



THE TRIBUTE

The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the Hampton Roads Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
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NEVER STOP SERVING

June 2017

THE TRIBUTE

In honor of those who have sacrificed to keep our country free.



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Summer Multi-Chapter Brunch Mixer

Join us on July 23rd at Tradewinds Restaurant at the Virginia Beach Hotel Resort and Conference Center for the Annual Multi-Chapter Brunch Mixer. Members of the Portsmouth (PAC), Peninsula (VIP), and Hampton Roads (HRC) chapters of MOAA will gather for some great food and camaraderie. This event is sure to be a hit and gets better each year. Running more than fifteen years now, it's always great to come together, share stories, ideas, and figure out ways to make our chapters even better! We look forward to seeing those who come every year and hope to some folks for the first time as well!

Please see details on time and RSVP instructions in the upcoming events section on page nine later in the newsletter.



Hampton Roads Chapter, Military Officers Association of America



Visit our website at www.hrcmoaa.org, 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 hope you have all had a great start to summer. I know many of you have big plans for vacations and travel. I hope and pray for your safe journeys.

As I have mentioned before, sequestration must end to ensure the viability of our Armed Forces in the current and in future fights. We must be able to reconstitute the future for our military to maintain the cutting edge of our ability to fight and win quickly against any adversary. We need to continue to engage with our Representatives and Senators to end the Budget Control act of 2011 (Sequestration).

Also, we need to be aware of some changes to the Hiring Freeze in the Department of Defense. By memorandum of January 23, 2017, President Trump ordered a freeze on federal civilian employees. The Department of Defense has listed sixteen critical functions necessary to meet national security and public safety responsibilities and has exempted these job series. The President has agreed to these exemptions.



The board has been busy developing a new continuity of operations manual during the last few months. Each of the elected positions and the committee chairs have a page describing what they do each month and, more importantly, who up, down, inside, and outside of MOAA are their points of contact for coordination. This new continuity of operations manual will ensure when new positions are elected or a member departs the chapter there is a seamless transition. Well done members of the board!

Finally, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is changing for the better. Work has begun on a new VA Health Care center in Virginia Beach to ease the strain on the Hampton VA Center. This is a State of Virginia initiative. In addition, the VA is providing information to MOAA on their new community care contract that will deliver pharmacy benefits, manage appointments, and pay civilian health care providers. More to follow on this new VA initiative once it is received by MOAA.

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

In Service, *John McLaren*



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From the Editor



What's better than breakfast? Brunch! What's better than brunch? Sharing brunch with a bunch of awesome patriots and sharing stories. I encourage everyone to make their RSVP's early and join us at the multi-chapter brunch next month. It's a great time and a wonderful opportunity to chat with members of the other two MOAA chapters in the region.

You may have noticed the dues reminder below my comments. It's no mistake that this is the third newsletter in a row where I have placed this following my comments. Membership in our organization ebbs and flows, but it's moved a bit in the wrong direction and our membership numbers are down. Please ensure your membership has not lapsed as we want and need you in organization. Also, please be sure to share the great things that our chapter is doing to support all of our active duty, retired, and separated veterans with fellow veterans who are prospective members!

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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Community Affairs—ROTC Commissioning Ceremonies and JROTC Awards



MOAA Leadership Award - Chapter President, MG John McLaren, USA (ret) presented the MOAA Leadership Award on 10 May to NJROTC Cadet Jaden Sindt at Green Run High School. He was joined by CDR Brown and First Sergeant Robles who are outstanding examples for all of their cadets and student. I am especially excited about this one as Green Run High School is my alma mater. Go Stallions!

Commissioning Ceremony - Norfolk State University - Friday May 5, 2017

Norfolk State University (NSU) ROTC "Spartan Battalion" conducted an Army commissioning ceremony on at the Douglas Wilder Auditorium on the NSU Campus. The ceremony was hosted by Lieutenant Colonel Cedric Lee, Professor of Military Science. Receiving commissions were 2LTs Kami Armistead, Adjutant General Corps; Jaime Bass, Infantry; Jourdan Bethea, Quartermaster Corps; Jeremy Carlson, Engineer Corps; Danice Coleman, Military Intelligence; Trevon Johnson, Engineer Corps; Aaron Jones, Military Police; Daniel McLean, Infantry; Daryl Newton, Air Defense Artillery; Destiny Reed-Johnson, Military Intelligence; and Lee Rivera-Resto, Military Intelligence. All of the officers completed their academic and military requirements and were presented with a set of MOAA Gold Bars by Colonel Jim Smith, Hampton Roads Chapter, MOAA in recognition of their achievement. Eight of the 11 officers were commissioned in the Regular Army; the largest percentage of such officers in recent university history. Guest speaker and commissioning officer was Lieutenant General Gwen Bingham, USA, Army Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management. Attending the ceremony were NSU president, Eddie N. Moore, Jr., who congratulated each new officer, members of the university Board of Visitors, families, and university faculty and staff members.

