



## FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER



# THE FALCON FLYER

## MARCH 2024



*THE FALCON FLYER is published quarterly by the Falcons Chapter of MOAA and distributed to all members, as well as placed on the Falcons Landing MOAA website, [www.falconsmoaa.org](http://www.falconsmoaa.org) . POC for the newsletter is the Editor, COL (Ret) Bob Manning, [Rmanning@aol.com](mailto:Rmanning@aol.com).*

# SUPPORT OF MOAA NATIONAL

MOAA is a nonpartisan, 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. MOAA's greatest mission is "to improve the lives of those who serve and their families, which is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's capital." Support MOAA's advocacy efforts by going to [www.moaa.org/takeaction](http://www.moaa.org/takeaction).

The Falcons Landing Chapter is one of more than 400-plus local organizations affiliated with National MOAA and is a nonpartisan, nonprofit veterans' association. Our chapter provides programs to support those who are serving; those who have served; and those who have survived, while placing special focus on community support.

We support the national organization through support of legislative priorities and "Advocacy in Action" and are active in our community supporting three JROTC programs, helping recovering and needy veterans, supporting surviving spouses in our continuing care facilities and providing speakers to community service organizations.

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# CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## MARCH 2024

To all our Chapter and Auxiliary members, Happy Early Easter, and welcome to spring and all our springtime activities – March Madness, golf, and, yes, baseball. All we need now is some warm weather so we can put our tops down!

As we move into spring and we think about our Chapter activities for the year, I must again ask you to think about joining our Chapter's leadership team. The good news is that Buddy Everage has already stepped up to replace Buck Coates as our Membership Chairman -- Buck had to step down unexpectedly early in his term. That still leaves our Secretary position vacant and, of course, I'm still looking for someone to succeed me as Chapter President. It is indeed time to pass the torch to a new generation of MOAA leaders. There are many new members in our Chapter. We are fortunate to have a steady infusion of new Chapter members – most of whom have been members of MOAA National for many years. Our new members are almost always time-tested leaders – ready to take on new challenges while they are still relatively young and energetic. We've been learning and practicing new leadership responsibilities all our lives.

Our MOAA Chapter's enduring mission is steadfast. It is to reinvigorate the general membership to: (1) find new ways to support Loudoun County veterans and their families; (2) to better enable our Chapter Auxiliary to become the Go-To volunteer organization supporting the Falcons Landing Health Center; and (3) to instill and preserve a deep sense of patriotism throughout our Falcons Landing community. I ask all of you to help our Chapter accomplish this.



# CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## MARCH 2024 (CONT)

During this next month, we will be participating in the annual awards ceremonies at each of the three JROTC schools we sponsor (Chantilly Academy, Loudoun County H.S., and South Lakes H.S.) and present \$9500 in scholarships to outstanding graduating cadets/midshipmen who are selected to receive these scholarships by their respective JROTC staffs and high school faculty. Watching these officer candidates perform in their end-of-year award ceremonies is indeed gratifying – their enthusiasm for pursuing military careers as they go off to college is truly inspiring.

Also coming up is our annual Memorial Day ceremony at Falcons Landing on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Dave Nordean, our Chapter Program Chair, will be looking for volunteers to help organize this event and participate in it. This is an excellent way for new members to get involved.

Finally, as I have mentioned at recent meetings of our general membership, I have been considering initiating a new annual event for our Chapter sometime this summer. I'm thinking of hosting an open house in the Ballroom for all our JROTC cadets/midshipmen and their parents. This would be an excellent opportunity for our many residents who collectively possess an extremely broad range of military experience to share their experiences and professional advice with the next generation of military officers. Such an open house would be hosted and staffed by our Chapter members who can represent all the Military Services. If anyone would be interested in helping me plan such an event, please let me know. In the meantime, enjoy your upcoming time out in the sun!



*Never Stop Serving  
Phil Walsh, President*



***THE FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER  
OF MOAA WILL ACTIVELY  
SUPPORT***

**THOSE WHO  
ARE SERVING**

**THOSE WHO  
HAVE SERVED**

**THOSE WHO  
HAVE  
SURVIVED**

**MISSION  
STATEMENT**



FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
20540 FALCONS LANDING CIRCLE, #P1  
POTOMAC FALLS, VIRGINIA 20165



## FACT SHEET 2024

[The Military Officers Association of America \(MOAA\)](#) is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.

