



Dear Surviving Spouse:

Thank you for your interest in the MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter. We are very excited about this new venture! Our purpose is to provide:

- a national forum for surviving spouses of uniformed services officers,
- a common space to communicate with each other,
- information about concerns pertinent to each of us and our families, and
- a platform to advocate for protection of rights for our members and our dependents.

Additionally, we want to become a reliable source for surviving spouses who live in remote areas, who are housebound, who have jobs and children, or who might be unable to participate at the chapter level.

MOAA's board of directors chartered this virtual chapter March 5, 2018. It is MOAA's second virtual chapter; the first is for uniformed services nurses. The Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter is an "affinity group," with members who can share information in a virtual environment with colleagues seeking to work together as we each adjust to a new life. We want to make a difference locally, state-wide, and nationally, because as members of national MOAA and its local chapters and councils, we "never stop serving."

Some of the topics we will address, include:

- Are you a new surviving spouse? Do you need information on where to go, who to talk to, the first steps, and then what to do next?
- Did your spouse serve in Vietnam? Could he have been the victim of Agent Orange?
- Are you eligible for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)? How do you apply?
- Are you a recipient of the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)? What are your benefits?
- What is SBP/DIC? The "widows tax"? The Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance?
- Rules on remarriage
- Information you need to know about TRICARE, dental care, and vision care

We would like to invite you to join us in this exciting new initiative. Initially, we plan to meet quarterly. Our goal is to eventually have all 50 states represented. We all have busy lives, and we only ask that you participate to the degree you can. For additional information or to join the MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter, contact Gail or Micki at [mssvc02@gmail.com](mailto:mssvc02@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you, and we welcome your participation in our virtual chapter. Attached is a membership application for your convenience.

We look forward to meeting with you.

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