

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT INFORMATION AND PRIORITIES

- Periodically, MOAA will lobby Congress to take legislative action to preserve our retiree benefits. The probability of favorable legislative action is in direct proportion to the number of voters who register support. MOAA sometimes includes postcards and letters in its magazine (Military Officer) for us to sign and mail to our representatives (identified for us). The MOAA Newsletter may also include an online access to act. It is imperative that we do so. To access the MOAA Newsletter go to the MOAA website at [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org) and select the News and Info tab, followed by selecting Newsletters.
- The MOAA Newsletter “is an award-winning member-only e-newsletter subscription to provide information on topics most important to you. Whether you’re looking for updates on current legislative issues, want to know more about your military benefits, or just interested in the latest MOAA events, you can tailor your newsletter to align with your specific needs and interests.” It is included with your MOAA membership. If you are not registered with MOAA National for this, call the front desk (800) 234-6622, and you'll be guided on how to receive the newsletter on a desired schedule. Have your MOAA National membership number available. If you don't have email or have questions on obtaining this information, contact COL (Ret) Max Johnson at [mwjohanson64@verizon.net](mailto:mwjohanson64@verizon.net) or 703-508-3788.
- Our Chapter periodically publishes Legislative Updates for all members and works with MOAA to recommend to members that they support MOAA legislative initiatives by contacting their legislators. MOAA staff and Chapter members meet with members of Congress annually. You may review important MOAA legislative issues and activities on the MOAA website by visiting the Take Action section at [www.moaa.org/takeaction](http://www.moaa.org/takeaction) .
- National MOAA and the Falcons Landing Chapter, MOAA, are politically nonpartisan but seek to remain informed on political matters of concern to veterans at both the state and local levels.

# MOAA'S ADVOCACY PRIORITIES FOR RETIREES IN THE 118TH CONGRESS

Ensuring pay at or above Employment Cost Index, allowances, and programs necessary to recruit and retain a quality force.

Concurrent Receipt of military retirement pay and VA disability pay.

Maintaining the hold on medical billet reductions until required reports clarify how any cuts will fully support both readiness and beneficiary access to care.

Reversing the degradation of the pharmacy benefit, specifically ensure access and achieve limits to copay increases.

Requiring DoD to establish a transparent and well-publicized problem reporting system for TRICARE beneficiaries experiencing access challenges within the direct care system of military hospitals and clinics, including an annual report to Congress.

Monitoring recent major legislation enacted such as the PACT Act in the areas of health care, compensation, and follow-on support for surviving spouses and families and seek statutory or policy changes as required.

Compelling Congress and VA to accelerate caregiving and whole health care services, and modernization of VHA workforce and facility infrastructure to improve veterans access to high quality care.

Improving congressional support for uniformed services families: enhancing programs to support spouse employment, ensuring implementation of an effective basic needs allowance, and providing accessible, affordable childcare options.

Overcoming the lack of effective problem-reporting mechanisms and resolution systems in the Military Health System.

Repealing the recoupment of last month's paycheck after retiree's passing, and continue to improve SGLI/VGLI updates to match inflation.

Improving DIC baseline to align with other government entitlements' baseline of 55%.

# VIRGINIA JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL APPROVED INITIATIVES FOR 2023

## ***FALCONS LANDING MOAA CHAPTER, AS A MEMBER OF VCOC, SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING INITIATIVES:***

- ***JLC 2023-01 Expand Tax Relief for Surviving Spouses of Military Service Members to also include “Died in the Line-of-Duty”***
- ***JLC 2023-02 Amend Real Property Tax Exemption Effective Date to date veteran is eligible (not earlier than 1/1/11)***
- ***JLC 2023-03 That the Governor and General Assembly remove the 55-year age limitation on exemption of military retirement income from state tax***
- ***JLC 2023-04 Appropriate \$400,000 (GF) for State Veterans Cemeteries; Eliminate Spouse/Dependent and Guard/Reserve Burial Fees***
- ***JLC 2023-05 That the Governor and General Assembly grant free admission to Virginia State parks to members of the Virginia National Guard.***
- ***JLC 2023-06 Virginia National Guard Income Tax Exemption That the Governor and General Assembly adjust/increase the amount of income excluded from State Income Tax from \$3,000 to \$6,000 and increase the pay grade eligibility to LTC (O5 pay grade).***



## **VIRGINIA TAX EXEMPTION FOR MILITARY RETIREES SIGNED BY GOVERNOR YOUNGKIN**

- **Virginia military retirees 55 years and older will be able to keep more of their retirement income thanks to language in the state budget passed this spring by the state's General Assembly.**
- **Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed on June 21 the two-year budget, which exempts the first \$10,000 in military retirement income in the 2022 tax year. This number will jump to \$20,000 in 2023, \$30,000 in 2024, and \$40,000 in 2025 and beyond. The new law also applies to surviving spouses of military retirees. That's an estimated \$575 in tax relief per \$10,000 of exemptions, according to MOAA Virginia Council of Chapters State Legislative Affairs Chair Col. Monti Zimmerman, USA(Ret).**
- **Retirees from the U.S. Public Health Service or NOAA will not be eligible for exemptions.**