



Jayhawk Chapter



MOAA Newsletter

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March Program

Time: Tuesday 21 March 2023

Lawrence Country Club

6:00 PM Cocktails/Social Hour

7:00 PM Dinner

Speaker- Gail Joyce

DUES

Dues for 2023 were due 1 January 2023 in the amount of \$20.

If you have not already done so, please send your check to:

*Jim Cooper, 5216 Brown Lane,
Lawrence, KS 66049-5112*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ CHAPTER awarded in:

2002 / 2003 / 2005 / 2008 / 2009 / 2010 / 2011 / 2012 /
2013 / 2014 / 2016 / 2017 / 2018 / 2021

★ ★ ★ ★ CHAPTER awarded in:

2004 / 2006 / 2007 / 2015 / 2019

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March 2023

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President's Comments

March brings the college basketball season to a close and everyone looks forward to the warmer weather and green renewal in spring. Jayhawk Chapter is working to hold a special chapter meeting on Tuesday March 21st to honor all of our chapter's surviving spouse members:

- Terry Connolly
- Kay Henry
- Barbara Goforth
- Shirley Halladay
- Marguerite Lohrenz
- LaVonne Naumann
- Vicki McMurray
- Gerry Miller



We will have a very special guest speaker from the MOAA National Board of Directors, Gail Joyce. See more about Gail later in the newsletter.

We mourn the loss of two of our own. Florine Creek passed away at age 102 in November, 2022. Florine's life of service included compassionate care with the local chapter of Army Emergency Relief during the Vietnam War era. She was preceded in death by her husband, Colonel Roy Creek, U.S. Army (retired) in 2016.

Nancy Bjorge died on January 5, 2023 from an incurable and rare viral infection of the brain. Nancy held a degree in Math from the University of Illinois but she then pursued degrees in Fine Arts and taught K-12 Art. She excelled at Chinese cooking and her origami works were admired far and wide. Please extend your condolences to her husband Gary, who continues to serve on our chapter Board of Directors.

In May we will honor our graduating officers from KU ROTC and our chapter meeting speaker will be Major Jess Foster of the Missouri Air National Guard. Major Foster will present an unclassified intelligence briefing on national security threats including China-related developments and a Ukraine situation update.

For our July chapter meeting we have invited a speaker from the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Manhattan Kansas. We await their reply to our invitation. For our September chapter meeting, Douglas County Commissioner Patrick Kelly has accepted our invitation to speak. As our usual practice, we will invite Army ROTC cadets and cadre as our guests that evening.

I plan to accompany our Kansas Council of Chapter President CAPT Joel Feder, USN (ret) to Washington DC the last full week of April to join other MOAA members to speak to all of our elected legislators about military-related legislation. Usually by this time of year, the President's Budget has been published and pundits comment high and low on the policy choices reflected

in the budget. Joel and I will be able to see the budget document before the end of April and we will work with MOAA National staff members to focus our advocacy accordingly.

I've continued in my work as the State Legislative Chair for the MOAA Kansas Council of Chapters. Some of our bills are going smoothly through the legislature and others have strong headwinds. HB2039, a bill for exempting disabled veterans from hunting and fishing license fees passed the House and is now under Senate consideration. HB2036, a bill to sharply reduce property taxes for disabled veterans has cleared the House Tax Committee and awaits a floor vote in the House. HB2011, a bill to exempt active duty pay from Kansas Income Tax went down to defeat but an amended version may get a vote before this term concludes.

Last, as many of you know, I lead the Lawrence Veterans Day Parade Association. This year KU has a home football game on Saturday November 11th so we will ask the city for a permit for our Veterans Day parade for the preceding Saturday November 4th. We are always seeking new board members and parade volunteers. Let me know if you are interested in helping to organize this year's parade.

I wish everyone the best and look forward to seeing you on March 21st.. Request your RSVP to Jim Cooper at jscooper36@hotmail.com or me at mkelly1123@icloud.com If you need any assistance or information please contact me so we can work on your concern. Call or text me at 785-727-3329.

