

August 2026 HRCMOAA Legislative Report

National

There has been much activity in regard to HR 9237 “Take Care of America’s Veterans”. The massive 60-bill legislative package was pulled from the floor over how to fund its new provision. MOAA strongly supports TCAVA! It includes the Major Richard Star Act, but it offsets cost by cutting future disability rating for sleep apnea and tinnitus. American Legion and over 20 service organizations support the bill. However, there is fierce opposition from the VFW, DAV and other groups.

Lawmakers are at a standoff, but some advocates are now pushing a discharge petition to force a vote on the Major Richard Star Act instead of the large, controversial TVAVA package.

Virginia

The June Joint Leadership Council meeting concentrated focus on the following initiatives:

VMSDEP 2027 to support long term program viability.

Charitable Gaming Proceeds to allow groups such as the American Legion, VFW, etc. to retain 100% of their generated revenue for their own missions.

JLC Transportation Pilot Virginia State Transportation and Care Coordination Grant Pilot Program to ensure support for transportation and care coordination services to improve health care. (\$500,000 State pilot grants program)

VCOC

3rd QTR 2026 meeting held July 14,2026.

Mary Lou Wassell, VCOC President was not present due to her husband's health issues.

Speaker was Lesley Kipling, Deputy Secretary for Virginia Veterans and Defense Affairs. Her presentation consumed most of the meeting. She discussed the services provided by VA Veterans and Defense Affairs.

Website update provided and data on membership status.

National Legislative Report by COL Zimmerman and VA legislative report by LTC Down.

4th Quarter VCOC meeting will be face to face at the Virginia War memorial on October 13, 2026.