

Surviving Spouse Liaison Training

May 29, 2026



Presenter(s)



Nora Durham

Surviving Spouse Advisory Council



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Surviving Spouse Advisory Council

What is a Surviving Spouse Liaison?

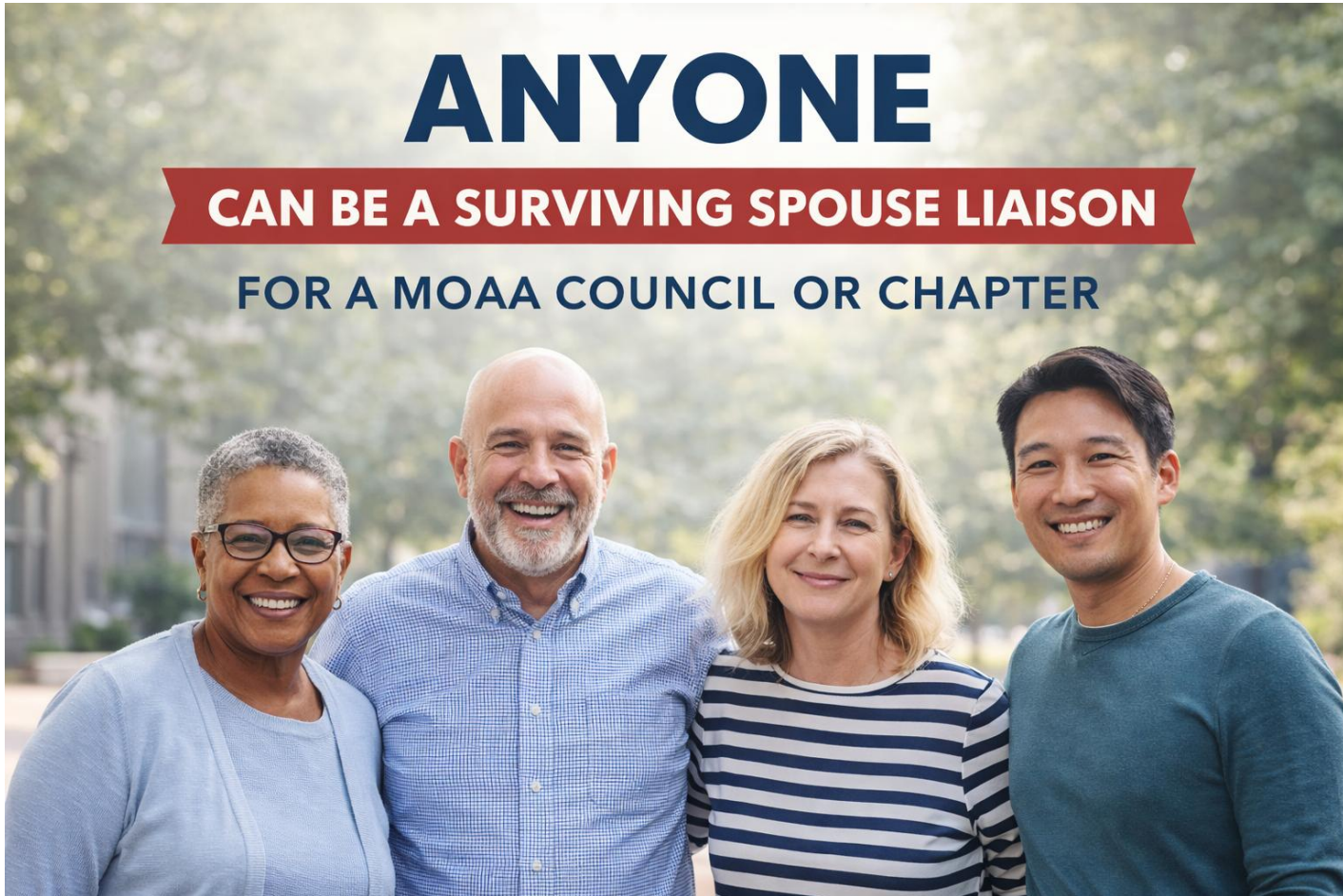


Who can be a Surviving Spouse Liaison?