Thanks, Mike Kelly

March 2023 Guest Speaker



Our guest speaker for March 2023 is MOAA National Board Member Gail Joyce of Granbury, Texas. Gail is the key advocate for the community of surviving spouses in the leadership of MOAA.

As you will hear, Gail has a life story that is remarkable and her resilience is extraordinary. Her efforts to help others survive the loss of a spouse and the loss of a child will warm your heart. She is an expert on family life and the issues that arise when a military member or retiree passes away. She has numerous items of advice we should heed to plan for the sad but inevitable day when we depart this life.

Below is Gail's biography on the MOAA web page for your information.

Virginia "Gail" Joyce, Surviving Spouse

Council & Chapter Affairs Committee, Membership Committee, Scholarship Fund Board of Directors, MOAA Foundation Board of Directors

Joyce, who grew up in Abilene, Texas, married Larry Joyce in 1960, beginning a life-long adventure. Shortly after they married, Larry was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army. They moved to Fort Hood, Texas - the first of more than 20 moves over the next 20 years. In that time, Larry served two tours in Vietnam. Joyce's diverse career, from which she retired in 2005, has seen her work as an administrative assistant, a military youth activities director, a Military Family Center director, a realtor, a program director, a high school and college English/literature teacher, a national program director for youth tobacco issues, and a bed and breakfast owner.

In 1983, she completed her Bachelor of Arts in English (cum laude). In 1986, she earned a Master of Arts in humanities. Her volunteer efforts include serving as volunteer chair and VIP event co-chair for the Granbury Wine Walk, as surviving spouse liaison and a founding member of MOAA Greater Granbury (Texas) Chapter, and as a Veterans' Council member.

She has served on the MOAA President's Surviving Spouse Advisory Council for six years and will serve as its chair beginning in October 2020. She's co-chair of the MOAA [Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter](#).

She also conceived and produced the Memorial Day Field of Flags from 2012 to 2020, helped organize Veterans Day ceremonies, and has spoken on behalf of local, state, and national organizations about life in the military and her son and husband's service to their country.

She is a Gold Star Mother. Her youngest son, Sgt. James Casey Joyce, an Army Ranger, died Oct. 3, 1993, in Mogadishu, Somalia; the story of the mission is told in *Black Hawk Down*.



Jayhawk Chapter News

PERSONAL NEWS

In Remembrance



Nancy Loo Bjorge, age 83, of Lawrence, KS, passed away peacefully on Thursday, January 5, 2023, at the University of Kansas Hospital following a valiant struggle against a rare, incurable JC virus brain infection. She was born on December 29, 1939, to Yung Tsung and Cecilia Loo in Shanghai, China, which at the time was under Japanese occupation during the Second World War.

In 1946 Nancy's family moved to the British colony of Hong Kong where she received her elementary and secondary education.

Following graduation from high school, Nancy came to the United States to pursue further education. In 1966 she received a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics, with minors in physics and chemistry, from the University of Illinois. Then, as the result of a drawing class she took her junior year that put her in touch with her inner creativity, she enrolled at Eastern Michigan University and studied for the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, which she received in 1967. In the fall of 1967, she enrolled as a graduate student in the art metal program in the University of Wisconsin-Madison art department. There she met her future husband, Gary Bjorge, who was entering graduate school after completing five years of active duty in the U.S. Navy. They were married in Madison on August 19, 1968.

Nancy's first child, Benjamin Bruce, was born on July 3, 1974. On December 7, 1976, she gave birth to her daughter, Joanne Marie. In 1980 she and her family moved from Madison to Lawrence, Kansas, when her husband took a job at the University of Kansas. Nancy was very active in the Lawrence community. She served on the boards of the Douglas County Red Cross, the Spencer Museum of Art at the University of Kansas, KU's anthropology museum, and Kansas International. In 1993 she received a Lawrence Leadership Award. She was a long-time member of the Lawrence Rotary Club and the Lawrence Sister Cities organization. She was also a successful realtor, first with the Gill Agency and later with the McGrew Agency.

