

Surviving Spouse Liaison Training

August 12, 2026

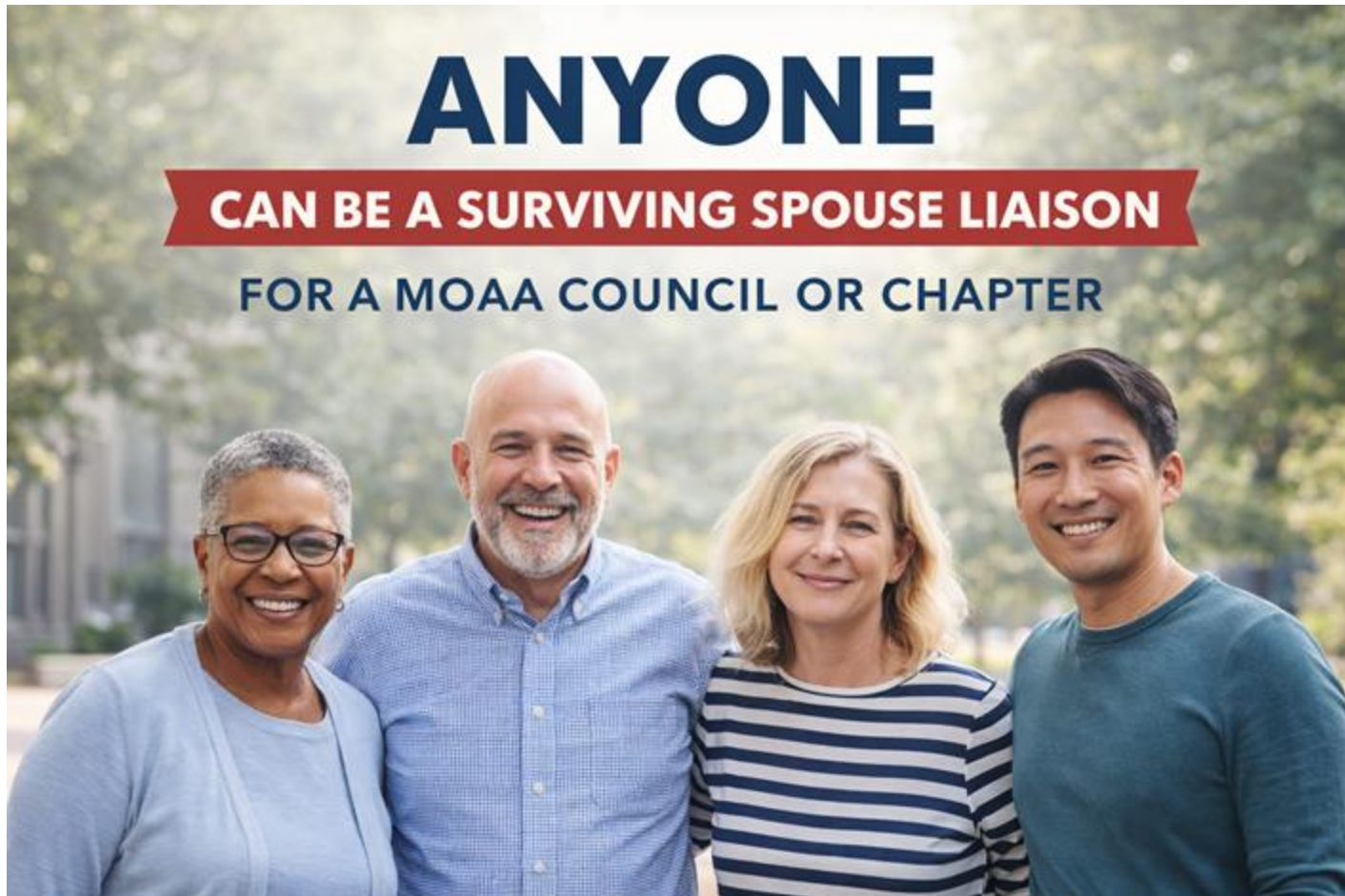


Surviving Spouse Advisory Council

- 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)



Who can be a Surviving Spouse Liaison?



What is a Surviving Spouse Liaison?



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

- **Make post death contacts**
- **Provide information about MOAA benefits**
- **Be active participant in ALL chapter/council activities**
- **Be informed & active about all relevant advocacy issues**
- **Became a Board member of chapter/council BOD**

WHAT DO YOU DO??

