



Official Publication of Central Illinois Chapter IL33,
ROA & Heart of Illinois Chapter IL09, MOAA



(DBA Reserve Organization of America)

PRAIRIELAND BULLETIN

Volume 29 Number 7

APR 2025

Chapter Website: <https://www.moaa.org/chapter/heartofillinois/>



Joint Chapters Meeting Notice CIRAO IL33 & HOIMOAA IL09



Date: 15 APR 2025

Location: Lariat Steakhouse, W. Glen Ave, Peoria, IL 61614

Time: 1800 Social Time
1830 Meeting Starts; Invocation, Pledge of
Allegiance; Order Dinner

Program: AI & American National Security (Virtual)

Artificial Intelligence is a dual-use technology which has both significant civilian and military uses. Our National security will be affected by both uses. Foreign Policy's Great Decisions has provided discussion topics for our Chapter to explore. Military Defense, Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Export Policies, Job Impact, AI Ethics are some topics we will can discuss at a high level.

Guest Speaker: CAPT Bob Yonker, USN Ret

RESERVATIONS REQUESTED:

BY SUNDAY, 13 APR 25, contact MAJ Jackson at 309-676-1602 (Office), 309-657-3203 (mobile), or email: jacksonfinancial@yahoo.com with names and number of attendees. **HEADCOUNT IS IMPORTANT FOR FOOD AND SEATING.**

Volunteers needed to fill Leadership vacancies on the Board of Joint Chapters.



Seals shown here are to indicate membership source, but are unauthorized by the individual services

Meeting & Program Schedule 2024-25

**1 Apr25 - Joint Chapters
Board Meeting**

**15 Apr 25 - Membership Meeting
CIRAO**

**6 May 25 - Joint Chapters
Board Meeting**

**20 May 25 - Membership Meeting
HOIMOAA**

June, July & August Break

Until further notice, Board Meetings will be held virtually by Zoom at 1900 hrs on the first Tuesday of the month, and Membership Meetings in person, at Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen Ave., Peoria, IL 61614, on the third Tuesday of the month at 1800hrs.(Zoom available to those who can't attend in person.)



Remote Zoom Meeting Instructions

To join the meeting online from home, click on link below.:

Meeting ID: 863 9521 9434

Passcode: 123123

For those without internet:

Audio only: 1-312-626-6799 or 1-309-205-3325

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86395219434?pwd=EC5FZ38F9zQcgKpbvLRWXMtRpWOlx7.1>

APR Meeting Program

Chapter's Program on 15 April 2025 will be:

AI & American National Security

Presented by CAPT Bob Yonker, USN Ret

Dinner Menu for 15 APR

BBQ Baby Back Ribs: 1/2 Rack \$27/ Full Rack: \$34

Chopped Sirloin: \$27

Pork Chop: \$33

Prime Rib: Petite \$32 Regular \$37 Large \$41

Jumbo Shrimp: \$27

Includes Salad & Sides

*20% Gratuity & Tax Added to Bill
Deserts Extra*

APR Meeting Guest Speaker

CAPT Bob Yonker, USN Ret

CAPT Robert H. Yonker will facilitate our discussion. He was commissioned in 1971, served aboard the USS Inflict (MSO-456) participating in Vietnam Maritime Coastal Surveillance and in Operation End Sweep. CAPT Yonker has served in several Naval Reserve Units as Dept Head, Executive Officer, and as Commanding Officer for five commands.



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None New to Report



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Legislative Report

Major Richard Star Act Reintroduced in congress

Lawmakers in both the Senate and House recently reintroduced the Major Richard Star Act, a bill which would provide combat-injured retirees with their full earned benefits.

The legislation ([S. 1032](#) | [H.R. 2102](#)) addresses a long-standing and unjust offset by authorizing concurrent receipt of DoD retired pay and VA disability for those injured in a combat zone and forced to medically retire.

"This measure corrects one of the deepest injustices in our present veterans' disability system," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), who introduced the bill in his chamber. "It is unacceptable that tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans are denied the full military benefits they earned. Our bipartisan bill will right this longstanding injustice and finally provide these military retirees who have already sacrificed so much their full VA disability and Defense Department retirement payments."

(Legislative Report Continues)

The Star Act enjoys bipartisan support, with [185](#) cosponsors in the House and [43](#) in the Senate as of March 18. MOAA and our veterans service community partners are working diligently to increase this support. It is imperative that we obtain as much engagement as possible so that this critical piece of legislation can cross the finish line.

To do this MOAA requires your support and sustained engagement to help advance this bill and make its importance known to members of Congress. Your voice is crucial and will amplify our message to ensure lawmakers do not forget about our combat-injured veterans and their service to our nation.

Reginald Bernard, LTC USA Ret
Acting Legislative Chair



CIROA-HOIMOAA Committee Assignments:



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USA, Chair

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U AROTC OIC; MAJ
Paul Baumgartner, USA
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Peoria Manual Academy
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(Monthly Reports
Requested)

NEWSLETTER:
MAJ Jerry Jackson,
USA

ESGR: LTC Dick
Franzen, USA

Historian: Vacant

MEMBERSHIP:
LTC Reginald Ber-
nard (Acting)

**PROGRAMS &
Website:**
CAPT Bob Yonker,
USN

LEGISLATION:
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nard, USA (Acting)

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MAJ Jerry D. Jackson, USA Ret, Editor/Publisher.

ROA Charter from the Congress (SEC190102)
 "the purposes of the corporation are to support the development and exercise of a military policy for the United States that will provide adequate national security. ROA was for a long time the exclusive military organization created by Congress to advise Congress on military matters, with the more recent addition of MOAA., formerly known as TROA.

Notice of Disclaimer

Publication of articles written by individual members of ROA, CH33 and MOAA CH09 does not necessarily reflect the opinions and/or views of the chapters, or the national organizations.

Publication does not constitute an endorsement of views expressed.

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