



**FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA)**



**The Falcon Flyer**

**Falcons Landing MOAA  
Chapter Newsletter  
June 2020**



## CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, June 2020

Despite the current turmoil in our country and the impact of COVID-19, our chapter has found creative ways to support the three major populations noted in our mission—*those who are serving, those who have served, and those who have survived.*

This quarter our chapter awarded two \$1,000 and two \$500 scholarships to cadets at both the AFROTC unit at Chantilly Academy and the NJROTC unit at Loudoun County High School. Graduation and award ceremonies were virtual due to the pandemic.

We continued to support the *Adopt-a-Platoon Program*. Of special note, we conducted three *Gatherings* this quarter and are scheduled to televise the popular Gathering titled “Are your Affairs in Order”, presented by Kathy Trossbach, Hardy Lister, and Peter Scott on July 13.

I am also pleased to announce that MOAA National has awarded our chapter two grants which will allow us to increase our support to needed veterans in the Loudoun County area in partnership with Community Lutheran Church through the *Loudoun Veterans and Family Support (LVFS) Program*.



Please stay safe and follow the CDC and Falcons Landing guidelines as our community relaxes some of the restrictions.

Remember---*Never Stop Serving*

Bob Manning, Chapter President

### Mission Statement

*Our Chapter provides programs which support: those who are serving; those who have served; and those who have survived, while placing special focus on community support.*

### Support of MOAA National

MOAA is a nonprofit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. The Falcons Landing Chapter is one of more than 400-plus local organizations affiliated with National MOAA. We support the national organization through support of legislative priorities and are active in our community supporting two JROTC programs, helping recovering and needy veterans, and providing speakers to community service organizations.

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## Chapter and Legislative Information

### Chapter Membership Information

MOAA membership is open to those who hold, or have ever held, a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, NOAA, and their surviving spouses. If you know a prospective member, please contact Lowell Jones (703-444-9530) to receive information on the benefits of chapter membership. This is an opportune time to convert to a MOAA Life Membership, because MOAA is still giving a 10% discount on a membership conversion. A MOAA life Membership indicates your strong support for MOAA's goals. For more information, please call a MOAA representative at (800) 234-6622.

How to navigate through our new Chapter website. The website address is [falconsmoaa.org](http://falconsmoaa.org). Please note that a password is required to open the Documents Section/Tab and is for use by members only. Members may obtain the password from Lowell Jones at [lowsanj@verizon.net](mailto:lowsanj@verizon.net).

### Legislative Affairs Report Information

Periodically, MOAA will lobby Congress to take legislative action to preserve our retiree benefits. The probability of favorable legislative action is in direct proportion to the number of voters who register support. MOAA sometimes includes postcards and letters in its magazine (Military Officer) for us to sign and mail to our representatives (identified for us). The MOAA Newsletter may also include an online access to act. It is imperative that we do so. To access the MOAA Newsletter for source data, copy this web address <http://www.moaa.org> and paste to your browser's search bar. After on site, click on "MOAA - Home/Official Site," go to "Publications & Media/Email Newsletter," and provide your email address. This will help you register to receive the current newsletters. You can then click on the desired subject in the newsletters and get more details. If you are not registered with MOAA National for this, call the front desk (800) 234-6622, and you'll be guided on how to receive the newsletter on a desired schedule. Have your MOAA National membership number available. If you don't have email or have questions on obtaining this information, contact Clair Wylie, Legislative Liaison, at (703) 216-7549.

Our Chapter publishes a monthly Legislative Update for all members and works with MOAA to recommend to members that they support MOAA legislative initiatives by contacting their legislators. MOAA staff and Chapter members meet with members of Congress annually in a visit called "Storming the Hill," normally in April. You may review important MOAA legislative issues and activities on the MOAA website by visiting the Take Action section at <http://takeaction.moaa.org>. National MOAA and the Falcons Landing Chapter, MOAA, are politically nonpartisan but seek to remain informed on political matters of concern to veterans at both the state and local levels.

### MOAA Legislative Priorities

Provide force structure and funding to sustain and strengthen the all-volunteer force. Provide hard-gained benefits for active, guard/reserve, and retired community.