ANYONE

CAN BE A SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON

FOR A MOAA COUNCIL OR CHAPTER



What does a Surviving Spouse Liaison do?

- Promote key missions of MOAA:
 - Advocacy
 - Membership
 - Council & Chapter Support
 - Engagement/Resources
 - Philanthropy – MOAA Foundation and Scholarship Fund

Why should ALL Councils/Chapters have a Surviving Spouse Liaison?

- Subject matter expert
- Expands membership opportunities and welcomes other surviving spouses
- Points toward Levels of Excellence awards

Advocacy Support



[All Active Campaigns](#)

[MOAA-Supported Legislation](#)

[Report Your Meetings](#)

[More Advocacy News](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Return to MOAA.org](#)

Hello, Jennifer! ▾

Advocacy in Action

[Stand With Our Wounded Warriors](#)

[Write](#)

[Stop Predatory VA Claims Agents](#)

[Write](#)

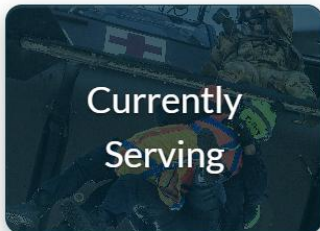
[Address MTF Access Problems](#)

[Write](#)

[Protect Servicemember Pay During a Shutdown](#)

[Write](#)

MOAA's Advocacy By Issue Area



119th Congress: MOAA Survivor Advocacy Priorities

Love Lives On Act



Current law removes survivor benefits for those who remarry before age 55. Ending this penalty honors lifelong connections while helping survivors regain stability.

MOAA is fighting to remove remarriage penalties for surviving spouses who remarry before 55.

Caring for Survivors Act



Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is only 43% of what a totally disabled veteran receives, far below other federal survivor benefits that offer up to 55%.

MOAA is working to enhance military survivor benefits.

Membership Support



- Grow membership
- Life member benefit
- Encourage upgrades

Growing Membership



- Post death contact
- Inclusion in ALL chapter activities
- Share info about MOAA benefits

Council & Chapter Support

- Encourage
- Apply
- Solicit
- Volunteer
- Incorporate
- Take charge!

Chapter & Council Involvement

- Educate about planning for and handling a personal loss and/or emergency
- Recognize outstanding performance
- Support events in your local community

Best Practices



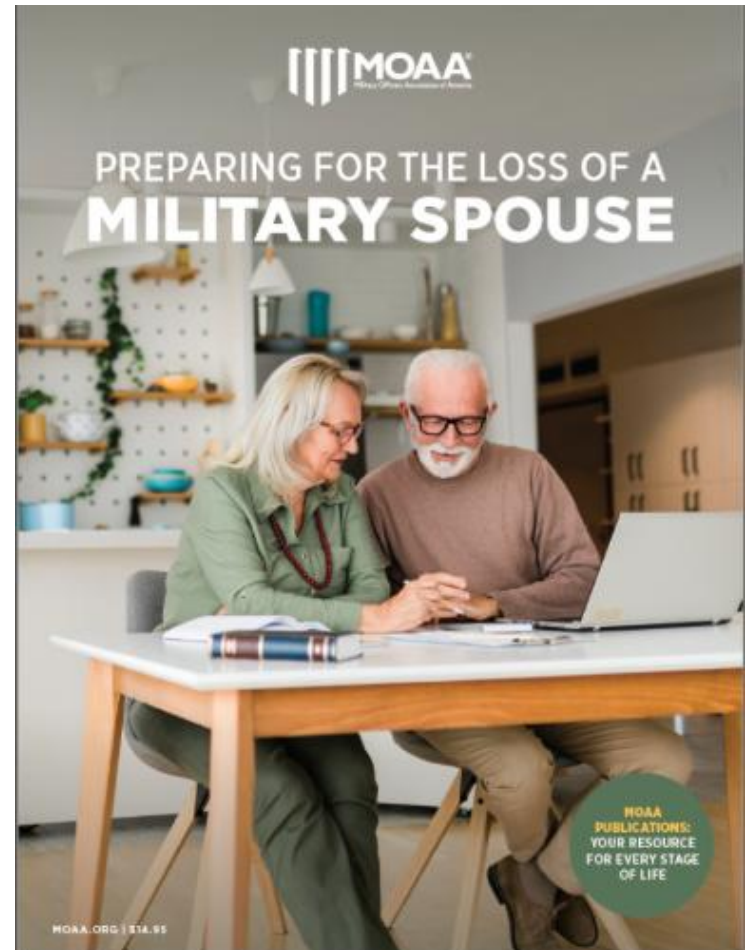
Educate: Planning Ahead!

