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General George Washington



Mount Vernon Chapter

The Despatch

Mount Vernon, Virginia Chapter - MOAA

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NDAA Tracker: Looking at Key Amendments to the Must-Pass Bill

By: Brenden McMahon, Associate Director, MOAA Government Relations, September 3, 2025

Proposals to end an unjust pay offset faced by tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans and to improve access to care at military treatment facilities are among the more than 1,500 amendments lawmakers will consider as part of must-pass defense legislation.

House lawmakers have submitted more than 900 amendments to their version of the FY 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), while the Senate will need to work through over 600. Not all of these will make it into the final chamber-passed bills – or even receive floor attention – but the sheer volume

underscores the magnitude of the task ahead.



georgeclerk/Getty Images

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The Senate is expected to take up its version of the bill later this week after an 84-14 vote Sept. 2 invoking cloture, which will allow for debate on the legislation. The House likely will begin its NDAA work next week, setting up a busy stretch for both chambers as the bills make their way through the legislative process and move one step closer to being signed into law.

Key Amendments of Interest

MOAA is closely monitoring amendments that directly affect our core mission. Several stand out as particularly significant. Two examples:

Supporting Combat-Injured Veterans: Both chambers will consider an NDAA amendment including the text of the Major Richard Star Act. This enduring priority for MOAA would provide concurrent receipt of retirement pay and VA disability compensation to combat-injured servicemembers who were

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Smash on Station



Esteemed colleagues,

Mount Vernon Chapter Membership Appreciation Dinner 24 September 2025.

Members, check this issue of the *Despatch* and the calendar within for information on the Member's Appreciation Dinner at the Laurel Hill Golf Club. We have a social hour, guest speaker and dinner planned. RSVP by 17 September in accordance with the information email you received. We hope to see you there.

Chapter Needs Volunteers - We will be selecting a committee for nominations for the November elections this month. Chapter Leaders are important to continue the professional level of performance this award winning Chapter has maintained. If you have a desire to get involved and assist with the Mount Vernon Chapter, please send me an email or give me a call. My information is in the *Despatch*.

September Observances –

September 1st was Labor Day. More importantly I believe, September 11th, Patriot Day, will mark the 24th anniversary honoring the memory of those who were killed in the September 11th terrorist attacks. A moment of silence is observed at 8:46 in the morning. I was at 4E482 in the Pentagon and assisted people in getting out of the Pentagon. The assistance by many in the Pentagon presented a great example of people helping the less fortunate and less capable in their time of need, as did the efforts of so many people in New York City.

The **78th birthday of the USAF is on the 18th of September. AIM High! POW/MIA recognition day is on the 19th of September.**

On Sunday the **28th of September, we observe Gold Star Mother's Day**, where we express our sympathies and reverence for mothers whose sons and daughters served and died while serving their nation in times of war or conflict.



Happy Birthday, United States Air Force!

Final Thoughts:

America has battled through hard times before and these hard times create strong American Women and Men. It will be our individual and collective strength that will again bolster the American spirit. We as veterans have always stood for this country, through our service and our oath of office!

Never stop serving our great Nation.

Semper Fidelis,

Smash

NEVER STOP SERVING



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MVC MOAA Legislative Corner

Weight-Loss Drug Coverage Ends for TRICARE For Life Beneficiaries: What's Next?

Edited from an article by Karen Ruedisueli, MOAA's Director of Government Relations for Health Affairs, September 3, 2025

Weight-loss drugs such as Wegovy, Zepbound, and other GLP-1 medications are no longer covered for TRICARE For Life (TFL) beneficiaries as of Aug. 31, though the other TRICARE plans continue to offer coverage, with prior authorization. TRICARE policy has never approved coverage for GLP-1 drugs simply to lose weight or for cosmetic purposes. The prior authorization process requires documentation of comorbid medical conditions that can be improved or eliminated by taking GLP-1 medications. Those prescribed GLP-1 drugs for Type 2 diabetes (Trulicity, Ozempic, Mounjaro, or Victoza) will be able to continue their treatment plans.

MOAA pushed for the Defense Health Agency (DHA) to delay the planned Aug. 31 coverage change, citing two key concerns echoed by hundreds of MOAA members and others who've [shared their GLP-1 story](#). The move threatens the significant strides made by many GLP-1 users in reducing or eliminating weight-related ailments such as sleep apnea or high blood pressure while improving their quality of life.

The change sets a dangerous precedent by creating two classes of drug coverage for TRICARE and TRICARE For Life beneficiaries. Future moves could widen this coverage difference, significantly weakening the TFL benefit.

MOAA's work on the issue, which has [received national media attention](#), will continue on multiple fronts, as we engage DoD health officials and lawmakers. Much of that work involves research into TRICARE's legislative and regulatory history, as a means to better understand the DHA's claim that TFL coverage of weight-loss medication is "inconsistent with existing statutory and regulatory authority."

