CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

PO Box 11309 ● Syracuse, NY 13218

November 2026

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From the Chapter President

As we approach the close of another busy MOAA season, I want to thank each of you for your continued support of the Central New York Chapter. Your membership, participation and dedication help ensure that our chapter remains a strong voice for the military community throughout Central New York.

While many know MOAA for advocacy on behalf of uniformed service members, retirees, veterans, surviving spouses and their families, our organization is also built on fellowship, mentorship, and service. Through chapter meetings, community outreach, and legislative engagement, we continue to uphold the values of leadership and commitment that defined our military careers.

Today, more than ever, it is important that we remain informed and involved. The issues affecting military compensation, healthcare, survivor benefits and quality of life continue to evolve. MOAA's national advocacy efforts are strengthened by engaged local chapters like ours, and every member plays a role in that success.

I encourage you to attend upcoming events, invite prospective members to join us, and stay connected with your fellow chapter members. Together, we can continue to support one another, strengthen our chapter and ensure that the needs of the entire military community are heard and respected.

Thank you for your service, your membership, and your commitment to the mission of MOAA. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Respectfully,
Suzann

Suzann Hensley, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

CONNECT. ENGAGE. ADVOCATE.

Follow the CNYC for advocacy updates & upcoming events.
📘 **Facebook: @CNYCMOAA**

Follow the NYS Council for legislative updates & news from NY Chapters.
👥 **Join the Council Facebook Group: groups/468719414994870**
🌐 **Visit the Council Website: NYSCOCMOAA.org**

Together, we are strong advocates for those who serve and have served.

Join us for the next Chapter Membership Meeting!



Saturday, November 14
12:00-1:30 PM
Free parking in adjacent lot

Angry Smokehouse
33 Water Street
Baldwinsville, NY 13027

$33.00 per person
Includes a soft drink & gratuity
Cash bar

Meal Options

Caesar Salad: romaine lettuce, shaved parmesan cheese, fire-roasted corn, BBQ-seasoned croutons, & Southern Caesar dressing

Pulled Pork Bowl: slow-smoked pulled pork, black beans, smoked cheddar, romaine, fire-roasted corn, candied jalapenos & sour cream

Summer Chicken Wrap: smoked chopped chicken, sauteed onions, crispy fried jalapenos, diced tomatoes & cheese blend

Bacon Wrapped Shrimp: grilled shrimp, wrapped in bacon & brushed with KC BBQ sauce

Baby's Got Back Philly Sandwich: baby back rib meat, candied jalapenos, smoked onions, queso, KC BBQ sauce & horsey mayo served on a toasted hoagie roll

Smokehouse Burger: grilled angus burger, smoked cheddar, bacon, greens, tomato, & red onion

Sides (Choose One): Sweet Waffle Fries | Salt Potatoes | Tater Tots | Mac & Cheese | Smoked Cream Corn | Southern Green Beans w/Bacon | Candied Jalapenos & Cheddar Cornbread

Program

Annual Central New York Chapter Membership Meeting

Please bring Male/Female Toiletry Donations for the Syracuse Veterans Residential Program

Please bring Non-perishable Food Item or Grocery Store Gift Card Donations for Feed Our Vets

✂**********

Reservation/Payment due ASAP, but NLT November 11

Email RSVP to cnycmoaa@gmail.com or clip & mail with check payment to the address below

Make check payable to: CNYC MOAA

Mail to: CNYC MOAA
P.O. Box 11309
Syracuse, NY 13218

NAME(S)	MEAL CHOICE	SIDE CHOICE

Upcoming Events / Interesting News in Our Local Community

Honor Flight Syracuse

Honor America's veterans by transporting them to Washington, D.C. to visit the national memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifice.

HFS Mission #26 - Sat, Apr 24

Ten counties: Cayuga, Onondaga, Oswego, Cortland, Madison, Oneida, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, & St. Lawrence.

honorflightsyracuse.org

Clear Path for Veterans

Hub of information, programs, and resources for veterans, current military members and their families.

Indoor Golf Simulator - Five Iron
Nov 16 @ 10 am – 12 pm
Free | Register Online

Thanksgiving Pie Fundraiser
Order Online by Nov 23
Pick up Nov 23, 24 or 25

clearpath4vets.org

Lights on the Lake

Onondaga Lake Park
106 Lake Drive
Liverpool, NY

Salute the Troops Night
Monday, Nov 30
5-10 pm
Reservation not required

Active, Reserve & Veterans
Free w/military ID, VA card or other military id at ticket booth

lightsonthelake.com

Return with your Membership Dues: ✂

Renew your membership!