For full obituary, see:

<https://obituaries.ljworld.com/us/obituaries/ljworld/name/nancy-bjorge-obituary?id=38619850>

In Remembrance



Patrick Michael Fagan, 79, died Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023, at Bridge Haven in Lawrence. He married Regina "Jeannie" Tierce on Feb. 10, 1968, at Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Topeka, Kan. She survives. He also is survived by their three sons: Mark and his wife, Susie, of Lawrence; John, of Washington, D.C.; and Paul and his wife, Jennifer, of Matthews, N.C. Pat's four grandchildren also survive: Erin and Max, of Lawrence, and Caroline and Campbell, of Matthews. He also is survived by a sister, Anne Marie, and her husband, Tony Maurin, of Metairie, La. He was preceded in death by a sister, Rita, and her husband, Joe McCaffrey, of Topeka. He is survived by many nieces and nephews, and gathered with

cousins and many other relatives each Memorial Day in Reading, Kan.

Pat was born April 28, 1943, in Topeka, the son of Ed and Helen (Assenmacher) Fagan. He graduated from Hayden High School in Topeka. He earned a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Kansas, where he was a member of the Phi Kappa Theta fraternity and graduated from the Naval ROTC program. He later earned a master's degree in education from Pepperdine University. He was a graduate of the Naval War College and the National War College. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Navy League, the American Legion and the Military Officers Association of America.

Pat served as an officer in the U.S. Navy for 30 years, retiring in 1996 at the rank of captain and as commanding officer of Naval ROTC at KU. During his career he held three sea commands: USS Hitchiti, USS Saginaw, and USS Ogden. After retirement from the Navy, he served for another eight years as a teacher and leader of the Junior Naval ROTC program at Shawnee Mission West High School in Overland Park, Kan. He delivered meals as a volunteer for Lawrence Meals on Wheels. For full obituary, see:

<https://obituaries.ljworld.com/us/obituaries/ljworld/name/patrick-fagan-obituary?n=patrick-fagan&pid=203845942&fhid=24990>

In Remembrance



Thomas "Todd" Seymour, 95, of Lawrence died peacefully at home on Friday, December 2, 2022. He was born on May 4, 1927 in Leavenworth, KS. He was preceded in death by his wife, Jeannot, and is survived by his daughter Bunny, grandson Pieter Bierlaagh and son-in-law Tom Bierlaagh. At his request, no funeral or memorial service was held.

From Alan VanLoenen:

American Legion Post 14 - 3408 W 6th Street, Lawrence, KS

(1) Every Tuesday and Thursday from 9AM to 12PM, "coffee and conversation" for military veterans and American Legion members. There have been some Jayhawk MOAA members that attend this "coffee and conversation"; but would like to see more; especially those MOAA members that are also American Legion members.

(2) Thursdays from 6-9PM there will be country and western music band playing and from about 6 to 9PM a meal is available for \$12. The AL post has a trained chef that prepares these meals and I doubt you could get a meal this good for \$12 in Lawrence; with the addition of a music band playing. The meal will be available until food prepared is sold. These will also be a bar open for drinks.

(3) Every Wednesday and Saturday there is American Legion bingo. Doors open at 4:30 PM with pull tabs games, bingo games start at 6:45 PM; there is a snack bar for drinks starting at 5PM, and food served starting at 5:30 PM. There is a special "progressive black out" bingo game that progresses in value each night until won in the posted number or less.

All of these events are open to the public, the Thursday meal and music; if not a Post 14 member you have to sign in; because of their being an open bar for drinks.



