



Council Crier

Fourth Quarter 2023

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Virginia Council of Chapters Military Officers Association of America

VCOC Officers 2022-2024

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With the Holidays 2023, the Fourth Quarter Crier for 2023 tells a great story, which includes our Council Biennial Luncheon and the MOAA Annual Membership meeting. Congratulations to our Council and ten member Chapters being awarded Levels of Excellence Award, 2022 Cycle.

A Word of Thanks

Many thanks to Falcons Landing Chapter President Col. Phil Walsh, USMC (Ret) for hosting our Fourth Quarter Meeting and Biennial Luncheon 2023 at Falcons Landing Community in Sterling Virginia. Along with installation of our Officer Slate 2024-2026, MOAA CEO and President Lt. Gen. Brian "BK" Kelly, USAF presented MOAA Presidents, Leadership, Outstanding Service and Strobridge Awards. At the

Council level, we presented impact wards to MOAA National Staff, also the newly established Cabinet Member of the Year Award. Each award was hard earned and most well deserved.

On Deck

Amidst preparation for our Biennial Luncheon 2023, Col. Phil Walsh, USMC (Ret) and I had the opportunity for dinner and fellowship with former MOAA CEO and President Lt. Gen. Mike Nelson, USAF (Ret) on 24 November at Falcons Landing, Sterling Virginia, pictured at right.

MOAA's 2023 Annual Meeting of the Membership took place on Friday, Nov. 3, at the Sheraton Pen-



tagon City Hotel in Arlington, Virginia, with MOAA Chairman of the Board Gen. Gary North, USAF (Ret) presiding.

To our Nations Capitol, I joined friends and fellow Veterans to hear Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough, National Press Club, DC, 6 November 2023. With question and answer session following, Secretary McDonough's talk spotlighted the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promises to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022 (S.3373), a key MOAA legislative priority.

On 16 November, Senator Mark Warner (D VA) and Tim Kaine (D VA) held the annual Commonwealth Coffee Honoring Virginia Veterans, Hart Senate Office Building DC, where we had the opportunity to thank the Senators for their support of both our Council and Virginia Veterans (selfie to right). Center to this support has been their ongoing advocacy of the Major Richard Star Act, for which we are honored to join Tonya Star in her unending quest for future passage of the Star Act.



At the Army Navy Club, DC on 20 November, I joined Club members and guests to hear Gen. David Petraeus, USA (Ret) discuss his new book, "Conflict, the Evolution of Warfare from 1945 to Ukraine," During this conversation, Gen Petraeus emphasized the urgent need for strategic leadership.

In an effort to grow the MOAA Brand, honored to represent our Council at each of the aforementioned events.

Chapters

The Richmond Area Chapter will host their annual Legislative Form on Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 7:30 am and again 3:00 pm. This year marks the 16th year for this signature RACMOAA event. If interested in attending, contact LCDR Wayne Sine, USNR (Ret) at: wsine72@gmail.com.

With the Holidays 2023, the Heritage Hunt, Richmond and Portsmouth Chapters will be holding their annual Holiday Galas 2023 in December - look forward to joining each Chapter in celebration of the Holidays 2023.

Closing



In his *From the President* remarks in the November 2023 issue of MOAA Magazine, MOAA CEO and President Lt. Gen. Brian "BK" Kelly, USAF (Ret) says, "Protecting your benefits is mission-critical at MOAA, and I am delivering this message to leaders on Capitol Hill every month."

In my final remarks as VCOC President, I included the quote inscribed on the outside of the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in DC, which says, “I am certain that after the dust of centuries has passed over our cities, we, too, will be remembered not for victories or defeats in battle or in politics, but for our contribution to the human spirit.”

To General Kelly’s spotlight on our MOAA mission, our Virginia Council pledges to remain in the spirit to which the President refers - in this case, the preservation of the earned pay and benefits of the American Veteran today in 2023 and beyond.

With fair winds and following seas, thank you for your dedicated service to both the Virginia Council of Chapters and our Military Officers Association of America.

Linc
CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret)
President
Virginia Council of Chapters



VCOC Biennial Luncheon 2023 Falcons Landing Community



The Virginia Council of Chapters held the Council Biennial Luncheon 2023 at Falcons Landing Community, Sterling Virginia, 25 October. Eleven chapters were in attendance at the Luncheon, which was both virtual and in person.

