

Chapter Meeting

October 14, 2023 (Saturday)

Maggiano's Little Italy

[205 NorthPark Center Dallas TX 75225](#)

Speaker



Eddie Bernice Johnson

Speaking on life experience as a VA Nurse and Congresswoman

Eddie Bernice Johnson (born December 3, 1935) represented Texas's [30th congressional district](#) in the [United States House of Representatives](#) from 1993 to 2023.

Elected in 1992, Johnson was the first registered nurse elected to Congress. At the swearing-in of the [116th United States Congress](#), she became dean of [Texas's congressional delegation](#).

Upon Representative [Don Young](#)'s death in March 2022, Johnson became the oldest member of the House of Representatives. She retired at the end of the 117th Congress.^[1]

Johnson formerly served in the [Texas House of Representatives](#), where she was elected in 1972 in a landslide, the first black woman to win electoral office from Dallas. She also served three terms in the [Texas Senate](#).

As a U.S. Congresswoman, Johnson has led the battle on legislation to improve health care, the environment, civil rights, women's issues, science research and education. She is a member of the Committee of Science and Technology and the Committee of Transportation and Infrastructure. In 2001, Johnson served as Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus. In 1993 and 1994, she was named by *Ebony* magazine as one of the 100 Most Influential African Americans and in 2001, the magazine named her one of the 10 Most Powerful African American Women.

In 2007, [House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair Jim Oberstar](#) appointed Johnson chair of its [Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment](#) during the [110th](#) and [111th Congresses](#). She was the first African American and first woman in Congress to chair this subcommittee. As Subcommittee Chair, Johnson sponsored the [Water Resources Development Act](#). She led Congress in overriding President Bush's veto of it, the only veto override of his presidency.¹

Note: Information in blue and/or underlined indicates a hyperlink in this newsletter.

Clicking on the link will take you through the internet for more information on this item.



President= Jim Bass

TAKE CARE OF YOUR PEOPLE

“Take care of your people.” As I began my officer training (more years ago than I like to recall) those five words were emphasized again and again. After earning my commission as a Navy Ensign and joining the fleet, I was able to observe and put those words into action.

As junior officers we were expected to look after the wellbeing of the sailors under our charge. To a much greater degree than we would have ever encountered in the civilian world, the command held us accountable for the morale, welfare and discipline of our respective shipboard divisions. For me and I’m confident for most officers, it was a lot of responsibility placed on some very young shoulders.

The duty, to look after people, came to be one of the more satisfying, however at times frustrating, aspect of being a military officer. Following retirement from the service and upon entering the civilian workforce, it remained a key element of how I approached the job, especially after moving into management positions.



MAJ Cyrus Cady USA (RET) and Mrs. Laura Cady of Celina
Maj Gen Bill Cooley USAF (RET) and Mrs. Janet Cooley of Richardson
MAJ Richard Magie USA (RET) and Mrs. Frances Magie of Lavon
Lt Col Clifford Moriarty USAF (RET) and Mrs. Mary Kay Moriarty of Sachse
CW04 Karen Trippe USN (RET) of Little Elm
Capt Randall Walker USAF (RET) and daughter Victoria of The Colony



Kay Ogden

If you are a Surviving Spouse and would like to meet other Surviving Spouses Please contact me.

Please contact me if you need assistance or more information.

lkmo@sbcglobal.net

Surviving Spouse Information

Surviving Spouse Corner: Thrift Savings Plan Considerations

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is a tax-deferred retirement savings and investment plan for members of the uniformed services. When your military spouse dies, you — as the surviving spouse — will need to make many decisions about the TSP’s future in your financial planning.

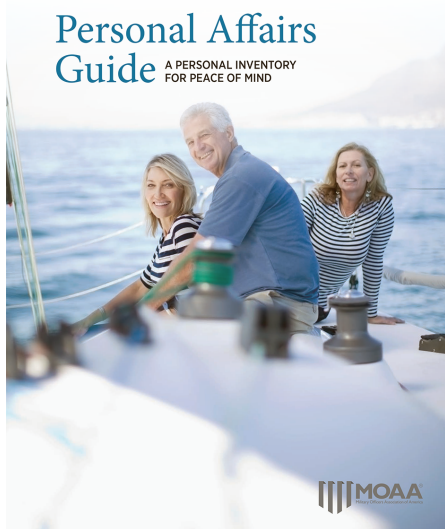
For spouse beneficiaries of deceased participants’ TSP accounts with a share of the balance of \$200 or more, TSP will establish a beneficiary participant account (BPA) in your name.

