be performed at the Acme Theater in Maynard, Massachusetts, January 9-17.

From Ray Finch: Major John D. Finch (U.S. Army), son of Ray and Jean Finch, Lawrence, graduated from the School of Advanced Military studies, Fort Leavenworth on 4 December 2014. Besides earning a Master’s of Military Art and Science Degree, John was selected as an Honors graduate and awarded as the Iron Leader and Planner. In January 2015, John will deploy to Afghanistan for a year-long assignment as a military planner.

From Charles Heller: Michelle and I took the Grand European Viking River cruise in October. We visited five countries started in Amsterdam and finished up in Budapest.

From Gordon Longabach: Just want to thank everyone for their concerns during all my operations this year.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS:



John Mosher & Dean Bevan



Gerald & Ruth Rutledge

Mike Miller filled in for Dean Bevan on the early shift.



Ray & (Major) John Finch



John & Shirley Halladay

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.



Army News *MAJ Davis McElwain, USA*

Greetings Jayhawk Chapter!

The Fall 2014 semester has continued to be an excellent semester for the Jayhawk Battalion.

Eight of our newly contracting cadets had the distinct honor of conducting their contracting ceremony in front of thousands of their fellow students at Memorial Stadium during the Salute to Service football game. It was great to participate in the events at the game, KU's only conference win this year!



Another great development opportunity for our cadets was our annual branch orientation lab. Junior officers from multiple battalions of the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley were able to come and speak to our cadets about the wide range of different branch opportunities that are available to them. Cadets were briefed on the sixteen basic Army branches. Our cadets also had an opportunity to interact with the branches in which they are interested, asking questions and gaining valuable insight towards their career choices. For the upcoming MSIII class, these interactions will potentially shape their future service in the Army.

The Jayhawk Battalion is preparing to commission 16 new Army Lieutenants this year. Of those 16, six are



Distinguished Military Graduates, meaning they are graduating in the top 20 percent of this year's commissioning class nationwide. We are also extremely proud



of Cadet Nathan Edgar, who is ranked seventh nationally out of 5,617 cadets. Cadet Edgar and his classmates are a testament to the Jayhawk Battalion training, those who

came before them, and the legacy they will leave for those who will follow.

As we transition to the Spring Semester, we look forward to some pivotal training and our biggest event of the year, the KU Army ROTC Ranger Buddy Competition, scheduled for 18 April 2015 at Sesquicentennial Park near Clinton Lake! See our link below to this year's competition.

WE BUILD LEADERS!



Check out our website at www.armyrotc.ku.edu for more details on these events, and take a look here <http://armyrotc.ku.edu/2015-ranger-buddy-competition>. Additionally, find us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/KUArmyROTC> and follow us on Twitter: http://twitter.com/KU_ArmyROTC

ALL IN!

JAYHAWKS LEAD THE WAY!

MAJ Davis McElwain



Navy News

CAPT David Schweizer, USN



Greetings from the Jayhawk Navy!

The semester has finally come to a close here at the University of Kansas, and the Midshipmen are relieved to be done with finals and are ready to retire home for the holiday break.

As part of a new tradition, the Battalion celebrated the last Navy lab period with an ugly sweater party, as well as holding a Navy and Marine Corps inspired jeopardy competition. As a competition between classes, the seniors came into the event ready to defend last year's victory; however they and the rest of the battalion were blown out by the juniors. Pictured here is part of the winning crew, sporting their ugly sweaters. Pictured left to right starting in the back are MIDN 2/c Jourdan, Castans, Walker, Shope and Neely, with MIDN 2/c Hower, Jefferis and Fisher in the front. MIDN 2/c Richer and Officer Candidates Kaplan and Reid also supported the junior class victory, but did not make the picture.



The lab also included a new tradition - a secret Santa gift exchange. Over half of the battalion swapped meaningful presents and gag gifts, making for a welcome addition to the festivities. Credit is due to MIDN 3/c Henselman for proposing the Secret Santa idea and executing it perfectly.

