



THE TRIBUTE

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

April 2018

THE TRIBUTE

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



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Hampton Roads Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

February and March Luncheons



We had the pleasure of having outstanding lunch programs over the last two months.

In February, we were joined by a dynamic husband and wife team: Dr. Timothy Orr, Associate Professor of History at Old Dominion University and Laura Orr, Hampton Roads Navy Museum Deputy Education Director. The couple are co-authors of "Never Call Me a Hero: A Legendary American Dive-Bomber Pilot Remembers the Battle of Midway." Tim and Laura gave a superb presentation about the heroic experiences of Captain Dusty Kleiss of Scouting Squadron Six (VS-6) during the Battle of Midway. If you closed your eyes and listened carefully, their descriptive language and presentation photos almost put you right in the action. Following the luncheon, they made themselves available for additional questions and some of even purchased their book and had them autographed! For those unable to attend, their book is available online and in stores.



In March, we had a fantastic program. We kicked off the luncheon with Senator Frank Wagner, VA 7th as our guest speaker. He detailed many local and state issues and answered a plethora of questions from the floor. Some of the topics that Senator Wagner discussed were: support for military to civilian transition, initiatives to retain veterans, a proposed Virginia constitutional amendment to extend privileges to a surviving spouse when a combat veteran passes, local transportation issues through a combination of state and regional funding, and working to get a two year

[SEE LUNCHEON CONTINUED ON PAGE 7](#)



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,

Spring has arrived. I know that many of you have been waiting for warmer weather and the ability to share in the many outside activities open to us all in the Tidewater area. I certainly am ready for it to get warm!


Military members and retirees have experienced an increase in the costs for prescription drugs received through the TRICARE system's mail-order pharmacy, Express Scripts. Many drug costs went from free to \$7 on the first of February. I know many TRICARE Express Scripts users have shared with me they were blindsided. Information passed out through many venues last year stated TRICARE for

Life members would be largely exempt from a series of major TRICARE changes rolled out this calendar year. So, what happened? Why are TRICARE Express Scripts members now being billed for drugs which in the past had been free?

The answers to these questions are the February drug price increases and the January TRICARE changes are separate items. The history for the increased drug pricing lies in the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act. There is a section in the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act which makes permanent a protection for military survivors against a measure known as the "widows tax." The widow's tax is a situation in which surviving spouses of service members and retirees become eligible for tax-free Dependency and Indemnity Compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Many widows are, however, also covered by their spouses Survivor Benefit Plan. The dual covered "widower" is forced to have their Survivor Benefit Plan benefit reduced by the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation program. To accomplish the elimination of this unfair reduction Congress had to find a way to pay for it -- to the tune of about \$1 billion a year. The solution was to raise pharmacy fees for everyone enrolled with TRICARE Express Scripts. A pharmacy cost increase, which impacts all TRICARE Express Scripts pharmacy users, was approved in the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act. Free pharmacy items are still available, but only at military treatment facility pharmacies.

[SEE PRESIDENT CONTINUED ON PAGE 3](#)



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PRESIDENT FROM PAGE 2

I would encourage you to read about the activities the chapter supports within our community and headed by John Uhrin. John has detailed the activities in a separate article in this month's Tribute. The activities are grouped into four categories; Honor the Past, Support the Present, Emphasize Future Service and Other Community Events. Each of these community activities involve members of your chapter contributing their time and energy to accomplish outreach to veterans in the Hampton Roads area.

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

In Service, *John McLaren*



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 - Spring 2018 Update

Contributed to by CDR Linc Smith, USN (ret)

The purpose of this article is twofold. First, provide a brief snapshot of the results of the recommendations of the Joint Leadership Council (JLC) to the Virginia General Assembly this year. Second, summarize recent MOAA testimony before the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Virginia General Assembly 2018

This year, there were six initiatives presented for consideration by the Joint Leadership Council to the Virginia General Assembly. One of the initiatives passed: JLC 2018-01, Residency Requirement, Constitutional Amendment, Second Resolution. This resolution recommended that the process to amend Virginia's Constitution to provide parity for surviving spouses of 100% disabled veterans and those Killed in Action. The remaining five JLC initiatives did not pass the legislature due to budget concerns.