MOAA CEO and President Lt. Gen. Brian “BK” Kelly, USAF (Ret) was guest speaker at the 2023 Biennial Luncheon. VCOC President CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret) joined Lt. Gen Kelly in presenting the following awards:

President's Award

VCOC President CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret)
Portsmouth Chapter Member MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret)

Leadership Award

Portsmouth Chapter Newsletter Editor CDR Ken App, USN (Ret)
Falcons Landing Chapter President Col Phil Walsh, USMC (Ret)
VCOC Secretary LtCol John Down, USAF (Ret)
VCOC Legal Council COL Vince Cammarata, USA (Ret)

Outstanding Service Award

VCOC Treasurer Capt Maria Kelly, USAF (Ret) (Former)
VCOC Chaplain LTCOL Ken Ruppard, USA (Ret)

Colonel Steve Strobridge Award

VCOC Third Vice President and Legislative Affairs Chair Col Monti Zimmerman, USA (Ret)

VCOC President CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret) presented following VCOC awards:

Impact Awards

MOAA Vice President Council/Chapter and Member Support CAPT Jim Carman, USN (Ret)
MOAA Program Director Council and Chapter Support CAPT Frank Michael, USN (Ret)
MOAA Vice President Government Relations Col Dan Merry, USAF (Ret)
MOAA Director Currently Serving and Retired Affairs LtCol Mark Belinsky, USA (Ret)
George C. Marshall Foundation's Dodona Manor

Honorary VCOC Membership

North Carolina Council of Chapters President CW4 Jay Garbus, USA (Ret)

VCOC Third Vice President Col Monti Zimmerman, USA (Ret) presented following Legislative Affairs Awards:

Legislator of the Year

Senator Jeremy McPike (D 29th)

Executive Branch Member of the Year

Virginia Secretary of Defense and Veterans Affairs Jason Pak

Virginia Assistant Secretary of Defense and Veterans Affairs Jordan Stewart



Pictured above, MOAA CEO and President Lt. Gen. Brian “BK” Kelly, USAF (Ret) delivers his remarks at the VCOC Biennial Luncheon 2023, Falcons Landing Community, Sterling, Virginia

Congressional Salutations were heard from Representatives Don Beyer (VA 08) and Abigail Spanberger (VA 07), Senator Bryce Reeves (R 17th) and Virginia Lieutenant Governor Winsome Sears (click on links below to view). Pictured below: Delegate Kathy Tran (VA 42nd) reads a letter of Congratulations to VCOC from Senator Tim Kaine (D VA). Click on below hotlinks to watch the Congressional Salutations.



[Representative Don Beyer \(VA 08\)](#)

[Representative Abigail Spanberger \(VA 07\)](#)

[Senator Bryce Reeves \(R 17th\) and Virginia Lieutenant Governor Winsome Sears](#)

Tim Kaine
Virginia



October 25, 2023

Commander Lincoln Stephen Smith, USNR, Ret.

Dear Commander Smith:

Congratulations to the Military Officers Association of America, Virginia Council of Chapters, as you gather for your 2023 Biennial Luncheon.

I believe that Congress has a duty to support military families who sacrifice so much for the nation. By expanding military families' access to career opportunities, continuing education programs, and affordable child care, Congress can better ensure our military is ready to accomplish its mission and that veterans are welcomed back into our communities to continue to better our country.

Your lobbying efforts have not gone unnoticed. A special thanks to outgoing President, Commander Lincoln Stephen Smith, USNR, Ret., for your leadership and vision in establishing important legislative goals for the organization. And, I welcome Colonel Diana Kupchella, USAF, Ret., as you take on your new role.

I look forward to working together with the Military Officers Association of America and the Virginia Council of Chapters in the coming months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'TK/K', written in a cursive style.

Tim Kaine

MOAA

Annual Meeting 2023

MOAA's 2023 Annual Meeting of the Membership took place on 3 November at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel in Arlington, Va.

MOAA Chairman of the Board Gen. Gary North, USAF(Ret) called the meeting to order, with executive board reports following. MOAA CEO and President Lt. Gen Brian “BK” Kelly, USAF (Ret) presented the state of MOAA, with questions and answer session following.





With reception to the 2023 Annual MOAA meeting following, pictured above, left to right: VCOC President CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret), Former MOAA Vice President Of Government Relations Lt.Col. LtCol Steve Strobridge, USAF (Ret), COL Monti Zimmerman, USA (Ret), MOAA Chief Operating Officer Col. Jim O'Brien, USAF (Ret), MOAA Chairman of the Board Gen. Gary North, USAF (Ret).



Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough Delivers Remarks on Veterans and the PACT Act, National Press Club

Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough delivered remarks on the benefits and implementation of the 2022 PACT Act at the National Press Club, DC on 6 November 2023. Followed by his prepared remarks, Secretary McDonough answered written questions from the media. Topics covered by Secretary McDonough included building trust, workforce challenges, modernization efforts, and the impact of the PACT Act on eligible veterans and their families.



Click on below hotlink to view Secretary McDonough's remarks, as posted on C-Span.

[Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough](#)

Pictured below: VCOC President CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret) with Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough, National Press Club, DC, 6 November 2023.



Conflict

The Evolution of Warfare from 1945 to Ukraine

On 20 December 2023, Gen. David Petraeus, USA (Ret) presented his new book, "Conflict, The Evolution of Warfare from 1945 to Ukraine," Army Navy Club, D.C. With question and answer session following, Gen Petraeus highlighted key points in his book to the sold out audience.

The book is, "both a sweeping history of the evolution of warfare up to Putin's invasion of Ukraine and a penetrating analysis of what we must learn from the past in order to navigate - and, in the future, anticipate an increasingly perilous world."

Gen. Petraeus emphasized the need for strategic leadership, for which there are four tasks, as follows:

- Ability to grasp the overall strategic situation - get the “big ideas” right
- Communicate the “big ideas” with stakeholders.
- Oversee implementation of the big ideas (relentlessly).
- Determine how the big ideas need to be refined, adapted and augmented.

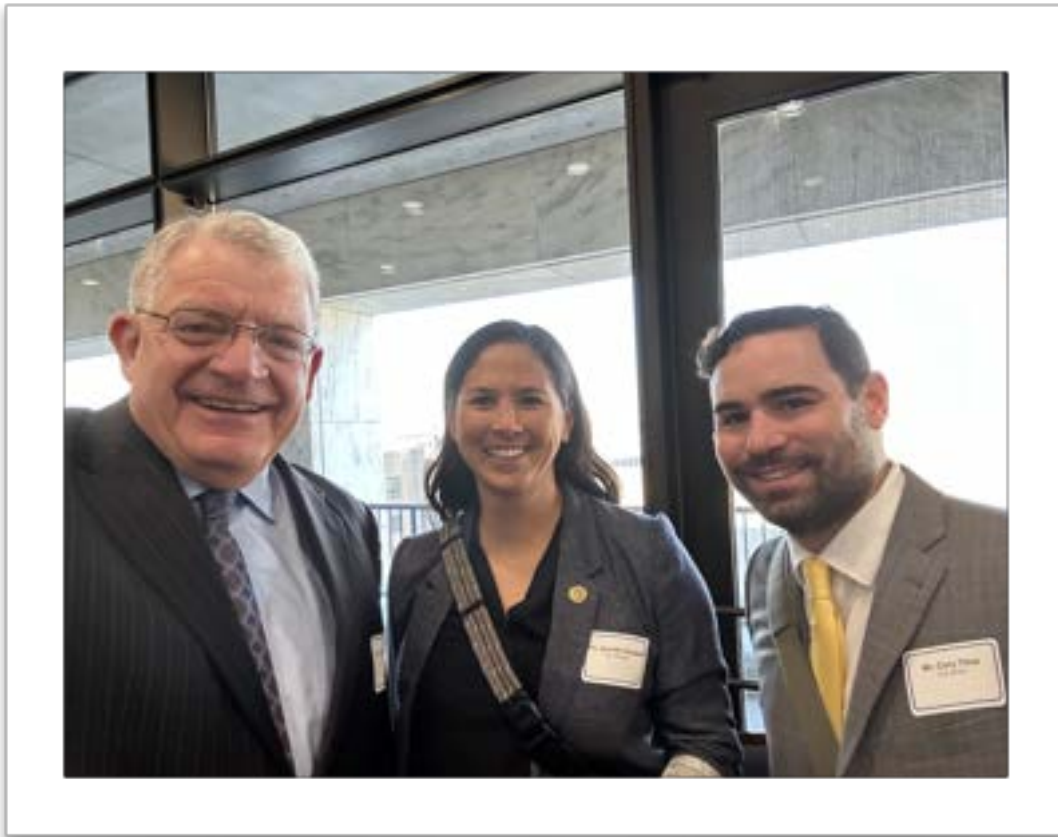


Pictured below: VCOC President CDR Linc Smith USNR (Ret) with Gen. David Petraeus, USA (Ret), Army Navy Club, DC, 20 December 2023.