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

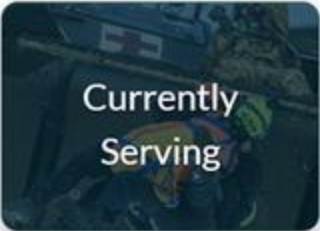
Advocacy Support

[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



Currently
Serving



DoD Health
Care



Families &
Survivors



Retirees &
Veterans



VA Health
Care



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.

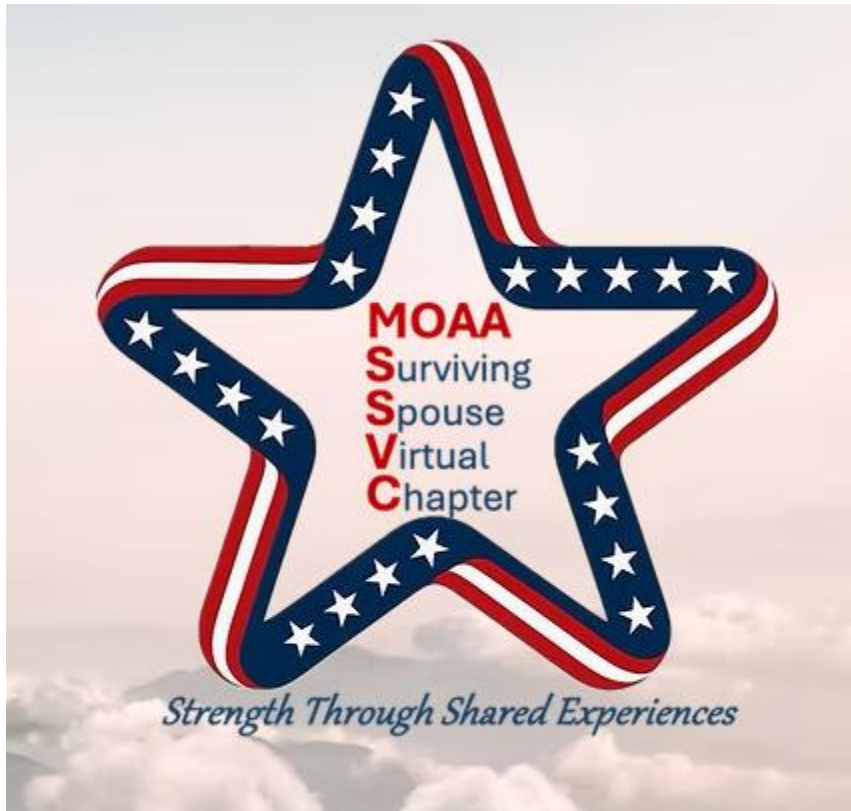
Caring for Survivors Act



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.

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 Yenchesky, 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

Educate: Planning Ahead!

Prepare BEFORE your spouse becomes a surviving spouse



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) 20150529																																									
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 JBSA RANDOLPH AFB TX																																										
9. COMMAND TO WHICH TRANSFERRED USAFR		10. SGLI COVERAGE AMOUNT: \$400,000		NONE																																								
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.) MAPS, CONTRACTING, 5 YEARS AND 4 MONTHS		12. RECORD OF SERVICE																																										
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>YEAR(S)</th> <th>MONTH(S)</th> <th>DAY(S)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>a. DATE ENTERED AD THIS PERIOD</td> <td>2007</td> <td>MAY</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b. SEPARATION DATE THIS PERIOD</td> <td>2012</td> <td>OCT</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c. NET ACTIVE SERVICE THIS PERIOD</td> <td>05</td> <td>04</td> <td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d. TOTAL PRIOR ACTIVE SERVICE</td> <td>00</td> <td>00</td> <td>00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>e. TOTAL PRIOR INACTIVE SERVICE</td> <td>03</td> <td>11</td> <td>04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>f. FOREIGN SERVICE</td> <td>00</td> <td>00</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>g. SEA SERVICE</td> <td>00</td> <td>00</td> <td>00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>h. INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING</td> <td>2007</td> <td>MAY</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>i. EFFECTIVE DATE OF PAY GRADE</td> <td>2011</td> <td>MAY</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				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	00	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
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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; (O1) FUNDAMENTALS OF SYSTEMS PLANNING RD&E, JUN 2011; (3NH) COMBAT AIRMAN SKILLS TRAINING, MAY 2011; (LH5) 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. 2137g)				YES	NO																																							
c. ENLISTED UNDER LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (10 USC Chap. 109) (If yes, years of commitment)				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																																							
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: (O55) INTERMEDIATE SYSTEMS ACQUISITION, JUL 2009; (LHP) BUSINESS DECISIONS FOR CONTRACTING, JUN 2009; (W8) FUNDAMENTALS OF SYSTEMS ACQUISITION MGMT, JAN 2009; (O7G) THE SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM - WEB, AUG 2008; BDE-AIR AND SPACE BASIC COURSE (ASBC), DEC 2007; (ICW) SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION PROCEDURES (SAP), OCT 2007; (BO1) 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 term 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 6 BE SENT TO (Specify state/country)		MA OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS		X	YES																																							
a. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 3 BE SENT TO THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (WASHINGTON, DC)				YES	X																																							
21a. MEMBER SIGNATURE MEMBER NOT AVAILABLE TO SIGN		b. DATE (YYYYMMDD) N/A		22a. OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO SIGN (Typed name, grade, title, signature) CAGPMS SIGNED BY CONTRACTOR, USAF, Separation Documentation Technician Oct 26 2012 21062600PM 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

