



San Diego - Miramar Chapter Newsletter

A Publication of the Military Officers Association of America

The national and local MOAA organizations are non-partisan

Volume XXVI Issue No 2

Editor, HT Linke, COL/USA (Ret)

Mar—Apr 2026

Greetings San Deigo – Miramar Chapter!

I hope that everyone is enjoying a warm San Diego Spring and getting ready to kick off the summer!

I'm excited to share two pieces of news to our chapter!

Our merger of the Miramar Chapter and San Diego Chapter's is officially complete and recognized at the National MOAA organization. As mentioned in the last newsletter I'm grateful to several team members who made this happen! I'm sure that our collective input will only make us a stronger chapter!

The 'old' Miramar Chapter was recognized with **three national MOAA Awards**:

- Levels of Excellence Award (**5-Star**)
- Harris Communication Award, 5 Star (**Newsletter**)
- Harris Communication Award, 5 Star (**Website**)

Your chapter is one of only three (3) California chapters (29 total) to receive the highest level of award in all three areas! In fact, I was reminded that this was the 24th consecutive year that we have been recognized with the 5-Star Levels of Excellence award. I would like to especially thank; HT Linke (Newsletter) and David Curtis (Website) in their support in ensuring that their (our) respective communication outlets are quality vehicles and met national MOAA standards.



(President's message continues on next page)

(President's message continued)

Our recent April Luncheon was well attended and I appreciate everyone's attendance. I'd like to specifically thank Wes Schermann who was able to book a last-minute guest speaker when our planned speaker had to cancel due to a personal challenge. We plan on having her back to speak. But again, thanks for making that happen Wes!!

Finally, as always, we **appreciate your input on:**

- Potential guest speakers for our luncheons.
- Opportunities for supporting local Veteran / Servicemember related activities.
- Any Activities you may have participated in where we can showcase our community support (*we want to showcase that in our newsletter*).

Thank you for your membership and support, never stop serving!

S/F, Gerard Cloutier President, San Diego – Miramar Chapter MOAA

Save the date for our JUNE MEETING on THURSDAY, June 4th at 11:30 am at the Admiral Baker Golf Course. We have been able to reengage with Karen Scanlon and she will be our speaker to discuss the military uses of blimps & dirigibles.



San Diego—Miramar Chapter of MOAA Treasurer's report for March—April 2026:

We ended the month with a checking/savings balance of \$25,352.87 in the bank which matches our internal records and checkbook. Our JROTC fund balance is \$1,398.71.

Thanks to the following members for their Mar—Apr 2026 JROTC donations: Else Ang, Leroy Bannach, Gerard Cloutier, Darryle Grimes, Gene Hardman, David Marvin, Desirae Smidt, Donja Stephenson, Michael Truett and Carl Weiscopf. We appreciate your generosity!!

Birthday and Anniversary Celebrations

March and April Birthdays



March

1stLt ROBERT F BRADBURY
LtCol CHRISTIAN G BREault
LtCol GERARD P CLOUTIER
MRS ANN COSTELLO
MRS NORMA DAHLVIG
LTC JERRY A DAVENPORT
CAPT H SPEER EZZARD
CAPT DAVID H GRUNDIES
CAPT WILL E HAYES
CAPT CHARLES R
MACVEAN
MRS LORI A MALLIRES
Maj RONAN A MANDRA
MRS JUNE MANDRA
MRS ELIZABETH MARGOLIS
MRS COLLEEN PESCATORE
MRS MARIA SANTAMARIA
MRS JUDY SPLITGERBER
LCDR GLENN R TYSON
MRS PATRICIA WALKER
CDR JEFFREY WHITSETT



April

MRS SUZANNE BRADBURY
MRS KAREN A BRADSHAW
LCDR GARY D HOLM
CDR LARRY L KARCH
CDR TERA L SALO
MRS MARTHA SMITH

March and April Anniversaries



March

CAPT H SPEER & CHRISTINE EZZARD
LTC ROBERT & KATHLEEN GADDI
COL HT & CAROL LINKE
Maj RONAN & JUNE MANDRA
CAPT SHAUN & KATIE SWARTZ

April

CAPT WILL & NORMA HAYES
Col WILLIAM & ELLEN NELSON

Updated Membership Report: As of April 1st we have 132 Regular, 22 Surviving Spouses, and 3 Associate members.

TAPS—Our chapter has learned of the recent deaths of several of our members. It is our honor to recognize them and their service to our nation.

John Edward Carroll Jr.