A Commonwealth Coffee Honoring Virginia Veterans

On 16 November 2023, Senator Mark Warner (D Va) and Senator Tim Kaine (D Va) hosted the Commonwealth Coffee honoring Virginia Veterans, Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC. The Senators were joined by Virginia Veterans from around the Commonwealth, to include representatives from the Department of Veterans Affairs and Virginia Department of Veterans Services.

As pictured below, MOAA staff and members in attendance included MOAA Director of Government Relations for Veteran Benefits and Guard/Reserve Affairs Cory Titus, MOAA Director of Government Relations for Military Family and Survivor Policy Jen Goodale and VCOC President CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret).





Pictured above: VCOC President CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret) with Gene Garland, Military Outreach and Liaison, Senator Mark Warner (D Va).

Pictured below: VCOC President CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret) with Senator Warner Staff, DC Office. Left to right: Taylor Durbin, Manny Ledesma and Sonya Lu.





Pictured above: VCOC President CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret) with Ryan Forbes, Caseworker, Senator Mark Warner, USNR (Ret)



Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award Winners 2022

Congratulations to our Council and member chapters winners of the Harris Communication Award for 2022, formally presented at the MOAA Advocacy in Action, 27 April 2023, Hyatt Crystal City, Arlington Virginia.

VCOC Harris Communication Awards, 2022 Cycle:

Five Star

Virginia Council of Chapters (print newsletter and website)

Central Virginia Chapter (print newsletter and website)

Falcons Landing Chapter (print newsletter and website)

Heritage Hunt Chapter (print newsletter)

Mount Vernon Chapter (print newsletter and website)

Portsmouth Area Chapter (print newsletter and website)

Richmond Area Chapter (print newsletter and website)

Southwest Virginia Chapter (print newsletter and website)

Virginia Peninsula Chapter (print newsletter and website)

Four Star

Heritage Chapter (print newsletter and website)



Virginia Council of Chapters Levels of Excellence Awards 2022

Each year, MOAA's affiliates compete to receive the Levels of Excellence Award for their work in a given calendar year. Out of almost 400 MOAA affiliates, 169 councils and chapters earned LOE award recognition this year. These councils and chapters excel at supporting and fostering programs that directly support the MOAA mission and their communities.

Congratulations to the Virginia Council of Chapters Levels of Excellence 2022 winners, as follows:

Five Star

**Virginia Council of Chapters
Central Virginia Chapter
Falcons Landing Chapter
George C. Marshall Chapter
Heritage Chapter
Southwest Virginia Chapter
Mount Vernon Chapter
Northern Virginia Chapter
Portsmouth Area Chapter
Richmond Area Chapter
Virginia Peninsula Chapter**



VCOC Chapter President Interview Series

With the ongoing Chapter President Interview Series, VCOC President CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret) interviews our Council Presidents, also Program Director, Council and Chapter Affairs, CAPT Frank Michael, USN (Ret).

Each interviewee tells a story, to include highlight of their careers in the United States Military, following with spotlight on overall activity for 2022, also the value of VCOC membership and legislative advocacy. Click below links to listen.

[A CONVERSATION WITH THE CENTRAL VIRGINIA CHAPTER PRESIDENT CAPT JOHN WARNECKE, USN \(RET\)](#)

[A CONVERSATION WITH THE SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER PRESIDENT CAPT MATT HAAG, USN \(RET\)](#)

[A CONVERSATION WITH THE PORTSMOUTH VIRGINIA AREA CHAPTER PRESIDENT COL BILL SMITH, USA \(RET\)](#)

[A CONVERSATION WITH THE MT. VERNON CHAPTER PRESIDENT Col. DOUG "SMASH" YUROVICH, USMC \(RET\)](#)

[A CONVERSATION WITH COL MARK RICH, USA \(Ret\), MOAA RICHMOND AREA CHAPTER PRESIDENT.](#)

[A CONVERSATION WITH Col. PHIL WALSH, USMC \(Ret\), PRESIDENT, MOAA FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER.](#)

[PROGRAM DIRECTOR, MOAA COUNCIL AND CHAPTER AFFAIRS, CAPT FRANK MICHAEL, USN \(Ret\)](#)



Legislative Affairs

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations

From the Department of Veteran Services Homepage

The mission of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) is to provide advice and assistance to the Governor, General Assembly and the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) on matters of concern to the veterans community and provides a conduit of information to and from the veterans service organizations on policy and legislation, pending and enacted, as well as information on existing services.

The final JLC meeting for 2023 is scheduled 14 December 2023 at 10:00am, Virginia War Memorial, 621 South Belvidere St, Richmond, Virginia.

