



NEVER STOP SERVING

TIMELY TOPICS

Capitol Area Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
Chapter Website: www.cacmoaa.org

Vol 2024 No 6

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June Picnic

Please join us for the June picnic as we celebrate the official return of summer in Michigan! As is our tradition, we are honoring our scholarship winners and their families. Besides having great fellowship and an excellent meal, we will also be discussing upcoming programs for the fall, and taking any suggestions you may have for future meetings. Always remember our organization not only supports charities and other causes, it supports you, our local membership, with quality programs. **Please confirm your reservations as soon as possible** so we can get an accurate count for ordering our dinner meal.

June 2024 CAC MOAA DINNER Meeting

When: Thursday, 13 June 2024

Where: Meridian Central Park Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos (Just north of the Meridian Mall)
SOCIAL MIXER (beverages and snacks provided): 5:30 p.m. BUFFET: 6:30 p.m.
Hamburgers, Hot dogs, with chips, salads, and drinks. Cost is \$25

Please RSVP by Monday, 10 June to www.cacmoaa.org or contact: Tony Kruckeberg at (517) 575-9386, or email at armyblkhawk@yahoo.com



**** LAST ISSUE OF MAILED NEWSLETTER ****

If you are currently receiving the newsletter via USPS and did NOT return the preference postcard, this will be your last issue. If you want to continue to receive the newsletter, email Maj Dankenbring at deleemarie@aol.com or text / call at 517-614-6090 and choose USPS or email. If you choose email, include your email address.

2024 CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP/ BOOK AWARD RECIPIENTS

It is with great excitement and pride that the Winners of our Chapter Scholarships are announced as follows: (Chapter member in parentheses)

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD of \$1200 each awarded to:

- Josie Longcore (CW5 Tom McBeath)
- Anna Longcore (CW5 Tom McBeath)
- Sydney Zaagman (COL Joe Mika)
- Teresa Repichowski (MG Steve Repichowski)
- Madeline Moore (COL David Herring)
- Annemarie Moore (COL David Herring)
- Maverick Cassani (child of a disabled veteran)

BOOK AWARD of \$300 awarded to:

- Owen Atkins (CW5 Tom McBeath)

The CAC MOAA Scholarship Committee would like to thank all of the donors that made these awards possible. All awards will be presented at the June Picnic.

New DoD Malpractice Rule Could Mean More Money for Service members, Vets

The Pentagon is tweaking its formula for calculating payments to U.S. service members for medical malpractice claims, a move that could put more money in the pockets of affected troops and veterans. The Defense Department currently reduces the amount it pays for medical malpractice settlements by the amount of DoD pay or [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) disability compensation the service member receives. The practice is known as an offset. Under the new rule, the offset would apply only to the estimated amount of a service member's lost wages or future income and not to the amount awarded for other damages such as pain and suffering, disfigurement or other harms.

Pentagon officials said in the final rule that, until now, claimants who had little or no economic damages would be unable to recover any money if the pay or disability compensation they receive exceeds the total amount of potential and noneconomic damages. Now, affected troops will be able to completely recover noneconomic damages. "The amendments to the regulation will allow some service members to receive compensation for noneconomic damages that they would not have been able to receive under the current regulation," DoD officials wrote in the rule. "The amendments afford some service members additional compensation."

In October, the Pentagon [raised the amount of money troops could receive](#) for noneconomic damages from \$600,000 to \$750,000. Economic damages, such as loss of wages as a result of malpractice, remain uncapped. According to the Defense Department, offsets were applied to just four claims that were decided in 2021 and 2022. (The DoD based its rule only on the information available early in the creation of the program.) In half of the claims, the economic damages were larger than the offsets so the new rule would not have changed the payout. But it would have affected the remaining two, with \$200,000 more being allotted in one case and \$100,000 more to the other.

Until 2021, service members were not allowed to file claims for medical malpractice or sue the Defense Department over injuries or illnesses that occur while on active duty. Troops still aren't allowed to file lawsuits over medical malpractice under the Feres Doctrine, set by a 1950 Supreme Court decision that protected the military and its officials from liability for combat-related injuries, although family members may file claims and lawsuits in civil court under the Federal Tort Claims Act. Legislation passed in 2019 allowed service members to file claims for injuries over malpractice at military treatment facilities. [Army](#) Master Sgt. Richard Stayskal, for whom the legislation was named, was [denied the claim](#) he filed against Womack Army Medical Center at [Fort Liberty](#), North Carolina -- then Fort Bragg -- which did not follow up on a suspicious lump. He was later diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. Stayskal and his wife filed claims for \$20 million for pain and suffering. His subsequent appeal also was denied. His attorney, Natalie Khawam of Whistleblower Law Firm in Tampa, said Thursday that her client was told that the Army had "breached standard of care" but did not commit malpractice. Stayskal currently has no recourse to appeal his ruling. Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., introduced a bill last year that would allow service members to take their medical malpractice claims to federal court. The bill has 27 sponsors but has not been considered by the House Judiciary Committee. "People have the right to sue if they are victims of malpractice, except for service members. It's time to stop treating them like second-class citizens. It's got to stop," Khawam said during an interview Thursday.

****REMINDER****

Bring your cleaned and bagged bottles and cans to our next meeting to support chapter initiatives!

Executive Board Meeting

Thursday, 6 June 2024 @ 11:30 am - 1:00 pm @ Piazzano's restaurant, 1825 N. Grand River Ave, Lansing

2024-2026
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Support our Sponsors

The individuals and companies below provide support for our Capitol Area Chapter. We encourage you to support them through your patronage. When doing so, please mention that you saw their advertisement in our monthly newsletter!!



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Membership

For membership inquiries please use this link: www.cacmoaa.org. For eligibility or other questions regarding membership please contact Bruce Bahr at (517) 526-2406. **Why join?** <https://youtu.be/42YD9d8W15Q>

CAC Mission Statement

Our mission is to support legislative and charitable initiatives at the local, state, and national levels to enhance our families, communities and country.

Support our Scholarship Program with a Kroger Card!!

We continue to increase our enrollment in the Kroger Community Rewards Program! Thank you for all of your support in signing up and shopping with Kroger. For those interested in beginning the program, our chapter non-profit organization number is: JR311, use this number when contacting Kroger for admission to the program and Kroger will donate a portion of your purchase to the CAC MOAA chapter scholarship fund.

Veterans Crisis Line

The Veterans Crisis Line connects veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call (800) 273-8255 and press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available.

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> or call (800) 234-6622/(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 to and would like to get this via email, or if you need some help with it, contact me at moaaeditor@gmail.com or call (517) 526-2406