[The Falcons Landing Chapter \(FLC\)](#) is one of more than 400-plus local organizations affiliated with National MOAA and is a member of the Virginia Council of Chapters. The Chapter is located at Falcons Landing, a Life Plan Community which is operated by the Air Force Retired Officers Community (AFROC). It is the only MOAA Chapter in Loudoun County. The Chapter is also a member of the [Virginia Council of Chapters, MOAA](#)

The mission of the Chapter is to provide programs to support: *those who are serving; those who have served; and those who have survived*, while placing special focus on community support.

Chapter 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, Space Force, Public Health Service, NOAA, and their surviving spouses.

As of March 31, 2024, there were 131 Premium Members and 81 Auxiliary Chapter Members for a total of 212 Chapter Members.

The most significant, ongoing program for the Chapter is the multifaceted local support to veterans and their families. The Chapter established the *Loudoun Veterans and Family Support (LVFS)* program in partnership with Community Lutheran Church of Sterling, providing financial and general support to Loudoun County Veterans needing assistance.

The Chapter strongly supports the [Loudoun County Community Veterans Engagement Board \(LCCVEB\)](#), whose purpose is promoting a healthy and enriched lifestyle for Loudoun County veterans and their family members through community outreach and advocacy on Loudoun County veterans' issues.

The Chapter sponsors the *Gathering*, a program of distinguished guest speakers for monthly presentations on current and past world and government affairs.

The Chapter has established a *Speakers' Bureau*. This initiative is in keeping with the chapter's goal of continuing to inform the American public about their military establishment. There are currently 16 topics and speakers available for presentation to the local community.

Four times a year the Chapter supports the *AdoptaPlatoon Soldier Support Effort®* dedicated to serving deployed United States Service Men and Women by providing ongoing care packages to improve quality of life and raising morale for those serving overseas in the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corp, Coast Guard and Special Forces.

The Chapter supports three *Junior ROTC* units in our area of responsibility: the Air Force JROTC unit at Chantilly High School in Fairfax, the Navy JROTC unit at Loudoun County High School in Leesburg, and the Army JROTC unit at South Lakes High School in Reston. The Chapter President and Director of JROTC Programs present scholarships to selected cadets at each school. In addition, the Lieutenant General John Pustay Scholarship is awarded to a selected cadet at Chantilly High School.

*Memorial and Veterans Day Programs* are presented each year at Falcons Landing.

**NEVER STOP SERVING**



# MOAA MEMBERSHIP

## BUCK COATES



### REGULAR CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Per the chapter's bylaws -- the membership of the chapter shall be composed of men and women who are serving or have served on active duty or in one of the reserve components as a commissioned or warrant officer in one of the seven US Uniformed Services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service) or in one of the National Guard or Reserve Components thereof.

REGULAR CHAPTER MEMBERS (ON/OFF CAMPUS) – 131

CHAPTER AUXILIARY MEMBERS -- 81

Surviving Spouses – 60

Spouses of current chapter members – 9

Others -- 12

**TOTAL MOAA COMMUNITY AT FALCONS LANDING -- 212!**

We invite and encourage you to join the Falcons Landing Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), the preeminent organization protecting the rights and benefits of service members past, current, and future. The local chapters perform similar services at the community and county level, and they educate and inform members on important issues facing veterans and their families. We are proud that our Chapter has been awarded MOAA's highest-level 5-Star Chapter rating – and we ask you to join us in perpetuating that honor. As a member you will receive our newsletter electronically via email. If you don't have email access, we will send a print copy to your mailing address.

When you join our Chapter, the only one in Loudoun County, you'll add your voice to those of the members of the Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC), a statewide network of Virginia chapters.