Army News

Spring-like greetings from the cadets and cadre of the Jayhawk Battalion! I say "spring-like" because if weather holds to form, our upcoming Spring Field Training Exercise (23-26 March at Ft. Riley) will still feel like winter. For that exercise, all 84 cadets and uniformed cadre will decamp to conduct ranges, land navigation, familiarization flights, the confidence obstacle course, the rappel tower, and three days of graded patrols. As light fighters, we'll live out of our rucks and bear witness to the glory that is the Kansas night sky in early spring. Promises to be a blast!

Even though it's cold, February is my favorite month because every morning's PT session is a test of the cadets' collective mettle. Some mornings are in the mid-40s and perfect for a run, others are below zero with terrible wind – which is also perfect for a run! That's the never quit attitude that the cadre have worked to instill in the Jayhawk Battalion; and the cadets on the Northern Warfare Competition team displayed this attitude in spades in La Crosse, Wisconsin on the 24th and 25th of February. The Northern Warfare Competition consists of shooting, rucking, knot tying, mystery events, and more rucking in the icy cold of Wisconsin. The

Jayhawks were in a dead heat for the podium following the skills tests, but had a SNAFU on the ruck march. Despite being in 39th place (of 40 teams) after following the snow tracks of the two leading teams during the ruck march (which included the home team Univ of La Crosse), the cadets lowered their heads and charged and passed all but seven teams finishing 8th. Instead of the planned 16.7 miles of rucking through 18" snow, they walked and ran a total of 19.4. I am confident that if they hadn't gotten off track, they would have finished on the podium.

To dominate Cadet Summer Training, KU Army ROTC – and specifically MSG Josh Geery (our sniper-trained Senior Military Science Instructor) – has been focused on extended sets and repetitions of Basic Rifle Marksmanship. Over the course of the past month, MSG Geery has brought 2-3 cadets at a time to a local range to learn the best techniques for shooting well at the



300m pop-up range. The cadets have been extremely appreciative and I think this will go far to improving our cadets' marksmanship scores. Furthermore, we have introduced a voluntary combatives program on the morning's when we don't have scheduled unit PT. The Army combatives course, taught by MSG Geery and CPT Emery, trains soldiers in hand-to-hand combat techniques and focuses on pummeling, knee strikes, chokeholds, limb locks and grappling over a weapon. The long-term goal for participants in the program is Basic Combatives Level 1 Certification, but every participant will learn how to safely conduct close-quarters combat in training.

The next few months will be a sprint. Immediately following our Spring Field Training Exercise, we will ramp up for the Ranger Buddy Competition which will be held at Clinton Lake on 8 April. Can't wait for teams from across the country to close on Lawrence to compete with us on home terrain!

COL John D. Finch, Professor of Military Science



Navy News



Greetings from the Jayhawk Battalion!

As the staff and midshipmen return from a relaxing winter break, the Battalion is more than ready for an eventful spring semester. We have already accomplished many of the tasks for this spring.

As we concluded the fall semester, we celebrated the commissioning of MIDN 1/C Hoffman in the United States Navy as a Surface Warfare (Nuclear) Officer. She's currently at Basic Division Officer School in San Diego, California. We also welcomed aboard LT Jeremy Cole as our new



Surface Warfare Officer and advisor! LT Cole is from Fayetteville, North Carolina and received his bachelor's degree from Norfolk State University. He commissioned through the Hampton Roads NROTC Consortium. His first ship was the USS Normandy (CG-60) stationed in Norfolk, Virginia. There, he served as a Communications, Network Security, and Electrical Officer. LT Cole was then stationed on the USS Wichita (LCS-13), homeported out of Mayport, Florida as a Navigator.

ENS Hoffman posing with family

On February 16th, the Battalion had the opportunity to have Lieutenant (LT) Andrew "Chimp" Stueckemann, a KU NROTC Alumni, spoke about his aviation career and answered any question the MIDN might have on the aviation community. Afterwards, Aviation Club hosted a dinner at 23rd Street Brewery with him and his wife.