A week later, members of the Battalion and I (the CO) attended a combined Navy League of Kansas City and Association of Naval Aviators dinner at the Golden Ox downtown. We were honored to be invited to this final event at the Golden Ox. The Ox has been the traditional



meeting place for Navy League events, but is sadly closing after over 50 years in business. Midshipmen from each class were eager to meet the veterans and alumni

and hear their sea stories... and of course the steaks were amazing. After dinner I gave a briefing on the status of the Unit and discussed some of the exciting new technologies our new officers will be utilizing in the fleet. I also highlighted the state of our Military Science Building (MSB), and our recent success in persuading the university to keep the building and make some needed repairs. The new year will be spent figuring out how to raise funds to modernize the MSB with new energy efficient windows and central heat/air-conditioning (~\$1.5M).

Looking forward to next semester, the battalion has yet another busy schedule including a trip to Tennessee for the University of Memphis Beale Street Drill Competition, and a new fundraising opportunity with Sporting KC. In keeping with KU basketball tradition, we will also be sending a team to dominate the Fighting Irish Basketball Invitational hosted by the Notre Dame Air Force ROTC. The upper class Midshipmen are looking forward to another "dining-in", while the whole battalion will participate in our first official "dining-out". I'll be sure to keep you updated as all of these events unfold.

*Thank you for your continued support!
Happy Holidays, Rock Chalk and Go Navy!*

CAPT David Schweizer

Happy New Year!!



Air Force News

LtCol Brian Salmans, USAF

Greetings from Det 280, the Flying Jayhawk Wing,

We have wrapped-up another great semester at Det 2890.

Our senior cadets graduating in May of 2015 have received their career field assignments. The career fields consist of an Acquisition officer, Finance officer, 2 Cyber Operations officers, a Missile Operations officer, one Logistics Readiness officer, and 3 Pilots. Their first assignment locations include: Travis AFB, CA, Los Angeles, Vance AFB, OK, Kessler AFB, MS, and Vandenberg AFB, CA.

The cadets completed a highlight of the Fall semester: The recognition of our veterans.

Joint Veterans Day activities 8-11 Nov 14:

Each ROTC det took a shift for the annual 24 hour vigil at KU's war memorials

Cadets performed push-ups in the end zone after each touchdown/field goal KU scored (a rare occasion this year, as KU won the game against Iowa State 34-14-so plenty of push-ups for the cadets)

Participated and assisted with the KU Veterans Affairs Council-sponsored Veterans Day run.

KU Dole Institute's Annual Veterans Salute (assisted with activities, one cadet/midshipman from each ROTC det spoke on the topic of family members who are veterans

Biannual Career Day-22 Officers from Whiteman AFB, Creech AFB, NV, Ft Leavenworth, and Wash DC.

Cadre update:

TSgt George White PCS'd on 17 Nov 14 for a Defense Intelligence Agency job at Charlottesville, Virginia. TSgt White has provided invaluable leadership development and administrative support for four years of cadets at Det 280. Many junior officers in the Air Force have started off their careers with a solid foundation thanks to TSgt White. A replacement NCO is tentatively scheduled to arrive in February 2015.

Capt David Rogers, from Los Angeles (DCMA), arrived in December. We look forward to his contributions to the Detachment. Among other items, he will be in charge of our recruiting efforts.

We hope you all have outstanding holidays. Feel free to stop by if you are ever in the neighborhood, I would like to hear from you.

MOAA Jayhawk Chapter, thank you again for your support. Detachment 280 is looking forward to what I know will be a very challenging and yet rewarding year of training our Air Force's future officers.

Very Respectfully,

Lt Col Brian Salmans
Commander, Air Force ROTC Det 280

MOAA LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

This is a summary of the many items MOAA produces each week on legislative activities.

Those who have e-mail receive the full Legislative Updates each week.

MOAA Legislative Update, 07 November 2014:

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Disabled Vets Not "Milking" System

I take issue with the characterization of severely disabled veterans (those with disability ratings of more than 50 percent) as somehow milking the system for federal disability payments ("Veterans caught triple-dipping on benefits," Web, Oct. 30).

The writer of the piece and Sen. Tom Coburn, Oklahoma Republican, imply that these programs are overlapping and duplicative. Nothing could be further from the truth. The three programs in question have three very different purposes.