**Objectives:** Ensure the maintenance of end strength, along with pay increases, tied to employment cost index; maintain current TRICARE benefits and medical support structure; maintain basic housing allowances and decent housing availability; maintain privileges associated with commissary and exchange benefits; maintain veterans quality health care and backlog of disability claims.

## MOAA Chapter Board Meeting, May 5, 2020

**President Bob Manning:** Called meeting to order. Led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Secretary's Report:** Genevieve Pustay. The February 2020 Board meeting minutes were distributed to Board members and subsequently approved..

**Treasurer's Report:** Peter Scott. February, March, and April 2020

Opening Balance (1 February): \$19,146

Income: \$551 (Dues - \$371, Recruitment Award - \$180)

Expenses: \$11,021 (LVFS, Scholarships, Adopt-A-Platoon)

Closing balance: \$8,676

**New Business:** Balanced checkbook and bank statements (Feb, Mar); Received thanks from Adopt-A-Platoon.

**Refund of Dues to Auxiliary Members:** Refunds dated 1 July 2020 to 60 members—total of \$749

**Application for \$5K MOAA Grant:** Primary need is to support 62% increase for LVFS.

Treasurer's Report was approved.

**Membership Report:** Lowell Jones.

| As of             | Premium<br>Members | Surviving<br>Spouses* | Honorary<br>Members | Total |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------|
| December 31, 2019 | 132                | 59                    | 0                   | 191   |
| May 5, 2020       | 129                | 60                    | 0                   | 189   |

\*Surviving Spouses = Auxiliary

**Total National Members:** 181 (95%); **Total National Life Members:** 130, (69%)

**Legislative Report:** Clair Wylie. The April monthly Legislative Report was published and distributed.

Please note that "Storming the Hill" has been cancelled.

**Auxiliary:** Vicki Estey. Volunteer hours for February through April 2020 (No hours recorded in April):

Johnson Center - 213 hours, West Falls - 37. Recruitment letter was sent to all Chapter members with a sparse response. In April, for National Volunteer Week, 70 "Thank You" letters were sent to volunteers.

**Public Affairs:** Don McCarthy. MOAA National asked us to resend two articles that had not yet been published. We resent the report on LVFS. The other report content was too outdated.

**Speakers Program:** Max Johnson. The Speakers Program is now on hold. Programs Delivered:

30 Jan 2020 - MG (Ret) Duff Rice, The Humorous Side of a Marine Corps Career, Shepherd's Center of Vienna-Oakton.

27 Feb 2020 - COL (Ret) Phil Walsh, Journey to the Top of the World, Shepherd's Center of Oakton.

**JROTC:** Stan King. Chantilly Academy AFROTC has been notified to cancel our Memorial Day event.

Chantilly has provided us the name of the junior for the MOAA Leadership Medal. Our two JROTC units have yet to provide information on scholarship awardees and ceremonies. Our checks could be mailed. .

**Personal Affairs:** Kathy Trossbach. A MOAA sympathy card was sent out along with an offer of assistance. Included was a document of important First Steps to take when a military retiree dies.

**Loudoun Veterans and Family Support (LVFS):** Howard Schue. Veterans' requests for help have fallen to near zero since the COVID-19 confinement began. We have seen no new requests this month. We expect requests to significantly increase when the economy begins to open.

**Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC):** Bob Manning. April 2: Second Quarter Meeting cancelled. April 30:

The Congressional Appreciation Luncheon cancelled. Falcons Landing Chapter is the 6th largest of 17 chapters in Virginia. Our "Falcons Flyer" magazine satisfies the requirement for the quarterly report. Bob Manning noted that MOAA (MGen. Joe Lynch) supports our new relationship of the Auxiliary to the Chapter and supporting By-Laws. Many other chapters have moved, or are moving, to the same solution.

**Loudoun County Community Veteran Engagement Board (LCCVEB):** Jim Mullen. Things are quiet with veterans' calls for assistance. Other veterans organizations are providing some support on their own. The June Top of Virginia Honor Flight is rescheduled to September. Our event with the VA in June, the Loudoun Veterans Experience Action Center (VEAC), was postponed to a future date. Hundreds are expected to attend.

