

**Central Virginia Chapter, VCOC – MOAA
 Quarterly Report from CVC/MOAA
 1 April 2020 to 30 June 2020**

<u>I. Membership:</u>	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Surviving Spouses</u>	<u>Honorary</u>	<u>Total</u>
As of 30 June:	159	21	4	184
Gains:	0	0	0	
Losses:	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
As of 30 June.:	159	21	4	184

Gains: None
 Deaths: None
 Resignations: None
 Moved: None
 Surviving Spouses Gains: None

II. Legislative Affairs:

- A. Attended the VCOC 2nd Qtr LegCom meeting on 8 May via ZOOM. State Senator Bryce Reeves was selected as VCOC State Legislator of the Year and Congressman Denver Riggleman was selected as VCOC Federal Legislator of the Year. Presentation of awards is currently scheduled for the VCOC’s 4th Qtr meeting on 8 Oct 2020 at Patriots Colony.

- B. Similar to many other group’s activities throughout the country, MOAA’s annual “Storming the Hill” moved to a virtual forum. In May, the Virtual Storming of the Hill was very active throughout the state as Virginia chapters sought meetings with their representatives. Legislative Committee members’ discussions were focused primarily on MOAA’S concern about pending cuts to military medicine billets and reforms of the military health system, including downsizing or closing of military treatment centers (MTF’s). Several of these MTFs slated for such changes are in Virginia. Transition and reforms were delayed until June due to the pandemic as DOD provided support. Some members and constituents also discussed some other concerns about prescription and Tri-care problems specifically related to the pandemic’s affect on MTF’s and military members, families and veterans.

- C. CVC/MOAA Legislative Committee members met with Rep. Denver Riggleman (5th Congressional District) on May 26, 2020 via zoom. Jason (Lawrence) Eagleburger, Rep. Riggleman’s Senior Advisor on Foreign Affairs, was also present. All Legislative Committee members, Trish Sifka (LegCom Chair), John Down (Chapter President), Wes Loffert (VCOC rep.) and Daniel Moy, attended virtually. We discussed pending Military Health System cuts and reforms and the need for re-evaluation in light of “lessons

learned” during the response to the pandemic. These reforms and cuts were based on evaluations made in 2017 and were made part of the 2017 NDAA, but were delayed.

- D. Despite Congressman Riggleman not securing the Republican nomination to serve another term as our Representative to the 5th district, we are confident he will utilize his remaining time to faithfully support a re-evaluation of the NDAA and follow through on his ability to work on legislation going forward since he is still the Vice-Ranking member for the Subcommittee on National Security, International Development and Monetary Policy, as well as on the President’s China Task Force, House Veterans Caucus, House Service Women and Women Veterans’ Caucus, House Financial Services Committee and Congressional Emergency Medical Services Caucus. He is very active with NDAA work and with the Small Business and Defense Teams dealing with the pandemic. Rep. Riggleman asked that we stay regularly involved with Mr. Eagleburger and him on this matter. He stated that he would like to work with MOAA to brief other representatives, especially those on the House Armed Services Committee and representatives in Virginia. As part of the “Virginia Way”, Rep. Riggleman noted that House representatives and Senators meet monthly in a bipartisan luncheon (now virtually of course) and try to work amicably on legislative matters, which he believed was not done in any other state any more as everything has become so polarized. Thus, with MOAA’s background information and help, he could present a briefing on details about specific concerns or legislative needs for military health system reforms and pending cuts as part of discussion of the 2021 NDAA at one of these luncheons/bi-partisan meetings.
- E. On May 29, 2020, the CVC/MOAA Legislative Committee members also had a zoom meeting with Jessie Durrett, Legislative Aide on Foreign Affairs and Military Matters for Congress Woman Abigail Spanberger in the 7th District. Since the Chapter covers many of the surrounding counties, some members, like Chair Trish Sifka (Louisa), reside in the 7th District. Legislative Committee members, Trish Sifka, John Down (Chapter President), and Wes Loffert (VCOG rep.) attended virtually. As with Rep. Riggleman, we discussed pending Military Health System cuts and reforms and the need for re-evaluation in light of “lessons learned” during the response to the pandemic. We reviewed MOAA’s concerns and suggestions in its “issue paper” prepared by Ms. Ruedisueli at MOAA headquarters, to work solutions within the 2021 NDAA. Ms. Durrett was also provided the same background information, articles and documents to assist in their work on this matter. Ms. Durrett greatly appreciated the information. Although Rep. Spanberger is not specifically on any military related committee, she does frequently work with the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) through her Foreign Affairs Committee duties. She acknowledged Rep. Spanberger’s recent work with Rep. Elaine Luria (2nd Dist., VA Beach/Hampton Roads area) specifically on Tri-care and prescription co-pay costs and issues during the pandemic with closing of MTF’S. Additionally, due to constituents’ inquiries for assistance, Rep. Spanberger’s office regularly deals with veterans’ or military family issues. Ms. Durrett believes that Rep. Spanberger will strongly support this approach, as many areas will need re-evaluation due

to what was learned in the response to this pandemic. She thought working with Rep. Riggleman, Rep. Luria, and many other Virginia Congressional representatives on these matters, in a bi-partisan way, would be very possible and a positive approach. On behalf of Rep. Spanberger, Ms. Durrett appreciated MOAA members flagging issues and providing specific information to aide their office to work on this matter going forward. She welcomed further contact in the future with a broader representation of District constituents on any of these matters and to possibly get on Rep. Spanberger's calendar. She invited any one in the District to participate in a future town hall that Rep. Spanberger would be holding on health issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic in Virginia.

F. Upcoming soon:

1. Chapter members look forward to attending the 4th Quarter VCOC meeting in Williamsburg where Congressman Riggleman will be awarded the VCOC Federal Legislator of the Year Award; along with State Senator Bryce Reeves who will be awarded the VCOC State Legislator of the Year Award.
2. Plan to attend upcoming JLC meeting in July to review potential legislative initiatives.

III. Public Affairs:

- A. Scheduled activities have been postponed until further notice due to the coronavirus.

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

- A. 5 Star.
- B. Self-evaluation, 5 Star.
- C. 5 Star for Marvin J. Harris Communications Award for printed newsletter and website.

V. Most Significant Chapter Events of the Quarter:

- A. The chapter signed and delivered all the award certificates to the University of Virginia ROTC department and the Orange County High School JROTC.
- B. The chapter completed a database update on all membership information. Update aligns chapter treasurer's data with the database. Also updated VCOC and National MOAA with current chapter officers' information.
- C. The chapter updated its chapter member directory for 2020, capitalizing on updated membership database, and is in process of mailing it to the membership.
- D. The Chapter continues publishing its monthly newsletter, *The Bugle*, during the pandemic despite the cancellation of Chapter social functions and community activities. The

newsletter, normally printed and mailed to all Chapter members, is being distributed via email and paper copies are being sent via USPS to those few members who don't have email. The Chapter's Board of Directors believes that *The Bugle* plays an important role in keeping the Chapter members "connected" even though we can't meet in person.

- E. While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact all chapter in-person activities, we continue to conduct our monthly Board meetings via teleconferencing.

Submitted by responsible submitting officer:

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

Central Virginia Chapter (CVC) VCOC Representative

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