If you have interest in or questions about joining MOAA's select group of professionals at the national and/or chapter levels, please contact CDR (Ret) Buddy Everage, (703) 822-1201, [beverage49@gmail.com](mailto:beverage49@gmail.com), or fill out the Contact Form in the Contact Tab of the Falcons Landing Chapter website at [falconsmoaa.org](http://falconsmoaa.org). You can also find the membership application for MOAA National/Chapter at [www.falconsmoaa.org/membership](http://www.falconsmoaa.org/membership)

## **NEW MEMBERS**

**LT BARBARA O'BRIEN, USNR, RET**

**CDR LINC SMITH, USN, RET**

**COL GENE BALDRATE, USAF, RET**



## **IN MEMORIAM**



**JAMES HUGHES**  
**JULY 7, 1922 – JANUARY 12, 2024**

**ALICE OTIS**  
**JANUARY 26, 1922 – JANUARY 17, 2024**

**JERRY FRIEDHEIM**  
**OCTOBER 7, 1934 – JANUARY 20, 2024**

**DIXIE KENYON**  
**NOVEMBER 29, 1924 – FEBRUARY 3, 2024**

**JOYCE GILLIGAN**  
**MAY 25, 1941 – FEBRUARY 6, 2024**

**CLAUDYNE BROWN**  
**JANUARY 4, 1931 – FEBRUARY 9, 2024**

**JAMES HESSON**  
**NOVEMBER 28, 1931-FEBRUARY 24, 2024**



# FALCONS LANDING MOAA CHAPTER AUXILIARY

BABARA O'BRIEN

THE CHAPTER AUXILIARY IS ESTABLISHED TO ASSIST THE CHAPTER IN EXECUTING ITS PURPOSE. AS STATED IN THE CHAPTER BYLAWS, THE PURPOSE OF THE MOAA CHAPTER IS TO PROMOTE THE PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES OF MOAA AND, SPECIFICALLY, TO ACTIVELY SUPPORT:

- THOSE WHO ARE SERVING
- THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED
- THOSE WHO HAVE SURVIVED

FURTHER, WHILE THE AUXILIARY IS A SEPARATE, SELF-GOVERNED ORGANIZATION THAT SHARES THE SAME PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CHAPTER, IT IS ESTABLISHED SPECIFICALLY TO DIRECTLY SUPPORT THE CHAPTER'S PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES.

***The MOAA Chapter Auxiliary is the Go-To  
Volunteer Organization at Falcons Landing***

# FALCONS LANDING MOAA CHAPTER AUXILIARY (CONTINUED)

## MEMBERSHIP IN THE AUXILIARY

THREE CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP ARE SPECIFIED IN THE BYLAWS:

- SURVIVING SPOUSES OF REGULAR CHAPTER MEMBERS – AUTOMATIC MEMBERSHIP ON THE PASSING OF A REGULAR CHAPTER MEMBER
- SPOUSES OF REGULAR CHAPTER MEMBERS – UPON REQUEST/APPLICATION FROM A SPOUSE OF A LIVING REGULAR CHAPTER MEMBER
- OTHER INTERESTED RESIDENTS OF FALCONS LANDING – UPON REQUEST/APPLICATION FROM A NON-MOAA AFFILIATED RESIDENT OF FALCONS LANDING WHO IS INTERESTED IN ASSISTING WITH THE AUXILIARY'S PROGRAM OF VOLUNTEER WORK.

## MORE ABOUT THE AUXILIARY

AUXILIARY MEMBERS PAY NO CHAPTER DUES

AUXILIARY RECRUITMENT LETTERS SENT OUT TWICE YEARLY

VOLUNTEER OUTREACH AVAILABLE IN INDEPENDENT LIVING, THE JOHNSON CENTER, AND WEST FALLS CENTER TO INCLUDE: VISITATION, COFFEE/MEAL VISITS, EXERCISE, BINGO, MAIL DELIVERY, NEWSPAPER DELIVERY, ASSISTANCE IN 2L INTERACTIVE PROGRAMS, HAPPY HOURS, MUSIC, WEEKEND COVERAGE OF RECEPTION DESK IN TJC

TYPICAL ON-SITE VOLUNTEER EFFORT – APPROXIMATELY 200 HOURS/MONTH

Contact Barbara O'Brien for more info at [obrienbarbara62@outlook.com](mailto:obrienbarbara62@outlook.com), or 540-270-8545



## VCOC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

IMPROVE LEGISLATIVE EFFECTIVENESS,  
NATIONAL AND STATE <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

IMPROVE RECRUITING - MEMBERS AND  
LEADERS. WHAT IS IN IT FOR THE MEMBER?

ACTIVE PUBLIC AFFAIRS - SEEKING TO HOW  
WE COMMUNICATE INTERNALLY AND  
EXTERNALLY WITH ALL MEMBERS,  
IRRESPECTIVE OF GENERATION. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

IMPROVE VITALITY AND EXCELLENCE OF  
CHAPTERS

THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS (VCOC) OF THE  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA)  
CONSISTS OF 16 MOAA CHAPTERS.

THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS MEETS QUARTERLY  
IN 2024: JANUARY, APRIL, JULY AND OCTOBER.

CHECK OUT THE *CRIER NEWSLETTER* AT  
[MOAAVCOC.ORG](http://MOAAVCOC.ORG)

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT INFORMATION AND PRIORITIES

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 go to the MOAA website at [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org) and select the News and Info tab, followed by selecting Newsletters.

The MOAA Newsletter “is an award-winning member-only e-newsletter subscription to provide information on topics most important to you. Whether you’re looking for updates on current legislative issues, want to know more about your military benefits, or just interested in the latest MOAA events, you can tailor your newsletter to align with your specific needs and interests.” It is included with your MOAA membership. If you are not registered with MOAA National for this, call (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 CDR (Ret) Buddy Everage, (703) 822-1201, [beverage49@gmail.com](mailto:beverage49@gmail.com).

Our Chapter periodically publishes Legislative Updates 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. You may review important MOAA legislative issues and activities on the MOAA website by visiting the Take Action section at [www.moaa.org/takeaction](http://www.moaa.org/takeaction).

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'S ADVOCACY PRIORITIES FOR VETERANS AND SURVIVORS IN THE 118TH CONGRESS

- **MONITORING RECENT MAJOR LEGISLATION ENACTED SUCH AS THE PACT ACT IN THE AREAS OF HEALTH CARE, COMPENSATION, AND FOLLOW-ON SUPPORT FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES AND FAMILIES AND SEEK STATUTORY OR POLICY CHANGES AS REQUIRED.**
- **COMPELLING CONGRESS AND VA TO ACCELERATE CAREGIVING AND WHOLE HEALTH CARE SERVICES, AND MODERNIZATION OF VHA WORKFORCE AND FACILITY INFRASTRUCTURE TO IMPROVE VETERANS ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY CARE.**
- **CONCURRENT RECEIPT OF MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY AND VA DISABILITY PAY.**
- **IMPROVING SURVIVORS' BENEFITS.**
- **REPEALING THE RECOUPMENT OF LAST MONTH'S PAYCHECK AFTER RETIREE'S PASSING, AND CONTINUE TO IMPROVE SGLI/VGLI UPDATES TO MATCH INFLATION.**
- **IMPROVING DIC BASELINE TO ALIGN WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT ENTITLEMENTS' BASELINE OF 55%.**
- **ENSURING PAY AT OR ABOVE EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX, ALLOWANCES, AND PROGRAMS NECESSARY TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN A QUALITY FORCE.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:**

**<https://moaa.quorum.us/issue/47366>**

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

**ADVOCACY IN ACTION (AIA): MOAA MEMBERS FROM ACROSS THE NATION WILL GATHER AT CAPITOL HILL ON APRIL 17, 2024, AND PRESENT KEY MOAA ISSUES TO CONGRESS. THE ISSUES FOR 2024 ARE:**

- **THE MAJOR RICHARD STAR ACT WHICH SUPPORTS COMBAT-INJURED VETERANS AND WOULD END AN UNJUST OFFSET FOR THOSE WHO LOSE A DOLLAR OF SERVICE-EARNED RETIREMENT PAY FOR EVERY DOLLAR OF VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION.**
- **THE BAH RESTORATION ACT WHICH REVERSES A DOD POLICY CAPPING THE BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING (BAH) AT 95% OF LOCAL RENTAL AND UTILITIES COST.**
- **PROTECTING TRICARE FOR LIFE (TFL) REMAINS A KEY ISSUE FOR ALL MOAA MEMBERS COVERED BY TFL AND MEDICARE, ALONG WITH MEMBERS WHO WILL USE THE BENEFIT WHEN THEY TURN 65.**

## NEWS YOU CAN USE (CONT)

**RETIREMENT, CAREGIVING, AND END OF LIFE WEBINARS: LISTED BELOW ARE SOME EXCELLENT WEBINARS—Control + click to follow link. Make sure you are signed in to [moaa.org](https://moaa.org)**

