

# Jayhawk Chapter MOAA Newsletter



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## CHAPTER DUES (\$20.00) are due 01 January 2012

# January Program:

Our guest speaker will be Cathy Hamilton, the Director of Downtown Lawrence.

# Greetings from the President . . .

Dear Jayhawk Chapter Members and Friends, I hope you all enjoyed our dinner program on healthcare issues and found the remarks by Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger and our panel of doctors to have been informative

and useful. I encourage you to visit the MOAA website (www.moaa.org) and take

advantage of their convenient tools to contact our Congressional representatives and make them aware of your concerns on these important issues.

Our upcoming January program will feature Cathy Hamilton, the Director of Downtown Lawrence as our guest speaker. Downtown Lawrence promotes businesses and events in our beautiful, historic downtown area. As I know many of you are aware, Cathy is the former host of the Home and Away show on cable channel 6 and a writer with a regular column in the Lawrence Journal World. As the Director of Downtown Lawrence she will talk to us about the organization's mission and its initiatives to maintain and enhance the vitality of our unique downtown. I think you will enjoy her presentation and encourage you to join us.

Since this will be my last newsletter input before being succeeded as President by Bob Johnson, I want to thank you for your support to me and the Jayhawk Chapter over the past year. I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to lead this great Chapter.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

# Tom

\*\* \* \* \* CHAPTER awarded for 2002 / 2003 / 2005 / 2008 / 2009 / 2010

\*\* \* CHAPTER awarded for 2004 / 2006 / 2007

#### Volume XVII, Issue 1

#### 1 January 2012

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\* Reservations should be sent to <u>Jim Cooper</u> by 12 January

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# JAYHAWK CHAPTER NEWS

#### **CONDOLENCES**

COL (Ret) Jack F. Jewell passed away on 2 November 2011 at Midland Hospice House in Topeka. Memorial services were held on 7 November at Warren-McElwain Mortuary, with graveside inurnment that afternoon at Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery.

Jack received B.A. and B.S. degrees from Kansas University and was drafted shortly before Pearl Harbor. During WWII he was a member of the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and participated in the Hurtgen Forest Campaign and the Battle of the Bulge. He also crossed the Remagen Bridge on the Rhine River shortly before it collapsed. From 1940 to 1951, he served during the Korean War. His military awards included the Combat Infantry Badge, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Legion of Merit and Belgium Fourragere plus other awards.

After retiring in 1972, he worked as a civilian in Taif, Saudi Arabia, as a school adviser for three years and then worked for Saudi Arabian Airlines in Kansas City as a cross-cultural coordinator and recruiter for seven years.

Jack was a charter member of the Jayhawk MOAA Chapter. He is survived by his wife, Jane, two daughters, three sons, eight grandchildren and a sister.

#### **VETS IN THE CLASSROOM**

The Jayhawk Chapter's Vets in the Classroom project was very active over Veterans' Day. On November 10th, Tom Arnold visited the Lawrence Schools' Juvenile Detention Center and told about his Navy experiences and some of the factors that led him into a military career. On Veterans Day, Bernie Kish addressed students at West Middle School during the morning Advisory period about the value of military service and its importance to the community and the Nation. Also on Veterans' Day, Buck Newsom and Jim Cooper addressed the combined sixth grade students at West Middle School and spoke about their military service and the importance of Veterans' Day. On November 14th, Charles Heller and a student from the Command & General Staff College addressed the South Middle School Model United Nations class about service to the country in general, and specifically about recent events in the Middle East.

If any Chapter members would like to add their names to the list of folks we turn to when we get these requests, please contact Jim Cooper - via phone at (785) 979-7279, or email at jscooper@kumc.edu.

## SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS - 2011



Buck Newsom & Jim Cooper



Gerry & Ruth Rutledge Vicki & Jim McMurray



Jean & Ray Finch



Shirley & John Halladay

We wish you all a VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



# Army News LTC Storm Reynolds, USA

#### **Greetings Jayhawk Chapter!**

The 2011 Fall Semester is coming to an end as is being regarded as one of the most-successful semesters our program has had in a long time. This December, we will graduate and commission two new officers into the Army ranks.