Make check payable to CNYC MOAA:

_____ $20 Military Membership
_____ $10 Surviving Spouse Membership

Mail to:

CNYC MOAA
P.O. Box 11309
Syracuse, NY 13218-1309

Please renew your CNYC MOAA membership so we can:

- ***provide a chapter newsletter to keep you informed of national, state and chapter issues;***
- ***continue legislative advocacy;***
- ***plan chapter activities; and***
- ***support CNY's active duty, reserve force, retired and former military personnel, their families and their communities.***

Annual chapter dues are only $20 for Military Members and $10 for Surviving Spouse Members.

We appreciate your past membership and hope you will "Never Stop Serving" with us!

Commemorating Veterans Day

CNY Veterans Day Parade & Expo



Musical Salute to Veterans



TV Specials on Honor Flight Syracuse Mission 25

NewsChannel 9's Ryan Dean & Jack Estabrook flew with Mission 25 – special program on Veterans Day at 7:00 pm. WCNY-TV, Channel 24, special, "Honor Flight Syracuse Mission 25: Tell Your Story" on: Veterans Day at 5:30 pm, November 12 at 8:00 pm and November 15 at 3:30 pm. The program is produced by Andy Robinson and Dan Cummings.

Onondaga County Veterans Day Ceremony



City of Auburn Veterans Day Ceremony



Memorial City Hall
24 South Street
Free Admission

Barracks Humor: Mohegan Manor Comedy Vault



Comedians from the US Army, Navy, and Marine Corps take the stage for one night of jokes that definitely didn't make the official report.
Free for all veterans
Register Online @ moheganmanor.com

Syracuse Veterans Residential Program

www.pyhit.org/programs/syracusevets
6590 Thompson Road, Syracuse

Who We Serve
The program supports veterans working toward recovery from substance use disorder and other life challenges. The program is designed for veterans who are ready to take the next step toward stability, accountability, and independent living.

What We Do
Residents live in a structured, supportive environment focused on daily stability and long-term success. The program combines housing, treatment support, case management, and life skills support to help veterans build a foundation for lasting recovery and reintegration.

How It Works
Each resident follows an individualized plan that may include counseling, skill building, case management, and connection to community resources. The goal is to support steady progress toward independence with clear expectations, structure, and consistent support.

Capacity
44 beds provide transitional housing for up to 2 years, featuring private bedrooms and bathrooms, plus dedicated group and individual meeting spaces (expanded via VA grant from its original 27-bed capacity).

What Residents can Expect

- **Structured Living Environment**
  Stable, supportive setting with clear expectations that help residents build routine & accountability.
- **Individualized Support**
  Guidance tailored to goals, including recovery planning & next steps toward independence.
- **Connection to Treatment Services**
  Coordination with outpatient providers and community partners to support ongoing recovery.
- **Life Skills Development**
  Focus on practical skills such as time management, budgeting, and daily responsibilities.
- **Employment Readiness**
  Support in preparing for & maintaining employment, including job search & workplace expectations.
- **Peer Support**
  A shared living environment where residents support one another in recovery.
- **Community Resource Navigation**
  Assistance for connecting with housing, healthcare, and other essential services.

MOAA ADVOCACY IN ACTION

📅 **May 17-20, 2027**

MOAA members & partners gather on Capitol Hill to meet with lawmakers & champion issues important to servicemembers, veterans, survivors & military families. | ***Your voice matters.***

Feed Our Vets

feedourvets.org | 502 Broad Street, Utica, NY

Feed Our Vets is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to help Veterans in the United States, their spouses and children whose circumstances have left them on the battlefield of hunger, and to involve the public in fighting Veteran hunger.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!
The holiday and winter season is fastly approaching. The cost of fuel, groceries, and utilities are on the rise, and the demand for our services has increased dramatically. Since 2009, Feed Our Vets has assisted 92,422 veterans, military personnel, and their families, by providing 6.6 million pounds of free groceries and $467,000 in food gift cards. We accomplish this huge undertaking totally by the generosity of our community. We receive no federal, state, or local government funding.

Feed Our Vets is honored to be chosen to participate for the fourth straight year in the Lights on the Lake Salute the Troops Night. It will be held on Monday, November 30, 2026, from 5:00-10:00 PM. All active-duty, guard, reserve, and veterans drive through for free on this night. No reservations required, simply show military ID, VA card, DD Form 214, or other form of military identification when you arrive at the ticket booth. Feed Our Vets will be at Lights on the Lake Salute the Troops Night collecting non-perishable food items and monetary donations.

HOW CAN YOU HELP!
1. Get the word out! Lights on the Lake Salute the Troops Night is a great family event that honors those currently serving or who have served in the military. The holiday light show stretches for two miles along Onondaga Lake and features more than 600,000 light bulbs across more than 300 displays. Feel free to share the event poster.