- [EFFECTIVE ESTATE PLANNING](#)
- [HOW THE ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING HELPS OLDER ADULTS](#)
- [PREPARING A SPOUSE OR FAMILY MEMBER FOR SURVIVORSHIP \(2023\)](#)
- [THE TIME IS NOW: WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT ALZHEIMER'S](#)
- [HOW MILITARY, VETERAN CAREGIVERS CAN APPLY FOR RESPITE RELIEF](#)
- [GET UP TO SPEED ON YOUR ESTATE PLANNING REQUIREMENTS](#)
- [MILITARY CAREGIVERS IN ACTION](#)
- [UNDERSTANDING YOUR OPTIONS WITH VA BURIAL BENEFITS](#)
- [MILITARY CAREGIVERS: AN OVERVIEW](#)



## **NEWS YOU CAN USE (CONT)**

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

- **JOIN JACKIE MULLEN AND TEAM ON APRIL 24 AT 3PM IN THE BALLROOM FOR THE ANNUAL PRESENTATION OF “ARE YOU PREPARED”.**
- **PATRICK CONNOLLY WILL BE THE GUEST SPEAKER FOR THE MAY 16 GATHERING. HIS PRESENTATION WILL BE A NO HOLDS BARRED EXPAT VIEW ON CHINA.**
- **JUNE 6: THERE WILL BE A GUEST SPEAKER FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMY WOMEN’S MUSEUM ON JUNE 6 IN THE FALCONS LANDING BALLROOM. THIS PRESENTATION WILL BE PART OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE ARMY’S 249<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY. THE ARMY BALL AT FALCONS LANDING WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 13, 2024.**

# TREASURERS REPORT - 2024 YTD (CONT)

## ANTICIPATED CHAPTER EXPENDITURES IN 2024

(FUNDED BY DONATIONS, DUES AND GRANTS)

RICHARD SEARLES

| CATEGORY                  | 2024 YTD     | 2024 BUDGET   |
|---------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| SCHOLARSHIPS              | -            | 9,500         |
| LVFS                      | 5,000        | 5,000         |
| ADOPT-A-PLATOON           | 1,000        | 1,000         |
| COLOR GUARDS              | -            | 300           |
| REFRESHMENTS              | 174          | 1,000         |
| MATERIALS                 | -            | 450           |
| TRAVEL                    | -            | 500           |
| INSURANCE                 | 444          | 450           |
| FEES                      | 236          | 210           |
| WEBSITE                   | -            | 250           |
| PRINTING                  | -            | 100           |
| POSTAGE                   | -            | 50            |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b> | <b>6,854</b> | <b>19,210</b> |

# HELP SUPPORT OUR CHAPTER PROGRAMS

Our activities, especially the veterans' assistance and scholarship programs, require funds well beyond our annual dues. Last year, we solicited donations, and your response was generous. Again, we are asking for your support, promising to apply your donation as you designate. Please annotate your check on the memo line: "veterans assistance," "scholarships," "Adopt-A-Platoon," or "general" (meaning expenses consistent with our mission). *Checks should be made out to the "Falcons Landing Chapter of MOAA"* and placed in the mail slot of our Treasurer, Richard Searles, 46874. Those outside Falcons Landing may mail to Richard at 20540 Falcons Landing Circle, #P1, Potomac Falls, Virginia 20165. Your contributions may be tax deductible on your federal return. We will send all donors a thank-you letter to that effect.

A continuing practice of our Chapter is the award of scholarships to deserving junior ROTC seniors at Chantilly HS (Air Force), Loudoun County HS (Navy) and South Lakes HS (Army).



LOUDOUN VETERANS AND  
FAMILY SUPPORT



JROTC

## PROGRAMS



# COMMUNICATIONS

BOB MANNING

- **LEVELS OF EXCELLENCE APPLICATION  
SUBMITTED JANUARY 25, 2024**
- **HARRIS COMMUNICATION AWARDS APPLICATION  
SUBMITTED FEBRUARY 2, 2024 (NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE)**
- **THE NEW MOAA CRITERIA FOR CHAPTER WEBSITE WILL  
REQUIRE MAJOR FORMAT AND DESIGN CHANGES**
- **INPUT FOR MEMORIAL DAY PRESENTATION  
SLIDES DUE NLT 22 MAY**

