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<http://moaasc.org/>

<http://moaasc.org/legislative/index.html>

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the MOAA South Carolina website. The browser's address bar shows the URL moaasc.org/chapters/index.html. The website features a red header with the MOAA logo and the text "South Carolina" in a large, stylized font. Below the header, it reads "HOME OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA MOAA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS". A navigation menu on the left includes links for Home, Conference, Membership, Our Chapters, Our Officers, Legislative, Our By-Laws, Benefits Links, and Important Notices. The main content area is titled "MOAA CHAPTERS IN SOUTH CAROLINA" and features a map of South Carolina with red location pins. To the right of the map, there are four circular seals representing different MOAA chapters. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the date and time as 8:17 AM on 3/19/2016.



Gov Nikki Haley



Representative G. Murrell Smith, Jr.

Republican - Sumter
District 67 - Sumter County - [Map](#)

Columbia Address

420B Blatt Bldg.

Columbia 29201

Business Phone (803) 734-3042

Home Address

P.O. Box 580

Sumter 29151

Home Phone (803) 469-4416

Business Phone (803) 778-2471

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) – **South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley has signed a tax cut for military retirees into law.**

Haley signed the bill Tuesday. The Legislature gave final approval to the compromise minutes before the session ended Thursday.

Supporters hope the tax deductions encourage working-age veterans to find a job in South Carolina after they retire.

The tax benefits for veterans who served 20 years in uniform will phase in over five years. By 2020, military retirees younger than 65 can deduct \$17,500 of their income earned in the state. Older retirees can exempt up to \$30,000.

Once fully phased in, the cuts are expected to reduce state revenues by \$18 million.

The House's initial version allowed for bigger benefits sooner.

Sponsoring GOP Rep. Murrell Smith of Sumter says he'll try again next year.

**SC Taxes for 2017 / Military Retirement Pay Exemption / Summarized
(By the way the SC Military Base Task Force championed this effort)**

Tax year 2017 is coming to a close, and I have been asked to summarize what the military retirement pay exemption means in the easiest terms possible. Some have also indicated that the HR Block people are not aware of this change. For the HR Block people and others tax preparers the Law is SC HR 3147. It is attached as a reference for your use as required. The original summary was prepared by Col Dave Lobb our SC MOAA Council President and I am summarizing it further. Here goes as best I can do it.

Criteria #1 are you 64 or younger. If the answer is YES than your exemption has to be against earned income. What does that mean. In essence against money earned from a job. So lets talk how it applies to retirees 64 and younger and then 65 and older

64 & younger under original law (\$3,000)
\$17,500 PHASED IN OVER 5 YEARS AS FOLLOWS
(Deduction has to be against earned Income
=Pay from a job)

\$5,900 in year 2016
\$8,800 in year 2017
\$11,700 in year 2018
\$14,600 in year 2019
\$17,500 in year 2020

65 or older under original law (\$15,000)

After HR 3147 (No Earned Income Requirement)

\$18,000 in year 2016

\$21,000 in year 2017

\$24,000 in year 2018

\$27,000 in year 2019

\$30,000 in year 2020

Spouses also are provided additional protection as a result of the amendment because it clarifies (and conforms to current Dept of Revenue interpretation) that "Retirement income " also includes widowers" Retirement Benefit Plans " and "Dependent Indemnity Compensation"

Additionally it clarifies that military retiree age 65 and older, where both spouses are 65 or older and they file " jointly ", the actual benefit is up to \$45,000 when fully phased in, not \$30,000, For example in 2016 it would be \$33,000 and increased as outlined above



McMaster seeks to eliminate taxes for retired vets, police

■ Governor says measure would amount to a \$22.6 million tax cut in the first year for the “men and women who put their lives on the line for us.”

BY JAMIE SELF
jself@thestate.com

Gov. Henry McMaster wants to cut – to zero – the amount that retired military veterans, law enforcement officers, firefighters and other peace officers pay in state income taxes.