VCOC Third Vice President Recognized for Legislative Advocacy

VCOC Third Vice President COL Monti Zimmerman, USA (Ret) recognized for Legislative Advocacy, click on below link to view article posted on the MOAA Website, 7 November 2023:

[MOAA Council Leader Recognized for Tackling Military Issues at the State Level](#)

Surviving Spouse Corner

Maj Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret)
VCOC Surviving Spouse Liaison

Some of the resources available to surviving spouses include:

MOAA's Surviving Spouse Page includes sections like Surviving Spouse Corner; Surviving Spouse FAQs and Resources; and Health Care: How You and Your Family Can Access These Critical Benefits. <https://www.moaa.org/content/topic-and-landing-pages/i-am-a-surviving-spouse/>

I strongly encourage each chapter to include the Surviving Spouse Corner articles, which are usually published monthly, in your newsletter. I'm sure many of your chapters are similar to mine. There are 13 surviving spouses in my small chapter and only 5 use email or have computer access. These articles can be accessed directly at <https://www.moaa.org/content/about-moaa/meet-our-leaders/surviving-spouse-advisory-committee/surviving-spouse-corner/>. The articles are timely and very informative. The website also has archived articles that may be useful.

The Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter is another great resource, and they meet monthly. The program meetings alternate social meetings. Download a membership application at this link. It can also be obtained by sending a request to mssvc02@gmail.com.

Webinar this year on Preparing a Spouse or Family Member for Survivorship (2023, Aug) <https://www.moaa.org/content/benefits-and-discounts/transition-and-careers/transition-center-webinars/survivorship-2023-webinar-archive/>

There is also a Surviving Spouse Corner on the VCOC website at <https://moaavcoc.org/meetingsandresources/> on the right-hand side of the page. Several items included are a Survivors Checklist, helpful Surviving Spouse Corner articles from MOAA and the current Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter Quarterly Newsletter.

One bill passed by the General Assembly this year that is in effect now is the elimination of Spouses/Dependent and Guard/Reserve Burial Fee in State Veterans Cemeteries. This would apply to the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk as well as those in Dublin and Amelia. The fee for spouses was \$400.00. National Cemeteries operated by the VA, like the one in Quantico and Culpepper, are 100% federally funded. They do not have a burial fee for veterans or spouses. Thus, veterans and their spouses can be buried, interred in state and nationally funded veterans' cemeteries at no cost.

Please let me know if I can be of any assistance to you. Contact me at navmedarmynurse@gmail.com or 757-922-7030.

Membership Corner

John Prevar

VCOC Second Vice President and Membership Committee Chair

We appreciate your chapter Quarterly Reports, which are due to the VCOC President, the Secretary, and the 2nd Vice President – Membership at the end of each quarter. You may continue to report Honorary Members in your reports, but only VCOC dues paying Regular Members and Surviving Spouses will be counted in the quarterly summary presented by the 2nd VP at the quarterly meetings.

Membership overall continues to drop each quarter, but some chapters have recently reported modest gains, notably Falcons Landing, Northern Virginia, and Mount Vernon. We encourage your continued efforts to recruit new members to your chapters. Less than 17% of MOAA national members belong to local chapters. National MOAA periodically provides to chapter membership officers lists of national members in their areas who do not yet belong to a chapter. Please take advantage of these lists to recruit new members to your chapters.

VCOC Homepage

In reminder, the [VCOC Homepage](#) presents six primary sections: About Us, Chapters, Meetings and Resources, Council Newsletter, Legislative Affairs and Contact Us.

The purpose of our homepage is fourfold. First, provide an online platform to assist in ensuring the longterm viability of VCOC. Second, further grow the MOAA brand in Virginia. Third, provide a platform for VCOC chapter involvement and recognition. Finally, provide an improved call to action to VCOC membership, encouraging website visitors to multiple actions, such as joining a MOAA chapter.

To the aforementioned, chapter stories are most welcome for posting to the VCOC Homepage in an ongoing basis. Contact VCOC Webmaster CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret) at mvng288@aol.com with any stories or announcements that you may have.

VCOC Strategic Plan

In accordance with the MOAA Strategic Plan 2022-2026, MOAA Council and chapter Policies and Procedures Guide and VCOC By Laws, the VCOC Strategic Plan was approved by majority vote at the VCOC Executive Committee Meeting on 31 October 2021.

View the VCOC Strategic Plan here: [VCOC Strategic Plan 2022-2024](#). Scroll down to the VCOC Strategic Plan 2022-2024.

