

THE TRIBUTE

The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the Hampton Roads Chapter Military Officers Association of America

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February 2018

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THE TRIBUTE

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



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January Luncheon

We had the pleasure of having Juanita Smallwood as our guest speaker on January 19th at the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel & Conference Center.



Juanita 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 11 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 military community understands all aspects of their military health benefits.

Juanita gave us a detailed overview of the TRICARE program with a particular emphasis on recent coverage updates. She discussed some of the changes specific to TRICARE Select, TRICARE For Life, and TRICARE Prime, and even a bit about the Young Adult coverage. She was nice enough to answer nearly 30 minutes of questions from the group and then additional individual questions following the program.

She shared that as of this past October, TRICARE has two new managed care contractors: Humana Military in the East Region and Health Net Federal Services in the West Region. To make sure the move to the new managed care support contracts is smooth, the DoD will continuously monitor seven critical performance areas: provider networks, enrollment, customer service, management, referral management, claims processing, and medical management.



















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 each of you survived the blizzard of 2018 and the intense cold that followed the blizzard. Many of us suffered through the lack of power for many hours during the height of the storm. It was a chore for many of us to shovel the many inches of snow the blizzard provided for our enjoyment. I am so very happy that in the weeks after we got to experience temperatures in the 50's and 60's.

Our chapter was designated a five-star chapter for 2016. Two of our members, Clifford Furedy and Aaron Zielinski were named the winners of the MOAA Colonel Marvin J. Harris Communications Award, respectively, for the HRCMOAA Newsletter and the Web-

site. Well done Clif and Aaron - they are both true assets to our Chapter!

I would ask each of you to look at pages 36-40 of the MOAA monthly magazine for January. The Top 10 Goals for MOAA for 2018 are listed there for your information and evaluation. The focus for the year is health care, retirement benefits, military pay, force levels, wounded warrior and care givers. The goals are: 1) Ensure TRICARE reform sustains access to top-quality care, 2) Prevent disproportionate TRICARE fee increases, 3) Sustain military pay compatibility with the private sector, 4) Block erosion of compensation and non-pay and quality-of-life benefits, 5) Protect military retirement and COLA's, 6) Sustain wounded warrior programs and expand caregiver support, 7) End financial penalties to survivors and the disabled, 8) Ensure the Guard and Reserve system adequately supports the requirements for an operational reserve, 9)Ensure spouse and family support programs are aligned with current and emerging needs of an all-volunteer force, and 10) Ensure timely access to VA health care and preserve earned veterans benefits. MOAA's agenda is significant and striving for success in a challenging political climate.

We began work last year to revise the Chapter's Constitution and By-Laws. Many thanks to Bert Ortiz and his committee for their diligence and hard work to get the draft document completed. Please look for the revised Chapter Constitution and By-Laws to be published soon for Chapter review and comment.

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

In Service, John McLaren



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From the Editor



Happy New Year! Yes, it is February, so technically, I'm a bit late in my wishes. What is awesome about the new year though, is there are a ton of great events and speakers to look forward to. Take a look at page 10 for a sneak peek of many of the events for 2018. Your board has been hard at work in planning and securing

an exciting slate of activities for all of us.

With the new year also comes a plethora of opportunities to get involved in the community such as JROTC, ROTC, and Honor Flight to name a few. Please consider volunteering your time at one of these very worthwhile events. CDR John Uhrin, USN (ret) is our Community Affairs Chair and can answer any questions you have. Whether it's helping with a commissioning, passing out awards to JROTC high school students, or creating an awesome send off for our WWII veterans at Honor Flight, you will go home with a huge smile on your face!

Warmest regards, Aaron Zielinski

Reminder — Time to renew Chapter Dues

If you haven't renewed your dues for 2018, please remember that they expired on 31 December 2017.

Dues for 2018 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 - Winter 2018 Update

Contributed to by CDR Linc Smith, USN (ret)

Due to conditions out of our control, this year's VCOC Storming of the Hill scheduled for 22 January 2018 was cancelled. In lieu of the official event, our Legislative Chair, Linc Smith teamed with fellow Legislative Chairs Jim Pauls, Joe Syslo and Stan Gorell and conducted their own "Mini Storming". Along with presentation of the 2018 JLC Policy Initiatives as approved December 20, 2017 (displayed below), emphasis on JLC 2018-03 Veteran Entrepreneur Capital Resources Program (VECRP) and proposal regarding realignment of the Department of Veteran Services. At the conclusion of the 2018 Virginia Legislature, we will be sure to pass along any results to our membership, if any. Pictured below, the legislative chairs met with, but not limited to, Senator John A. Cosgrove, Jr. (R-14th), a retired naval officer who has been a leader on issues related to transportation, technology, and military affairs.