The cuts, which the governor said he has included in his 2018-19 executive budget, would amount to a \$22.6 million tax cut in the

first year for the “men and women who put their lives on the line for us,” the Richland Republican said.

McMaster and the first responders who flanked him Friday for his announcement in Lexington said the income tax exemption would be a selling point when trying to recruit officers.

Lexington County Sheriff Jay Koon said recruiting and retaining quality law enforcement officers is a

big challenge.

“This initiative will put a great tool in our toolbox to be able to recruit good people and keep them in our profession,” Koon said. “It’s going to go a long way in law enforcement.”

The proposal, if it becomes law as part of the state budget that starts July 1, would apply to nearly 38,000 retired military veterans and more than 20,000 retired law enforcement, firefighters and first responders, including prison guards.

A 2016 law already allows for tax deductions on

military retirement income for up to \$17,500 for taxpayers under 65 and up to \$30,000 for taxpayers 65 and older. Right now, the deductions are for slightly less than those amounts as those cuts phase in through 2020.

McMaster’s proposal would accelerate those cuts and any military retirement beyond those amounts that a S.C. taxpayer receives.

The tax cuts would not apply to teachers or other retired state employees.

McMaster’s proposal comes at the conclusion of his first year in office and as

he enters what is expected to be a tough campaign season. He faces three challengers in June’s Republican primary for governor — Lt. Gov. Kevin Bryant of Anderson, former Lt. Gov. Yancey McGill of Williamsburg and Mount Pleasant attorney Catherine Templeton.

Two Democrats also are fighting for their party’s nomination: Charleston businessman Phil Noble and state Rep. James Smith, a Richland attorney and Afghanistan war combat veteran.

If lawmakers approve the

tax cut, it could undercut Smith’s campaign promise to exempt military retirement income from state income taxes.

On Friday, McMaster said the tax break will “reaffirm the unwavering commitment of the men and women of South Carolina to these people.”

“They have put their lives on the line for us, and we owe them many thanks.”

For military retirees, the tax cuts would amount to about \$524 a year in savings for those under 65 and \$210 for those 65 and older, according to McMaster’s office.

The savings for law enforcement, firefighters and peace officers would be about \$713 a year for retirees under 65 and \$102 for those 65 or older.

Jamie Self: 803-771-8658,
@jamiemself



2018 SC Democratic Candidates for SC Governor

<https://philnoble2018.com/about-phil/>

Phil Noble is a business and technology consultant from Charleston. Over the past twenty-five years, his company, **Phil Noble** and Associates, has worked in more than 40 countries around the world, serving clients as diverse as the British Broadcasting Company (BBC), Time Warner Inc., the Bertelsmann Foundation.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_E._Smith_Jr.

James Emerson Smith Jr. (born September 9, 1967) is an American politician who is currently a member of the **South Carolina** House of Representatives. **Smith** is also a combat veteran and a serving officer in the **South Carolina** Army National Guard, a small business owner, and a practicing attorney in Columbia, **South ...**



[An Afghanistan War combat veteran](#) and member of the S.C. Army National Guard, Smith also said he wants to cut the tax bills of military veterans by eliminating the state income tax on their retirement pay.