# LOUDOUN COUNTY COMMUNITY VETERANS ENGAGEMENT BOARD (LCCVEB)

PETER SCOTT

- GOVERNOR JUST APPOINTED NEW COMMISSIONER OF VETERAN AFFAIRS: CHARLES "CHUCK" ZINGLER (ANNAPOLIS GRAD; NATIONAL SECURITY FELLOW, KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT; 30 YEARS NAVY)
- FIRST GRADUATE OF VETERANS TREATMENT DOCKET PROGRAM
- APPLIED FOR \$10K GRANT FROM "100 WOMEN STRONG"
- **COMMISSIONER JUST ISSUED "NEWSLETTER VOLUME 1"**



*Commissioner Zingler served for nearly 30 years in the U.S. Navy, including leadership positions afloat, ashore, overseas and in conflicts on three continents.*

# JROTC SCHOLARSHIPS

JOE MILLER

- **SCHOLARSHIPS CURRENTLY PLANNED TO BE AWARDED TO CADETS AT THREE JROTC HIGH SCHOOLS**
  - **CHANTILLY ACADEMY (AIR FORCE) – TWO \$1000 + TWO \$500 = \$3000**
  - **LOUDOUN COUNTY H.S. (NAVY) -- TWO \$1000 + TWO \$500 + \$500 (FOR DALE REED SCHOLARSHIP) = \$3500**
  - **SOUTH LAKES H.S. (ARMY) – TWO \$1000 + TWO \$500 = \$3000**
  - **TOTAL AWARDS THIS YEAR WILL BE \$9500**
  
- **THIS YEAR'S AWARD CEREMONY DATES:**
  - **CHANTILLY ACADEMY – APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup>**
  - **LOUDOUN COUNTY H.S. -- TBD**
  - **SOUTH LAKES H.S. -- TBD**

# **LOUDOUN VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT**

**HOWARD SCHUE**

- **CURRENT LVFS BALANCE: \$4,538.73**
- **SINCE 01/01/24 THE CHAPTER HAS DONATED \$5,000.00 TO LVFS.**
- **SINCE 01/01/24, 7 VETERAN HAVE BEEN ASSISTED FOR AN AMOUNT OF \$1,497.72 -- AN AVERAGE OF \$213.96 PER ASSISTANCE**
  - **THE CHAPTER IS CURRENTLY PROCESSING TWO ASSISTANCE REQUESTS FOR VETERANS**
  - **SOME VETERANS NEED ASSISTANCE MULTIPLE TIMES.**
  - **WE LIMIT OUR DONATIONS TO LOUDOUN COUNTY VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.**
- **IN 2023, LVFS RECEIVED \$8,224.50 FROM ALL INCOME SOURCES.**
- **WE ARE WORKING ON TWO GRANT APPLICATIONS:**
  - **APPLICATION FOR MOAA NATIONAL GRANT OF \$5000 SUBMITTED IN FEBRUARY**
  - **LETTER REQUEST FOR A 2024 FALCONS LANDING CHAPEL GRANT SENT MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup>**
  - **INITIAL GRANT OF \$500 ALREADY RECEIVED**



# HONORING THREE VETERANS

*(Except/edit from the Falcons Landing Retirement Community Facebook page)*

On March 23, 2024, three graduates of the Navy, Army and Air Force Service Academies met in person!

Pictured, left to right, in The Compass Club at Falcons Landing Retirement Community, CAPT Dale Reed, USN (age 104) second oldest living graduate, COL Herb Stern, USA (age 105) and Maj Paul Lasen, USAF (age 90) the oldest of their respective academies, shook hands and introduced themselves.

Dale Reed and Herb Stern are long time residents of Falcons Landing and MOAA Chapter members.

Paul Lasen arrived in nearby Washington D.C on an “Honor Flight” tour from Austin, Texas and made the short side trip to Falcons Landing to meet Dale & Herb and visit USAF Academy graduates who are residents at Falcons Landing.

Special thanks to our residents who helped make this historical occasion happen!  
What an honor!