Initiative	Recommendation
JLC 2018-01 Residency Requirement, Constitutional Amendment, 2nd Resolution	That the 2018 General Assembly pass resolutions identical to the one passed by the 2017 General Assembly (HJ562), thereby continuing the process to amend Virginia's Constitution to provide parity for surviving spouses of 100% disabled veterans and those Killed in Action.
JLC 2018-02 Electronic Return of Voted Ballots by Overseas Military	That the Governor and General Assembly enact legislation and provide budget support of a pilot program for the electronic return of absentee ballots by Virginia's deployed military service members to enfranchise their voting privileges.
JLC 2018-03 Veteran Entrepreneur Capital Resources Program (VECRP)	That the Governor and General Assembly enact legislation and provide budget support, in the amount of \$1,000,000 in FY19 and \$1,000,000 in FY20, to establish a Veteran Entrepreneur Capital Resources Program.
JLC 2018-04 Income Tax Subtraction for Certain Low- Income 100% Disabled Veterans	That the Governor and General Assembly approve an individual income tax subtraction for 100% service-connected disabled veterans with a federally adjusted gross income, not exceeding 250% of the federal poverty level for a four-person household, who have not already claimed another exemption.
JLC 2018-05 Removing Combat Requirement for VMSDE	That the Governor and General Assembly remove the requirement that a veteran's disability rating be combat related. Instead, a permanent service-connected disability rating of at least 90%, plus satisfaction of the other requirements currently in the Code, would qualify a veteran's spouse or child for VMSDEP benefits.
JLC 2018-06 Increase State Tax Subtraction for National Guard to \$5,000	That the Governor and General Assembly increase the state income tax subtraction level for members of the Virginia National Guard from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year.

We encourage our chapter members to visit MOAA's Legislative Update and the "Take Action" section of MOAA's website periodically throughout the year. There is lots of great information and a clear way to act upon that great info. Find all the great info at: http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/?tab=Legislative-Action-Center#Legislative-Action-Center

Community Affairs

Norfolk State University, ROTC Commissioning COL Jim Smith, USA (ret)



On December 8, 2017 in a ceremony conducted at Norfolk State University (NSU), four ROTC Cadets were commissioned as Second Lieutenants in the United States Army. Major Niels Hansen, Senior Assistant Professor of Military Science led the ceremony while the University Choir opened with a stirring rendition of the National Anthem. Commissioning Officer and guest speaker for the ceremony was Major General John P. McLaren, USA (Ret), President of the Hampton Roads Chapter, MOAA. All of the new officers received their active duty orders.

Following the commissioning, family members pinned branch and rank shoulder boards on their newly commissioned officer. Each officer received their first salute by a family member, friend or mentor.

Dr. Eddie Moore, NSU President, and members of the Board of Visitors congratulated the new officers and their families and friends, and presented a Norfolk State University challenge coin and Officers Guide manual to each new officer. Representing the Hampton Roads Chapter, COL Jim Smith, USA (Ret) congratulated each officer and presented them with MOAA Gold Bars in recognition of their accomplishment.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, a reception with refreshments was held for the new officers, their families and friends.



2nd Lieutenant, Crystal Hunt, Branched Military Intelligence, Active Duty

2nd Lieutenant, Kquanise Byrd, Prior Service NCO. Branched Ouartermaster, Active Duty

2nd Lieutenant, Angelena Garland, Prior Service Soldier. Branched Adjutant General, Active Duty