John Edward Carroll, Jr., beloved husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and decorated veteran, passed away on September 2, 2025 at the age of 93.

Answering the call to serve his country, John joined the United States Marine Corps, where he proudly dedicated 23 years. **John had been a member of the San Diego—**

Miramar chapter since September 2003.



A skilled aviator, he flew both jets and helicopters, completing three overseas tours—one in Korea and two in Vietnam. His courage and dedication earned him numerous commendations, including the Bronze Star and the Distinguished Flying Cross twice. For John, flying was not only a duty but also a joy, and his years in the cockpit were among the proudest of his life.

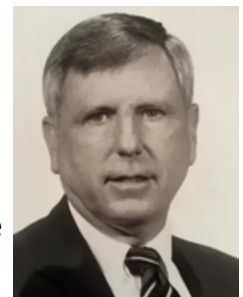
In 2023, John was recognized by the President of the United States as an “Atomic Veteran” for his service during nuclear testing while stationed aboard the USS Boxer—a long-overdue honor for a life of bravery and sacrifice.

John will be remembered for his unwavering faith, devotion to his family, his quick wit, and his love of country. His legacy lives on in the countless lives he touched and the example he set of service, faith and love. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Marilyn; their four children and their spouses, and eight grandchildren and one great grandchild.

John was laid to rest with full military honors at Miramar National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests a memorial donation be made to the Disabled American Veterans.

John Meredith Kaheny

John Meredith Kaheny passed away July 2, 2025. Born in the Bronx in 1944, he graduated from Mount Saint Mary’s College in Maryland in 1966 and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserve. In January of 1967 he arrived in Vietnam and was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 26th Marines where he served for over eighteen months. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat “V” for his service but was most proud of the three Presidential Unit Citations and Meritorious Unit Commendation the battalion received during those 18 months of extensive combat. In 1968, he was assigned to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego where he served until his release from active duty in 1970 and attended the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco.



(continued on next page)

Kaheny obit continued....

John was active in the Marine Corps Reserve, commanding two companies, the Fourth Tank Battalion in San Diego from 1985-1986, The Marine Corps Mobilization Station in Albuquerque, NM and finally the 3rd Civil Affairs Group in Los Angeles from 1989-1991. As Commanding Officer of 2d CAG he served in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Kuwait during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his actions.

He lived a life of service dedicated to the virtues and steeped in tradition. His best friend of 70 years, James Blake, described John as follows, "The Colonel was a modern day Kiplinesque warrior who embodied all the noble qualities admired by the ancients. He was a modern day classic."

He is survived by his wife Deralyn, their three children, three granddaughters, and his sister Nora Costanzo and her husband Joe, of Ormond Beach, Florida. **John had been a member of the San Diego - Miramar chapter since May 2012.**

John J. Cantor

John J. Cantor, born April 26, 1917, in St. Paul, Minnesota passed away peacefully in his home in Ladera Ranch, Ca. surrounded by loved ones on July 21, 2025. John graduated from Pershing High School in Detroit, Michigan, in 1934 and joined the United States Navy later that year, during the Great Depression.



John loved the Navy (he likely had salt water in his veins). He served proudly on the USS Altair AD11 and the USS Moffett DD362, but his favorite ship was the USS Midway. While John was honorably discharged on December 2, 1941, with plans to join the Detroit Police Department, he quickly, and without hesitation, returned to military service following the attack on Pearl Harbor 5 days later. John wore his Navy uniform with pride and honor until his retirement on April 1, 1965, as a Chief Warrant Officer 4 (CWO4). Over a distinguished career spanning more than 30 years—including World War II, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, the Cold War, and peacetime—he was stationed around the globe, serving his country with unwavering dedication and honor.

He was an active member of various retired military organizations including FRA Branch 80, Ocean Beach (Secretary /Treasurer), FRA Br. 70Poway, MOWW (Chaplain), VFW Post 7766, MOAA, American Legion, Post 149, NAUS, Navy League, NNWA, USS Hector Assn, USS Lenawee. USS Midway Assn. Crew member, Squadron and Shipmates Midway/FDR, USS Midway Veterans Assn. **At 108, John was the oldest member of the San Diego – Miramar Chapter: a member since 1997.**

John and Lois Cantor were married in 1942 and spent 80 wonderful years side by side, until her passing in 2022. John is survived by his daughters as well as many beloved grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

April Luncheon Speaker: Mark Goodman—Soldier, Sailor, Veteran and Professor

Karen Scanlon, the regularly scheduled speaker for the April meeting who was going to talk on " THE SHORT AND PERILOUS CAREER OF US NAVAL AIRSHIPS" had to cancel due to an unexpected illness. Hopefully we will be able to reschedule this speaker at a future event.