Having a good financial planner, who is particularly familiar with the TSP, is the key. He or she can guide you to the best option for your new investment plan, known now to you as a BPA.,

According to [TSP.gov](https://www.tsp.gov), as the owner of a TSP BPA, benefits include:

- a diversified choice of investment options, including individual funds; professionally designed Lifecycle (L) Funds, which mix the individual funds with an eye toward specific target dates; and an option for investing in mutual funds
- tax-deferred earnings on traditional money
- tax-free earnings on Roth money if qualified
- low administrative and investment expenses
- the ability to roll your beneficiary participant account over to an existing civilian or uniformed services TSP account if you have one
- a variety of distribution options. Learn all that you can through hosts of various veteran financial planners’ podcasts, websites such as [MOAA.org](https://www.moaa.org), and other social platforms. The most vital of all these is the [TSP webpage](https://www.tsp.gov), where you will find a plethora of resources for your perusal.

MOAA PUBLICATIONS: YOUR RESOURCE FOR EVERY STAGE OF LIFE



Personal Affairs Guide

Did you know that MOAA has very useful publications that may be downloaded from our Chapter website at [moaaant.org](https://www.moaaant.org) One of the publications is to the left. Just click on the picture of the Publication and/or at <https://www.moaaant.org/helpful-guides> and it will open up for your viewing as a PDF document ([Adobe Acrobat Reader](https://get.adobe.com/reader/)). The reader can be downloaded at <https://get.adobe.com/reader/> if you do not have a pdf reader. This guide has information for new military to retired. Enjoy and share.



What makes any nonprofit organization thrive and survive?

Volunteers like yourselves. The Greater Dallas North Texas MOAA Chapter has several immediate openings on key committee Chair positions. You signed up once to serve and it is time to raise your hand again!

Many thanks to Mary Ellen Viancourt (VP of Legislative Affairs), Ben Clede (Secretary) and Dan Murphy (JROTC Liaison) for responding to the call and stepping up to fill leadership positions in our chapter.

However, we still need volunteers to fill the committees, run for the Board, help tackle special projects and so much more. Whatever your passion is we can find ways to utilize your expertise, energy and enthusiasm. Contact us through our website, Facebook or via email at moaanorthtexas@gmail.com

The time commitment to manage MOAA duties is never overwhelming, just a few hours a month, and you will be surrounded by a great team of fellow volunteers and Board members who pitch in during crunch times.

If now is not the right time, not to worry, our annual elections are coming up at the end of the year - all Board positions will be renewed. Now is the time to nominate yourself for the slate!

All of our committees need members as well as Chairs. We know you have a passion to serve - which committee fits your passions and interests?

Don't want to be in charge? That's fine - we need members as well to make it work.

Our Committees include:

Community Service

Programs

Communications

JROTC Liaison

Personal Affairs

Surviving Spouse Liaison

Scholarship Committee



This is the link to the Position Description Guide. Take a place to contribute.

look and find your

To enroll as a volunteer, or if you have questions, please reach out to President Jim Bass (moaabass@tx.rr.com) or VP Shane Ousey (shane.p.ousey@gmail.com) for more information.

Thank you for your past and continued service to our great country, and we look forward to hearing from you!



VA long-term benefits services in the home

As a veteran, you may be eligible for assisted living, residential, or home care through the Veteran's Administration. There are several steps that must be taken in order to determine eligibility. The services may be available in different settings, including nursing homes, assisted-living centers, private homes where a caregiver supports a small group of individuals, adult day health centers, and/or veterans' own homes.

(1) The eligibility determination requirements required that:

(a) the veteran be signed up for VA health care (which generally includes a yearly visit with a VA primary care physician or health care provider). The veteran does NOT need to seek all care through this physician/health care provider. When making the appointment that veteran should inform the provider that he/she is seeking specific services such as homemaking, respite, and/or therapies. This may also be referred to as a "vetting appointment" when homemaking services and respite are desired.