**The Gathering:** Bill Hilsman. In-person Gatherings and scheduling of guest presenters are on hold. Working on a virtual presentation in May on Bill's experience from his book, "Why I Love My Soldiers."

**Updates:** Bob Manning.

- Chapter By-Laws were ratified by the membership. The remaining task is election of Officers and Directors for Auxiliary IRS 501(c)(3) to operate as an affiliate of Falcons Landing Chapter IRS 501(c)(19).
- Falcons Landing Chapter has received both the 2019 Communications Award and the 2019 Levels of Excellence Award at the highest 5-Star level from MOAA.
- Falcons Landing CEO, Barbara Brannon, announced her retirement in November 2020.
- Memorial Day Program will be modified to accommodate our circumstances and broadcast on Ch. 1970.

**The Gathering, May 21, 2020**

**I Love My Soldiers, Part I**

By Jim Mullen (slightly edited)

**It was a pleasure to join fellow resident Bill Hilsman as he held a Gathering session on Thursday, May 21 on our Falcons Landing channel 1970. As the host and guest speaker, he shared recollections that spanned his Army career from notes entitled, “I Love My Soldiers.”**

**The first point, as Bill was quick to state, is that anyone who has served even a day in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard or in any similar organization would be able to tell of similar experiences with the same degree of warmth. In fact, we all would be sure that we must have met that very same private or corporal or seaman somewhere along the path of our own career. The second point requires a quick look in the mirror to point out that the “love” goes both ways, for as Bill’s first company commander stated to him: “Treat your soldiers with dignity and respect.” In Bill’s stories, we certainly saw that treatment with dignity has a way of being paid back from the troops many times over. A couple of Bill’s anecdotes follow.**

**In the first one, we join Lt. Hilsman and a special soldier at a major exercise in Virginia called LOGEX (I remember the exercise well, but my LOGEX was about 10 years later and at Ft. Lee, VA, and I have a few stories—but this is Bill’s story.) We then follow Bill at the next major exercise called SAGEBRUSH in Louisiana.**

**Bill had a platoon of about 450 men in this Signal Corps unit, and he was taking them to the field by convoy. When he arrived, he had a meeting with the local mayor who offered to provide showers for the soldiers during the exercise—but in Virginia at that time he could not offer showers at the same for black soldiers. Bill explained to the mayor that perhaps his unit would have to stay near another town (which would have been negative for the local town merchants). The mayor suddenly remembered a new high school with new showers just now available that could service all soldiers!**

**On the way home from the exercise, Bill’s unit was given a change in route for his convoy by the unit executive officer (XO), who provided guidance on the route to follow. But it was not the correct route, and the signal unit was slowed in travel by bad roads and a bridge out, eventually to the point that Lt. Hilsman decided to provide a break for food and rest for the fatigued soldiers before continuing the convoy. The XO gave an order to keep moving, but Lt. Hilsman insisted on taking care of his men with a rest and food break. The XO told Bill he would provide a Letter of Reprimand for not moving directly. Later that evening as Bill’s unit arrived at the overnight stop, the company commander and battalion commander were discussing the situation with the XO about Bill’s delay and the reprimand. One of the sergeants in Bill’s unit spoke up to explain the situation and stated that the rest situation was necessary and the men of the unit commented the same to the battalion commander. Somewhere along the line, the battalion commander decided to forget about the XO complaint and the letter of reprimand. Treat the soldiers with dignity and respect.**

**Bill Hilsman recounted a number of examples of similar incidents with soldiers throughout his career. In most cases, these also were accompanied by exceptional performance of the men and the unit’s mission. Somehow Bill Hilsman ended up as the youngest BG, MG, and LTG of his graduating class at West Point. If you happened to miss this Gathering, I would recommend watching one of the reprisals.**

## **MOAA Memorial Day Program, May 25, 2020**

By Jim Mullen (slightly edited)

The MOAA Chapter at Falcons Landing recognized Memorial Day with a program broadcast on Falcons Landing channel 1970. In previous years, the program was held in the Ballroom, but this year it was attended by residents through a virtual broadcast. As has been the case for several years, the program included a prayer of remembrance from Chaplain Jeff Payne and a reading of the poem by Bill Hilsman of “In Flanders Field”, which remembered the battlefields and deaths of WWI in a poem that has since signified the cost of war on so many battlefields. The program included the Memorial Day speech of former President Ronald Reagan, after which the Chapter also recognized the loss of West Point graduates in Vietnam, many of whom were classmates of our current residents.