Joint Army / Naval Commissioning Ceremony - Friday May 5, 2017

Old Dominion University (ODU) Ted Constant Convocation Center was the site for the annual Spring US ARMY and US NAVAL SERVICE ROTC Commission Ceremony. The US Army's ODU Monarch Battalion, commanded by Major William H. Bowers, USA commissioned 18 Second Lieutenants in the US Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserves. The Hampton



Photo courtesy of Mike Barea: Army and Navy ROTC students take the Oath of Office administered by BG Cummings, USA.

Roads NROTC Unit, commanded by Captain Lennie E. Reed, USN is a consortium comprised of four universities and a community college; Old Dominion University, Norfolk State University, Regent University, Hampton University and Tidewater Community College. The Naval Service ROTC Unit commissioned 19 Ensigns in the Navy and 3 Second Lieutenants in the United States Marine Corps. A total of 40 students were developed morally, mentally, physically and were imbued with the highest ideals of duty, honor, and loyalty in order to commission college graduates as military officers who possess a basic professional background, are motivated toward careers in the military, and have the potential to assume the highest responsibilities of command, citizenship and government. Remarks were provided by University Representatives and the ceremony was honored to have, as its guest speaker, BG Brian P. Cummings, USA, Program Executive Officer, Program Executive Officer Soldier provide remarks and issue the Oath of Office.

BG Cummings is an Old Dominion University Monarch Battalion Army ROTC alumni with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. The General earned a Master of Science Degree in Science and Technology Commercialization from the University of Texas and a Master of Science Degree from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. BG Cummings served in a variety of command and staff positions. He deployed to Iraq as Chief of Staff for the Deputy Commanding General (Advising and Training). He later served as Project Manager, Mobile Electric Power and as Deputy PEO Combat Support/Combat Service Support.

MOAA Hampton Roads Chapter past president Colonel Jim Edge, USA (Ret) and Board of Director Captain Mike "Breeze" Barea, USN (Ret), attended the ceremony presenting GOLD BARS to newly Commissioned Officers following respective ceremonial first salutes.



CEREMONIES FROM PAGE 4Regent University - May 6, 2017

Regent University was the site for the annual Spring US ARMY ROTC Commission Ceremony held on Saturday 6 MAY 2017. The US Army's ODU Monarch Battalion, commanded by Major William H. Bowers, USA commissioned two Second Lieutenants in the US Army, and Army Reserves. The Monarch Battalion is a consortium comprised of two universities and a College; Old Dominion University, Regent University and Virginia Wesleyan College. The commencement ceremony had 1,200 students walk across the stage who were acknowledged for their hard work and dedication. Upon the conclusion of this acknowledgement the University called for everyone's attention to center stage as two ARMY ROTC students were administered the oath of office. Following first salutes rendered each student was individually introduced to the student body. Each newly commissioned Second Lieutenant faced the audience, which numbered in the thousands, stood at attention, saluted and held their salutes to standing ovations. It was an emotional moment for many and it was a wondrous display of patriotism. Remarks were provided by University Representatives and the ceremony was honored to have, as its guest speaker, Dr. Corne J. Bekker, Dean of Regent University's School of Divinity.

Dr. Bekker served in South Africa on the board of the South African Council for Theological Education prior to joining Regent University's faculty. Dr. Bekker received the 2010 Chancellor's Award for his outstanding faculty accomplishments. MOAA Hampton Roads Chapter Board of Director Captain Mike "Breeze" Barea, USN (Ret), attended the ceremony and upon the conclusion of the commencement ceremony presented GOLD BARS and congratulatory letters to the newly Commissioned Officers. Pictured above from left to right: 2LT Whitney Nicole Barner, USAR, CAPT Mike Barea, USN, (Ret), 2LT Esteban Garcia-Lopez, USA. Photo taken by Mr. Jose Roman, CEO, Veteran Advocate, Networking Veterans Group, Regent University

Memorial Day 2017

Back, L-R: MG John P. McLaren USA (Ret); COL James G. Edge USA (Ret); CDR John J. Uhrin USN (Ret). Front, L-R: Unknown; CAPT James V. Jones USN (Ret); LCDR Daryl Holland USN (Ret); COL James Smith USA (Ret). Photo: Daryl Holland

Our chapter was represented well at Memorial Day celebrations in both Virginia Beach and Chesapeake. The City of Chesapeake held its annual Memorial Day Ceremony on 29 May at the Veterans Memorial in front of City Hall. Along with remarks by Mayor Alan Krasnoff, the keynote speaker was Captain Rich McDaniel, Commanding Officer, Naval Station Norfolk. This year, the theme of the ceremony was the 100th Anniversary of World War One. CDR Linc Smith USNR (Ret), Legislative Affairs Committee Chairman, served as Master of Ceremonies.