(b) the VA concludes that a specific service is needed to help with the veteran's going treatment and personal care (based upon the information provided in (a) above)

and

(c) the service is available near the veteran's location

(2) A DD Form 214 (service discharge or release from active duty document) is required for receipt of any VA services, including long term care.

(3) The veteran's nearest VA office can provide additional forms that must be completed to determine eligibility, and once completed are to be mailed to the provided address.

(4) Following review by the VA, a determination will be made to include the specific amount of help (in weekly hours) for each element of help required (e.g., respite, personal care, nursing care, etc.). The veteran will be informed by telephone and/or written correspondence within several days of submission of all documentation.

(5) The veteran's service-connected disability, if any, as well as private insurance coverage may also be factors that the VA considers when an eligibility determination is made.

For more information regarding benefits, the veteran may wish to access one (or more) of the following VA information sources:

Healthcare benefits eligibility (<https://www.va.gov/healthcare/eligibility>)

How to apply for health care benefits (<https://www.va.gov/healthcare/how-to-apply>)



Apply for VA health care

Enrollment Application for Health Benefits (VA Form 10-10EZ)

VA health care covers care for your physical and mental health. This includes a range of services from checkups to surgeries to home health care. It also includes prescriptions and medical equipment. Apply online now.

Follow these steps to get started

Check your eligibility

Make sure you meet our eligibility requirements for enrollment before you apply.

Note: We can help connect you with mental health care—no matter your discharge status, service history, or eligibility for VA health care.

[Find out how to get mental health care](#)

What are the eligibility requirements to enroll in VA health care?

You may be eligible to enroll in VA health care if all of these statements are true:

You served in the active military, naval, or air service (including being called up from the National Guard or Reserve by a federal order), **and**

You didn't receive a dishonorable discharge, **and**

You meet at least one of the service requirements for enrollment

You must meet at least one of these service requirements:

You served at least 24 months in a row without a break (called continuous), or for your full active-duty period, **or**

You were discharged for a service-connected disability, **or**

You were discharged for a hardship or "early out," **or**

You served before September 7, 1980

Note: Time spent on active-duty status for training purposes only doesn't count toward the service requirements.

[Get instructions on how to apply for a discharge upgrade or correction](#)

Gather your information

Here's what you'll need to apply:

Social Security numbers for you, your spouse, and your qualified dependents.

Your military discharge information If you sign in to apply, we may be able to fill in this information for you. If you don't sign in to apply, we'll ask you to upload a copy of your DD214 or other separation documents.

Insurance cards for all health insurance companies that cover you. This includes any coverage that you get through a spouse or significant other. This also includes Medicare, private insurance, or insurance from your employer.

We'll also ask you for this optional information:

Last year's gross household income for you, your spouse, and your dependents. This includes income from a job and any other sources. Gross household income is your income before taxes and any other deductions.

Your deductible expenses for last year These include certain health care and education costs. These expenses will lower the amount of money we count as your income.

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Why does VA need this information?

When you apply, we review this information:

- Your service history
- Your VA disability rating
- Your income level (and the income level of your spouse or other qualified dependents)
- Your eligibility for Medicaid, VA disability compensation, and VA pension benefits

We use this information to help us decide these 3 things:

- What types of VA health care benefits you're eligible for, **and**
- How soon we can enroll you in VA health care, **and**
- How much (if anything) you'll have to pay toward the cost of your care

We give Veterans with service-connected disabilities the highest priority.

Note: We ask about other health insurance for billing only. Having other health insurance doesn't affect your eligibility for VA health care.

Start your application - [Link to VA page](#)

GDNTX Chapter has received the 5 star communications award for 2022



This award is for the website and the newsletter.

MOAA national apologized for a spreadsheet error that caused our chapter and others to lose a star in their initial announcement of the winners

We are the only chapter in Texas to get the award for our website and Newsletter.



Remaining Meetings for 2023

14 October

Chapter Meeting at Maggianos North Park

9 December
Bend

Chapter Christmas Meeting at Maggianos Willow

Installation of Officers

Brad is back for our singing entertainment!!

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Links to Social Media

Left click with Mouse

Scan





MOAA Mission

MOAA Legislative Action Center



Texas Legislative Information



Greater Dallas - North Texas Chapter Mission Statement

Join National MOAA

Join GDNTX Chapter

Contact Chapter President

moaabassja@tx.rr.com

Contact Chapter VP Membership

moaschafer@att.net