However we had a great substitute speaker in Mark Goodman. He is a past El Cajon Veteran of the Year as well as a past Commander of the American Legion Post 303 in El Cajon and a Professor of Geography at Grossmont College.

He spoke to the MOAA members on his multifaceted career in the US military. Starting out in the Army as a trained Russian linguist , he gave us a fascinating insight into his role of monitoring Soviet military radio broadcasts from his location in West Germany. After his discharge he went on to serve in the Army National Guard and the Naval Reserve. He now serves in the Coast Guard Auxiliary where he helps monitor aids to navigation. In his spare time he serves with the California State Guard, a component of the California Military Department training members of the Army National Guard and assisting authorities in civil emergencies. Additionally he is a member of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War which maintains graves of deceased veterans of the Civil War and promotes patriotism. His talk was followed by numerous questions.



Speaker Mark Goodman with Chapter 1st VP Jerry Davenport

Thanks to Wes Schermann for the speaker write-up and Glenn Tyson for the photo.

Why Join the Military Officers Association of America? MOAA is the country's leading organization preserving and protecting service-earned benefits for uniformed servicemembers and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers. **Never Stop Serving.**



Miramar Chapter MOAA Payments
Membership Renewal

Membership Payments:

One Year Regular Membership:	\$20
Two Year Regular Membership:	\$35
Three Year Regular membership:	\$45
One Year Surviving Spouse/Associate:	\$12
Two Year Surviving Spouse/Associate:	\$22
Three Year Surviving Spouse/Associate:	\$30

MOAA National News Flashes

This just in: MOAA members brought the organization's top priorities to Capitol Hill on April 15, **visiting about 300 congressional offices**; interacting with lawmakers and staff members around conference tables, in hallways, and over coffee; and carrying forward the mission of preserving service-earned benefits for all who serve and have served, their families, and their survivors.

"We beat the heat," said Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), MOAA's president and CEO, referring to record-setting D.C. temperatures. "This is an energy-adding event: You're out in the heat, it's a long day, but you end the day with more energy than you came in with. Advocacy in Action demonstrates the power of our grassroots advocacy, the power of our members and our mission, and the power of our democracy. We've made great strides on these issues by connecting our members with their lawmakers on the Hill, but our work is far from over."

MOAA members from across the nation visited offices in support of four pieces of bipartisan legislation:

- **The Major Richard Star Act**, which would end an unfair pay offset faced by tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans.
- **The Shutdown Fairness Act**, which would ensure continued, timely pay for the armed services during federal funding lapses.
- **The GUARD VA Benefits Act**, which would allow veterans to keep the benefits they've earned by protecting them from unaccredited for-profit "claim sharks."
- **The Military CARE Act**, which would create a system to provide military treatment facility patients with the tools they need to combat access-to-care issues, and gather data on those issues to improve accountability and oversight.



San Diego—Miramar chapter member Col. Bill Nelson, USAF (Ret), presents a "challenge coin" to local Congresswoman Sara Jacobs (D-Calif.) following their meeting -- alongside MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), left, and MOAA Board Chairman Gen. Thomas Waldhauser, USMC (Ret)

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ISSUES: [MOAA - MOAA's 2026 Advocacy Playbook](#)

See also National MOAA Legislative Action Center at: www.MOAA.org/takeaction

For more MOAA News Updates and Information see: [MOAA - News Listing](#)

San Diego—Miramar CHAPTER
Military Officers Association of America
2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

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MOAA Poway Veterans Park Rep	CAPT Michael Puckett, USN	858 -679-2326	mikepuckett@cox.net
(*) (Interim or Vacant Positions)			



Any members aware of recent passings of chapter members please advise the newsletter editor of the death.

Please remember all our families, and all those who are serving their country, and their families, in our thoughts and prayers.

Veterans News Corner



Artificial Intelligence and Your Next VA Visit: Veterans visiting some Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers may notice something different at their next appointment: Their doctor is looking at them instead of typing into a computer. The change comes from a **new artificial intelligence tool** the VA launched in October that listens to appointments and automatically generates clinical notes. The technology, called ambient AI scribe, frees providers from one of health care's biggest frustrations while giving veterans something they say has been missing for years, genuine eye contact and conversation. "Veterans said they felt more connected to their provider because they were having a real conversation, not talking to someone typing on a computer," said Donna Hill, director of operations for AI and emerging technologies at the VA's Digital Health Office, according to VA News.