On February 22nd and 23rd our surface warfare first class midshipmen selected their first ships to report to after commissioning. MIDN Robertson chose the USS Roosevelt (DDG-80) out of Rota, Spain; MIDN Stuart chose the USS Preble (DDG-88) out of San Diego, California; MIDN Winkler chose the USS Curtis Wilbur (DDG-54) also out of San Diego, California.

ENS Hussong & MIDN Stuart celebrating MIDN Winkler's ship selection



From March 2nd through the 5th, the Battalion traveled to Colorado to participate in the annual University of Colorado – Boulder Drill Meet. The competition was tough and unfortunately the battalion did not receive any awards this year. The Midshipmen gave it their all, we're proud of the work that they've put in during the past semester and are excited for their improvement next year.

As always, please accept invitation to the upcoming formal events:

26 April, 1630 – Navy Spring Awards Ceremony, Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union

15 May, 0900 – Navy Commissioning Ceremony, Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union

15 May, 1100 – Joint Commissioning Ceremony, Ballroom, Kansas Union

Rock Chalk and Fly Navy!

***CAPT James “Nemo” Miller
Professor of Military Science***



Air Force News



Hello from Detachment 280, the Flying Jayhawks!

In great news for Air Force ROTC cadets, Gen CQ Brown formally introduced the Charles McGee Leadership Award (CMLA) in late January. The CMLA is a 2-year scholarship awarded to cadets who complete Field Training after their sophomore year and meet minimum GPA requirements. It's a great deal for cadets who have demonstrated commitment to commissioning into the Air Force by allowing them to focus more on academics and leadership development, and less on finding money for school. The CMLA represents a partial shift of funding away from High School applicants toward those in-college cadets that represent a greater return on investment.

It's "Board Season" in AFROTC. The Professional Officers Course (POC) Selection Process (PSP) Board is open now and will select which underclassmen will be allowed to remain in the program and attend Field Training this summer. Those who receive an "enrollment allocation" and then graduate from Field Training will become our newest POC cadets next fall.

Additionally, the Rated Board will be held soon and will select cadets to be classified into rated Air Force Specialty Codes (Pilot, Combat Systems Operator, Remotely Piloted Aircraft, and Air Battle Manager). These two boards dramatically shape the next phase of life for our cadets. I eagerly await the results.

We said goodbye to SSgt Shawn Lowe, our Administration Management NCOIC, at the end of February. Shawn was with Det 280 for 4 years and became a respected and trusted asset for

our program, both in the eyes of fellow cadre and the scores of cadets he helped mentor during his time with us. He's off to support the 5th Bomb Wing, "Guardians of the Upper Realm," at Minot Air Force Base, ND. He'll do great things there as well and will continue to grow as an NCO and as a fine young man. We'll miss him very much.



Farewells typically coincide with hails, and that has been the case with our detachment. The NCO corps swap out is complete. We welcomed TSgt James Hudson, an Airborne Cryptologic Language Analyst, from Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ in December, and SSgt Russell Byrd, another Administration Management NCO, from Offutt AFB, NE in February. They're both getting up to speed and learning to speak "ROTC," but are excited to be on the team, and I'm excited to have them.

(SSgt Lowe receiving his Air Force Commendation Medal, 22 Feb 23)

Finally, thanks again for hosting us at the January Chapter Meeting. Our cadre and cadets enjoyed another great opportunity to rub elbows with your chapter members. The food was good again, as was the conversation and camaraderie.

Rock Chalk!

Lt Col Charlie Dorssom, Professor of Military Science

MOAA LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

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

Those who are MOAA National members receive the full Legislative Updates each week. Let us know if you want additional info on any particular topic: job4mike6@aol.com

Here are some web addresses and phone numbers for retirement pay and related issues such as changing an allotment or tax withholding for inclusion in our newsletter.