Military retired pay is an earned benefit for serving two or more decades for your country. Compensation from the

Department of Veterans Affairs is payment for lost earning potential based on service-connected illnesses, injuries and wounds. Finally, Social Security disability insurance is a social insurance program meant to provide assistance to the severely disabled, independent of the reason for the disability, as long as the individual in question worked long enough and paid his Social Security taxes.

Congress recognized that retirees should not have to fund their own disability compensation from their earned retirement, and it did this in 2004 by eliminating for the most severely disabled retirees (more than 50 percent disabled) the offset of military retired pay by VA compensation. Congress has continued to make progress over the past decade.

As the piece notes, just 3 percent of the nation's 1.9 million uniformed service retirees collect these three benefits. Targeting someone such as the E-9 retiree who served his country for 26 years, has lost the use of his feet, is blind in one eye and has renal problems is simply wrong.

VICE ADM. NORB RYAN
U.S. Navy (retired)

VA Launches Choice Card

In an open letter to veterans, VA Secretary Bob McDonald announced the rollout of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act (VACAA) this week. In his letter, McDonald says the bill "goes a long way toward enabling VA to meet the demand for veterans' health care in the short-term. VA has put considerable focus and attention on ensuring the law is implemented seamlessly, without confusion, and without creating hardships for veterans."

The most visible outcome of VACAA, the Choice Card, will be available to veterans enrolled in VA health care as of August 1, 2014. Veterans with active duty service in a theater of combat operations within the previous five years are also eligible to receive a Choice Card.

To facilitate a smooth implementation of the new program, the card and a letter explaining eligibility for the program will be sent to beneficiaries in three phases:

- * 1. to veterans who live 40 miles from any VA health care facility;
- * 2. to those who have been waiting for their requested appointment for more than 30 days and;
- * 3. the remaining 8 million veterans are scheduled to receive a card by January 2015.

MOAA Legislative Update, 14 November 2014:

Military Health Care Gaps Identified

On Nov. 13, MOAA joined with the United Health Foundation and the RAND Corporation to release a groundbreaking study "Ready to Serve," an assessment of community-based provider ability to deliver quality care to veterans and their families.

To draw attention to these issues, MOAA co-hosted a Capitol Hill briefing to present the findings of the report to Congressional staffers. The forum included a panel of clinical mental health care experts, military family members, and researchers. They discussed the impact of the findings and implications for increasing providers' abilities to understand and treat the special needs of the military and veteran populations, especially in rural areas.

"It is crucial that our civilian mental health providers acquire the training and perspective they need to guide their practice in the care of our military, and we need to instill a sense of urgency in making this happen," said MOAA President Vice Adm. Norb Ryan, USN (Ret) in opening remarks.

Despite important strides over the past decade in improving health care in DoD and the VA, research shows that many veterans prefer to seek care in civilian networks.

The study surveyed civilian behavioral health providers to assess their knowledge, attitudes, and preferences for delivering mental health services to servicemembers, veterans, and military families.

The report found that most civilian mental health providers are not well prepared to treat – nor understand the special needs of – military veterans and their families.

MOAA Legislative Update, 21 November 2014:

COLA Watch

The November Consumer Price Index of 231.551 declined 0.7 percent for the month and 1.1 percent from the FY 2014 COLA baseline.

The Consumer Price Index for December 2014 is scheduled to be released on January 16, 2015.

Medicare/TRICARE Payment Fix

A new estimate from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) offers hope that Congress can finally tackle a long-standing Medicare/TRICARE physician reimbursement issue that continually threatens patient access to health care.

Medicare uses a formula known as the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) to annually adjust reimbursement rates to health care providers. However, the flawed formula routinely calls for reductions in physician reimbursement rates while the cost of providing health care continues to rise.

Because TRICARE rates are tied to Medicare reimbursements, this issue affects military beneficiaries of all ages. Over the years Congress repeatedly blocked the scheduled cuts with short-term fixes for a few months to a year at a time. Each time Congress passes a short-term fix and kicks the can for another year, the scheduled cuts grow in size.

If Congress doesn't act, Medicare and TRICARE reimbursement rates will be cut by 22 percent in April 2015. Such a drastic cut would devastate access to care.