Soon to be 2LTs:

Howard Ballard, Lawrence, KS, University of Kansas, Geology, Branch: Aviation Justin Patterson, San Antonio, TX, University of Kansas, History, Branch: Adjutant General

The Jayhawk Battalion had six (6) Distinguished Military Graduates on the Army Accessions Results list this year.

On Veterans Day, the KU ROTC departments held a 24-hour joint Veterans Day Vigil, posting cadets at the memorials throughout the day and night to honor the sacrifices of veterans in defense of our country. The vigil started with a retreat ceremony, followed by comments from Brig. Gen. Victor J Braden, Assistant Division Commander for the 35<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. at Ft Leavenworth and a 1995 graduate of KU's Public Administration Master's Program.





Also in November, the cadets attended the annual Joint Services Military Ball to bring all ROTC cadets together to recognize the graduating seniors, share in a fun and festive evening rich in military tradition and to show off their dancing moves after the dinner. Brig. Gen. Eric Peck was the guest speaker at the event.





As always, thank you for your support in the Jayhawk Battalion. We look forward to continuing our great strides in progress and bringing home even more accolades for the battalion.

Check out our website at <a href="www.armyrotc.ku.edu">www.armyrotc.ku.edu</a> for more details on these events. Additionally, find us on Facebook <a href="http://www.facebook.com/KUArmyROTC">http://www.facebook.com/KUArmyROTC</a> a n d follow us on Twitter: <a href="http://twitter.com/KU\_ArmyROTC">http://twitter.com/KU\_ArmyROTC</a>

JAYHAWKS LEAD THE WAY!

LTC Storm Reynolds

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

A man noticed that the type on his printer was getting faint. He called a local repair shop and was told by a friendly employee that it probably just needed to be cleaned. Because the store charged \$50 for such cleanings, the employee told the man that he might be better off reading the manual and trying to repair it himself.

Surprised by the employee's candor, the man asked, "Does your boss know you're so honest?"

"Actually," the employee replied sheepishly, "it's his idea. We usually make more money on repairs if we let people try to fix it themselves first."



# Navy News CAPT Thomas Neal, USN



#### Greetings from the Jayhawk Navy!

The Fall semester ended as wonderfully as it started. November and December were just as busy as the previous months. To celebrate the Marine Corps' 236<sup>th</sup> Birthday the Battalion joined local Marines in a traditional cake cutting ceremony on 10 November at the Dole Institute. Following the Marine Corps birthday, the Battalion honored Veterans on Veteran's Day by posting the colors followed by an inspirational speech given by Army Brigadier General Braden. Also in observance of Veteran's Day, the Battalion, along with the Army and Air Force ROTCs, hosted a 5K Veteran's Day Race where all proceeds were given to the Endowment for the clean up of War Memorials on the KU Campus. On 19 November, the Battalion was able to let loose and joined the other services for the annual Joint Service Ball. After a fulfilling dinner, motivational speaker, and honoring the graduating seniors, the members of the Battalion showed their best moves on the dance floor. As for the staff, prior to spending Thanksgiving with their families, they joined the Army and Air Force ROTC for an old-style potluck lunch.

Thanksgiving gave members of the Battalion a break in order to prepare for the final stretch of the Fall semester. The NROTC Staff and several Battalion members were invited by the Navy League for dinner at the Golden Ox in Kansas City. At the dinner, MIDN Stueckemann was awarded a generous scholarship to be used towards his tuition. To wind down the semester,

the students hunkered down and studied for their finals. There is no doubt that we will see as great of grades as we have seen in the past. To end the semester, the KU NROTC program had one senior graduate and get commissioned. On 18 December, MIDN Andrew Degarmo became ENS Degarmo and will be joining the aviation community in January when he makes the trek down to Pensacola to start flight school.

