

Legislative Update

MOAA and Councils & Chapters in 2026

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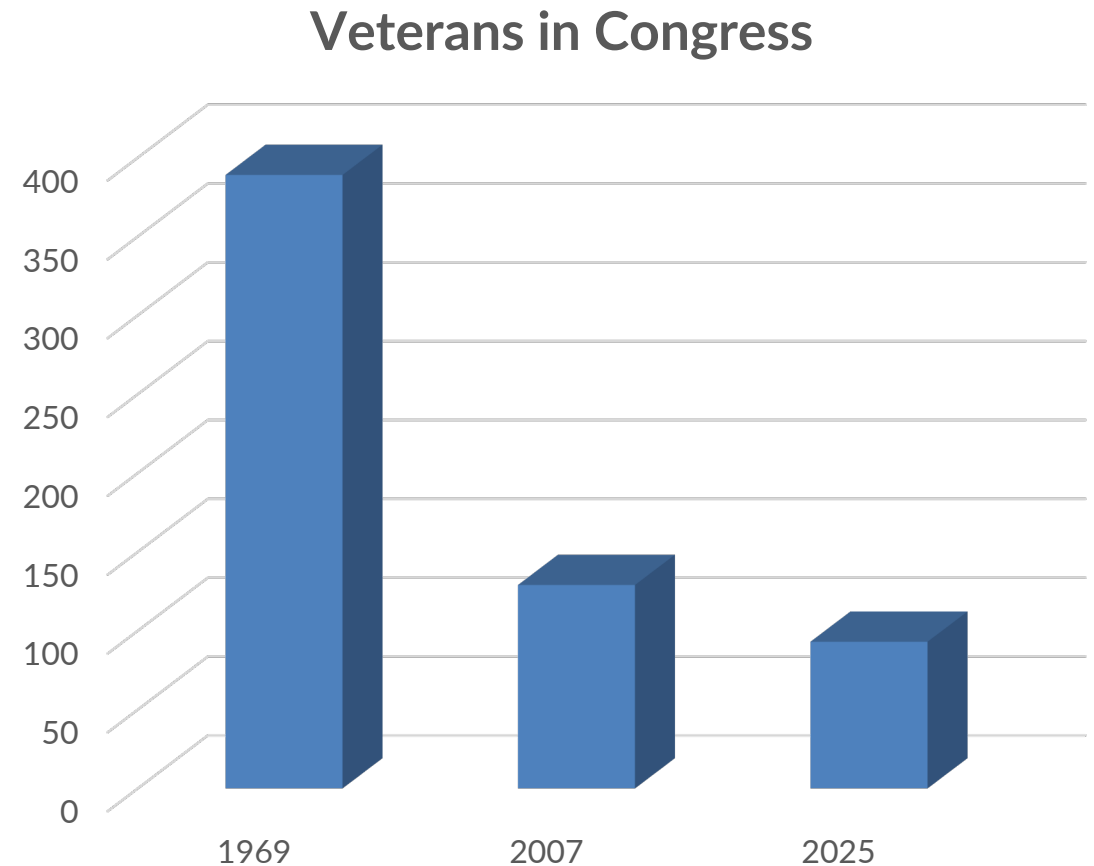


Agenda

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

Why Advocacy? – MOAA's Mission

- Protecting the service-earned pay and benefits of the uniformed services and veteran communities.
- Holding the line against budget cuts that undermine the future of the all-volunteer force.
- Ensure military and veteran voices are heard in Congress:
 - 389 in 1969 – 73%
 - 129 in 2007 – 24%
 - 96 veterans serving today in Congress – 18%



Why Advocacy? – Grassroots Advocacy

- Lawmakers respond to constituents
- Local engagement amplifies MOAA's message
- Examples of grassroots impact:
 - Honoring Our PACT Act
 - Repeal of the Widow's Tax
- Timely mobilization is key to success

Year in Review – Legislative Landscape and Tier 1 Priorities

- Congressional dysfunction significantly restrained legislative throughput in 2025.
- Despite these headwinds, MOAA issues continued to resonate on Capitol Hill, enabling legislative and oversight wins.
- **Tier 1 Progress:**
 - Legislation introduced for 3 of 5 Tier 1 priorities; MHS Access to Care, Caregiver 3R Bill, and Military Spouse Hiring Act.
 - Inclusions secured for improvement to Unaccompanied Housing.
 - Ending the Wait recommendations building awareness.

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 in Action (AiA) 2026

- **Event topics**
 - Shutdown Fairness Act (S. 3168)
 - Military CARE Act (H.R. 6796)
 - GUARD VA Benefits Act (H.R. 1732)
 - Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 2102/S. 1032)
- **2026 Statistics**
 - 160 Participants
 - 300 In-Person Meetings
 - 50 Lawmaker Meetings
 - Nearly 25,000 LAC Messages Sent
 - Over 45 new Co-sponsorships*



Advocacy Update - Budget



- **FY 2027 Budget Update**
 - Administration requests 1.5 trillion for Pentagon and 490 billion for VA.
- **First version of NDAA published**
 - MOAA is assessing the HASC Chairman's Mark.
 - Includes language on CARE Act, Duty Status Reform, BAH and more.

Advocacy Update - Other

- **Partial Shutdown Ends – Action Still Needed**
 - Shutdown Fairness Act (S. 3168/H.R. 7137)
 - Pensions for Retired Uniformed Servicemembers Act
- **Richard Star Act**
 - Secretary Endorsement 4/24
 - Discharge Petition 5/21
 - MOAA is involved in multiple efforts by stakeholders to move legislation forward.
- **Summer AiA** – Begins in August, details to come



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





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