The silver lining is that CBO lowered its 10-year cost estimate of freezing Medicare and TRICARE payments to physicians to \$119 billion. Repealing and replacing the existing flawed reimbursement formula permanently would cost \$144 billion.

These numbers seem daunting, but represent a significant reduction in previous estimates to the cost of reform. Previous estimates ranged anywhere from \$250 to \$300 billion over ten years. Finding the funding offset to pay for a long term fix – either through revenue increases or spending cuts – has proven unsuccessful.

Because Congress has historically waited until the last minute to provide short-term patches, the threatened cuts create uncertainty for thousands of physicians around the country. This uncertainty has led some providers to refuse Medicare and TRICARE patients.

MOAA has consistently advocated for a permanent fix to the SGR formula. CBO's lower scoring provides a possible opportunity for a long-term legislative solution to establish a sustainable and workable payment system. Act now and send your legislators a MOAA-suggested message asking them to work towards a bipartisan, long-term Medicare/TRICARE fix.

MOAA Legislative Update, 26 November 2014:

Civilianizing Retirement

A new military retirement study by the Rand Corporation claims DoD could save as much as \$4.4 billion a year by revamping the system. The savings would be the result of increasing compensation levels earlier in a servicemembers' career and reducing future retirement benefits.

"The military system, with vesting at 20 years, may be perceived as out of step with civilian employers—a disparity, if not an outright inequity," the study says.

The study proposes two different reform concepts:

- * Provide a smaller immediate annuity to retirees after reaching 20 years of service, when a servicemember can begin a second career. The retirement benefit would increase upon full retirement in the retiree's early 60s.

- * Reduce the multiplier used to calculate retirement, lowering retirement compensation across-the-board.

In order to make up for the reduce retirement benefits, the study calls for three new cash incentives:

- * A 401(k)-type defined contribution plan with full vesting after six years of service
- * A cash retention bonus around twelve years of service
- * A lump sum transition payment after twenty years of service

The study suggests some of today's personnel might welcome an end-of-career payout in exchange for smaller monthly retirement payments upon leaving the service.

The study notes that junior servicemembers are more likely to be in favor of the retirement concepts than mid-career and senior servicemembers. This is understandable. Junior servicemembers are less likely to have made career decisions and are less likely to understand the total overall value of the military retirement benefit.

MOAA believes that the military retirement system is the only offset the country can offer for 20 plus years of service and sacrifice. It takes an exceptional benefit package to induce high-quality people to serve two or three decades in uniform under arduous conditions.

To its credit, the study did note some positives of the current retirement system. "The current system has advantages, however, not the least of which is that it has generally enabled the services to meet their manning requirements over the past 70 years... The system provides a predictable and stable career force to the services and provides advantages to servicemembers. The defined-benefit feature of the current system, backed by the federal government, is low-risk and predictable, and the immediate annuity to qualified personnel provides a transition benefit to members as they embark on their second career in the civilian world."

Any change to the current military retirement system will require congressional approval.

MOAA believes that Congress should wait and hear from the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC) before making any substantive changes to the retirement system. The MCRMC is scheduled to release its recommendations in February 2015. MOAA plans to be involved in the deliberations that could affect the retirement benefit for those in uniform.

MOAA Legislative Update, 05 December 2014:

Obama Taps New SecDef

On December 5, President Obama nominated Ashton Carter to replace Chuck Hagel as Secretary of Defense. Carter previously served as the Deputy Secretary of Defense for both Leon Panetta and Chuck Hagel.

His career includes several stints in the Pentagon with time spent as Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, and as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Global Strategic Affairs.

If confirmed by the Senate, Carter would be able to hit the ground running with his years of experience navigating the Pentagon bureaucracy.

His confirmation is expected to be non-controversial as he's earned respect from key senators on both sides of the aisle.

"MOAA looks forward to working with Mr. Carter if he's confirmed as the next Secretary of Defense. Managing the defense department through the indiscriminate cuts of sequestration and ongoing conflict is no easy task. We're keen to strike a productive partnership with the new secretary to ensure we preserve the nation's greatest weapons system – our men and women serving in uniform," said MOAA President Vice Adm. Norb Ryan, USN (Ret).