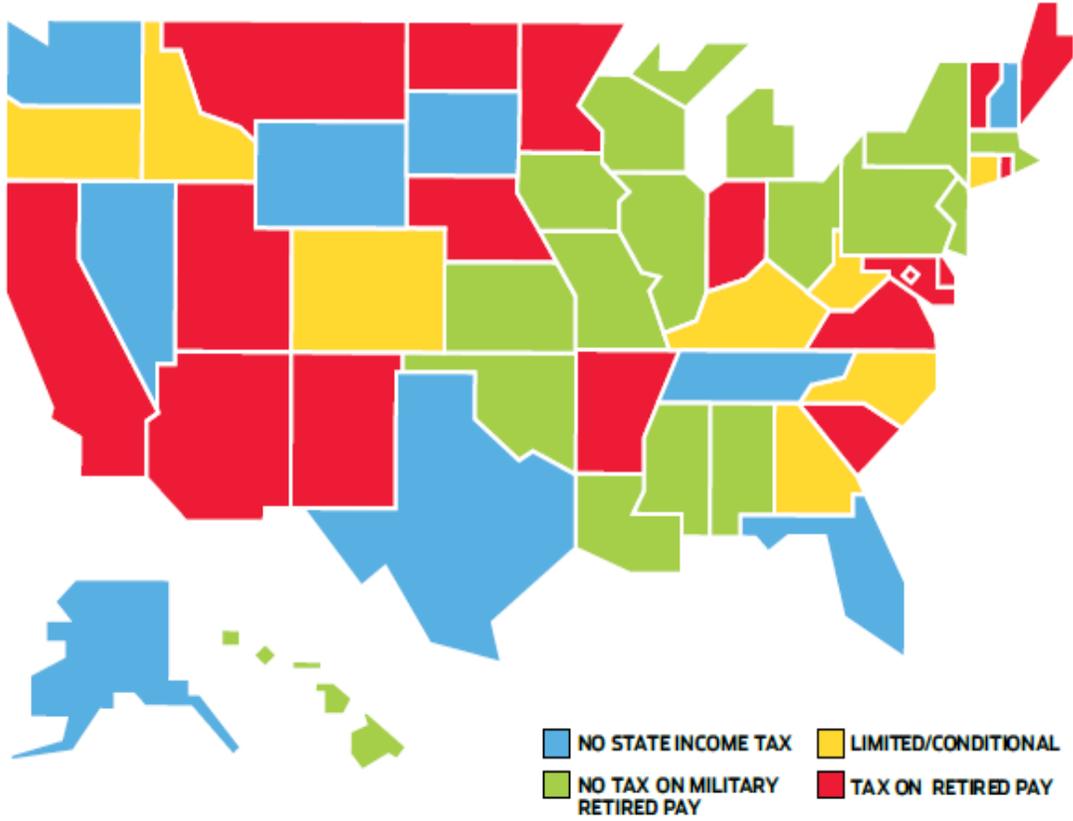
Veterans “are a powerful workforce and a huge impact on the communities that they become a part of,” said Smith, whose military experience could help him pick up support from moderate Republicans in the pro-military Palmetto State.

Passing a Budget and any Legislation is an Exercise in Clearing Hurdles

- Three readings in the House and Senate. First reading is the Bill's introduction. All readings must occur on separate days.
- For the budget, most of the detailed deliberation takes place after 1st reading and before 2nd reading in Committee.
- 2nd reading in each chamber is where open debate among all members occurs, and the base document used for debate is the House Ways and Means Committee or Senate Finance Committee recommended version.
- 3rd reading is usually perfunctory.
- Once all of this occurs in both bodies, differences are negotiated by a Conference Committee with 3 Senators and 3 House members.
- If the Conference Committee reaches compromise on all differences, then both bodies must approve by simple majority the Report.
- Then, the bill becomes an Act and is submitted to the Governor who has line item veto authority over the budget.
- Each Budget Veto stands unless both chambers override the veto by a 2/3rds vote.