The scribe tool works by recording the appointment audio with the veteran's permission then using AI to transcribe the conversation and pull out relevant medical information for the patient's chart. What used to take providers 15 to 30 minutes of typing after each visit now happens automatically in the background. The VA piloted ambient AI scribe with more than 800,000 veterans over six months. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive from both patients and providers—providers get hours of their day back. Veterans get face-to-face interaction that builds trust and improves care.

When a veteran arrives for an appointment, the provider asks permission to use the ambient scribe. If the veteran agrees, the system quietly records the conversation through a device in the exam room. The AI processes the audio in real time, identifying medical information such as symptoms, diagnoses, medications and treatment plans. It generates a draft note that the provider reviews and signs off before it goes into the veteran's record. The technology doesn't make medical decisions; it simply handles the clerical work of documenting what happened.

Veterans keep full control. They can decline to have the appointment recorded, and they can ask for the recording to stop at any time during the visit. The VA surveyed 75 veterans about the technology and found 71% had no concerns about using it. The minority who expressed reservations worried primarily about privacy, though the VA emphasized that all recordings are handled under the same strict medical privacy rules that protect other health information. The ambient AI scribe operates under the same privacy protections as all VA medical records. Recordings are encrypted and stored securely within VA systems, not shared with third parties or used to train commercial AI models.

The VA plans to expand ambient AI scribe to all VA medical centers across the country throughout 2026. Veterans won't need to do anything to access the tool; providers will offer it as an option during appointments once it's available at their facility. The technology is part of a broader VA push to use artificial intelligence in situations in which the AI can improve care and reduce administrative burden. Other initiatives include AI systems that help identify veterans at high risk of suicide and tools that streamline benefits claims processing. For veterans curious about whether their VA facility offers ambient AI scribe, ask your provider at your next appointment. If it's not available yet, it likely will be sometime in 2026. (Source; Military.com, Dec 17, 2025).

VA Drops Appeal in Key Court Case, Ending a Threat to Veterans' Benefits

A court ruling that prevents the VA from downgrading disability ratings based on effective medical treatment will stand thanks to the department's decision last month to end its appeal.

The 2025 ruling by U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in favor of Army veteran Carlton Ingram ensures that "unless the VA's own rating schedule says otherwise, the VA must not give a lower disability rating to a veteran because they take medication that helps treat their condition," according to an April 6 press release from the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSPP).

MOAA and other veteran advocacy groups called for the VA to end its legal fight in February, after the department published, then rescinded, a rule the department said would "clarify existing policy and protect veterans' benefits in the wake of an ongoing court action."

MOAA disagreed with that interpretation of the rule, saying instead that it "fails to account for treatment burdens, creates harmful incentives, destabilizes access to benefits, and was promulgated without adequate public input."

VA resources, we're here for you.

For any questions or requests, [1-800-MyVA411](tel:1-800-MyVA411) ([1-800-698-2411](tel:1-800-698-2411)) is always the right number.

[Veterans Crisis Line](#): [988](tel:988) and press 1, [Chat](#), or Text [838255](tel:838255)

[Vet Centers](#): [1-877-927-8387](tel:1-877-927-8387)

[Homeless Veteran Resources](#): [1-877-424-3838](tel:1-877-424-3838) or [Chat](#)

[Schedule a 1-on-1 Appointment with a VA Benefits Expert](#)

[Find a VA facility near you](#)

For non-urgent questions, you can reach VA using the [VA Health & Benefits App](#) or [MyHealtheVet](#) secure messaging to schedule an appointment, refill prescriptions, and access your medical records.



Sample Discount Areas:

- ⇒ Automotive & Retail
- ⇒ Clothing & Jewelry
- ⇒ Computer & Electronics
- ⇒ Memberships
- ⇒ Medical

There are literally hundreds of discounts available to veterans, all of them vetted as recently as December 2025. Find out more at <https://news.va.gov/85765/veteran-discounts-available-year-round/>

Surviving Spouses: Did you know there is a Surviving Spouses Facebook page??



MOAA Surviving Spouses And Friends

Private group · 980 members

Join group

Share

[\(20+\) MOAA Surviving Spouses And Friends | Facebook](#)

For more information, please visit the Chapter website <https://miramarmoa.us/Home-Page/>

On the website is most current information concerning:

- ⇒ Legislative Activities and Highlights
- ⇒ Surviving spouse matters
- ⇒ Job Search Assistance
- ⇒ Volunteer opportunities
- ⇒ And much, much more



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