Protecting Mustang Officers

The Army involuntarily separated nearly 1,200 Army Captains and 550 Army Majors in 2014 as part of its ongoing drawdown efforts. Many of the officers forced out of the service began their career as enlisted soldiers.

Some of these "mustang" officers with 20 or more years of service are forced to retire.

Unfortunately, current statute requires these servicemembers to have at least eight years of service as a commissioned officer to retire as an officer. Those failing to reach that threshold are retired at their last enlisted rank. The financial impact to these officers is significant—some will see a loss of more than \$1,000 a month in retired pay compared to the "high-three" average typically used to calculate retired pay.

Several members of Congress have called this process out as an unfair travesty to those who answered the call and served honorably as officers – many during the height of the Iraq war surge.

Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-Penn.) is stepping up to introduce the Proudly Restoring Officers of Prior Enlistment Retirement (PROPER) Act. The bill would modify existing discharge authority to allow military officers appointed from the enlisted ranks with at least 20 years of service to retire as an officer with only four years of service as a commissioned officer.

Alternatively, Sens. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.) along with 13 other senators wrote a letter to the Secretary of the Army John McHugh asking him to rework the policy to avoid separating these officers until they reach the eight year service requirement.

In a show of support for his proposed legislation, MOAA President Vice Adm. Norb Ryan, USN (Ret) sent a letter to Rep. Thompson strongly encouraging him to move forward with the PROPER Act legislation.

MOAA will continue to monitor this legislation and push for its passage if the problem isn't rectified by the Army.

MOAA Legislative Update, 12 December 2014:

Spending Bill Includes Major Wins

In a bit of high tension on Thursday night, the House of Representatives narrowly avoided derailing a \$1 trillion funding measure to keep the government open. With only hours before the government was set to shut down, Congressional leaders cleared a major hurdle before finalizing the agreement.

Part continuing resolution (CR) and part omnibus appropriation bill, the funding measure has been dubbed a "cromnibus" by Washington insiders.

The CR will keep the government running for a few days while Congress finishes an omnibus appropriations package funding 11 out of 12 federal agencies until October 1, 2015.

In a major win, the omnibus proposal includes two year advanced appropriations for VA benefit programs through FY

2016. These accounts include VA compensation and pensions, readjustment benefits such as the GI bill, and insurance and indemnities for survivors.

This comes in addition to advance funding for VA health care, which MOAA helped secure in FY 2010.

The VA advanced appropriation effort was championed by Senate Appropriations Chairwoman Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.), who worked closely with MOAA and other service groups on the measure. The provision will ensure veterans and survivors benefit checks would continue in the event of a future government shutdown, and allow important VA research programs to continue unhindered by annual budget negotiations.

With House passage late Thursday, the bill is expected to clear the Senate in the next few days. The measure includes \$554 billion for DoD, slightly less than what President Obama originally requested.

In another win for the military community the deal protects the commissary benefit. It restores \$90 out of the \$100 million in commissary funding originally cut by the defense authorization bill. This will help commissaries maintain adequate staff levels and operating hours.

Failure to pass a funding measure would have resulted in another short term CR, or worse, a government shutdown. CRs significantly reduce the ability of the services to provide necessary training, and place considerable stress and uncertainty on the active duty force.

On the budget deal, MOAA's Director of Government Relations, Col. Mike Hayden, USAF (Ret) praised the inclusion of VA advanced appropriations, "We applaud Congress and especially Senator Mikulski for looking out for the best interests of our nation's veterans. VA advanced appropriations will ensure veterans' health care and compensation programs are not held hostage by future partisan budget debates."

MOAA Legislative Update, 19 December 2014:

COLA Free Fall

The November Consumer Price Index of 231.551 declined 0.7 percent for the month and 1.1 percent from the FY 2014 COLA baseline.

The Consumer Price Index for December 2014 is scheduled to be released on January 16, 2015.

Mortgage Foreclosure Relief

Lawmakers unanimously approved legislation late last week by Senator Whitehouse (D-R.I.) and Rep. Alan Grayson (D-Fla) to protect servicemembers from foreclosure.

The measure extends until January 2016 a provision that ensures troops who serve on active duty are protected against losing their home for one year following the completion of their service.