Prepare BEFORE your spouse becomes a surviving spouse



MOAA Publication

- [Preparing for the Loss of a Military Spouse](#)
- Free for Life & Premium members



Have a
Heart-
to-
Heart!



Steps to Prepare

- Set a date
- Verify key records
- Review financial & insurance items
- Organize access & household accounts



Important Forms You May Need After the Death of a Servicemember

CAUTION: NOT TO BE USED FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES THIS IS AN IMPORTANT RECORD. SAFEGUARD IT. ANY ALTERATIONS IN SHADED AREAS RENDER FORM VOID

CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE OR DISCHARGE FROM ACTIVE DUTY
This Report Contains Information Subject to the Privacy Act of 1974, As Amended

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--------------------------------|----------|
| 1. NAME (Last, First, Middle) | | 2. DEPARTMENT, COMPONENT AND BRANCH AIR FORCE-REGAF | | 3. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER | |
| 4a. GRADE, RATE OR RANK CAPT | 4b. PAY GRADE O3 | 5. DATE OF BIRTH (YYYYMMDD) | 6. RESERVE OBLIGATION TERMINATION DATE (YYYYMMDD) 2015029 | | |
| 7a. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE DUTY COLORADO SPRINGS CO | | 7b. HOME OF RECORD AT TIME OF ENTRY (City and state, or complete address if overseas) | | | |
| 8a. LAST DUTY ASSIGNMENT AND MAJOR COMMAND OL PZA AF LIFE CYCLE MGT CE (MTC) | | | 8b. STATION WHERE SEPARATED HBSA RANDOLPH AFB TX | | |
| 9. COMMAND TO WHICH TRANSFERRED USAFR | | | 10. SGLI COVERAGE | NONE | |
| | | | AMOUNT: \$400,000 | | |
| 11. PRIMARY SPECIALTY (List number, title and years and months in specialty. List additional specialty numbers and titles involving periods of one or more years.) SAP3, CONTRACTING, 5 YEARS AND 4 MONTHS | | 12. RECORD OF SERVICE | | | |
| | | YEAR(S) | MONTH(S) | DAY(S) | |
| | | a. DATE ENTERED AD THIS PERIOD | 2007 | MAY | 30 |
| | | b. SEPARATION DATE THIS PERIOD | 2012 | OCT | 26 |
| | | c. NET ACTIVE SERVICE THIS PERIOD | 05 | 04 | 27 |
| | | d. TOTAL PRIOR ACTIVE SERVICE | 02 | 00 | 00 |
| | | e. TOTAL PRIOR INACTIVE SERVICE | 03 | 11 | 04 |
| | | f. FOREIGN SERVICE | 00 | 00 | 10 |
| | | g. SEA SERVICE | 00 | 00 | 00 |
| | | h. INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING | 2007 | MAY | 30 |
| | | i. EFFECTIVE DATE OF PAY GRADE | 2011 | MAY | 30 |
| 13. DECORATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, CITATIONS AND CAMPAIGN RIBBONS AWARDED OR AUTHORIZED (All periods of service) Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with 1 oak leaf cluster, Air Force Achievement Medal with 1 oak leaf cluster, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, AF Outstanding Unit Award, AF Organizational Excellence Award with 1 oak leaf cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, (SEE REMARKS) | | 14. MILITARY EDUCATION (Course title, number of weeks, and month and year completed) PDE - SQUADRON OFFICER SCHOOL (SOS), MAY 2012; (LHE) SHAPING SMART BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS, JUL 2011; (OBI) FUNDAMENTALS OF SYSTEMS PLANNING RD&E, JUN 2011; (SMH) COMBAT AIRMAN SKILLS TRAINING, MAY 2011; (LHS) COST ANALYSIS AND NEGOTIATION TECHNIQUES, MAR 2010; (LHR) LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS IN CONTRACTING, AUG 2009. (SEE REMARKS) | | | |