The MOAA Strategic Plan establishes and articulates the MOAA Board of Directors' strategic vision, mission, values, goals, and six specific strategies to accomplish MOAA's mission.

View the MOAA Strategic Plan here: [MOAA Strategic Plan 2022-2026](#)

North Carolina Council of Chapters Annual Meeting 2023 Carnival Cruise

CDR Kenneth W. Klassen, USN (Ret)
NCCOC Vice President, Membership

From the VCOC sister Council North Carolina Council of Chapters: Eighty MOAA members and guests from North Carolina and other states enjoyed a Veterans five day cruise from Charleston, SC to the Bahamas November 11-16, 2023. Pictures are included from pleasant days at sea and two port visits in Nassau and Half Moon Cay, Bahamas. The cruise was open to all MOAA members from the 14 MOAA Chapters in North Carolina and their guests. We had guests from as far away as California and Boston, MA. A special feature of the Veterans Cruise was a four part lecture series on major Pacific campaigns in WW II, including the Battle of the Coral Sea, Midway, Guadalcanal, Leyte Gulf, Okinawa and the dropping of the atomic bombs in August 1945. MOAA and Southeastern Chapter (NC-07) member Ron Henderson, RDML USN(Ret) was our featured speaker.

Social times were the order of the day and night as we spent time with friends from NC Chapters and made many new friends during excursions, meals, casual visits around the ship decks and Veterans Appreciation events scheduled by the ship's

cruise director. It was warm and sunny on the beaches and around the pool and spas onboard.

Thanks to our tour agent and the onboard staff, a private appreciation cocktail party was included as an amenity for MOAA guests on the last day at sea. The party was enjoyed by all attendees and when asked if they would like another cruise next year, a hardy response was heard from all. Wonderful memories, enjoyable days at sea, some educational features, great food and accommodations are hard to beat!



Mt. Vernon Chapter

Smash on Station

Esteemed Colleagues,

We must continue to serve veterans in need during the holiday season. We all have deployed during many administrations through our long and illustrious careers, and we stayed focused on the mission assigned and the task at hand. November offers reminders to be thankful and to serve during the holidays celebrated this month. Chapter News Chapter Schedule to the end of 2023 – The Annual Business meeting and luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, November 18th from 1130-1300 at GLORY DAYS GRILL, 3141 DukeSt, Alexandria, VA. Our guest speaker will be Col Gerald “Jerry” Krueger, MOAA Life Member and Commander of VFW Post 609. Jerry will be presenting history of Alexandria National Cemetery and topics of joint interest to the VFW and MOAA. We will also have the installation of officers for 2024-2025.



Wreaths Across America (WAA) - The Mount Vernon Chapter, MOAA is participating in the Wreaths across America Project, the national effort that remembers and honors our veterans and educates all generations about their sacrifice. We are supporting them with the purchase of wreaths in the coming months for their placement at Alexandria National Cemetery on December 16, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. Mount Vernon Chapter also uses this as a fundraising effort that helps service members and their families in the Fort Belvoir Community. November Observances – On November 10th 1775, A Corps of Marines was created by a resolution of the Continental Congress. In memory of all Marines, we who are Marines commemorate the birthday of our Corps by calling to mind the glories of its long and illustrious history, not the least of which was being born in a Tavern!

November 11th is Veterans Day, a federal holiday in the United States observed annually to honor military veterans. Finally, 23 November is Thanksgiving Day, a day for all people to give thanks for the blessings bestowed upon them and for what they have.

Final Thoughts: Personally, November has always been a reflective month. The right to vote and the concept of E Pluribus Unum are established tenets within our country. The holiday of Thanksgiving always provided family gatherings to be grateful

for what we have and who we are as Americans. Finally, as I joined the Marine Corps in 1975, the 10th of November has held a special place on the November calendar. I celebrate the legacy of the Corps of I was so proud to be a member of and to serve this great Nation.

“America belongs to the People. It does not belong to Congress, It doesn’t belong to special interest groups. It doesn’t belong to the courts. It belongs to ‘we the People’...” John Jay, Founding Father.

Never stop serving.
Semper Fidelis,
Smash

MOAA Council and Chapter Upcoming Programs, Deadlines, and Events

From the MOAA Homepage: Below you'll find important dates on the MOAA Council and Chapter calendar, as well as events at MOAA National and other pieces of information of interest to you and your members.