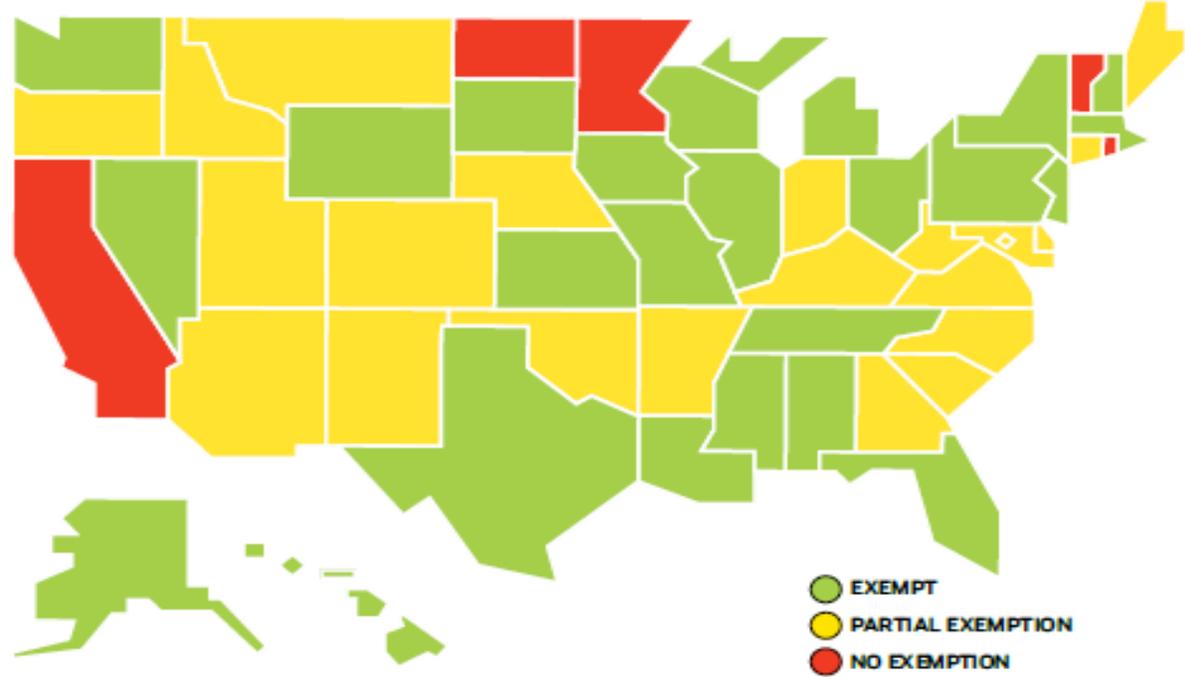
TAXATION OF MILITARY RETIRED PAY



Military Retirement Pay Exempt From State Taxes: Some states allow military retirees to exempt a specific amount, a percentage, or full military retired pay from state income taxation. Note that Tennessee and New

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Taxation of Military Retired Pay



Military Retirement Pay Exempt From State Taxes: Some states allow military retirees to exempt a specific amount, a percentage, or full military retired pay from state income taxation. Note that Tennessee and New Hampshire tax only dividend and interest income, while Alaska, Florida, Nevada, South Dakota, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming have no state income tax.

Veterans also might receive exemptions for disability pay, and spouses might be able to receive exemptions for their survivor benefits. **MO**

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The information in this guide is, to the best of our knowledge, correct as of Oct. 1, 2015.

USA4 Military Families initiative, seeking to engage and educate state policymakers, not-for-profit associations, concerned business interests and other state leaders about the needs of military members and their families.



STATE STATUS: South Carolina

- 1 Child Abuse and Neglect Identification and Reporting
- 2 Protection for private sector veterans' hiring policies
- ★3 State Enhancements to the Service Members Civil Relief Act (SCRA)
- 4 Allow Service Members to Retain their Earned Priority for Receiving Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waivers
- 5 Employment protections during state-sponsored activation
- 6 Licensure and academic credit for separating service members
- 7 Interstate Compacts to Support License Portability
- 8 Pro bono legal representation for service members and families
- 9 Removing Certification Impediments for Transitioning Military Spouses
- 10 Evaluating State Actions to Support Improved Licensure Laws

To view the Issue Status information for a specific state, click on the state's link within the map. Access information about a specific issue by clicking on the issue on the left or by using the Key Issues drop down menu.



Issue Status Key

- ★ Bill introduced and currently active
- State has made movement towards achieving desired outcomes; for example, passed best practice legislation, made policy changes, or shown where the state has policy supporting the desired outcomes
- State has not made changes that move towards achieving desired outcomes

Use the Issue Status Key to determine the state's current issue status. The color of the issue's number reflects the state's current status.