WEB ADDRESS <http://www.dfas.mil/dfas/retiredmilitary.htm> Or <https://myPay.dfas.mil>

POSTAL ADDRESS Defense Finance and Accounting Service, US Military Retirement Pay, 8899 E 56th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46249-1200

PHONE/FAX COMMERCIAL 317-212-0551; TOLL FREE VOICE 1-800-321-1080; TOLL FREE FAX 1-800-469-6559

Other News

National Slam the Scam Day

On National Slam the Scam Day and throughout the year, we give you the tools to recognize Social Security-related scams and stop scammers from stealing your money and personal information. Share scam information with your loved ones. Slam the Scam!

Recognize the four basic signs of a scam:

Scammers pretend to be from a familiar organization or agency, like the Social Security Administration. They may email attachments with official-looking logos, seals, signatures, or pictures of employee credentials.

Scammers mention a problem or a prize. They may say your Social Security number was involved in a crime or ask for personal information to process a benefit increase.

Scammers pressure you to act immediately. They may threaten you with arrest or legal action.

Scammers tell you to pay using a gift card, prepaid debit card, cryptocurrency, wire or money transfer, or by mailing cash. They may also tell you to transfer your money to a “safe” account.

Ignore scammers and report criminal behavior. Report Social Security-related scams to the SSA Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

Lawmakers Eye Caps on Attorney Fees for Camp Lejeune Suits

Congress will likely pass legislation this year to [limit attorney's fees](#) for certain veterans benefits work to protect vets from being bilked by unscrupulous attorneys, according to [Sen. Jon Tester](#), D-Mont., chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. While veterans technically don't have to pay anything to file a claim, some lawyers say they can simplify the complicated process and make sure claims aren't rejected - services that can cost thousands of dollars.

“We have to make sure that ruthless folks out there don't unnecessarily and for no good reason take some of these benefits from our veterans,” Tester said. “There are going to be bills put up that give the veteran choices, but also protection.”

Tester made the comments during an appearance at the American Legion's Washington Conference Tuesday, where hundreds of veterans gather annually to lobby lawmakers on group priorities. He acknowledged that several proposals to cap attorney fees have already been floated in Congress and said he expects a compromise to be reached on the issue in coming months.

At issue are new benefits and legal rights included in the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act (better known as the PACT Act) that was signed into law last August. The law includes almost \$300 billion in new financial benefits for veterans suffering from illnesses caused by burn pit smoke in Iraq and Afghanistan, Agent Orange spraying in Vietnam, and several other military toxic exposure events.

It also included provisions allowing civil suits against the government for injuries related to water contamination at the [Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base](#) from August 1953 to December 1987.

Since last summer, numerous television and radio advertisements from legal firms have promised windfalls for veterans who served at the base and file a claim through their offices. But Veterans Affairs officials and veterans service organizations have warned that those lawsuits may not result in new payouts, and veterans could lose money by suing the government.

Sen. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, offered a similar proposal late last year to cap lawyers fees related to the Camp Lejeune lawsuits, but was blocked by Tester and others who said they didn't want to rush the issue.

However, veterans groups have warned that without some protections, individuals may be victimized by unscrupulous attorneys. In recent weeks, lawmakers have filed a series of new proposals following Sullivan's idea.

As Tester made his remarks, a group including House Veterans' Affairs Committee ranking member Mark Takano, D-Calif., unveiled the Protect Access to Justice for Veterans Act, which would prohibit lawyers from taking more than one-third of any payout related to the Camp Lejeune lawsuits.

Earlier this month, a group of House and Senate Republicans including House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Mike Bost, R-Ill., introduced the Victims Ensnared by Trial-lawyers' Scams (VETS) Act, which would similarly cap attorney fees for settlements at 17%.

Tester said he expects even more proposals in weeks to come. He said he is unsure if the issue will be dealt with through his committee or the Senate Judiciary Committee, but said he expected positive movement on the ideas soon.

"We're already working on some stuff," he said. "The bottom line is we want to make sure that veterans have a choice ... but also that they are treated fairly."

VA officials are encouraging all veterans and families with questions regarding the Camp Lejeune lawsuits to call their information line at 1-800-827-1000 or visit [their web page on the issue](#).