November 2023

- Nov. 30: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: Recruiting & Retention. Join here at the time of the meeting. (ID: 239 737 982 627; 5UKJkY)

December 2023

- Dec. 1: Community Outreach Grant application period opens
- Dec. 1: Community Outreach Sponsorship application period opens for next calendar year events (ongoing until funds are extinguished)
- Dec. 28: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: 2023 review & 2024 preview. Join here at the time of the meeting. (ID: 286 371 292 96; Passcode: hYnwq6)

MOAA Council And Chapter Awards

MOAA Levels of Excellence Award: Each year, councils and chapters may request to be recognized for one of two Levels of Excellence awards. Councils and chapters that want to be considered for [Levels of Excellence Awards](#). Levels of Excellence Award need to submit a nomination by May 1.

Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Awards: MOAA's annual contest identifying those councils and chapters that do an outstanding job communicating with their members.

Col Steve Strobridge Award for Advocacy: This annual award recognizes an affiliate Legislative Chair or Liaison who has demonstrated superior service to their council/chapter and national MOAA in support of national and/or state legislation which affects servicemembers, veterans, retirees, and their families.

2022 Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award: Surviving Spouse Liaisons work at the Council and Chapter level to ensure fellow survivors remain connected to the military family and participate in local and national programs and advocacy efforts.

MOAA ROTC/JROTC Awards Program: MOAA has PDF fillable certificates for ROTC and JROTC available for leaders to add their chapter name and the name of the award recipient.

ROTC and JROTC fillable PDF certificates, click here: [MOAA Certificates of Recognition and Pins](#)

Medals and certificates can be purchased at the [MOAA Store](#). Note for high schools and universities requesting that someone from MOAA make a presentation: If there is a local MOAA chapter in your area, you may want to consider contacting them. Many of our 400-plus MOAA affiliates are still supporting ROTC/JROTC programs in their area. These programs are entirely voluntary; no MOAA chapter is under any obligation to present a certificate to ROTC and JROTC units. You can use the [Chapter Locator](#) to find your closest available chapter.



View the latest MOAA Vacations and upcoming travel adventures, to include MOAA Signature Cruises & Tours on the MOAA Homepage at: [MOAA Travel and Vacations](#).



Now 350,000 strong, the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military servicemembers and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers and their surviving spouses. MOAA members proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise they have made to their country: Never Stop Serving.



Select YOUR Membership: LIFE PREMIUM BASIC

Name _____
 Rank/Branch of Service _____
 Active Retired Former Reserve National Guard Surviving Spouse
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Date of birth _____ Telephone _____
 Email _____

To ensure deliverability of MOAA communications, please provide a personal email without a ".mil" domain if available. We value your privacy. MOAA does not rent or sell its members' emails to third parties. If you include your email address, you will receive e-communications from MOAA as a member benefit. Visit www.moaa.org/email for details.

Spouse Name _____
 Spouse email _____

Your spouse has access to all of your MOAA member benefits.

Local Chapter Name _____

For LIFE or PREMIUM options, choose one of the following payment methods:
Method of payment

Check (please make payable to MOAA) Visa Mastercard AMEX Discover
 Charge my card the full amount due \$ _____
 Card number _____ Expiration date _____
 Signature _____

For LIFE only, consider E-Z Pay with 10 convenient, interest-free installments

You'll receive monthly invoices, and your balance will reflect credit for any unused dues paid on your current annual membership.

Enclosed is my check payable to MOAA for \$ _____
 (1/10th of my dues: invoices will be sent monthly for remaining dues)
 Charge my credit card above in the amount of \$ _____
 (1/10th of my dues: invoices will be sent monthly for remaining dues)
 Check here to have your credit card automatically charged monthly for the remaining installment payments.

Dues to MOAA are not deductible as a charitable contribution for federal tax purposes. Annual membership dues include a \$16.95 subscription to Military Officer magazine.

Send To: MOAA, PO Box 1488 • Merrifield, VA 22116-9820

For faster service, call (800) 234-MOAA (6622) or visit www.moaa.org/join.


LIFE Membership Dues

Dues are based on your current age.

49 and under	\$894
Age 50-54	\$852
Age 55-59	\$804
Age 60-64	\$740
Age 65-69	\$682
Age 70-74	\$574
Age 75-79	\$476
Age 80-84	\$370
Age 85-89	\$286
Age 90-94	\$171
Age 95-99	\$104
Age 100+	FREE

PREMIUM Membership Dues

One-Year PREMIUM
 \$59 (Surviving Spouse – \$53)

Two-Year PREMIUM
 \$100 (Surviving Spouse – \$90) 

Three-Year PREMIUM
 \$132 (Surviving Spouse – \$120) 

*off full annual rate

BASIC Membership Dues

FREE

M2200DGCHP

MOAA Guidance On Partisan Political Activities

Partisan Political Activities: As organizations exempt from federal taxation under Sec. 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code, MOAA and its affiliates must take care to avoid engaging in partisan political activities. Under IRS rules, we are prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.

