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**Military Officers Association of America Presenting:
2018 Colonel Paul W. Arcari Meritorious Service Award**

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (March 2, 2018) — [Military Officers Association of America \(MOAA\)](http://www.moaa.org) will present its Colonel Paul W. Arcari Meritorious Service Award to **Jorge Rueda** and **Samantha Gonzalez** for their outstanding contributions in support of the military community. The award will be presented at an April event on Capitol Hill; all awardees are expected to attend.

Rueda, formerly with the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, is being recognized for his advocacy on veterans' issues. Gonzalez, with the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, is being recognized for her advocacy to sustain veterans' health care.

The Arcari award, which honors congressional staff members who have made significant contributions to the uniformed services community, is named for the retired officer who led MOAA's Government Relations Department from 1990 until 2001.

"Veterans issues — health care, employment, earned benefits, retirement — are among MOAA's top goals," said MOAA Vice President of Government Relations and retired Air Force Col. Dan Merry. "We cannot overlook the efforts of those who are working with us to achieve those goals."

MOAA will present its 2018 Arthur T. Marix Congressional Leadership Award to U.S. Reps. Martha McSally (R) and Kyrsten Sinema (D), both of Arizona. Additionally, MOAA's 2018 Distinguished Service Award will be presented to Tim Barone, president and CEO of Vantage Mobility International, and Kevin Johnson, president and CEO of Starbucks Coffee Company.

MOAA has awarded the Marix and Distinguished Service awards since 1997. Past recipients of the Marix Award include Sens. Lindsay Graham, John McCain, and Jim Webb; past recipients of the Distinguished Service Award include Tom Brokaw, Toby Keith, and retired Army Gen. Colin Powell. The Arcari award recognizing congressional staff members was first awarded in 2000. For more information about MOAA, please visit www.moaa.org.

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About MOAA:

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the nation's largest military officers' association with more than 350,000 members from every branch of uniformed service, including active duty, retired, National Guard, Reserve, and former officers and their families and survivors. MOAA is a nonprofit and politically nonpartisan organization and an influential force in promoting a strong national defense. MOAA represents the interests of service members and their families in every stage of their lives and careers, and for those who are not eligible to join MOAA, Voices for America's Troops is a nonprofit MOAA affiliate that supports a strong national defense. For more information, visit www.moaa.org or www.voicesfortroops.org/.

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