After being able to recharge their batteries, the Battalion will be ready to go for a busy Spring Semester. This coming semester the Battalion will support the KU Basketball team by providing the Color Guard. In March, the special teams (drill, sailing, rifle/pistol, and adventure race) will compete in a Drill Competition in Memphis, TN. Towards the end of the semester the Battalion will have their annual Dining In and then finally, to conclude the semester, the Battalion will say good bye to the graduating seniors.

After attending MOAA events, the students and staff talked about the interesting conversations they had and great advice that they were given by members of the MOAA community. Nothing can compare to the support that MOAA has to offer to these young men and women who are trying to follow in your footsteps. The KU NROTC would like to thank you for your continued support.

CAPT Tom Neal



Air Force News LtCol Montague D. Samuel, USAF

[No report received]

### KANSAS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

Our MOAA staff in Washington has been working diligently to fend off damaging cuts to our military families health care and retirement benefits. I ask you to follow-up on MOAA's Legislative Alerts and contact our Senators and Congressional representatives urging them to support our military community.

In a recent op-ed piece from the Washington Times, Vice Admiral Ryan notes, "The contrast between our troops in the field, with their courage, loyalty and commitment, and our leaders at home is stunning. Our country has serious financial problems that warrant bold action. But targeting our troops and their families first - by slashing their health care and retirement benefits - is a callous, hypocritical and shameful foul."

If you are not receiving MOAA's Alerts they can be found on the web site www.moaa.org. Timing is of the essence. We can make our collective voice be heard with a few clicks of the mouse.

Best regards,

## Tony Pimentel, Council President

## MOAA LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

This is a summary of the many items MOAA produces each week on legislative activities.

Those who have e-mail receive the full Legislative Updates each week.

#### MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for October 28, 2011:

#### MOAA Takes on Retirement Critics at Hill Hearing

Testifying at an October 25 hearing before the House Armed Services Military Personnel Subcommittee, MOAA Government Relations Director Col Steve Strobridge (USAF-Ret), called proposals for dramatic military retirement cutbacks "shockingly insensitive" to the extraordinary sacrifices inherent in a multi-decade service career.

Subcommittee chairman Joe Wilson (R-SC) strongly agreed, specifically citing the "radical" plan proposed by the Defense Business Board to scrap the military defined benefit system in favor of a 401(k)-style plan that would defer receipt of any payments until age 60 or later. He took top defense leaders to task for failing to immediately disavow the proposal, but reserved special criticism for Business Board leaders for declining to appear at the hearing to justify their proposal.

Strobridge said that was only one of several recent plans that would have dramatically cut retired pay for career personnel. He said that would be a "formula for retention and readiness disaster that would have destroyed the career force if it had been in effect over the last 10 years of war."

He reminded legislators the primary purpose of the military retirement package is to induce top-quality people to serve multiple decades under conditions few Americans are willing to endure even for one term.

The Defense witnesses acknowledged that the Defense Business Board proposal would have a negative effect on retention, and went a step further to refute claims by some critics that military retirement costs are spiraling out of control.

Dr. Jo Ann Rooney, Principal Deputy, Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, said the current

system is "neither unaffordable, nor spiraling out of control," noting that retirement costs as a percentage of pay have remained reasonably constant.

She said the Department is considering possible retirement alternatives as part of a review of the total military compensation package, and a top priority is to protect against negative recruiting and retention effects. She said the Pentagon has tasked Rand Corporation to do a study on alternatives to the system that could meet that goal, but no date has been set for the release of results.

Asked to comment on why the military system shouldn't be more like plans available to civilians, Strobridge said, "The past decade only highlights the enormous demands and sacrifices that have no counterpart in civilian employment, including frequent relocations that disrupt spousal earnings and children's education and the prospect of being deployed to a combat zone time after time after time, with ever-increasing odds of coming home a changed person."