Our President, Bob Manning, also provided a remembrance of Virginia Tech graduate Lt. Jimmie Monteith, who received the Medal of Honor posthumously from action on Normandy Beach during D-Day in WWII. The program closed with the very moving singing of the West Point Glee Club’s rendition of “Mansions of the Lord.” Thank you to the work of MOAA Chapter members Bob Manning, Bill Hilsman, Howard Schue, Max Johnson, and our Chaplain Jeff Payne, in addition to the excellent support of the Falcons Landing staff in developing the video broadcast.

## **The Gathering, May 28, 2020**

### **I Love My Soldiers, Part II**

By Jim Mullen (slightly edited)

During “I Love My Soldiers,” Part II, Bill Hilsman continued to recount his experiences with soldiers during his career, including assignments in Europe and the United States. His stories reflected the changes in the military and society, but there was one constant, and that was the steady response of the soldiers—men and women—to the mission in exercises and in real world incidents.

One of the major changes was the introduction of the digital age in communications with advanced technology in radios and the introduction of satellites to communications services. So often, the new communications signal soldiers were able to meet the challenge with their backgrounds in civilian education and ability to operate with new technology, plus their commitment to getting the mission accomplished.

A second major change was the introduction of women into the various branches of service, not as administrative personnel, but as fully qualified specialists in their service assignments. The Signal Corps was a branch designated as Combat Support, which had a dual mission for communications, and to serve as a combat support unit as required. During this period, Bill, at his daughter’s suggestion, selected several women lieutenants to serve as aides, and these aides not only served him exceptionally well but also continued to have outstanding careers themselves in the military and in civilian life. One became a major general and one rose to become a lieutenant general. (And, as an aside, his daughter was an Air Force pilot and is a retired brigadier general.).

**MOAA Chapter Board Meeting, June 18 2020**



**The Gathering, June 24, 2020**  
**Kaminski Initiative—AF Academy: The Institute for Future Conflict**  
By Jim Mullen (slightly edited)

For the June Gathering (virtual again), Bill Hilsman introduced fellow resident Paul Kaminski who discussed an initiative that he began in 2018 to expose United States Air Force Academy (USAF) cadets to the technologies which will critically impact our nation's ability to prevail in future conflicts. As Paul began his discussion he cited hockey great Wayne Gretzky's response when asked about his secret to success. Gretzky responded that he did not skate to the puck-- but where the puck will be. In other words he had exceptional anticipation of the situation and the presence to react before others.



Dr. Paul Kaminski

The challenge to the United States military and a key to future victory is to anticipate the change in character of conflict and to be prepared with the capabilities to be a global leader. That is the challenge to the cadets in the Kaminski Initiative - to expose them to enabling technologies and allow them to consider new concepts and be prepared to incorporate these ideas into the military force as they graduate and begin to assume increasing positions of leadership.

Over the past decades, the military has been able to successfully adapt such items as precision guided munitions, stealth aircraft, and advanced Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) to provide an "offset" strategy for obtaining combat success against larger forces. It is imperative to continue to adapt such new concepts for the future.

To provide the opportunity to develop such insights to the future and a new "offset" for combat, known as "offset-3", Paul, a Founding Director of the Air Force Academy Foundation, is working with MIT Lincoln Labs, The MITRE Corporation, and Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) – companies on whose boards he sits. This is to provide key courses online to cadets and faculty in such areas as Artificial Intelligence (AI), CYBER, Space, Directed Energy, and Hypersonics and also with considerations in the impact of these technologies on areas like command and control, law, and ethics for a total impact across the force. The Foundation also provides funds to execute these ambitious programs in creating a new way of thinking for the future military and real world learning opportunities for Air Force Academy cadets.