In 2008, Congress first extended the period of foreclosure protection under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) from 90 days to 9 months in response to a report by the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves. The report found that "the threat of foreclosure is a stressor that need not be placed on members of the armed forces during the first months of their return to civilian life."

The original bill sought to make the one-year protection permanent law in the SCRA, an objective still sought by MOAA and our partners in The Military Coalition.

The extension largely affects members of the National Guard and Reserves called to active duty. As of December, almost 29,000 Guard and Reserve members are serving on active duty and over 902,000 have served on active duty since September 11, 2001.

MOAA Legislative Update, 24 December 2014:

Military Hiring Tax Break Extended

On December 16, the Senate cleared a \$41.6 billion package of temporary tax breaks (H.R. 5771) for the 2014 tax year.

The bill contains more than 50 tax breaks. Individual tax extensions which may affect MOAA members include:

- * the deduction of mortgage insurance premiums
- * the deduction of state and local general sales taxes in lieu of state and local income taxes; and
- * the exemption of distributions from individual retirement accounts for charitable purposes

In addition, the extender package includes an issue MOAA has long advocated for – providing employers of National Guard and Reserve personnel with tax breaks as incentives to hire and retain them.

The Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW) to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 first created such incentives for employers to help reduce veteran unemployment.

H.R. 5771 extends business tax credits for differential wage payments to employees who are active duty members of the Uniformed Services and the work opportunity tax credit through tax year 2014.

Studying Military Spouse Employment

On to Capitol Hill

In March the MOAA Spouse Team traveled to Capitol Hill to present the research results to congressional staffers representing the offices that make up the Congressional Military Family Caucus.

The House FY 2015 Defense Bill

In May, citing the results from the MOAA and IVMF Military Spouse Employment Report, Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash) and Congressman Sanford Bishop (D-Georgia) co-chairs of the Congressional Military Family Caucus introduced an amendment to the FY 2015 Defense Bill calling for improved data collection on the efficiency of the DoD programs addressing the employment challenges faced by military spouses. According to McMorris Rodgers, improved data collection will "allow us to address the complex challenges of military spouses' employment."

The Law

MOAA was pleased this amendment was included in the final defense bill. The results of the 2013 Military Spouse Employment Report demonstrated an urgent need for a concerted effort to reduce the numerous employment challenges facing military spouses, especially unemployment and underemployment.



JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA



A membership meeting will be held **Tuesday, 18 November 2014**, at the Lawrence Country Club.

Dinner cost is **\$24.00/meal**.

The Program: Our guest speaker (tentatively) will be Dr. Sheahon Zenger
K. U. Athletic Director

Social Hour: 1800 hours Dinner: 1845 hours

**The Menu: Steak, vegetable, rolls, salad,
tea or coffee and dessert**

Send your reservation and check payable to Jayhawk Chapter MOAA
to arrive no later than **Wednesday, 14 January 2015**, to:
CAPT (Ret) Jim Cooper - 1115 Stone Meadows Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049-3961

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

If you have any questions, you may contact Jim Cooper 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 **\$24.00 per meal**. I am enclosing a check for \$_____ for meal(s).

Chapter Dues (**\$20.00**) are due 01 January 2015 \$_____

Clayton L. Comfort Award program contribution \$_____
(Separate check made out to "KU Endowment")

TOTAL: \$_____

Name _____ Telephone _____

IF YOU NEED A RIDE TO MEETINGS, PLEASE LET US KNOW HERE _____

AND GIVE US YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

**TEAR OFF AND RETURN THIS FORM WITH A CHECK PAYABLE TO:
JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA
CAPT (Ret) Jim Cooper, 1115 Stone Meadows Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049-3961**

MOAA WEBSITE: www.moaa.org

KANSAS COUNCIL WEBSITE: www.kansasmooa.org

JAYHAWK CHAPTER WEBSITE: www.jayhawkmoaa.org

**Thank you for receiving
the newsletter via e-mail !!
It saves the Chapter for both
printing and postage.**

Tentative 2015 Meeting Schedule:

Tuesday 20 January 2015
Tuesday 17 March 2015
Tuesday 19 May 2015

Tuesday 21 July 2015
Tuesday 15 September 2015
Tuesday 17 November 2015



One Association, One Voice. Yours.

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

IN GOD WE TRUST