



**Capitol Area Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
Timely Topics**

Chapter Website: [www.cacmoaa.org](http://www.cacmoaa.org)  
(Vol 2018 No. 10)

**2018-2020**

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**December MOAA Dinner**

**When: Thursday, 13 December 2018**

**Where: Crowne Plaza Hotel 925 South Creyts Road, Lansing MI (at I-496)**

**SOCIAL HOUR: 6:00 PM, DINNER: 6:30 PM, PROGRAM: 7:30 PM**

**December 2018 Menu Selections:**

- (1) Signature Steak prepared medium, w/whipped potato & green beans**
  - (2) Stuffed Chicken breast with apple and bread stuffing, served with cranberry relish, whipped potato and green beans**
  - (3) Roast Pork with Michigan Cherry glaze, whipped potato and green beans**
- romaine salad and peppermint cheesecake served with all selections**

**Make your reservations by SUNDAY, 9 December 2018**

**On line at [www.cacmoaa.org](http://www.cacmoaa.org) or contact CW4 Tony Kruckeberg,  
[armyblkhawk@yahoo.com](mailto:armyblkhawk@yahoo.com), or 517-575-9386**

**Include # of attendees. Cost is \$25.00.**

**Make checks payable to Capitol Area Chapter MOAA**

**Important Reminder: Dental Plan Transition from TRICARE  
Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) to FEDVIP!**

Enrollment for participation in the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) is between 12 November and 10 December 2018. The current TRDP expires on 31 December and enrollment in FEDVIP is not automatic! You can go online to [www.TRICARE.benefeds.com](http://www.TRICARE.benefeds.com) or call (877) 888-3337 for more information.

**December Program**

Our chapter welcomes the Home School Music Association Chancel Choir to perform a Holiday Music Program for our listening pleasure!

Please plan ahead to join us for our Holiday Program and our last meeting for 2018!



**Want to get away?**

The Armed Forces Vacation Club (AFVC) is an organization with the mission of allowing veterans and their families reduced cost vacations to some of the most sought-after vacation spots in the country and the world.

Eligibility: Active duty or retired members of the United States Armed Forces, or an adult dependent, as well as civilian employees of the DOD or adult dependent.

You can book one week stays for as little as \$349.00 per week stay.

The AFVC website also includes links to Space A travel opportunities!

Contact them at [www.afvclub.com](http://www.afvclub.com) or by phone at (800) 724-9988



# NEVER STOP SERVING

## VA Secretary Hints At More Changes Coming In Early 2019

Since his swearing-in ceremony on July 30, Veterans Affairs Secretary, Robert Wilkie has demonstrated his leadership style by getting out and about - continuously. From visiting the [VA Medical Centers](#), to attending the [Military Family Summit](#), Wilkie is making sure he is visible and hears all voices in VA. Last month, Wilkie attended a VA Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs meeting with veteran service organizations, including MOAA, where legislative priorities were shared.

Wilkie reflected on his first months as secretary and the progress that has been made thus far. He also hinted at upcoming changes. Wilkie's overarching commentary focused on the fact that VA is an enormous organization and that changes must be made in phases. These changes would then only be implemented after Wilkie is convinced that the outcomes to veterans will be free of glitches, errors, and problems. Towards that goal, VA's [new Electronic Health Record](#) is being tested in Washington and Alaska to work out any glitches before it goes nationwide.

Wilkie made clear VA must undergo what he termed "business transformations" in order to better serve veterans. One example he provided is improving supply chains to VA Medical Centers. In 2017, VA made 4 million purchases using credit cards for items such as medical supplies. Wilkie has started reviewing DoD supply practices to determine if there is a more efficient system.

During the October meeting with Wilkie, MOAA representatives took the opportunity to stress the importance of VA and DoD collaboration in addressing matters of toxic exposures to current conflict veterans, specifically when it comes to their healthcare and benefits.

Electronic Health Records should alleviate challenges servicemembers face in proving toxic exposures. As documented by MOAA in previous articles, Blue Water Navy Veterans from Vietnam have struggled to prove their exposure to Agent Orange. With the EHRs, a servicemember's records could easily transition as he or she leaves service.

Wilkie expressed a desire to make Vet Centers, which offer counseling and referral services for combat veterans, more robust. He also wishes to "widen" the Veterans Choice Program, which enables veterans to receive care from a community provider instead of the VA (provided they have VA authorization).

Hinting at more transformations to come, Wilkie said that he is working with the President and more changes will be announced in January at the next State of the Union address. One issue that might be addressed by the President is access standards for VA and DoD being shortened to seven days for primary care appointments. MOAA will remain engaged with VA and its continued efforts towards transformation.

### Capitol Area Chapter Supports Toys For Tots

In the spirit of giving and continuing to serve our community, we are asking each member to bring or send a new unwrapped toy to our December meeting. Your contributions will go to the Lansing Michigan Toys For Tots, coordinated by Sgt Glenn Schroeder.

Please take this time of year to contribute to those less fortunate and experience the joy of giving to those that need and appreciate your generosity!!

Your local Capitol Area Chapter and National MOAA are nonpartisan groups representing all members regarding legislative issues and current events affecting you and your community! For more information regarding issues that affect you and your family members please use this link: [HTTP://takeaction.moaa.org](http://takeaction.moaa.org) or call: (800) 234-6622, or (703) 549 2311

### Newsletter

Help the chapter reduce newsletter costs by requesting an email version in lieu of a printed copy. If you are able and would like to get this via email, or if you need some help with it, contact me at [moaaeditor@gmail.com](mailto:moaaeditor@gmail.com) or call me at 517-526-2406.

### Executive Board Meeting


6 December 2018, 1130 at  
Piazzano's, 1825 North GR, Lansing

### Membership

For membership inquiries please use this link: [www.cacmoaa.org](http://www.cacmoaa.org), for eligibility or other questions regarding membership please contact: Jim Sigmon at: 517 582 0962

Support our sponsors!! Let them know you are a MOAA member and you were made aware of them through this newsletter!! They help us keep our organization meet our goals and support our community!

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### **Annual Chapter Dues**

2019 local dues for Chapter Members are due 1 January 2019. They are \$10 per year with a late fee of \$5 assessed after 1 February 2019. An auxiliary member who is a surviving spouse does not pay dues. Chapter dues are used for the newsletter, donations to charitable organizations, and general operating expenses.

This is NOT your MOAA national membership dues. A **huge thanks** to all who have already paid. Please make checks payable to CAC MOAA and send to Maj DeLee Dankenbring, [992 Pennine Ridge Way, Grand Ledge, MI 48837-9808](#). You can also mail any scholarship donations to the same address. If you have any questions, please feel free to call her at 517-614-6090 or email [deleemarie@aol.com](mailto:deleemarie@aol.com).

### **Support Our Scholarship Program!! Support Kroger Card Drive!!**

**We continue to increase our enrollment in the Kroger Community Rewards Program! Thank you for all of your support and thank you in advance for signing up for this valuable program. We will have computers our next meeting to help anyone needing assistance with joining the program. Our chapter non-profit Organization number is: JR311, use this number when contacting Kroger for assistance.**