He noted further that the Pentagon already has considerable experience with adverse effects of previous efforts to impose retirement cutbacks. When Congress reduced 20-year retirement benefits in 1986 for future entrants, he noted that then-defense secretary Caspar Weinberger warned legislators that it would inevitably undermine military readiness. That prediction proved accurate, and Congress had to repeal the cut in 1999 at the urging of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"In contrast to Secretary Weinberger's warnings," Strobridge said, "[the two most recent Defense secretaries] have repeatedly expressed support for significant retirement cutbacks for future entrants, without a word about long-term retention risks. In our view, that's an abdication of their responsibility to protect future as well as current readiness."

Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA) asked whether the military should adopt a vesting system for the 83% of troops who leave service before the 20-year point "out of fairness" since that's becoming standard practice in the private sector.

Strobridge replied that all of the vesting options so far would fund that expensive benefit by imposing dramatic cuts on retirement benefits for the 17% who do serve 20 to 30 years or more. He said there are good reasons only 17% are willing to endure military service conditions for 20-plus years.

"It's an odd concept of fairness, and a perverse retention incentive, that would dramatically cut compensation for those who serve and sacrifice longest to pay more to those who leave early."

He also noted the government already extracted considerable retirement savings by capping military pay raises below private sector pay growth almost every year through the 1980s and '90s. As a result, hundreds of thousands who retired under those depressed tables have had to forfeit thousands of dollars a year in retired pay for the rest of their lives.

#### MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for November 4, 2011:

#### MOAA Talks TRICARE/Retirement with Hill Leaders

On Wednesday, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and more than a dozen other House Democratic leaders hosted what has become a quarterly meeting with military and veterans' association executives to exchange views and priorities.

A key theme of the meeting was the importance of finding effective ways to incentivize employers to hire returning veterans.

Rep. Tim Walz (D-MN) highlighted his particular opposition to proposals for military retirement cutbacks. "All the feedback from the field has been, 'Why are you trying to cut my retirement?'...the only kind of retirement reform I want to consider is ways to make it better."

The Minority Leader noted that Congress had worked hard to ensure that any sequestration would exempt virtually all VA healthcare and other programs from budget cuts.

MOAA Government Relations Director Col. Steve Strobridge (USAF-Ret) took the opportunity to note that while VA healthcare programs would be exempted in that eventuality, Congress has not extended the same protection to military health care programs. While programs for single-term vets have been exempt from changes, the Administration has proposed new TRICARE For Life enrollment fees and hiking pharmacy copayments to \$40 or more for families of deployed troops and for retirees and survivors who served the country for decades.

Strobridge praised Rep. Walz for his strong support for military retirees, but urged the legislators to be wary of proposals that would grandfather the current force while imposing major cuts on future entrants. "There's no constituency for future entrants," he observed, "but their service will be no less worthy than that of today's force." Congress already tried retirement reform in 1986 (with far less severe cuts than currently being proposed), and had to

repeal it a decade later when retention declines among post-1986 entrants hurt military readiness.

Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-CA), a member of the Super Committee, said, "We don't want to make cuts in these crucial programs, but if we can't raise revenue as part of the deal, we'll have to."

#### Military Coalition Takes the Offensive

This week, MOAA and the other 33 associations comprising The Military Coalition ran two full page ads in the most widely read Hill newspapers, calling on Congress to resists cuts to military retirement and health care and protect these key career incentives.

The ads appeared in the print versions of Politico on Tuesday and The Hill on Thursday. Together these publications are circulated in nearly all Congressional offices.

Check out the advertisement yourself.

http://echo4.bluehornet.com/ct/13533087:16106903517 :m:3:230981068:164BF7A2CEE1A503B5C56D3DCBB18 334:r

#### MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for November 22, 2011:

#### Super Committee Opts to Whack Military People.

The failure of the Super Committee to reach a deficit reduction agreement is very bad news for the military community on a variety of fronts.

#### Vet Jobs Bill Becomes Law

Surrounded by veterans, service organizations and principal Senate and House sponsors, President Obama signed into law the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 at a White House ceremony Monday. The First Lady, Michelle Obama, the Vice President and Dr. Jill Biden also attended the signing.