MOAA National Legislative Affairs

Moving over to MOAA National Legislative business, CDR Rene A. Campos (MOAA Senior Director, Government Relations for Veterans Wounded Warrior Care) testified before the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committee on 14 March 2018. Joining eight other witnesses of fellow Legislative Presentation of Multiple VSO's, the areas of her testimony were fourfold, as follows: Health Care Reform, Caregiver Support, Women Veterans and Toxic Exposure.

Held in the Dirksen Senate Office Building Committee on Rules and Administration (SD-G50) room, the full testimony can be viewed at: <https://www.veterans.senate.gov/hearings/legislative-presentation-of-multiple-vsos-03142018>

Selected Highlights of CDR Campos Testimony are as follows:

Healthcare Reform

"MOAA and our VSO partners worked tirelessly with VA and congressional leaders to protect, strengthen and reform VHA, including replacing Choice and consolidating Community Care Programs... We urge the committees to: Strike a bipartisan, bicameral agreement on legislation to enact Community Care reform and ensure full funding for VHA including resources to preserve foundational services."

Caregiver Support

"VA has done a stellar job over the years in implementing and fine-tuning its comprehensive support program for caregivers. But the need is great among all generations of veterans... MOAA is confident VA can expand caregiver support to veterans of all eras with the commitment from Congress and all stakeholders to find a common solution."

Women Veterans

"MOAA is confident VA can expand caregiver support to veterans of all eras with the commitment from Congress and all stakeholders to find a common solution... (MOAA Recommends) Enactment of the Deborah Sampson Act and ongoing congressional oversight hearings to ensure VA invests in women's health and benefit programs and complies with policies and standards"

Toxic Exposure

Finally, military members have suffered toxic exposures for as long as the U.S. Armed Forces have existed. It's time VA and DoD to work together to study and provide Congress the necessary data to assure care and benefits are in place and resourced when veterans will need them... MOAA recommends Congress: Invest and advance joint federal research on servicemembers exposed to hazardous toxins and establish a framework for improving data management systems to ensure health care and benefits are established to compensate and support veterans, family members, and survivors."

CDR Campos closed her testimony by saying, "Veterans and their families sacrificed so much during their service. To ask them to continue giving after service by funding their earned benefits or cannibalizing benefits to pay for another veteran benefit or program is asking them to go above and beyond what we expect other citizens to do for their country who did not wear the uniform nor put their life on the line."

Four days subsequent to the above discussed Joint Hearing before the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committee, House Chairman Phil Roe (R-TN) posted a statement on the Committee homepage urging support for Bi-partisan, Bicameral Agreement on VA reforms: <https://veterans.house.gov/>. Whether the passage of JLC 2018-01 in the Virginia Legislature this year or the aforementioned testimony before the Senate and House Veteran's Affairs Committee, our JLC and MOAA National is working 24/7 in advocacy for our veterans.



Community Affairs

CDR John Uhrin, USN (Ret)

I would like to share an update on the activities that the chapter supports within the community. We break up the activities into four categories that coincide with the MOAA Five Star chapter awards; Honor the Past; Support the Present, Emphasize Future Service; and Other Community Events.

To Honor the Past, we:

- Contribute to a couple of organizations that support the veterans (currently Virginia Veterans and Family Support and VETSHOUSE)
- Support the Honor Flight ceremonies twice a year
- March in the Memorial Day and Veterans Day parades in Virginia Beach and Chesapeake
- Attend the Chesapeake Mayors' breakfast to honor vets
- Partner with DoD to commemorate Vietnam Veterans 50th Anniversary

To Support the Present, we:

- Provide and present the trophies at the Cavalier Drill Meet for all the local NJROTC Units
- Hold a Toys For Tots luncheon with donation and collection of toys

To Emphasize Future Service, we:

- Conduct an annual scholarship fund drive in support of the local community
- Present special MOAA leadership awards (medals) to three ROTC and ten NJROTC units in the area
- Provide and present the commissioning GOLD BARS to the Army and Navy ROTC units from ODU, NSU, Regent University, and Hampton University
- Host the supported ROTC cadets and midshipmen at an HRCMOAA luncheon usually in conjunction with Toys for Tots

For **Other Events**, such as support the Hampton Roads Autobody Car Show, we show our support to other entities in the community. That is a main emphasis of our community affairs efforts which is to try and ensure that the community sees the involvement of the chapter in many facets of community life. All of these activities involve members of your chapter contributing their time and energy to accomplish that outreach.