| 15a. COMMISSIONED THROUGH SERVICE ACADEMY | | | | YES | NO |
| b. COMMISSIONED THROUGH ROTC SCHOLARSHIP (10 USC Sec. 2107f) | | | | YES | NO |
| c. ENLISTED UNDER LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (10 USC Chap. 109) (If yes, years of commitment) | | 1 | | YES | NO |
| 16. DAYS ACCRUED LEAVE PAID \$ | 17. MEMBER WAS PROVIDED COMPLETE DENTAL EXAMINATION AND ALL APPROPRIATE DENTAL SERVICES AND TREATMENT WITHIN 90 DAYS PRIOR TO SEPARATION | | | YES | NO |
| | | | | X | |
| 18. REMARKS ITEM 13: Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border, AF Longevity Service with 1 oak leaf cluster, AF Training Ribbon, NATO Medal (Wear first NATO medal awarded); ITEM 14: (OAS) INTERMEDIATE SYSTEMS ACQUISITION, JUL 2009; (SHP) BUSINESS DECISIONS FOR CONTRACTING, JUN 2009; (BAS) FUNDAMENTALS OF SYSTEMS ACQUISITION MGMT, JAN 2009; (OTG) THE SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM - WEB, AUG 2008; BDE-AIR AND SPACE BASIC COURSE (ASBC), DEC 2007; (CWI) SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION PROCEDURES (SAP), OCT 2007; (BOI) MISSION SUPPORT PLANNING, OCT 2007; (GYO) MISSION FOCUSED CONTRACTING, SEP 2007; (LHR) MISSION FOCUSED CONTRACTING COURSE, SEP 2007; (JLC) MISSION READY CONTRACTING OFFICER COURSE, SEP 2007. Member has completed first full year of service. Attached (See Continuation Page) The information contained herein is subject to computer matching within the Department of Defense or with any other affected Federal or non-Federal agency for verification purposes and to determine eligibility for, and/or continued compliance with, the requirements of a Federal benefit program. | | | | | |
| 19a. MAILING ADDRESS AFTER SEPARATION (Include ZIP Code) | | | b. NEAREST RELATIVE (Name and address - include ZIP Code) | | |
| | | | | | |
| 20. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 4 BE SENT TO (Specify state/country) | | | VA | OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS | X YES NO |
| a. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 3 BE SENT TO THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (WASHINGTON, DC) | | | | | YES X NO |
| 21a. MEMBER SIGNATURE MEMBER NOT AVAILABLE TO SIGN | b. DATE (YYYYMMDD) N/A | 22a. OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO SIGN (Typed name, grade, title, signature) CAGM/PI SIGNED BY CONTRACTOR USAF, Separation Documentation Technician Oct 26 2012 210206PM CAC Serial Number: 10173E Issued ON DOD CA-36 | | b. DATE (YYYYMMDD) 20121026 | |

DD FORM 214, AUG 2009 PREVIOUS EDITION IS OBSOLETE MEMBER-1

DD 214: Release or Discharge From Active Duty

NGB Form 22: National Guard Report of Separation and Service Record

DD 1300: Report of Casualty-Active-Duty Death



Reminder: New ID Cards

- Old ID cards are no longer valid as of Dec. 2025
- Applies to all IDs even those with an “indefinite expiration date”
- Schedule an appointment today: [ID Card Office Online](#)



Things to consider...

