



Legislative Update

MOAA and Councils & Chapters in 2026

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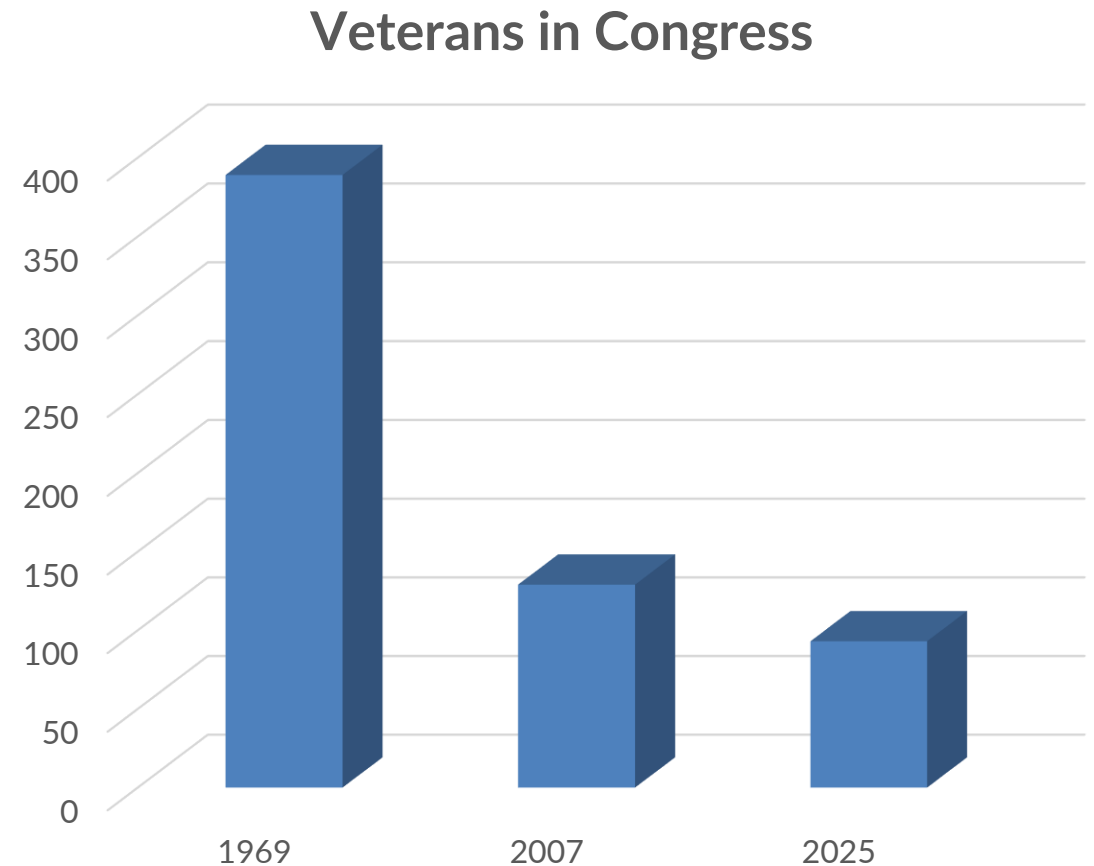


Agenda

- Overview - Why Advocacy?
 - MOAA's Mission
 - Grassroots Advocacy
- Legislative Update
 - Tier 1 Priorities for 2026
 - Other Legislation
 - Summer Advocacy in Action (AiA) 2026
- Council and Chapter Advocacy Resources
- General Discussion

Why Advocacy? – MOAA's Mission

- MOAA's mission: protect earned pay, benefits, and quality of life
- Federal funding is competitive
- Military experience in Congress is at historic lows
 - 389 in 1969 – 73%
 - 129 in 2007 – 24%
 - 96 veterans serving today in Congress – 18%
- The all-volunteer force depends on staying competitive with private-sector pay



Why Advocacy? – Grassroots Advocacy

- You are the bridge — lawmakers respond to constituents
 - Examples: Honoring Our PACT Act, repeal of the Widow's Tax
- Sustained Council/Chapter engagement is what makes rapid mobilization possible
 - Direct Engagement — office visits, lawmaker briefings
 - Public Voice — local media, op-eds, town halls
 - Building the Base — information sessions, recruiting advocates
 - Mass Mobilization — legislative action alerts, phone banking

Year in Review – Legislative Landscape and Tier 1 Priorities

- Congress remains in a challenging operational state – legislation is often in deadlock
- Nevertheless, we have seen progress.

Tier 1 Priorities for 2026

- **Currently Serving:**
 - Shutdown Fairness Act (S. 3168 / H.R. 7137)
- **Retirees/Veterans:**
 - GUARD VA Benefits Act (H.R. 1732)
- **Family/Survivors:**
 - Improve and Enhance the Work Opportunity Tax Credit Act (H.R. 6231/
S. 3265)
- **DoD Health Care:**
 - Military CARE Act (H.R. 6796)
- **VA Health Care:**
 - Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act
(H.R. 2148/S. 879)

Advocacy Update – Other Legislation



- **FY 2027 Budget Update**
 - **NDAA:** House (H.R. 8800) narrowly passed the floor vote; Senate (S. 4784) stalled.
 - **MILCON-VA:** House passed H.R. 8469 (400-15); \$157B; Senate next.

Funding: Dueling CRs - House passed CR through Dec. 4; Senate passed CR through Dec. 11.
- **Take Care of America's Veterans Act: H.R. 9237** stalled amid pushback over disability rating changes.

Summer Advocacy in Action (AiA) 2026

- Campaign runs August 1–30, alongside recess
- Digital campaign nationally, optional support for Council/Chapter meetings
- Resources: issue papers, Star Act/TCAVA addendum, Digital Toolkit, LAC dashboard
- Track meeting status in real time through the reporting dashboard



Council and Chapter Advocacy Resources

- [MOAA's Legislative Action Center](http://www.moaa.quorum.us) (www.moaa.quorum.us)
 - Featured Advocacy Campaigns
 - Calls to Action by Issue Area
 - Advocacy News and Video Update
- [Legislative Leaders Webpage](http://www.moaa.org/legisleaders) (www.moaa.org/legisleaders)
 - Quarterly Action Center Engagement Report
 - General Resources: MOAA National and Federal Resources, Federal-Level Committees, and State Advocacy Resources
- Technical support at: msc@moaa.org

General Discussion





Council and Chapter Workshop Resumes at 3:00 PM

Further questions? Email legis@moaa.org



