

**Central Virginia Chapter, VCOC – MOAA  
3rd Quarter Report from CVC/MOAA  
1 Jul 2022 to 30 September 2022**

<b><u>I. Membership:</u></b>	<b><u>Regular</u></b>	<b><u>Surviving Spouses</u></b>	<b><u>Honorary</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
As of 30 Jun	139	18	4	161
Gains:	2	0	0	2
Losses:	<u>2</u>	1	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
 As of 30 Sep:	 <b>139</b>	 <b>17</b>	 <b>4</b>	 <b>160</b>

Gains: CAPT (Ret) Donna Price, USN; Lt Col (Ret) Bruce Adams, USAF  
 Deaths: LTC (Ret) Mack Van Hook, USA; CPT (Ret) Sheffer Clark, USA; Mrs. Beverly Hemmer (Auxiliary)  
 Resignations: None  
 Moved: None  
 Surviving Spouses Gains:

**II. Legislative Affairs:**

- A. John Down attended the VCOC meeting at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond on 12 July; Wes Loffert attended virtually. COL (Ret) Monti Zimmerman, of the Northern Virginia Chapter, presented the legislative status at that meeting of the proposed state legislative initiatives for 2023.
- B. John Down, as a member of the VCOC JLC, attended the JLC meeting two days later and reports the following JLC 2023 initiatives in greater detail as follows:
- C. **State Tax on Retired Pay:** The American Legion proposes that 100% of all military pensions be exempt from Virginia state income tax (expanding on the current law that will provide an exemption for retired pay starting at the first \$10,000 and growing to a \$40,000 exemption by 2025). Their proposal was modified to state that the exemption would be for age 55 and older. The U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs reported in 2019 that Virginia had over 730K veterans and 28% (158K) of these veterans are retirees.
- D. **Spouse Burial Fees:** The Navy League wants to see the spouse burial fees eliminated. Currently the VDVS charges a \$400 spouse burial fee for burials at the three state veterans cemeteries. The U.S. Veterans Administration does not provide any funding for spouses buried at these state cemeteries. The objective then is to supply an additional \$300K to the General Fund per fiscal year to VDVS to eliminate the spouse burial fee at the state cemeteries in Amelia, Dublin, and Suffolk. The recommendation additionally states that Virginia should collaborate with its federal elected officials to extend the

Veterans Administration plot allowance to spouses buried at all state veterans cemeteries nationwide.

- E. **Spousal Property Tax Exemption:** Currently, only the spouses of military services members killed in action are eligible to receive property tax exemption. Virginia also exempts the real property, including joint husband-wife real property, of any veteran who is rated as 100% disabled and who occupies the real property as his/her principal place of residence. If the military member dies and does not have the VA's 100% rating, the surviving spouse is denied the same benefit. MOAA is sponsoring this JLC initiative to ensure that legislation is introduced in the General Assembly to amend the state constitution to equalize the benefit by changing the state code from "killed in action" to "died on an active duty."
- F. **Park Fee for National Guard:** The federal parks offer free admission for active service members to include Guard members. However, Virginia state parks still charge a fee for Guard members. There is a catch if Virginia eliminates that fee. The federal government reimburses Virginia for state parks based on fees received. If Guard members gain free access, then Virginia will lose that reimbursement. Thus, the estimated \$10K cost of fee elimination could be exacerbated. No doubt this proposal will need more discussion at JLC level. A reduced Guard fee in lieu of free admission could be considered.
- G. **National Guard Tax Exemption:** MOAA and the Virginia National Guard Association propose that the state adjust the exemption of the first \$3K of National Guard pay to \$6K from state income taxes and increase the pay grade eligibility to O-5 from O-3. This proposal is necessary due to inflation since the \$3K exemption was put in place nearly three decades ago. We also need to enact this proposal to be competitive with nearby States' Guards.
- H. As of September, Col (Ret) Dan Moy, USAF is assuming the role as the CVC BOD Chair of our Legislative Committee.
- I. **Upcoming soon:**
  - 1. Next VCOC meeting 6 Oct 22
  - 2. Next JLC Meeting 15 Dec 22

### **III. Public Affairs:**

- A. No changes. Chapter does not meet in July/August

### **IV. Levels of Excellence Award Scoring & Chapter Self-Evaluation Status:**

- A. 5 Star LOE for Chapter
- B. Self-evaluation, 5 Star.

C. 5 Star for Col Marvin J. Harris Communications Award

**V. Most Significant Chapter Events of the Quarter:**

- A. The chapter welcomed new member CAPT Donna Price, JAG Corps US Navy (Ret). CAPT Price is the Chairman of the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors; Chapter also welcomed Lt Col Norman “Bruce” Adams, USAF (Ret)
- B. Chapter President John Warnecke, Captain US Navy (Ret) and Chapter Membership Chairman Dr. Carolyn Still, Ed.D, attended the MOAA Mid-Atlantic Leadership Conference from 12-13 August 2022 in Raleigh, NC. Mrs. Karen Warnecke, wife of Captain Warnecke, also attended in lieu of Dr. Lucy Johnson, PhD, Chapter Secretary and Auxiliary Representative.
- C. After a summer hiatus, the Chapter met for our annual September Picnic at Linden Lane Farm, the home of Chapter member LTC Bert Page, US Army (Ret) and his wife Elizabeth.
- D. The Chapter 5 Star newsletter, *The Bugle*, was printed and mailed in September to all Chapter members and is posted on the Chapter’s webpage. It is also mailed to other Chapters, the VCOC, and a number of other VSO’s. The Bugle is not created for July and August.
- E. The Chapter Board of Directors welcomed Col Dan Moy, US Air Force (Ret) as the permanent Legislative Affairs representative.

Submitted by responsible submitting officer:

Rank and Name: COL Wes Loffert, USA (Ret.)

Central Virginia Chapter (CVC) VCOC Representative

Email: [wloffert@earthlink.net](mailto:wloffert@earthlink.net); Home Phone: (616) 438-4011