The legislation includes employer tax credits for hiring unemployed veterans, job training benefits for older veterans, and upgraded transition services for men and women leaving active duty, among other initiatives

"MOAA is particularly pleased to see employer tax credits included in the VOW to Hire Heroes Act," said MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan (USN-Ret), who attended the White House ceremony. "MOAA has long championed employer tax credits for hiring our National Guard and Reserve service women and men. The VOW To Hire Heroes Act broadens this concept by extending these credits to all unemployed veterans with higher tax credits for hiring unemployed disabled veterans."

Earlier, Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), who chairs the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, cited MOAA's efforts to help push the legislation through Congress.

#### MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for December 2, 2011:

#### Obama Mulls Military Benefit Penalties.

The Pentagon has sent the White House its proposed plan for cutting \$450 billion from the defense budget over the next 10 years. Ominously, Pentagon budget leaders say the plan focuses on personnel accounts more than weapon

systems to achieve the bulk of the savings. MOAA is challenging that.

#### MOAA Participates in Military Family Panel.

MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan emphasized the importance of health care and retirement benefits to sustaining a high quality all volunteer force during a panel discussion hosted by the Congressional Military Family Caucus.

#### Senate Adopts SBP Fix

The Senate passed its version of the FY2012 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 1540) on Thursday. The bill would authorize \$527 billion for the base Pentagon budget with another \$117 billion for overseas contingency operations and includes a 1.6 percent pay increase for military personnel.

In the process, Senate leaders considered almost 400 amendments, including many developed in cooperation between MOAA and various Senate sponsors. Many of these were blocked when the Senate voted to limit debate and restrict amendments.

But several survived, including amendments to:

- \* End deduction of VA survivor benefits (DIC) from military Survivor Benefit Plan annuities (Sen. Bill Nelson, D-FL)
- \* Make the National Guard Bureau Chief a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (Sen. Leahy, D-VT)
- \* Bar reduction of the basic housing allowance for National Guard making the transition from active to full-time National Guard duty (Sen. Brown, R-MA)
- Protect employment and re-employment rights for certain individuals ordered to full-time National Guard duty (Sen. Blunt, R-MO)
- \* Provide a death gratuity and related benefits for Reserves who die during an authorized stay at their residence during or between successive days of inactive duty training (Sen. Pryor, D-AR)
- Direct a review of all current DoD military spouse employment programs (Sen. Casey, D-PA)

#### MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for December 9, 2011:

#### MOAA Urges Unified Suicide Prevention Plan

In Hill testimony last Friday, MOAA urged Congress to demand a more unified strategy between DoD and VA to address the alarming rise in suicides among veterans and servicemembers.

#### Coalition Highlights Defense Bill Priorities

On Thursday, MOAA and The Military Coalition sent House and Senate leaders a letter highlighting Coalition priorities for resolving differences between the House- and Senate-passed versions of the FY2012 Defense Authorization Bill. The House and Senate are in the process of ironing out their differences with the objective of passing a final defense bill next week.

The Coalition letter urged Hill leaders to:

- \* Avoid manpower cuts that will impose greater deployment burdens on troops and families still bearing the strain of wartime operations.
- \* Retain House-approved language recognizing that the unique and extraordinary demands inherent in a multi-decade service career constitute a very large pre-paid premium for their career health benefits over and above the cash fees paid in retirement.
- \* Retain a Senate-passed provision to end the deduction of VA survivor benefits from Survivor Benefit Plan annuities when the member's death is service-caused.
- \* Authorize voluntary retirement/separation incentives to reduce potential requirements for involuntary separation of servicemembers with substantial service, but less than 20 years.
- \* Retain various House and Senate provisions that would provide greater access to mental and behavioral health care for wounded warriors and their families.
- \* Retain a Senate-passed provision prohibiting the services from barring reenlistment based on medical conditions that a Physical Evaluation Board had considered and found the servicemember fit for duty.