# **SPEAKERS BUREAU**

## **ED POST**

- **THE PURPOSE OF THE SPEAKERS BUREAU IS TO SHARE THE UNIQUE MILITARY AND GOVERNMENT KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE OF OUR FALCONS LANDING RESIDENCE TO GENERAL AUDIENCES IN LOUDOUN COUNTY.**
- **TO DATE WE HAVE 10 SPEAKERS AND 13 TOPICS.**
- **PRESENTATIONS ARE APPROXIMATELY AN HOUR WITH A 40 MINUTE PRESENTATION AND A 20 MINUTE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION. MOST PRESENTATIONS ARE CONDUCTED AT LOUDOUN COUNTY LIBRARIES.**
- **WE HAVE TWO NEW SPEAKERS FOR 2024, BEN ROMERO AND GERRY GALLOWAY, OFFERING 3 NEW TOPICS.**
- **11 AND 30 JANUARY 2024 GERRY GALLOWAY PRESENTED “ THE EFFECTS OF WEATHER THAT SHAPED EVENTS IN WW II”.**
- **ON APRIL 25TH , BEN ROMERO WILL PRESENT “ OPERATION HOME COMING” AT THE CASCADES LIBRARY,**

# THE GATHERING: BEHIND THE HEADSTONES AT ARLINGTON

by JIM MULLEN

An inspiring presentation was given to the Gathering audience by Blane Amphor, a local historian, as he provided a number of stories, based on the names on headstones at Arlington National Cemetery, about some of the illustrious heroes and veterans of major events of history. It was certainly a topic of interest to residents of Falcons Landing, many of whom are eligible for burial at Arlington or other veterans' cemeteries. If you were not at our Gathering, you can see a replay of Blane's presentation about Arlington on Channel 970.

Blane opened his presentation with a story about William and Elizabeth Friedman, who were early code breakers serving in World War I, who also trained the military in the art of code breaking and later worked with the military after the war to develop mathematical methods and later develop code machines to collect and break codes as members of the newly formed National Security Authority (NSA).

Blane went on to discuss a number of other veterans who served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam including submarine captain (later Rear Admiral) Dick O'Kane, who received the Medal of Honor for operations against two enemy convoys in October 1944, and submarine captain (later Vice Admiral) Swede Morrison, who developed a rescue breathing device which was used to rescue submariners trapped in a sinking submarine and then served in both WWI and II. Blane also discussed a number of pilots, including Phillip Rasmussen, who was one of the pilots that responded to the attack during Pearl Harbor and managed to get airborne to engage enemy planes.

From there, he discussed Navy CAPT Winifred Collins, the second woman sworn into the US Navy in WWII, who later served as the Navy assistant chief of personnel for women from 1957-62. And Admiral

## THE GATHERING: BEHIND THE HEADSTONES AT ARLINGTON (CONT)

Grace Hopper who was one of the early developers of computer programs and helped introduce computers into general use in the military in those early days of computer science. She coined the word “bug” and developed the machine language COBOL. Grace Hopper was later recalled to duty in 1967, to help develop computer science capabilities in the military and is known as the “First Lady of Software.” Resident Bill Hilsman recalled her role in supporting Army development of computers, when she met with Army General Officers at Ft. Monmouth and later with signal NCOs to discuss computers and inspired both groups to employ computers. General Hilsman said that she was a driver in inspiring both groups.

Included in Blane’s presentation were stories about cartoonist Bill Mauldin, the author of Willie and Joe cartoons in WWII. Mauldin was a hero to soldiers and a great boost to morale. Blane added a mention of men who helped raise the flag on Iwo Jima, a salute to Glen Miller, who has a memorial marker at Arlington, and to Maureen O’Hara who, as a wife of a military veteran, is buried at Arlington.



*Bob and Dianne Eldridge,  
Blane Amphor, and Ben Romero*

# **GATHERING: IRAN-100 YEARS OF HISTORY**

**by JIM MULLEN**

**In January, residents gathered to hear the presentation on Iran, by fellow resident Jim Fontana. His presentation focused on our history with Iran over the past century. Jim's number of years in research and study on Iran culminated in a presentation to a Falcons Landing Great Decisions meeting, which formed the basic background for the presentation to this Gathering.**

**His presentation began with the end of WWI, the breakup of the Ottoman empire and with the development of the Muslim focused country that we know today as Iran—a culture that, as he explained, involves enforcing the strict morals of Islam in its society.**

**We can't cover the history of 100 years in this short review except to summarize the key events: the development of the Muslim Brotherhood, the initial leadership of the Shah of Iran and of U.S. involvement in the support to the Shah through involvement with the CIA. Then came the subsequent period with the fall of the Shah, the later assault and seizing of the U.S. embassy and our subsequent efforts to free the hostages and the development following the Shah (e.g., Khomeini).**