To view information regarding another state, click on the state's link. Access more specific information regarding each issue by clicking on the text of the issue on the left or by using the Key Issues drop down menu.

- 1 Child Abuse and Neglect Identification and Reporting
- 2 Protection for private sector veterans' hiring policies
- ★3 State Enhancements to the Service Members Civil Relief Act (SCRA)
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Dorn VA Expansions and New Facilities



Behavioral Health
Center of Excellence
\$8.1M



Police Station
\$3.4M



Parking Garage
\$9.1M



Fisher House



Prosthetics Center
\$7.7M



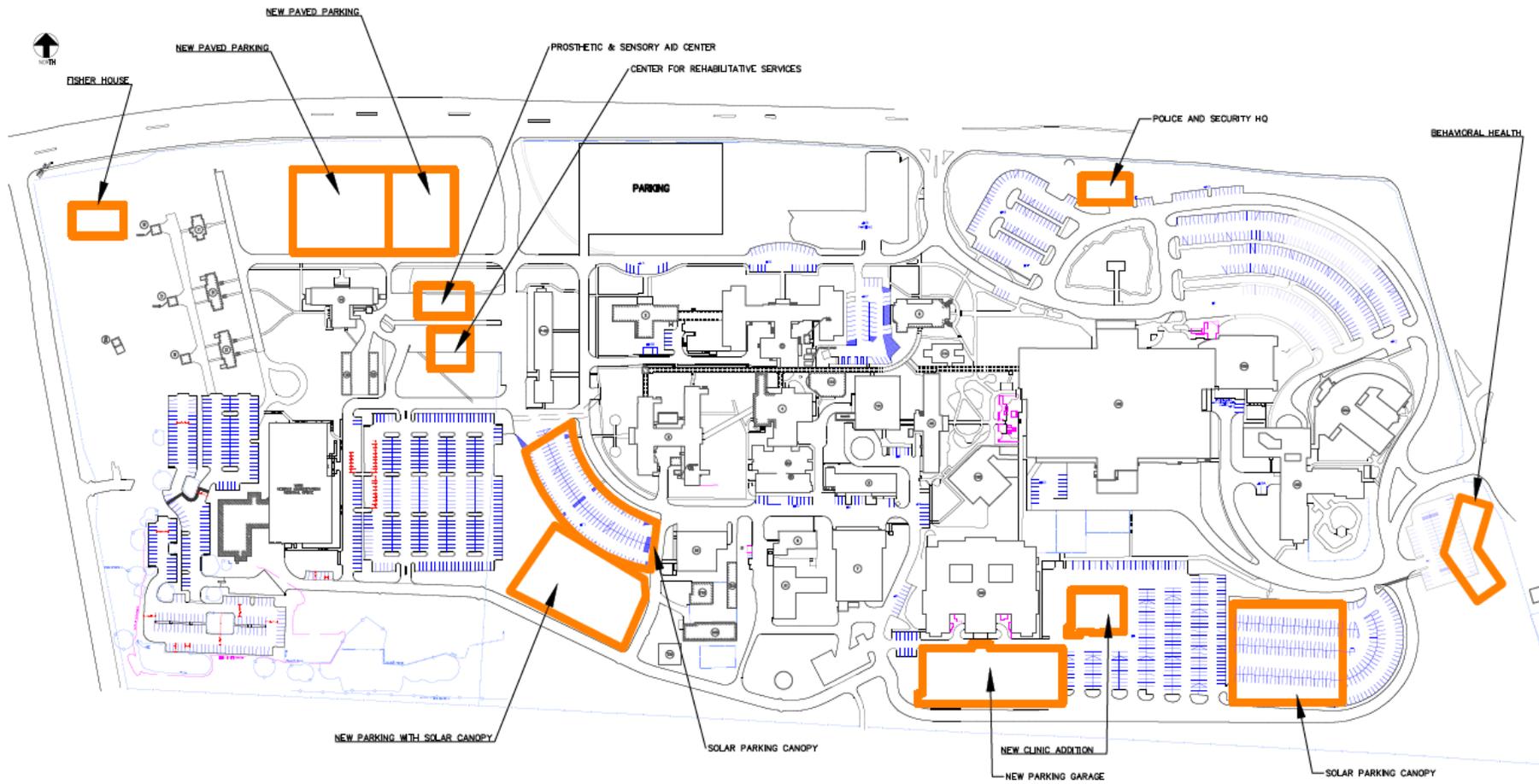
Perimeter Fence



Rehab Center
\$9.2M



4 New CBOCs





<http://www.moaa.org/2018Goals/>

1. Action item: Ensure any TRICARE reform sustains access to top-quality care and avoids disproportional TRICARE fee increases.

2. Action item: Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector.

3. Action item: Block erosion of compensation and non-pay and quality-of-life benefits.

4. Action item: Protect military retirement and COLAs.

5. Action item: Sustain wounded warrior programs and expand caregiver support.

6. Action item: End financial penalties to disabled servicemembers.

7. Action item: End financial penalties to survivors.

8. Action item: Ensure the Guard and Reserve system adequately supports requirements for an operational reserve.

9. Action item: Recruiting and retention of an all-volunteer force require alignment of spouse and family support programs.

10. Action item: Ensure timely access to VA health care and preserve veterans' earned benefits.



Active Duty:

According to rough estimates, the 2.4 percent pay raise would amount to an annual raise of about \$680 in 2018 for younger enlisted ranks, and about \$1,080 a year for more senior enlisted and junior officers. A mid-career officer would likely see a raise of nearly \$2,000

OTHER Increases tied at 2.4 % = Social Security increase// DIC Payments //Disability payments



2018 New Tax Law

Estimated Impact examples on Military per MOAA



Servicemembers and their families are likely to fall into new tax brackets when filing their returns for 2018 - and it could result in some cash savings for some.