2nd Lieutenant, Alexander Wilson, Branched Signal Corps, Active Duty



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 21, 2018

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

MOAA Virtual Career Fair

http://www.moaa.org/virtualcareerfair/?list=4294971766&cat=4295120577

May 17, 2018

11:00am to 3:00pm

DAV/Recruit Military - Norfolk Veterans Job Fair

Norfolk - Nauticus—Half Moon Cruise & Celebration Center

https://events.recruitmilitary.com/schedule

May 31, 2018

9:00am to 12:30pm

Corporate Gray Military Friendly Job Fair

Virginia Beach - Virginia Beach Convention Center

https://www.corporategray.com/jobfairs/396

October 17, 2018

9:00am to 12:30pm

Corporate Gray Military Friendly Job Fair

Virginia Beach - Virginia Beach Convention Center

https://www.corporategrav.com/jobfairs/399

DISCLAIMER The MOAA Newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Hampton Roads Chapter, Military Officers Association of America, P.O. Box 4612, Virginia Beach, VA 23454-0612 and is intended primarily for distribution to, and non-commercial use by, members and associates of the Chapter and MOAA. Editor: LCDR Aaron Zielinski, USN (Former). Telephone 618-6945 and e-mail: https://hrcmoaa@gmail.com. Permission for reproduction of locally-generated articles is hereby granted, with appropriate credit, to other MOAA chapters, or publications serving the military community, active, reserve, or retired.

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ALTERNATE CONTACT:	a code)RELATIONSHIP
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LUNCHEON FROM PAGE 1

With the updates, there are some basic items you should check. First, ensure you and all your family members are enrolled in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment System (DEERS), and review the information for accuracy, especially your contact information (address, phone and email address). Your primary care manager - either a new one or the same one you currently have - will need to be able to reach you. If you don't already have a milConnect account, register for one at https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement. If you have an account, log in to check that your information in milConnect is correct.

While you used to get some materials mailed to you, such as claim forms and your Explanation of Benefits (EOB) statements, under the new contract you will only be able to access that information on line. Maintaining an active milConnect account will be more important than ever.

Other Great News at the Luncheon

During our luncheon, we also had some other significant chapter news. The Hampton Roads Chapter of MOAA received recognition from the Department of Defense for our sponsorship of the Vietnam Veterans program on 12 November 2017. The program was exceptionally well received by Vietnam Veterans in Virginia Beach. This program was sponsored by HRCMOAA under the leadership of our Community Affairs Director, CDR John Uhrin, USN (ret). John worked arduously on this project for a number of months and his hard work paid off in an outstanding event for our areas Vietnam Veterans. Acknowledgement of this superb event came from countless veterans, the Mayor of Virginia Beach, Honorable Will Sessoms, the Commander of Naval Region Mid-Atlantic, Rear Admiral John Scorby, and Congressman Scott Taylor.





Additionally, during the luncheon the HRCMOAA was recognized as a 5 Star Chapter by the National leadership of MOAA. In addition to the chapters recognition by National MOAA, Aaron Zielinski and Clif Furedy were presented individual 5 Star Awards as the MOAA Colonel Marvin J. Harris Communications Award winners for the HRCMOAA Newsletter and Website. Clif and Aaron are outstanding representatives of our chapter and work together diligently to ensure HRCMOAA is consistently ranked among the best chapters in the nation.





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Surviving Spouse Corner

Building a New Social Life

By Sharon DeVaney, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee

How do you fill the void in your life after you lose your spouse? Here are some ideas to help you become the outgoing person you once were.

- If you don't have to relocate, it could be possible to rely on your family and friends for a while. Your family members have suffered a loss as well. Try to brighten their days. You could meet for lunch or bring a salad or dessert to share a meal.
- If you have grandchildren who have school programs or sporting events, you can attend and be there for them. Perhaps, their school needs volunteers or mentors.
- Maybe your church sponsors a grief support group. Listening to speakers and sharing with others may help you process your loss.
- Calling another widow or widower and inviting them to a MOAA meeting will help both of you keep that connection to military life. Offer to help. You could represent surviving spouses if that position is not filled.
- Volunteering to help at your church or for a community function will bring you as much reward as you will give to others. Every group needs new faces and willing hands.
- Try something you haven't done before. I became a docent at our Fine Arts Center. I loved touring visitors of all ages. For many children, this was their only exposure to art. Also, other docents became my new friends.
- Use your work-related skills. I volunteered to teach a life story writing class at the nonprofit in my community. That brought a group of strangers together who became new friends as they shared their amazing life stories.
- Discover a new talent. I moved this summer and joined the drama club at the senior center. I hoped to find people who wanted to attend plays. Instead, I learned the club was producing the *Fall Follies*. All of a sudden, I had bit parts in three skits and the opening and closing numbers. We closed with a Salute to Veterans, which moved the audience to come to their feet!
- Spread cheer by visiting residents in a nursing home. A friend in Florida makes bouquets from her garden and brings them to residents.
- Consider getting a dog. It will need to be fed, walked, and loved. I guarantee that you will be visiting with other dog owners on your daily walks.