- Gather important papers:
- Make sure utilities are in BOTH names
- State regulations for car registration requirements
- Use [MOAA's Survivor's Checklist](#)

Income & Expense Exercise

- Joint:
 - Include all income & expenses for both you and your spouse
- Spouse 1*
 - Include only your income & expenses
- Spouse 2*
 - Include only spouse's income & expenses

Engage & Stay Connected

Ways to Stay Informed:

- [SSAC articles](#) on the MOAA website
- MOAA [publications](#)/brochures
- [MOAA Regional Leadership Training Workshops](#)
- [MOAA Webinars](#)
- [MOAA Advocacy Update](#)
- [MOAA Surviving Spouse & Friends Facebook Group](#)

Join MOAA's [Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter](#)



VA Benefits & Support

- Visit these important websites:
 - www.VA.gov
 - [VA Office of Survivors Assistance](#)
 - [Joint Survivors' Forum](#)



VA Office of Survivor Assistance

- Established in 2008
- Contact: officeofsurvivors@va.gov
- Kelly Hruska, Director, Office of Survivor Assistance: (202) 461-0024; kelly.hruska@va.gov

“No wrong door!”



What is a **CAREGIVER?**

- ✔ Someone who cares for an ill, injured, or aging loved one.
- ✔ A spouse or family member assisting with a veteran's daily activities and medical care.
- ✔ Someone helping ensure a veteran's health and well-being are maintained.
- ✔ Someone providing support and companionship at home or for medical appointments.
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- ✔ Someone providing support and companionship at home or for medical appointments.



Resources for Caregivers

- [VA Caregiver Support Program;](#)
(855) 260-3274
- [VA Resources for Caregivers](#)
- [Veterans Health Administration](#)
 - [VA Patient Advocate](#)
- [Tips for Lifelong Caregiving \(MOAA/EDF\)](#)
- [Elizabeth Dole Foundation](#)

Important Websites/Phone Numbers

- [Defense Finance Accounting Service \(DFAS\)](#)
- [AARP](#)
- [The Military Coalition](#)
- [Military OneSource](#); (800) 342-9647
- [Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors \(TAPS\)](#); (800) 959-8277
- [Gold Star Wives of America](#); (888) 751-6350
- [USAA Survivor Relations Team](#); (800) 292-8294
- [“The Day-After Calls”](#)
- [MOAA Virtual Surviving Spouse Chapter](#): (703) 838-8141

MOAA Charities

The MOAA Scholarship Fund

The MOAA Foundation (TMF)



Platinum

Both MOAA Charities are Platinum rated by Guidestar!



100+

individuals & families in crisis have received financial assistance through The MOAA Foundation's Crisis Relief program