How real-world outcomes will shake out in years to come is still up for debate. Taxes are complicated, experts warn, and savings will depend on a host of factors like number of dependents, location, and deductions.

Here's a look at how some officers' tax brackets could change based on income and marital status alone.

A **single ensign** or second lieutenant with less than two years in who lives in San Diego and makes about \$36,420 annually will see their tax rate drop from **15 percent to 12**. That could leave those officers pocketing about an extra \$1,100 a year.

A **married chief warrant officer five** with more than 20 years in who lives near Quantico, Va., and makes \$89,232 will see their tax rate drop from **25 percent to 22**. That 3-percentage-point drop equals nearly \$2,700.

A **married lieutenant colonel based** at Fort Bragg, N.C., who's served at least 16 years and makes just under \$100,000 annually also will see their rates drop from **25 percent to 22**. Those officers would keep an additional \$3,000 a year.

A **single major based** in Hawaii who's served more than 12 years and makes about \$86,000 a year will fall into a new tax bracket. Under the old income bracket, they would've been taxed **at 25 percent**. That will drop to **24 percent under the new plan**, saving those officers about \$860 a year.

Under the new plan, **single filers who make less than \$10,000 a year still will see their income taxed at 10 percent**. Because most Americans make more than that amount, though, supporters say the bulk of the population will see their tax bills drop.

<http://www.moaa.org/Content/Publications-and-Media/News-Articles/2017-News-Articles/Tax-Bracket-Changes.aspx>



Widows Tax = SBP-DIC Offset

My 20th wedding anniversary today my husband would be infuriated with what I've had to go through the last almost 11 yrs

63,000 widows impact

The goal is to *continue* reducing the widows tax, not just continue it at the current level.

Making the SSIA permanent at \$310 [Should be \$1,400] a month actually would remove any strong incentive for Congress to take further action to ease the SBP/DIC offset. After all, the only reason Congress acted this year was because they didn't want to take the heat for letting the SSIA expire and having military survivors lose another \$3,700 a year.

