

THE TRIBUTE

The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the Hampton Roads Chapter Military Officers Association of America A MOAA Five Star Level of Excellence Chapter Since 2004. A Winner Printed Newsletter 2015 and Website For 2015. Serving Chesapeake, Norfolk, and Virginia Beach since 1959



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February 2017

VOL 41-NO 1

NEVER STOP SERVING

THE TRIBUTE In honor of those who have sacri-

ficed to keep our country free.



On February 24th at the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel & Conference Center we will be joined by guest speakers Michelle Banks and Juanita Smallwood.



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Michelle Banks is the Southeast regional marketing and communications representative for Delta Dental of California, Federal Government Programs. Michelle is based in Virginia Beach, VA, and she is responsible for marketing the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program, Federal Employees Dental Program, and Veterans Affairs Dental Insurance Program in the following states: Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Virginia. Michelle has been with Delta Dental for 19 years since the introduction

of the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program and she considers it a privilege and an honor to serve those that have served our country.



Juanita Smallwood is the TRICARE marketing and beneficiary education specialist for the Tidewater Military Health System. She is based at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth with the Enhanced Multi-Service Market and is responsible for educating all categories of TRICARE beneficiaries within the Tidewater Military Health System. Juanita has worked as a beneficiary education specialist for the past 10 years. She started at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in June 2007 and recently moved to Naval Medical Center Portsmouth in April 2016. As a military dependent, she is dedicated to ensuring our mili-

tary community understands all aspects of their military health benefits.



Visit our website at <u>www.hrcmoaa.org</u>, read the Electronic Newsletter, access Virginia Council of Chapters, MOAA National, Service Departments, Health and Benefit locations, U. S. Senators and Representatives and many others. If you do not have the Members Only "Password" please contact any of our Officers. The HRCMOAA Newsletter is published by the HR Chapter, which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters are nonpartisan. The advertisements that appear in this publication do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or this affiliate."

President's Message



Fellow Officers and Spouses:

I am proud and humbled to have been elected to be your current President of the Hampton Roads Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). Bert Ortiz and the board members for 2015-2017 did a magnificent job in keeping us among the best recognized chapters in the nation. Our new board is committed to continuing that notoriety.

Our biggest challenge is new membership. MOAA National leadership recommends that members reach out to those to whom, you as members, may have served

with in the past to join our chapter. If we can each contact three people and get one to join our chapter we will all benefit.

I had the honor to attend the Virginia Council of Chapters meeting in Richmond at the end of January. We are known as a Chapter that makes a difference at the State and National level! Linc Smith and I got the opportunity to spread the word on vital Veterans initiatives during the State "Storming of the Hill." Our legislators know the Hampton Roads MOAA Chapter and are supportive of veterans initiatives.

Thank you all for your trust, confidence, and support as I begin my tenure as your Chapter President for the next two years. I will do my utmost to maintain the level of excellence passed down from my predecessors. On the National level, MOAA's support to all of the members of our Armed Forces is an overarching mission. Our continued involvement and dedication to those who have given so much is something we can all be justly proud. I look forward to working with each of you, to continue our mission of support for service members, support for our retiree's, and support for their family members.

God Bless you all, our Service members, and the United States of America.

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CAPT Chris Vatidis, USN (ret)	Barbara Smith	CDR Linc Smith, USN (ret)		

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From the Editor



We lecome to a new year and new, exciting chapter opportunities this year. As we move into the new year, 2017 is sure to bring even bigger and better events for our members. Our officers and board members are working hard to bring you speakers that are both entertaining and informative. We want to ensure

that you are kept informed about what MOAA is working towards on your behalf, what our chapter is doing in the community, and what we all can do to support the benefits of our veterans and active duty men and women.

Please continue to think of those you know and are important to you. If you know of friends and family who are not members, but qualify and would benefit from membership, please educate them on MOAA and more specifically, our Hampton Roads Chapter of MOAA. Please share the "Why MOAA" video link to below and found at: <u>http://www.moaa.org/WhyMOAA/</u>

Warmest regards, **Aaron Zielinski**

Reminder —**Time to renew Chapter Dues**

If you haven't renewed your dues for 2017, please remember that they expired on 31 December 2016.

Dues for 2017 remain unchanged from last year:

- \$20.00 for Regular Members (\$35 for 2-yr, \$45 for 3-yr)
- \$10.00 for Surviving Spouse (\$17 for 2-yr, \$23 for 3-yr)

Dues are payable by:

- Completing and mailing the form on Page 11, with payment, or
- Including payment with your February luncheon payment, or
- Visiting the MOAA website https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx



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Legislative Affairs

Storming of the Hill 2017

By CDR Linc Smith, USN (ret)

On January 23, 2017, the Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC) conducted the annual "Storming of the Hill" at the General Assembly Building in Richmond, Virginia. Our Hampton Roads Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) was represented at the VCOC Storming 2017 by Chapter President MG John McLaren (ret) and Legislative Committee Chair CDR Linc Smith (ret).