Over 700 hundred citizens, family members and veterans were in attendance, with 21 memorial plaques being placed in the City Veterans Memorial. United States Marine Corps Security Forces Training Company presented the Colors, followed Ms. Kimberly Combs performing the National Anthem. Western Branch High School Band played both a musical interlude and the service songs. The ceremony rifle salute was rendered by Marine Aircraft Group 49, Detachment Delta, VMM-774.



Wreaths were laid by nine service organizations, to include Mayors Commission on Veterans Affairs, Military Officers Association of America (Hampton Roads Chapter), Disabled American Veterans (Chapter 26), Ladies Auxiliary Fleet Reserve Association (Unit 40), Veterans of Foreign Wars (Post 2984), Women's Division, Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce Chesapeake, Central Chesapeake Republican Woman's Club, American Legion (Post 280) and The Marine Corps League. CDR Bert Ortiz and CDR Matt Krakower presented the wreath at the Chesapeake ceremony.



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:

July 13, 2017
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
CivilianJobs.com; info@civilianjobs.com
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>

November 2, 2017
11:00am to 3:00pm
DAV/Recruit Military - Norfolk Veterans Job Fair
Norfolk - Nauticus—Half Moon Cruise & Celebration Center
<https://events.recruitmilitary.com/schedule>

February 14, 2018
9:00am to 12:30pm
Corporate Gray Military Friendly Job Fair
Virginia Beach - Virginia Beach Convention Center
<https://www.corporategray.com/jobfairs/393>



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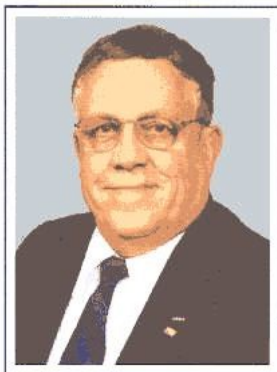


May Luncheon

The Spouse Appreciation Luncheon on May 19th at Atlantic Shores was a huge hit! Frank Cubillo, also known as Frank Sings Frank rocked the house with a tremendous performance. It was a wonderful throwback to great music of past decades. He wowed us with his voice and the ladies with his charm! We were even treated to a duet with fellow chapter member, CDR John Rooney, USN (ret). We all know how critical the spousal role is in having a long and successful military career. It was nice to have an event to say thank you and show how much we truly appreciate their support and efforts. Photos: Top left - Frank sings to Mrs. Martha Cotton. Top right - Frank and John Rooney sing a duet. Bottom: Frank sings while spouses dance hand in hand. Please visit our Facebook page for a video of Frank's final number with the ladies dancing with him!



[SEE SPOUSE CONTINUED ON PAGE 8](#)



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SPOUSE FROM PAGE 7**SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER****SSAC Storms the Hill**

By Patricia Bergquist, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee member

On April 5, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee members joined over 165 participants — including members of MOAA's board of directors and staff, council and chapter leaders from almost every state, and members of the Currently Serving Advisory Committee, and Currently Serving Spouse Advisory Committee — for MOAA's annual Storming the Hill event in Washington, D.C. The storming teams provided congressional legislators detailed fact sheets on sequestration, the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset, and TRICARE.

The return of sequestration in FY 2018 will cut billions from the defense budget and impose increased risks to U.S. national security. Debt reduction is a national responsibility, and the budget should not be balanced by placing a disproportional burden service members and their families. Sequestration puts our national defense at risk with reduced spending on readiness and modernization, hollows our uniformed forces, and affects morale. A bipartisan debt-reduction package is needed to avoid disproportionate penalties to DoD that impact service members and military retirees and their families.

SBP is an insurance annuity to provide a military spouse up to 55 percent of the service member's retired pay upon death for any reason. For active duty post-9/11 deaths, the coverage automatically is provided to the spouse. Under current law, survivors of deceased active duty and retired service members must forfeit DIC dollar-for-dollar from their SBP when military service causes the death and DIC is awarded by the VA, currently \$1,258 a month (\$15,095 a year). Those impacted by this inequity (64,100) lose all or part of their SBP. MOAA has been fighting for full repeal of the offset for 16 years.

In 2008, Congress approved a Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) to partially compensate for the SBP/DIC injustice with incremental increases over 10 years (October 2017) toward eliminating the offset. The SSIA was extended last year at \$310 a month (\$3,700 a year) and ends May 2018.