2. Host a "Holiday for Veterans" food drive. Have your church, school, community organization, veteran organization, or place of employment host a food drive.

3. Solicit support from your favorite restaurant, diner, car dealership, bank, credit union, or store. See if they would be willing to make a donation or participate in a cash register round up event for Veterans Day.

4. Donate non-perishable food items. You can drop off the food items during the Lights on the Lake Support the Troops Night. Another option, Onondaga County Parks will be conducting a food drive to support the Feed Our Vets mission from November 2-November 30, 2026. Drop off non-perishable food items or gift cards at the Griffin Visitors Center at Onondaga Lake Park, Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM.

5. Honor a family member or friend that served in the military. For a $25 donation, Feed Our Vets will display your loved one the entire month of December, on our electronic display in our pantry. Just provide a picture (in uniform), name, rank, and branch of service, no later than November 28, 2026. For more information, email Richard.Purcell19@gmail.com.

TRICARE Open Season begins Monday, Nov 9

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – TRICARE Open Season begins Monday, Nov 9. If you're eligible for TRICARE, this is your chance to enroll in a health plan or change plans for coverage that starts Jan 1, 2027. You can make eligible changes through Tuesday, Dec 8.

Does TRICARE Open Season apply to me?
TRICARE Open Season applies to you if you have or are eligible for one of these plans:

- TRICARE Prime
- Uniformed Services Family Health Plan
- TRICARE Prime Demo
- TRICARE Prime Remote
- TRICARE Prime Overseas
- TRICARE Prime Remote Overseas
- TRICARE Select
- TRICARE Select Overseas

How do I know if open season doesn't apply to me?
Open season doesn't apply to you if:

- You're an active duty service member.
- You're 65 or older and have TRICARE For Life coverage. This coverage starts automatically once you have Medicare Part A and Part B.
- You have a premium-based plan, such as TRICARE Reserve Select, TRICARE Retired Reserve, or TRICARE Young Adult. You can purchase these plans at any time during the year.

What are my options during open season?
If TRICARE Open Season applies to you, you have three options:

- **Stay in your current plan.** You don't need to take any action to keep your coverage.
- **Enroll in a plan.** If you don't have a TRICARE plan, you can enroll during open season if you qualify.
- **Change your plan.** Before you switch, check that your family's information is current in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.

How do I make changes to my plan during open season?
There are three ways to enroll in a TRICARE health plan or change your plan.

- Online: Go to milConnect.
- By phone:
  - **East Region**: Call Humana Military at 800-444-5445.
  - **USFHP:** Visit Uniformed Services Family Health Plan for contact information.
- By mail or fax: Send an enrollment form to your TRICARE contractor.

Pentagon Data Breach Could Impact Millions: What You Should Know

By: Kevin Lilley

Unauthorized users accessed the records of millions of military-connected individuals housed in a Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) system, according to multiple media reports.

DMDC officials discovered the breach July 16, according to a notice sent to one of the individuals. The notice went out Sept 18, according to a Military Times report.

Military Times was the first outlet to report the issue, but multiple media reports have followed despite no official news release or statement from the Pentagon or the DMDC as of Sept 30.

Some details from those reports:

- **Size:** The initial Military Times report put the number of affected individuals at 4 million. Follow-up reports from ABC News and Federal News Network said the hack affected about a million fewer people – 2.8 million – along with the accounts of 294,000 deceased individuals.

- **Timeline:** The notice, posted on the online forum Reddit, says "a small number of unauthorized users" had access to the information from October 2025 until the July discovery. Per the notice, the Pentagon "does not have any indications of misuse of the accessed information."

- **Data Details:** Records may have included full names, birthdates, contact information, Social Security numbers, and military occupational specialty or other military-specific personnel information, according to the notice.

- **Response:** DMDC officials are "taking appropriate action to assess and enhance the cybersecurity posture of the DMDC system," according to the notice. Those affected by the breach can request a year of free credit monitoring service through IDX, a DMDC official told Time magazine. Details on the IDX services appear in the notification.

- **About DMDC:** The center serves as the "one, central access point for information and assistance" for servicemembers, veterans, and families on benefits, entitlements, and other programs, according to the DMDC website. It oversees identification card issuance, manages the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), and fields data requests, among other duties. DMDC held more than 60 million personnel records as of FY 2024, per the DMDC website.

- **Unanswered Questions:** It's unclear who was responsible for the breach, what individuals may have accessed the files, or whether any specific set of records was targeted.

All servicemembers (active and reserve components) are eligible for free credit monitoring services from Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. Those who believe they may be victims of identity theft can file a report with the Federal Trade Commission.