**Jim discussed the Iran-Iraqi War, Desert Shield and Desert Storm, the impact of 9-11 and the development of ISIS. Jim went on to discuss the Iranian efforts to develop a nuclear capability and our own efforts to slow the development. To review the history, be sure to watch the reprise of the presentation on channel 970.**

**As Jim began to end his discussion, he summarized with several points in his view concerning Iran today:**

- Iran is a theocracy with the basic tenets of Islam and a fundamental view that Islam should dominate.**

# GATHERING: IRAN-100 YEARS OF HISTORY (CONT)

- Iran is a sponsor of terrorism.
- Iran supports the concept of “Death to the Israelis” and the destruction of Israel.
- Iran supports HAMAS and its goals.
- Today Iran is allied with Russia, China, and North Korea.
- Iran has begun to penetrate Latin America.
- Iran does not feel any significant threat from the West.
- Iran has no nuclear weapon but its technical development has taken it to about 90% and a short path to complete development of a nuclear capability if it decides to continue (open or covertly).

And today? Iran is a country that keeps a strong control over its people and embraces the governing principles of Islamic Law. There have been three violent protests over the past 15 years bordering on full blown uprisings, but the regime has responded brutally.

Iran has clear goals and is progressing well towards achieving them. It is the U.S. and the West which are struggling with the development of a clear strategy in which to contain Iran, according to Jim.

The presentation led to a number of questions and comments from our audience, who were deeply involved in Jim’s presentation. It was a strong end to the evening.

Our thanks to Jim Fontana for an excellent and thought-provoking presentation.

# IMPORTANT CHAPTER EVENTS AND SCHEDULE

THE GATHERING IS OPEN TO ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS AND FALCONS LANDING RESIDENTS, NORMALLY ONE EVENT PER MONTH IN THE FALCONS LANDING BALLROOM.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) MEETS ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 1000 HOURS IN THE WELLNESS CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM OR VIA ZOOM. MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (PRESIDENT, 1ST VP; 2ND VP, SECRETARY, TREASURER) MEETS AS REQUIRED.

COMMITTEES MEET AT DISCRETION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS.

## 2024 MEETING DATES

|             |                                 |                  |                                   |
|-------------|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| January 18  | Board Meeting, 1000             | July             | No Board Meeting                  |
| February 22 | Board Meeting, 1000             | August 15        | Board Meeting, 1000               |
| March 21    | Quarterly Chapter Meeting, 1500 | September 12     | Quarterly Chapter Meeting, 1500   |
| April 18    | Board Meeting, 1000             | October 17       | Board Meeting, 1000               |
| May 16      | Board Meeting, 1000             | November 11      | Veterans Day Program, 1030        |
| May 27      | Memorial Day Program, 1030      | November 21      | Annual Meeting and Election, 1500 |
| June 20     | Quarterly Chapter Meeting, 1500 | December         | No Board Meeting                  |
|             |                                 | January 16, 2025 | Board Meeting, 1000               |



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\*Preparing to step down



## Falcons Landing Chapter Military Officers Association of America

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MOAA is a nonpartisan, 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. MOAA's greatest mission is "to improve the lives of those who serve and their families, which is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's capital". Support MOAA's advocacy efforts by going to <http://takeaction.moaa.org>.

The Falcons Landing Chapter is one of more than 400-plus local organizations affiliated with National MOAA and is a nonpartisan, nonprofit veterans' association. Our chapter provides programs to support: those who are serving; those who have served; and those who have survived, while placing special focus on community support.

We support the national organization through support of legislative priorities and "Storming the Hill" and are active in our community supporting two JROTC programs, helping recovering and needy veterans, and providing speakers to community service organizations.

[Click to view A Special Message from the President of MOAA](#)

Falcons Landing Chapter of the MOAA - 20540 Falcons Landing Cir #P1 - Potomac Falls, VA 20165

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All Falcons Landing Chapter members and veterans interested in joining the Chapter are encouraged to browse through the award-winning website. The website is updated monthly with current information. *To access the website, simply type the following URL into your web browser, [falconsmoaa.org](http://falconsmoaa.org). If you want to access the Documents section, a password is required which you may obtain from our Director of Membership, CDR (Ret) Buddy Everage, (703) 822-1201, [beverage49@gmail.com](mailto:beverage49@gmail.com)*