While the patchwork of statute and regulations involving TRICARE coverage of weight-loss treatments is complex, MOAA has not discovered any federal statute specifically excluding TFL beneficiaries from coverage of GLP-1 drugs or other treatments. There are, however, multiple instances of federal statute requiring a uniform pharmacy program benefit across all TRICARE categories -- instances which appear to run counter to the recent GLP-1 ruling. As we present these arguments to lawmakers and DoD officials alike, we will advocate for updated federal regulations to preserve the TFL benefit and continue coverage parity for GLP-1 drugs and in future coverage decisions. Ensuring world-class coverage for all TRICARE beneficiaries regardless of age, remains at the heart of MOAA's mission. Keep up with the latest progress on this and other key issues at [MOAA's news page](#).

Key Amendments cont. from p.1

forced to medically retire before reaching 20 years of service. Its introduction in both chambers underscores the continued momentum and broad support behind this vital reform – the standalone bipartisan legislation had 300 cosponsors in the House and 76 in the Senate as of Sept. 2.

Improving TRICARE Access: A House amendment offered by Rep. Steven Horsford (D-Nev.) would direct DoD to establish a digital system for TRICARE beneficiaries receiving care at military treatment facilities. This system would allow patients to electronically file and track complaints related to access to care, with each complaint routed to a patient advocate for action. This has been one of MOAA's top priorities for DoD health care since the beginning of the 119th Congress, and we are pleased to see the House take up this important issue.

Key Amendments cont. on p. 5



MVC-MOAA 2025 Events-Calendar



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DATE	LOCATION	EVENT / SPEAKER / TOPIC
Wed. Sep 3 7 pm-9 pm	Virtual	BOD Meeting: Appoint Nomination Cmte for Nov Officer election; need volunteers for Ft. Belvoir Retirees Activities Day in Sep; confirm speakers.
Wed. Sep 24 6 pm-9 pm	Laurel Hill Golf Club 8701 Laurel Crest Drive Lorton, VA22079	Dinner. Speaker Col Doug Yurovich, USMC (Ret). <i>Social Hour (Cash Bar) 6-7 pm. Buffet served at 7 pm, Speaker at 8 pm.</i>
Wed. Oct 1 7 pm-9 pm	Virtual	BOD Meeting. 4 th QTR VCOC report; Legislative Cmte proposes Natl objectives;
Fri. Oct 24 8 am-1pm	Wells Field House, 1814 Goethals Rd, Ft Belvoir	Fort Belvoir Annual Retiree Appreciation Day
Sat. Nov 15 11 am-1 pm	TBD	Lunch/Brunch. Annual Business Meeting. Speaker TBD. <i>Lunch served at 11:30 am. Officer Installation and Speaker to follow.</i>
Sat. Dec 13 (Tentative) 9:30 am-3 pm	Alexandria Natl Cemetery; Social	 Wreath Laying  Holiday Social This is becoming an annual tradition for the Mount Vernon Chapter. Please join us for the annual Wreaths Across America day at Alexandria National Cemetery. We will be joining veterans from local VSOs, Boy Scouts, various military affiliated youth organizations, and numerous supporters from around the community. Following the wreath laying, we will conduct our holiday social at a place to be determined.

Key Amendments cont. from p.4

These are just two examples of amendments MOAA is watching closely. We also are evaluating a wide range of proposals related to TRICARE reform, issues affecting currently serving servicemembers, support for military families, and provisions impacting veterans.

How You Can Get Involved As the House and Senate prepare to take up their respective versions of the FY 2026 NDAA, your voice is critical in shaping the final outcome. Lawmakers must hear directly from you about the importance of these amendments and how their inclusion in the NDAA will impact the uniformed services and veteran communities. Here's how you can take action:

Engage Through MOAA's Legislative Action Center: Send messages to your elected officials urging their support for amendments like the [Major Richard Star Act](#) and improvements to TRICARE access.

Build Awareness: Share MOAA updates with fellow servicemembers, retirees, and family members to broaden the impact of our collective voice.

Stay Informed: Follow MOAA's coverage [on our website](#) and in our newsletter as the NDAA moves through both chambers and into conference.

Together, through informed and active advocacy, MOAA can help ensure the FY 2026 NDAA protects the service-earned pay and benefits of our nation's past, present, and future uniformed servicemembers, their family members, and their survivors.

TAKE ACTION



MOUNT VERNON CHAPTER

Member Appreciation Dinner

Wednesday SEPTEMBER 24th 2025

Laurel Hill Golf Club

8701 Laurel Crest Drive Lorton, VA 22079

Buffet Dinner \$35/person

Cash or Check payable to MVC MOAA,

Social Hour 6PM to 7PM (Cash Bar)

Dinner 7PM to 9PM

Menu: Laurel Hill Garden Salad, Steam Asparagus, Herb-Roasted Red Potatoes with Beef Tenderloin Tips or Grilled Salmon

Chapter President Doug Yurovich, Col USMC (Ret)

Guest Speaker

Test piloting and my ejection at Pax River, with short videos

RSVP by Wednesday September 17th

BY CALLING: LTC ALLENS 703-919-4381

or

EMAIL: LTCE94@VERIZON.NET

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE MOUNT VERNON CHAPTER OF MOAA, GO TO **WWW.MVMOAA.ORG** OR CALL CHAPTER PRES. **DOUG YUROVICH** 703-690-7113 OR PAST PRES. **GEORGE WALLACE** 703-354-4647

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