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- Experience the story of America in the place where it all began, Colonial Williamsburg.
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- Enjoy Virginia Capital Trail, a dedicated, paved pedestrian and bicycle trail connecting past and present capitals of Jamestown and Richmond along the Scenic Route 5 corridor.
- Explore College of William and Mary, the second oldest college in the nation.
- Savor hand-crafted cocktails, appetizers and pub fare at Archie's Tavern.
- 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.



Coming Soon: March Luncheon



Senator Frank Wagner, VA 7th, will be our guest speaker on March 23rd at the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel & Conference Center. Additionally, our luncheon will also focus on Vietnam Veterans Appreciation.

He is a senior member of the Senate of Virginia, representing the Seventh Senate District, which includes the western half of Virginia Beach and northeastern Norfolk. Prior to serving in the Senate, Frank served in the House of Delegates.

Frank Wagner is a job creator and entrepreneur. He is the former President of Davis Boat Works, Inc., a premier small boat repair firm in Newport News that Frank founded. The company's principal customer is the US Defense Department. Frank knows firsthand how important military spending is to our local economy and how important it is that Virginia is economically competitive in our global economy.

Frank Wagner is a U.S. Naval Academy graduate with a B.S. degree in Ocean Engineering. In the United States Navy, Frank served as a diving and salvage officer and an engineering duty officer. Frank is a tireless champion for military service members, veterans and their families.

RESERVATIONS / CANCELLATIONS: Reservations required by 1200 hours, Tuesday, March 20, 2018.

Please call or email Bar Smith: 576-1114 (cell), 427-3475 (home) or email: barb4mom@cox.net. If providing an email or leaving a message, please give the names of those attending, phone number, and meal choice.



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UPCOMING ~Events~ 2018

March Luncheon (3/23) - Senator Frank Wagner, VA 7th District; Virginia Beach Resort Hotel

April Board Meeting (4/13) - Virginia Beach Resort Hotel

April Luncheon (4/20) - USO Speaker; Atlantic Shores

Honor Flight Mission 19 (4/21) - Virginia Beach Park and Ride, 0430 muster time

Wings & Beer Network (5/3) - Wasserhund Brewery; 1805 Laskin Road, Suite 102; Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454

May Board Meeting (5/5) - Virginia Beach Resort Hotel

May Luncheon (5/18) - Spouse Appreciation Event; Virginia Beach Resort Hotel

June Board Meeting (6/2) - Virginia Beach Resort Hotel

June Luncheon (6/22) - VA Secretary of VA and Homeland Sec - Dr. Carlos Hopkins; Atlantic Shores

July Board Meeting (7/14) - Virginia Beach Resort Hotel

July Brunch Mixer (7/22) - Virginia Beach Resort Hotel

September Board Meeting (9/8) - Virginia Beach Resort Hotel

September Luncheon (9/21) - Portsmouth Naval Hospital Commander; Atlantic Shores

October Board Meeting (10/6) - Virginia Beach Resort Hotel

October Luncheon (10/19) - Macarthur Memorial and Archives Speaker - "Monuments Men"; Virginia Beach Resort Hotel

November Board Meeting (11/3) - Virginia Beach Resort Hotel

November Luncheon (11/17) - Annual Meeting/ROTC Units/ Toys for Tots/USMC; Atlantic Shores

December Board Meeting (12/1) - Virginia Beach Resort Hotel

Look for more details on each event as they draw closer. Please keep in mind that sometimes speakers' schedules change and we may need to adjust this prospective schedule accordingly.

Also, we encourage you to invite an active duty, retired, or any prior service officer to our events. We'd love the opportunity to meet them and show them what our organization offers.



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

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Recruiter

Surviving Spo
would, if living.

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

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MEMBERSHIP ALERT

If the date on your mailing label shows 2017, your dues expired in December 2017. 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 2018

(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.