Candidates for Public Office: A candidate for public office is an individual who offers himself or herself, or is proposed by others, as a contestant for an elective public office, whether such office is national, state, or local, and includes incumbent candidates. The prohibition also extends beyond declared candidates and may apply to efforts to recruit an individual to run for office or advance exploratory activities. The prohibition also applies to advocating for the platform of one political party over another.

Prohibited Activities: Activities which constitute participation or intervention in a political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to a candidate include, but are not limited to, the publication or distribution of written or printed statements or the making of oral statements on behalf of or in opposition to such a candidate. It is clear that the prohibition on partisan political activity prohibits such outright actions such as posting a “Vote for Biden” or “Vote for Trump” on the organization’s website, or “Support Republican Candidates” or “Vote Democratic.”

In addition to these obvious examples, the prohibition goes well beyond direct expressions of support. In determining whether an organization is engaged in unlawful partisan political activities, the IRS applies a “facts and circumstances” test. The IRS looks not only to the expressed language, but to external factors, such as the communication’s timing, its targeted audience, and how the message relates to public policy positions that distinguish a candidate in a campaign.

Consequences for Violations: The consequences to an organization that violates the prohibition on partisan political activity can be severe including the loss of its tax exempt status and the imposition of certain excise taxes. For public charities, like The MOAA Foundation and the MOAA Scholarship Fund, the IRS can disallow tax deductions for charitable contributions. In addition, for an organization whose mission involves advocacy on key military community issues, MOAA must seek support from elected representatives from both parties. Engaging in partisan political activities on behalf of one party or candidate would seriously undermine MOAA’s ability to achieve the bipartisan consensus on key issues essential to achieving its legislative objectives.

Personal Opinions: As individuals, members and leaders of MOAA and MOAA's affiliates are not prohibited from engaging in partisan political activities so long as they do so in way that makes it clear they are acting for themselves and do not appear to be speaking on behalf of MOAA or its affiliates. For example, it is permissible for an individual to express his or her personal preference in support of or in opposition to a candidate or political party. And they may do so publicly. However, when expressing their personal opinions or preferences, they may not make reference to their MOAA position, use MOAA communications channels, use MOAA letterhead or newsletters, identify themselves as MOAA leaders, or imply that MOAA or its members share their beliefs.

MOAA Virtual Chapters

They are: Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter, the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter, the Public Health Service Virtual Chapter, and the Chaplains Virtual Chapter.

Interested in participating in one of these virtual chapters, or in championing another group? Contact CAPT Pat L. Williams, USN (Ret), MOAA's Program Director for Engagement, at patw@moaa.org, or CAPT Erin Stone, JAGC, USN (Ret), Senior Director for Council and Chapter Affairs, at erins@moaa.org, for more information.

DIC Surviving Spouses/DIC Facebook Page

Join the Facebook page “ DIC Surviving Spouses/DIC Increase Advocacy “ today and get involved!

For more information contact MOAA surviving spouse Edith Smith, phone (703) 569-3380 or email esmith@capitolcrusader.com

View the Page at: [MOAA Surviving Spouse Facebook Page](#)

Military Officers Association of America Organized February 12, 1929 Incorporated 1944

Preamble

To inculcate and stimulate love of our country and the flag;

To defend the honor, integrity, and supremacy of our National Government and the Constitution of the United States;

To advocate military forces adequate to the defense of our country;

To foster the integrity and prestige of uniformed service;

To foster fraternal relations between all branches of the various Services from which our members are drawn;

To further the education of children of Service personnel;

To aid personnel of the Services from which our members are drawn, and their family members and survivors, in every proper and legitimate manner; and

To present their rights and interests when Service matters are under consideration.

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George C. Marshall: LtCol Greg Frederick, USAR (Ret)

Heritage: Col Les Niblock, USMC (Ret)

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Our mission statement remain in concert with the Military Officers Association of America purposes and objectives. The overall VCOC goals and objectives are as follows:

Improve legislative effectiveness, national and state.

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.

Improve vitality and excellence of chapters.

Publisher and Editor: CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret). Editor may be reached at mvng288@aol.com.

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