MOAA Hill stormers ask legislators to cosponsor and support current legislation (H.R. 846 and S. 339) and engage House and Senate Armed Services, Appropriations, and Budget committee members, as their support will be needed for a solution to fully repeal the offset. If a full repeal cannot be funded, the SSIA should be extended.

Stormers also provided a document on TRICARE fee increase prevention to each congressional office. MOAA believes congressional actions should remain consistent with current philosophy and prevent disproportionate TRICARE fee increases.

Please contact your legislators on these issues using MOAA's toll-free line to the capitol switchboard, [\(800\) 272-6622](tel:8002726622). Ask the operator to connect you with your legislator's office, then ask to speak with the legislative assistant or military legislative assistant, and request cosponsorship of H.R. 846 or S. 339.



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

Coming: Multi-Chapter Brunch



WHEN: Sunday, 23 July 2017

WHERE: Tradewinds Restaurant, Virginia Beach Hotel Resort and Conference Center

TIME: Starts at 11:00 am

MENU/PRICE: \$27.00 each plus tax and gratuity, which will be billed individually by the hotel staff.

RESERVATIONS / CANCELLATIONS: Reservations required by Wednesday, July 19, 2017.

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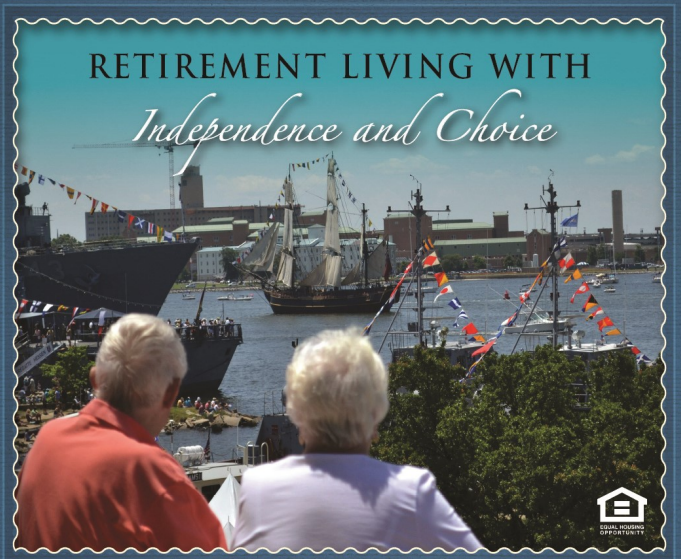
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UPCOMING Events

July Brunch Mixer (7/23) - Tradewinds Restaurant; Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center

September Luncheon (9/15) - Atlantic Shores – Magnolia Room. Program: 2nd Congressional District Congressman Scott Taylor

Evening Networking Mixer (Thursday, 9/5) - 5-8 p.m., Pizza, Wings and Beer . Bold Mariner Brewing; 2409 Bowdens Ferry Rd, Norfolk

October Luncheon (10/20) - Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center. Program: Rear Admiral Meredith Austin, Commander, US Coast Guard 5th District.

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 (www.hrcmoaa.org) 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-

Hampton Roads Chapter Military Officers Association of America
HRCMOAA Newsletter

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29 Palms - U.S. Marines with Bravo Landing Team 2/1, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), shield a simulated casualty from the debris of a U.S. Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey during Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX) at Marine Corps Air 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 Cpl. Briana Bir/RELEASED)

THE TRIBUTE
The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the
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Current Issue: **January 2016**

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2 Years: \$17.00
3 Years: \$23.00

Regular Member: Active, Retired or Former Commissioned or Warrant Officer of the seven Uniformed Services.

Surviving Spouse: Survivor of any deceased individual who would, if living, be eligible for regular membership.

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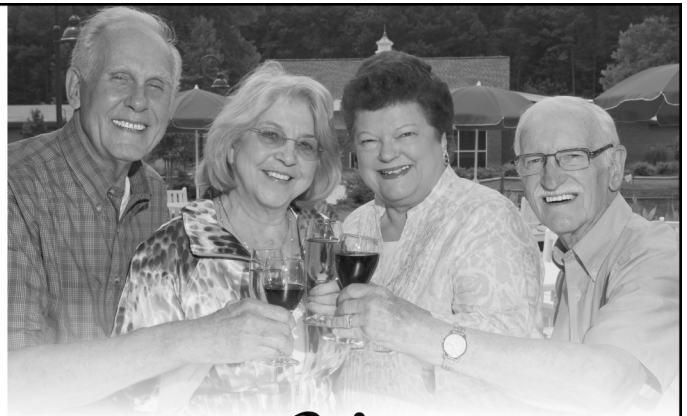
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MEMBERSHIP ALERT

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”

June 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.