The first priority of "storming" each year is for chapter representatives to meet with both senators and delegates in



order to advocate for the Joint Leadership Council (JLC) Policy Initiatives. To this end, MG McLaren and CDR Smith visited with the offices of Senators Bill DeSteph (R-8th), Frank Wagner (R-7th) and Delegates Rocky Holcomb (R-85th) and Chris Stolle (R-83rd).

Pictured from left to right are CDR Linc Smith (ret), Delegate Rocky Holcomb (R-85th) and Chapter President MG John McLaren (ret) as they meet in Delegate Holcomb's office to review JLC initiatives for 2017.

Like previous years, the "storming" schedule included a comprehensive speaker schedule throughout the day, including Attorney General Mark Herring, Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam, Secretary of Veteran's and Defense Affairs Admiral John Harvey (ret) and Virginia Adjutant General MG Tim Williams.

The approved 2017 JLC Policy initiatives can be found in the December 2016 edition of "The Tribute" as well as at:

http://www.virginiamoaa.com/images/JLC_2017_Initiatives_SUMMARY.pdf

More information can be found about these issues on the VCOC web site, <u>www.virginiamoaa.com</u>. Also, please be sure to visit MOAA's Legislative Action Center at <u>http://capwiz.com/moaa/home/</u>

VCOC Meeting Schedule

- April 12, 2017 VCOC 2nd Quarter Meeting, Virginia War Memorial, Richmond, Virginia
- July 12, 2017 VCOC 3rd Quarter Meeting, Virginia War Memorial, Richmond, Virginia
- November 10, 2017 VCOC 4th Quarter Meeting, Virginia War Memorial, Richmond, Virginia

All chapter members are invited to attend. If you are interested, please contact Jim Smith, Chapter VCOC Representative, for more information. He can be reached at 425-5934 or <u>eaglenest6@cox.net</u>.



THE TRIBUTE

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Community Affairs

NJROTC Cavalier Drill Meet - February 4, 2017

The Cavalier Drill Meet was held in Rockwell Hall at the Joint Expeditionary Base, Little Creek on February 4th. It was hosted by the Princess Anne High School NJROTC which is led by CAPT Louis E. GIORDANO, SC, USN (Ret.). This is a fantastic event that includes all the NJROTC teams from the local high schools in the Hampton Roads area. Our Hampton Roads Chapter of MOAA contributed \$500.00 for the purchase of the 24 trophies' that were presented by our Community Affairs Chairman, CDR John J. UHRIN, USN (Ret.). There were trophies for first, second, and third place finishes in events including unarmed platoon, unarmed elaborate platoon, armed platoon, armed trick platoon, academic platoon, and color guard. The trophy for the top all around school, who scored best in all events, was Green Run High School NJROTC. It was good to see such dedication and poise by these young students. They obviously practiced long and hard at their routines and showed how our youth can accomplish great things when properly motivated and led.



Photographs provided by CDR John Uhrin, USN (ret). Left: Green Run High School NJROTC pose with their trophies after winning top all around school. Right: CDR John Uhrin, USN (ret) presents a trophy to a cadet from Green Run High School.

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

The Surviving Spouses of MOAA - 2016 Year in Review

By Gail Joyce, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee chair

Last year was a time of change and new challenges. We began 2016 with a new name — the Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee (SSAC) — one the committee felt brought a better understanding of who we are.

In April, we participated in Storming the Hill in Washington, D.C., with 160 MOAA members, visiting our elected representatives to discuss important legislation that would affect the military and their families, including the Survivor Benefit Plan/ Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset. We asked that the offset be fully repealed, but if sufficient funds could not

be found, the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) should be extended and increased to continue phasing out the offset completely.

Even though our work on a full repeal of the offset continues, in the FY 2017 Defense Authorization Act, the SSIA has been extended through May 2018 at the current \$310 monthly rate. This will give us a chance to push Congress this year to increase and further extend the allowance or eliminate the offset in its entirety.

Military ID Card Notification Program

This voluntary program is designed to help Chapter members and their dependent's to renew their ID cards in a timely fashion. Once you and your dependents are enrolled, you will be notified of your impending ID card expiration date in sufficient time for renewal prior to the expiration date.

To enroll by mail: make copies of the form below for each dependent and fill out the required information. Mail to Military ID Card Notification Program, HRCMOAA, PO Box 4612, Virginia Beach, VA 23454-0612.

To enroll by email: visit our website, www.hrcmoaa.org and click on About Our Chapter and the ID Card Notification Program link and follow the instructions.