The Coalition letter also noted that Senate leaders had raised the possibility of including some from a package of 71 amendments that enjoyed widespread bipartisan support but could not be considered during Senate action because of a procedural issue. While it is unknown which amendments those were, the Coalition expressed hope that some action could prove possible on amendments offered by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) to further ease the disability offset to military retired pay.

Finally, the Coalition strongly opposed an amendment offered by Armed Services Committee Chair Carl Levin (D-MI) that originally entailed establishing a commission to make comprehensive recommendations on military compensation and retirement programs that would be considered in Congress under BRAC-type rules, requiring an up-or-down vote with no amendments and little debate. "The Coalition adamantly opposes using a BRAC-style process to short-circuit important legislative safeguards on issues of such vital concern to long-term retention and readiness," the letter said.

#### MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for December 16, 2011:

#### Your Healthcare at Risk

After delaying almost all of its essential work until the last two weeks of the year, Congress has scrambled to pass a defense bill, pass annual appropriations, and extend unemployment benefits.

But fixing the biggest threat to your family's healthcare access - stopping the January 1, 27% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors - seems to have slipped down on legislators' priority list.

This is a huge deal.

Everyone in Congress wants to stop the cuts, but they're still bickering over how to pay for it, and how long they can afford to delay the cut.

The Republican House-passed payroll tax extension bill included a two year fix, but Democrats opposed to offsets to pay for the bill, which included an even lengthier freeze of federal workers' pay, among other things.

With time running short, it's time to send your legislators a MOAA-suggested message asking them to work across party lines and reach a quick agreement to avoid a 27 percent cut that would devastate military and Medicare beneficiaries' access to health services.

http://echo4.bluehornet.com/ct/14089627:16831418318 :m:3:230981068:E07D3FECC11EA4C0F99D1C44BC96F E34:r

#### Defense Bill Passed

Early this week, House and Senate leaders worked out an agreement on the FY2012 Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 1540). By Thursday, both the House and Senate had passed the compromise version, and it's expected to be signed by the President as soon as this weekend.

Among other provisions, the legislation would:

- \* Authorize a 1.6% military pay raise
- \* Limit the percentage increase in TRICARE Prime enrollment fee in any year to the percentage growth in military retired pay
- \* Enhance authority to call up the Reserves for certain missions Authorize early retirement and voluntary separation incentives to reduce the need for involuntary separations during the coming force reductions
- \* Bar denial of reenlistment based on a medical condition that a medical board has evaluated and deemed as not disqualifying for continued duty
- Establish the Chief of the National Guard Bureau as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- Provide \$45M in assistance for civilian schools in which military dependents are enrolled
- \* Enhance the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program for wounded warriors and their families
- Safeguard reemployment rights for Guard members ordered to full-time duty under state orders
- \* Authorize a death gratuity and related benefits for Reserves who die during an authorized stay at their residence during or between successive days of inactive duty training
- Require GAO to review effectiveness of programs aimed at promoting military spouse employment
- \* Require GAO to review effects of extending space-available travel eligibility to certain survivors and gray area reserve retirees
- \* Require a DoD report on the cost of expanding the Homeowner Assistance Program to help more servicemembers who are "upside-down" on their mortgages

Unfortunately, the final legislation did not retain the Senate-passed provision to eliminate deduction of VA

survivor benefits from military Survivor Benefit Plan annuities.

#### MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for December 23, 2011:

#### Two Month "Doc Fix" Deal

In a classically convoluted way the chances of a "doc fix" - which would prevent a 27% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to medical providers starting the first of the year - went from hopeful to bleak back to hopeful over the past two weeks.

Last week the House passed a two-year doc fix along with a one-year extension of payroll tax cuts and unemployment benefits (H.R. 3630).

With vastly differing opinions on how to offset the cost of paying for this long-term fix the Senate amended the House version and reduced the fix to a much smaller two-month patch with the stated goal of hammering out a long-term solution in early 2012.

After passing this short-term patch the Senate promptly left town for their holiday recess.