And permanently extending the \$310 allowance would come at the price of making the entire military community pay for it through higher pharmacy copayments.

MOAA believes strongly it's the government's responsibility — not military beneficiaries' — to fund the needed compensation for survivors whose sponsors died from military service.

Our mothers told us, "Two wrongs don't make a right." Many of those mothers are among today's SBP/DIC widows.

Making all military beneficiaries pay higher pharmacy copayments to freeze the widows tax at the current level doesn't make anything right. It adds a second wrong to the existing one.

Given the choice between the two options currently on the table, MOAA prefers the one-year extension rather than a permanent SSIA freeze plus high pharmacy copayments.

Our message to House and Senate leaders is this: "Please help the Armed Services committees with added funding to raise the SSIA amount (not just freeze it), without shifting the cost to military beneficiaries."



ABOUT US

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DEPT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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Care and Support

Transportation and Community

Long Term Care

VA Caregiver Support Program

CHAMPVA and TRICARE



Elizabeth Dole Foundation
CARING FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

VA Caregiver Support Program

What is the VA Caregiver Support program?

Caregivers are an important component of long-term services and supports for veterans. The VA provides supports for caregivers of veterans of all eras of service. The VA's Caregiver Support Line provides caregivers with important information about the types of services available to caregivers through the VA. The VA's Caregiver Support Line, at (855) 260-3274, is monitored at all times. Or connect with a caregiver support coordinator at your local VA medical center to find out which caregiver support services include respite care and home health services for disabled veterans. More details are available at www.caregiver.va.gov - including a zip code locator to find the closest Caregiver Support Coordinator.

In 2010, Congress recognized the sacrifice family caregivers make in giving up their careers and personal time to care for veterans. Family caregivers of veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, and who are not already paid for their services, are eligible for caregiver training, a monthly stipend, and health insurance from the VA through CHAMPVA. To be eligible for these enhanced benefits, the veteran must have a service-connected serious injury such as a traumatic brain

Veterans Longterm care facilities and the VA here in SC

Guest Presenter = Mrs Mary Revels

SC State Veterans Nursing Homes Nursing Homes

There are three facilities in South Carolina: the E. Roy Stone Veterans Pavilion, which is located in Columbia, the Richard Michael Campbell Veterans Nursing Home in Anderson, and the Veterans' Victory House in Walterboro.

Admission to these facilities is limited to veterans who have been separated from the U.S. Armed Forces under general or honorable conditions and qualify as South Carolina residents who are in need of skilled or intermediate nursing home care. To obtain additional information, or to apply for admission, contact your local county veterans affairs officer or the nursing home.



Roy Stone Long Term Care
2200 Harden Street,
Columbia, SC 29203



Victory House
2461 Sidneys Road
Walterboro, SC 29488



Richard Michael Campbell
4605 Belton Highway
Anderson, SC 29621

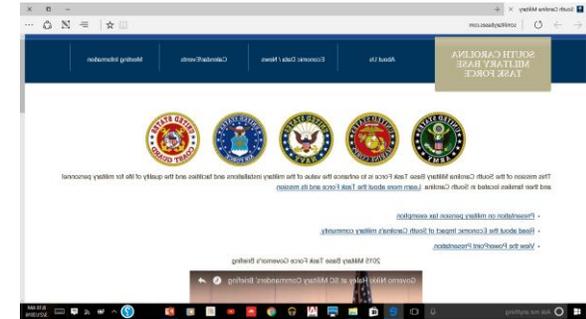
Key Websites for additional and reference information



<http://moaasc.org/>



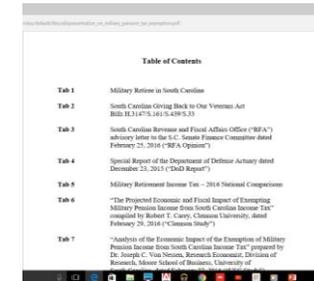
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