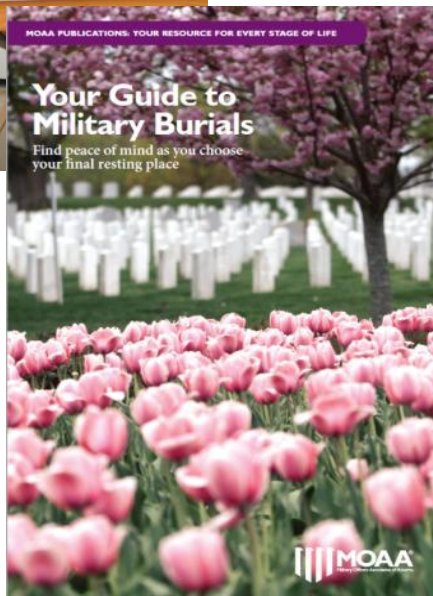


17,000+

students have received assistance from the MOAA Scholarship Fund

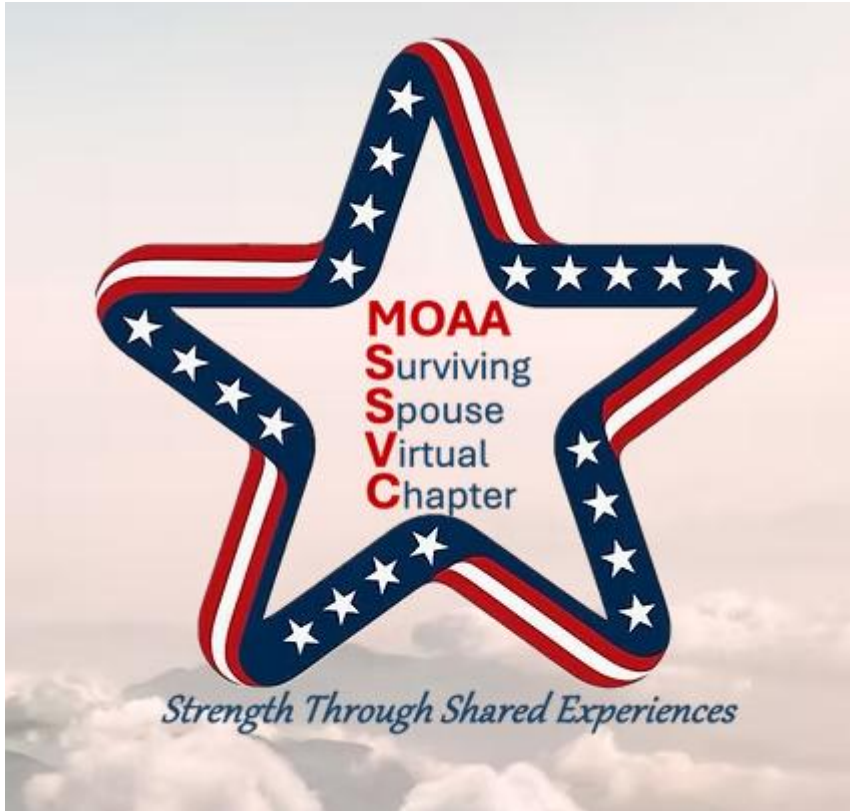


Engagement: MOAA Publications



- [Financial Planning Guide](#)
- [Estate Planning](#)
- [Personal Affairs Guide: A Personal Inventory for Peace of Mind](#)
- [Benefits Planning Guide](#)
- [Transitioning into Medicare and TRICARE for Life](#)
- [Preparing for the Loss of a Military Spouse](#)
- [Your Guide to Military Burials](#)
- And more...

Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter



- Opportunities to Encourage, Engage & Educate
- Sharing ideas/Guest speakers
- Quarterly newsletter
- No dues
- Monthly virtual meetings (3rd Tuesday of each month)
- mssvc02@gmail.com

SSVC Points of Contact

- **Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter (SSVC)**
 - Pat Green, President
 - Gail Joyce, Vice President
 - Nora Durham, 2nd Vice President
 - Roy Yenchsky, Membership
 - Susan Collins, Secretary
 - Vivianne Wersel, Newsletter Editor
 - Cheryl Toland, Treasurer
 - Micki Costello, Webmaster
- **MOAA Staff:**
 - Jennifer Goodale, Director, Military Family & Survivor Policy, Government Relations: jenniferg@moaa.org; (703) 838-8141

Surviving Spouse Advisory Council

- Gail Joyce, Chair (TX)
- Pat Green (FL)
- Vivianne Wersel (NC)
- Nora Durham (AZ)
- Kathy Thorp (MD)
- Roy Yenchesky (KS)
- Susan Collins (MD)
- Cheryl Toland (WA)



Never Stop Serving!





MOAA[®]

Military Officers Association of America