Note: Over age 75 members, who are eligible uniform family members and survivors of deceased personnel are now eligible for Permanent Identification Cards. Apply within 90 days of expiration of current ID card.

CAREER CORNER

Once you transition from active duty, we want you to stay in our community and chapter. Don't wait until the last minute to start networking, learning about transition, and talking with recruiters at career fairs. Here is a list of local military career fairs and networking opportunities:

March 8, 2017 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM CivilianJobs.com Norfolk - Ted Constant Convocation Center info@civilianjobs.com

May 24, 2017 9:00am to 12:30pm Corporate Gray Military Friendly Job Fair Virginia Beach - Virginia Beach Convention Center https://www.corporategray.com/jobfairs/384

July 13, 2017 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM CivilianJobs.com; <u>info@civilianjobs.com</u> Hampton - Embassy Suites by Hilton; 1700 Coliseum Drive

October 18, 2017 9:00am to 12:30pm Corporate Gray Military Friendly Job Fair Virginia Beach - Virginia Beach Convention Center https://www.corporategray.com/jobfairs/388

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January 20th Luncheon



The January luncheon was jammed packed with goodness. Excitement ran high from the start with folks huddled around the television watching the Presidential Inauguration. The spirit, passion, and patriotism was strong and apparent and a great way to start off our luncheon. We were joined by CAPT Jim Carman, USN (ret), Vice President of Council/Chapter & Member Support at MOAA. CAPT Carman discussed a number of topics with our members and answered quite a few questions. Some of the topics that he discussed were MOAA advocacy in 2016, MOAA's membership and marketing, the MOAA Military Family Initiative, MOAA Scholarship Program, MOAA publications updates, the Veterans Administration, and what MOAA is looking ahead to in the next couple of years.

Following CAPT Carman's discussion, CDR Bert Ortiz, USN (ret) presented him with the Jefferson Cup as a token of appreciation from our membership. He transitioned to one of his last official acts as Chapter President by administering the oath to MG John McLaren, USA (ret) as the chapter's incoming President. MG McLaren assumed the leadership of the chapter and presented CDR Ortiz with a gavel in appreciation of the great work he has accomplished as the Chapter President over the last two years. He then swore in the new officers and board members. TC cadets from Hampton Roads Naval ROTC as well as the Spartan and Monarch Battalions. A great time was had by all. ROTC cadets sat at many different tables and many conversations were had between members and the cadets.



The Hampton Roads Chapter of MOAA has been under the superb leadership of a number of different Chapter Presidents over many years. A Five-Star Chapter every year since 2004 (the initial year the honor was awarded), this year is no exception. CDR Bert Ortiz handed the reigns over to MG John McLaren and those reigns include another Five Star Award. Photo bottom left: (from left to right) are MG John McLaren, USA (ret) presents CDR Bert Ortiz, USN (ret) with a gift from the chapter. Photo bottom right: MG John McLaren, USA (ret) administers the oath to CDR Bert Ortiz, USN (ret), incoming 1st Vice President; LCDR Jeff Barrett, USN (ret), 2nd Vice President; CAPT Doug Williams, USN (ret), Treasurer; Col. Larry King "Live", USMC (ret), Membership; COL Jim Edge, USA (ret), and COL Jim Smith, USA (ret).







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SPOUSES FROM PAGE 5

Our efforts to increase the number of surviving spouse liaisons at the council and chapter level continue as well. The number of surviving spouse liaisons has increased by 145, however, that number only represents a little more than half of the total chapters. We will continue to promote the importance and benefits of a surviving spouse liaison — our goal remains 100-percent participation.

In October during MOAA's 2016 annual meeting, we honored with the Surviving Spouse Excellence Award two highly qualified and deserving surviving spouses: Paula Muth of the Heartland of America Chapter (Neb.) Chapter and Barbara Smith of the Hampton Roads (Va.) Chapter.

We also had two very productive committee meetings in 2016, during which we made decisions to:

• increase the member term limit from three years to four years, with an option to extend for up to two more years if a member is willing and able. This should provide more continuity and improve productivity;

• change the start date for new SSAC members from April to October to coincide with the orientation/installation of new members of MOAA's board of directors. New SSAC members can participate in the board of directors orientation and be better informed about MOAA;

• increase the committee from six members to eight members on a trial basis. Two new members will be "virtual members," with no expectation of attending SSAC meetings in person. This might help bring in younger surviving spouses who are unable to travel for extended periods because of jobs, children, or aging parents;

• find new ways to recruit and engage surviving spouses by:

 $_{\odot}\,$ using Military Officer magazine and social media to reach a younger demographic and

• reaching out to and involving other organizations, such as the Retired Officers Wives Association, the Society of Military Widows, the Survivor Outreach Services, etcetera.

Because of the decisions made in 2016, we will be a stronger committee in 2017 and the years to come.