Department of Defense Focus on Kansas Legislation

Defense-State Liaison Office (DSLO)

The Pentagon has an office known as DSLO that addresses state-level legislation. DSLO is an acronym for Defense-State Liaison Office. The DSLO web site is :

<https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil/>

" The Defense-State Liaison Office provides state policymakers with expert insight on issues affecting military families and their quality of life. This initiative is part of the Defense Department's efforts to identify and address the most pressing needs of service members and military families. As a trusted resource, DSLO:

- *Provides reliable information and research*

- Shares knowledge of policies and process
- Offers assistance with legislation at the state level”

The DSLO Director in our Nation’s Capital is Geraldine Valentino-Smith, a former Maryland State Legislator. DSLO has regional officials and for the past several months the Kansas liaison has been vacant. Recently, DSLO hired an Air Force spouse, [Michelle A. Richart](#), to serve Kansas, Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota. She is based in Colorado Springs and her active duty spouse serves as an instructor at the USAF Academy. Her e-mail contact is:

michelle.a.richart.civ@mail.mil

I had a good conversation with Ms. Richart earlier this week and she is interested in the legislative activities in Kansas to support military members and military family members. She is available to testify by Webex as needed on bills that address DoD military family support policy goals.

Here are the bills in Kansas she is tracking this session:

SB 66 – Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact

HB 2388 – Electronic licensure credentialing

HB 2288 – Counseling interstate compact

HB 2340 – Behavioral Science licensing accessibility

HB 2178 – Anti-Veteran discrimination (we would like it to say “military status” instead of veteran to be more inclusive of currently-serving military families) – Not a current key issue, but highly related

SB 282 – Childcare Licensing provisions

Most of these bills focus on overcoming or eliminating barriers to military spouse employment.

I ask everyone advocating for military family issues to introduce yourself to Ms. Richart by e-mail. DSLO has a State Policymaker Inquiry web page which is an intake portal for our questions to the Pentagon policymakers. Here’s some sample questions we might want to ask:

- Will the Secretary of Defense support publicly state-level initiatives like Kansas HB2011 to increase military take-home pay by reducing taxation of military compensation to increase financial security of military families?
- What is the status on efforts to increase funding to improve child care for reserve component troops that often serve on weekends and away from major military installations with DoD-staffed child care centers?
- What is being done to improve travel expense reimbursement levels and reimbursement processes for active and reserve component troops?
- If you have more of these ideas like I’ve written above you may submit at:

<https://public.militaryonesource.mil/state-policymakers-inquiry>

I believe Ms. Richart and her DSLO leadership can be a valuable resource to gain the ear of senior Pentagon policy makers.



JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA



A membership meeting will be held **Tuesday, 21 March 2023**

at the **Lawrence Country Club**

Dinner cost is \$30.00/meal.

The Program: Gail Joyce, Surviving Spouse

Social Hour: 1800 hours Dinner: 1900 hours

The Menu: to be announced soon on email

Send your reservation and check payable to Jayhawk Chapter MOAA to arrive no later than **Thursday, 16 March** to: CAPT Jim Cooper, **5216 Brown Lane, Lawrence, KS 66049-5112**

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 Mike Kelly at 727-3329

cut here

Yes, please make _____ reservations for me and my guests. (Spouse and other guests are welcome.)

The cost is \$30.00 per meal. I am enclosing a check for \$_____ for meal(s).

Clayton L. Comfort Award program contribution \$_____

(Separate check made out to "KU Endowment")

TOTAL: \$ _____

Name _____ Telephone _____

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

AND GIVE US YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

TEAR OFF AND RETURN THIS FORM WITH A CHECK PAYABLE TO: JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA (CAPT Jim Cooper, 5216 Brown Lane, Lawrence, KS 66049-5112)

MOAA WEBSITE: www.moaa.org
KANSAS COUNCIL WEBSITE: www.kansasmooa.net
JAYHAWK CHAPTER WEBSITE: www.jayhawkmoaa.org

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