The political atmosphere went from promising to hopeless when the House refused to consider the Senate's two-month patch and instead, appointed conferees in hopes of working out the differences.

After much finger pointing and with strong constituency criticism, cooler heads prevailed as House and Senate leaders agreed to a short-term, two-month bill with a guaranteed conference between both chambers for a longer-term, one-year fix.

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) stated that he expects both House and Senate to act on the bill today.

MOAA is appalled that Congress waited until the last minute and failed to come to a longer-term solution; however, we remain hopeful that a longer-term solution will be developed by the conferees after the first of the year.

#### Members Set a Record

MOAA is thankful for all of our members that took the time to contact their legislators this year on issues important to them and others in the military community.

Below is a quick snapshot of our most active issues. Hopefully you took part in the record setting 1.3 million messages (includes e-mails, letters, and phone calls) we sent to Congress this year.

- Protect military people from disproportionate budget cuts - 525,000
- \* Oppose TRICARE changes 102,000
- \* Active duty pay 86,000
- \* Prevent Medicare/TRICARE cut 60,000
- \* Oppose a chained CPI 30,000
- \* Reject changes to commissaries 26,000
- \* Repeal the SBP/DIC offset 27,000
- \* Enhance concurrent receipt 25,000

If you didn't participate in 2011 we hope you'll make it one of your New Year's Resolutions. Our user-friendly Congressional messaging system will make it one of your easiest resolutions to accomplish.



# JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA



A membership meeting will be held *Tuesday, 17 January 2012*, at the Lawrence Country Club.

Dinner cost is \$22.00/meal.

**The Program:** Our guest speaker will be Cathy Hamilton, the Director of Downtown Lawrence.

**Social Hour:** 1800 hours **Dinner:** 1845 hours

**The Menu:** Chicken, potato, vegetable, rolls, salad, tea or coffee and ice cream

Send your reservation and check payable to Jayhawk Chapter MOAA to arrive no later than *Thursday*, *12 January 2012*, to: CAPT (Ret) Jim Cooper - 1115 Stone Meadows Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049-3961

Dinner reservations are confirmed on Monday before the dinner. Cancellations, if necessary, should be made prior to Monday noon; otherwise, the Lawrence Country Club will charge us for those meals.

If you have any questions, you may contact Jim Cooper at 842-7037 or John Halladay at 843-6184.

cut here				
Yes, please make reservations for me and my guests. (Space of the second	pouse and other	r guests are welcome.)		
The cost is \$22.00 per meal. I am enclosing a check for	\$	for meal(s).		
2012 Jayhawk MOAA Chapter Dues (\$20.00) [Due 01/01/12]	\$			
Clayton L. Comfort Award program contribution (Separate check made out to "KU Endowment")	\$			
TOTAL:	\$			
Name	Telephone			

TEAR OFF AND RETURN THIS FORM WITH A CHECK PAYABLE TO: JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA

IF YOU NEED A RIDE TO MEETINGS, PLEASE LET US KNOW HERE

AND GIVE US YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER

CAPT (Ret) Jim Cooper, 1115 Stone Meadows Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049-3961

MOAA WEBSITE: www.moaa.org

KANSAS COUNCIL WEBSITE: www.kansasmoaa.org

JAYHAWK CHAPTER WEBSITE: www.jayhawkmoaa.org

Can you receive the newsletter via e-mail??

If so, it saves the Chapter for both printing and postage.

Please let us know at jwhalladay@sunflower.com

## 2012 Jayhawk MOAA Calendar:

Tuesday	17 January	MOAA meeting	Tuesday	17 July	MOAA meeting
Tuesday	20 March	MOAA meeting	Tuesday	18 September	MOAA meeting
Tuesday	15 May	MOAA meeting	Tuesday	20 November	MOAA meeting



One Association, One Voice. Yours.

Newsletter Editor Jayhawk Chapter, MOAA 2403 Manchester Road Lawrence, KS 66049-1646

**IN GOD WE TRUST**