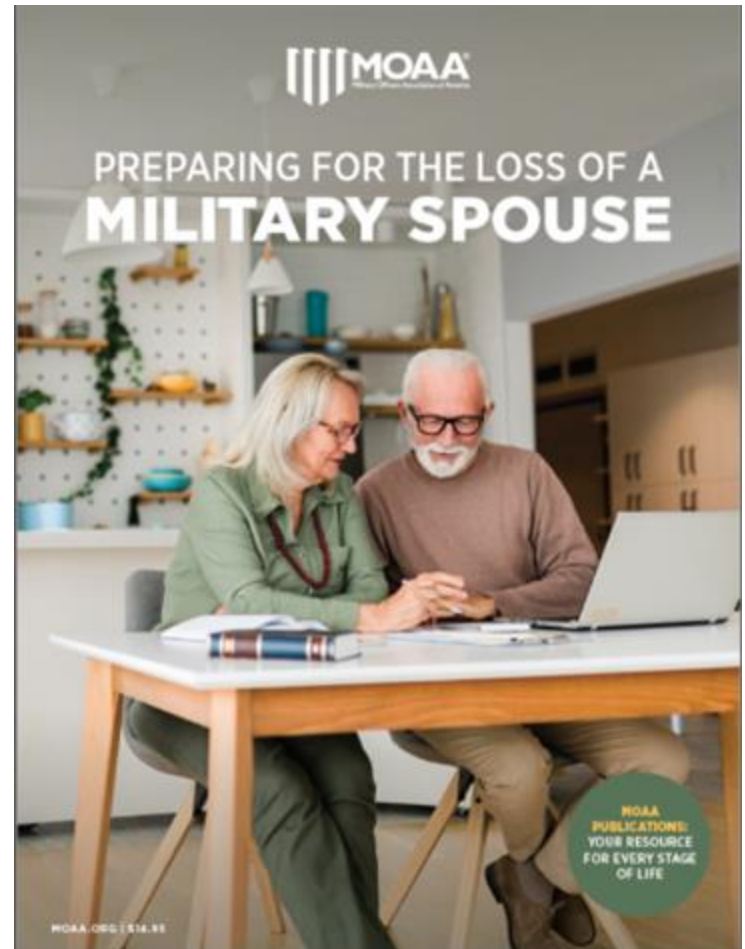
NGB Form 22: National Guard Report of Separation and Service Record

DD 1300: Report of Casualty-Active-Duty Death



MOAA Publication

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



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](#)

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](#)

VA Benefits & Support

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



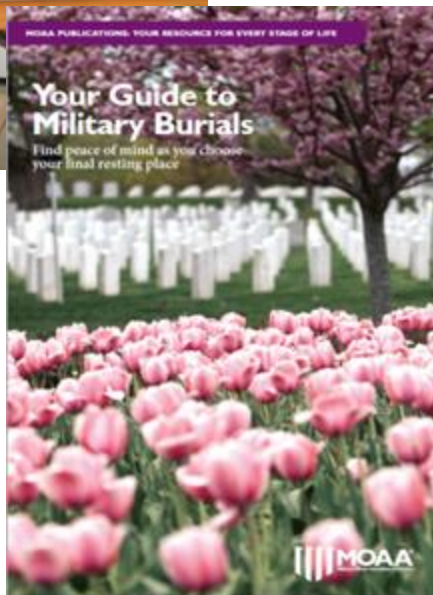
VA Office of Survivor Assistance

- Established in 2008
- Contact: officeofsurvivors@va.gov
- Kelly Hruska, Director, Office of Survivor Assistance: (202) 461-0024; kelly.hruska@va.gov
- SURVIVOR SERIES
Last Wednesday of each month
1:00- 2:00 pm eastern
Topic this month: Overview of the PACT Act and its impact on VA pension and survivor benefits

Best Practices



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...

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



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



Never Stop Serving!