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- Discover past friends and relive great memories.





Patriots Colony, sponsored by Riverside Health System, is a LifeCare community exclusively for retired military officers and retired federal civil employees and their spouses.

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Coming soon: March Luncheon



WHEN: Friday, 24 March 2017

WHERE: <u>Atlantic Shores</u>, Magnolia Room; 1200 Atlantic Shores Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23454.

TIME: Social-1100 hours, Lunch-1200 hours

MENU: TBD

PRICE: \$25.00

PROGRAM: Guest speaker will be **CAPT Lanny L. Boswell**, **USN, Commanding Officer, United States Naval Hospital** ship, USNS COMFORT.

RESERVATIONS / CANCELLATIONS: Reservations required by <u>1200 hours, Tuesday, March 21, 2016</u>.

RSVP to Barb Smith: 576-1114 (cell), 427-3475 (home) or email: <u>barb4mom@cox.net</u>. If providing an email or leaving a message, please give the names of those attending, phone number, and meal choice.

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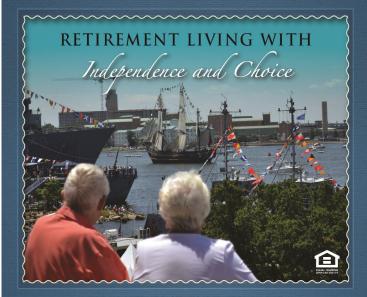
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February 2017

UPCOMING Sevents

<u>March Luncheon</u> (3/24) - Atlantic Shores; CAPT Lanny L. Boswell, USN, Commanding Officer of United States Naval Hospital ship USNS COMFORT

<u>April Luncheon</u> (4/21) - Virginia Beach Resort Hotel; program TBD

Honor Flight Mission 17 (4/22) - Virginia Beach Park and Ride, 0430 muster time

May Luncheon (5/19) - Atlantic Shores; Spouse Appreciation Event

<u>June Luncheon</u> (6/23) - Virginia Beach Resort Hotel; program TBD

July Brunch Mixer (7/16) - venue TBD

October Business Networking Dinner - date and venue TBD

Website Tips

The chapter's website at hrcmoaa.org provides a one stop shopping for the current edition as well as historical newsletters. The website (<u>www.hrcmoaa.org</u>) is a convenient way for you to access the electronic version of our newsletter which contains additional features, resources, and web content based upon that month's news-

MOAA

Hampton Roads Chapter Military Officers Association of America HRCMOAA Newsletter

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Current Issue
Past Issues

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29 Palms - U.S. Marines with Battalion Landing Team 2/1, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), shield a simulated casually from the debris of a U.S. Marine Corps Mv22 O Sprey during Composite Training Unit Servicise (COMPTUEX) at Marine Corps Arr Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms. California, Oct 30, 2015. COMPTUEX provides the MEU ARG the opportunity to integrate naval training while also allowing focused, mission-specific training and evaluation for the Marines and their Navy counter parts. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Oc.B. Brauna Birr(RELEASED)

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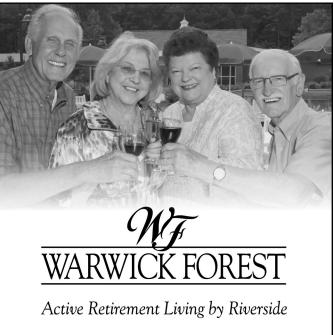
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THE TRIBUTE

Hampton Roads Chapter, MOAA P. O. Box 4612 Virginia Beach, VA 23454-0612

MEMBERSHIP ALERT

If the date on your mailing label shows 2016, your dues expired in December 2016. Please complete the membership renewal form on page 11. You may contact COL Larry King, USMC-Ret. at 650-1086, Membership Chair.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

"Dated Material Do Not Delay"

February 2017

(Label Here)

"I'm never far from the military, in my heart, or in my home."

Residents choose to live at Atlantic Shores for many reasons: the amenities, natural beauty, culinary excellence, personal connections with staff members, quality on-site healthcare, security and more. But for Bob Sage, U.S. Navy Capt. Ret., proximity to the area's military bases sealed the deal. Dam Neck and Oceana bases are less than a mile away.

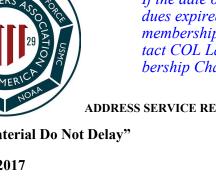
Another factor in Bob's decision was financial, both in pricing and equity ownership. Bob also values the ability to be involved in the community instead of being told

what to do. "Independence means living your own lifestyle," he says. He especially loves getting together with "the guys" for meals and trading war stories - literally.

You can arrange a visit or learn more about our community at AtlanticShoresLiving.com or call 757.716.3000. Oh, and one last word from Bob, on our culinary offerings: "Our Sunday brunches are the best kept secret out here!" Not anymore, Bob. Not anymore.



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