To accomplish this program the Foundation will work with the USAFA to expose all cadets to survey courses in Stage I before they choose their majors; then offer cadets who choose majors in these fields the opportunity for a deep dive in Stage 2. This will prepare them for advanced education and application to real world missions. He also plans to expose the entire faculty to these survey courses to allow the faculty to consider the impact of these technologies on courses they teach in the social sciences and humanities.

So the goal is to create a Gretzky-like culture at USAFA, and enable graduates to skate to where the puck is going to be when they move into leadership positions.



## Important Chapter Events, Officers & Directors, Member Status

**General Membership Meets Quarterly, planned for evenings in the Falcons Landing Ballroom. The Gathering - special briefings (sponsored by the MOAA Chapter) open to all Chapter members and Falcons Landing residents. Nominally, one event per month in the Falcons Landing Ballroom.**

**Board of Directors (BOD) meets monthly, as required.**

**Chapter Executive Committee (President, 1st VP; 2nd VP, Secretary, Treasurer) meets as required; acts on behalf of Board on immediate issues.**

**Committees meet at discretion of Committee Chairs.**

### **2020 Meeting Schedule:**

**BOD nominally 10:00 A.M. on third Thursday of scheduled month**

**Quarterly Membership Meetings at 2:00 or 7:30 PM**

**January 16 2020—Board Meeting**

**February 20 - Board Meeting**

**March 24 - Quarterly Mtg - Online Vote**

**April 16 - No Meeting**

**May 5 - Board Meeting**

**May 25 - Memorial Day Program**

**June 18 - Board Meeting**

**July - No Meeting**

**August 20 - Board Meeting**

**September 17 - Board Meeting**

**October 15 - Board Meeting**

**November 11 - Veterans Day Program**

**November 19 - Annual Chapter Mtg**

**December - No Meeting**

### 2020 Officers and Directors

**President/Director/Programs: Bob Manning, Col, USA, Ret. (703) 543-9158**

**First Vice President: Phil Walsh, Col, USMC, Ret. (703) 978-4328**

**2nd Vice President/Director/Legislative Affairs: Clair Wylie, Cmdr, USN, Ret. (703) 216-7549**

**Secretary: Mrs. Genevieve Pustay, (703) 444-5284**

**Treasurer: Peter Scott, Col, USA, Ret. (703) 715-7396**

**Director Membership: Lowell Jones, Col, USAF, Ret. (703) 444-9530**

**Director/Surviving Spouse/Auxiliary Affairs: Mrs. Vicki Estey, (512) 749-2810**

**Director/Personal Affairs: Mrs. Kathy Trossbach, (703) 430-1342**

**Director/Public Affairs: Don McCarthy, Capt, USN, Ret. (703) 430-5608**

**Director/LVFS: Howard Schue, Col, USAF, Ret. (703) 433-2220**

**Director/The Gathering Coordinator: Bill Hilsman, Lt Gen, USA, Ret. (703) 433-1284**

**Director/JROTC/Scholarships: Stanley King, Col, USA, Ret. (703) 281-0825**

**Director/Speakers Bureau: Max Johnson, Col, USA, Ret. (703) 508-3788**

**Member at Large: Bill Suter, Maj Gen, USA, Ret. (703) 909-9810**

**Founder, Past President: John Pustay, Lt Gen, USAF, Ret. (703) 444-5284**

**Past President: Glenn Carus, Col, USAF, Ret. (703) 444-3269**

**Past President: Leo Childs, Maj Gen, USA, Ret. (703) 430-2884**

**Past President: Howard Schue, Col, USAF, Ret. (703) 433-2220**

**Past President: James Mullen, Lt Col, USA, Ret. (703) 444-4741**

### Members Deceased (2nd Quarter, 2020)

**George Schropp (04/07/2020)**

**Pete Verfurth (05/04/2020)**

**Benjamin Frank (06/19/2020)**

### Welcome New Members (2nd Quarter, 2020)

**Douglas (Bods) Smith (04/07/2020)**