

MOAA state representatives go to Capitol Hill to fight health care increases and honor congressmen

ALEXANDRIA - On April 2, state council and chapter presidents representing the Military Officers Association of America's (MOAA) from all 50 states and Puerto Rico visited Capitol Hill to persuade their elected officials to cosponsor legislation that opposes the Department of Defense's proposed proportional fee increases of up to 400 percent annually in the military's TRICARE health care system.

They also asked for fixes to the inequities for disabled retirees and military survivors and an upgrade the active duty military pay raise.

MOAA members met with their home state legislators to urge support to bar fee hikes for FY09 and support S. 604 and H.R. 579 the Military (and

Military Retirees) Health Care Protection Act bills establishing fee limits; and to sponsor bills to eliminate the "Disabled Veteran's Tax" (Concurrent Receipt) and the "Military Widows Tax" (SBP-DIC Offset) and to support at least a 3.9 percent pay raise to further narrow the pay gap that exists between the military and private sector pay scales. The goal of the event was to visit the office of every U.S. legislator.

MOAA also honored members of Congress and others at a Capitol Hill reception to recognize distinguished leaders who have been strong supporters of national defense and the uniformed services community.

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman, Sen.

Carl Levin (D-MI) and House Armed Services Committee Chairman, Rep. Ike Skelton (D-MO) received the Colonel Arthur T. Marix Congressional Leadership Award for their leadership on the military pay raise and wounded warriors' legislation. Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) was recognized for sponsoring Reserve retirement improvements and Rep. Vic Snyder (D-AR) for his leadership on the G.I. Bill and other upgrades.

Col. Marix founded MOAA on February 23, 1929 and served as MOAA's first President until 1944.

The General Electric Company, headquartered in Fairfield, Conn., received the MOAA Distinguished Service Award for strong support of

Stacie Oliver from Sen. Bob Corker's office and Joel Rubin, formerly with Sen. Frank Lautenberg's office, received the Colonel Paul W. Arcari

Meritorious Service Award for their work on a broad array of legislative initiatives to support and protect military people. This award was named for MOAA's former director of Government Relations, Colonel Paul W. Arcari, USAF (retired), who retired in 2001.

MOAA, the nation's largest association for active duty, National Guard, Reserve, former, and retired military officers and their families, with 370,000 members, promotes a strong national defense by lobbying for equitable benefits for those who serve and have served their country in military, including health care, pay, allowances, and family issues. MOAA's national headquarters is in Alexandria.

Press about MOAA Storming Capitol - Virginia Council Involved.

At left is the MOAA news release published in the Southside Chapter Area. The Richmond papers did not print the MOAA release nor photo of COL Sam Wilder which were provided.

Below from:
NEWPORT NEWS VIRGINIA TOWN SQUARE SECTION
Daily Press, April 25, 2008
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People in the news

NEWSMAKERS

► **Melva Mallison** of Newport News, a retired Air Force major, recently joined representatives from all 50 states and Puerto Rico in attending the Military Officers Association of America's annual event. She was in one of two Virginia teams



MALLISON

that visited legislators and staffers on Capitol Hill to persuade them to co-sponsor legislation that opposes disproportional TRICARE fee increases, will fix the inequities for disabled retirees and military survivors, sustain long-term defense budget and upgrade the military pay raise. A resident of Newport News, she is a past president of the Virginia Peninsula Chapter. She also represents officers from Hampton, Gloucester, York County, Williamsburg and Jamestown in the Virginia Peninsula Chapter of the Military Officers Association.