The objective of this newsletter article is to solicit additional ideas and potential resources to enable the chapter to increase participation in the community. Anyone having additional ideas or thoughts on what we are currently supporting or should support in the future, please pass those thoughts to our Community Affairs Chairman, CDR John J Uhrin III, USN (Ret.) If you'd like to help with one or more of these events, also contact John. Every little bit of assistance helps. He can be reached primarily by email at juhrin3@verizon.net or by phone at (757) 689-8988.

NJROTC Drill Competition

On February 10, Princess Anne High School hosted an outstanding NJROTC drill competition for many of the local NJROTC units. The units competed in six different events throughout the competition. Congratulations to winner Green Run High School, along with Norview High School in second place, and Salem High School taking home third place.



*Green Run High School NJROTC
Trick Drill Team
Courtesy: CDR John Uhrin*



*Green Run High School NJROTC
1st Place Winner
Courtesy: CAPT Lou Giordano, USN (ret)*



*Salem High School NJROTC
3rd Place Winner
Courtesy: CAPT Lou Giordano, USN (ret)*



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.



Service Academy and ROTC Information Day
South Hampton Roads, Virginia



Date: Saturday, 21 April 2018

Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Place: Tidewater Community College, Virginia Beach Campus
1700 College Crescent, Virginia Beach, VA (Student Center)

Who Should Attend: 8th - 11th grade students (and parents) interested in pursuing an appointment to one of the nation's service academies and/or an NROTC/ROTC Scholarship. All are welcome!

Program: Presentations by representatives starting at 10:00 AM, to be followed by an opportunity for individual questions & answers

Presenters: Representatives from South Hampton Roads Congressional Offices, Service Academies, and ROTC units



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LUNCHEON FROM PAGE 1

budget passed for the Commonwealth. He went into great detail about Medicaid expansion being the holdup and he is working hard with all of his colleagues to craft the best solution.

At the conclusion of the senator's remarks, we transitioned to honoring our chapter's Surviving Spouses of Vietnam veterans who are no longer with us. CDR John Uhrin, USN (ret) did a fabulous job coordinating the local efforts of honoring all the Vietnam veterans of our local area during the Vietnam Veterans Program. Once again, John's planning and execution of this recognition at the chapter level was outstanding. Below you will see some of the photos taken in honor of our heroes.



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Vietnam Helicopter Pilot & Crewmember Monument Dedication Ceremony

The Vietnam Helicopter Pilot and Crewmember Monument Dedication Ceremony is scheduled for 4:00 PM, April 18, 2018 at the Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Amphitheater (located directly behind the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier). No tickets are required, and there are no fees. All are warmly invited to attend. At 4:50 PM following the retiring of the colors, a wreath-laying ceremony will commence with flowers carried from the amphitheater to the nearby monument located on Memorial Drive in Section 35, a short 75-yard walk.

Those wishing to honor their lost loved one or military unit with flowers are welcome to join the procession with their wreath or bouquet. Following the dedication ceremony, a reception will be held at 5:30 to 7:00 PM at The Women In Military Service For America Memorial (WMSAM) located near the cemetery Welcome Center at the west end of Memorial Avenue. All VHPA members and their families, Vietnam Veterans, Gold Star Families and distinguished visitors are invited to attend the post-dedication event.

It will be an honor to have you join with us on April 18, 2018, as we conclude the four-year effort to build and place the Vietnam Helicopter Pilot and Crewmember Monument within the nation’s most hallowed ground: Arlington National Cemetery. All are welcome to join us as we honor the young men who gave “...the full measure of devotion” operating rotary-wing aircraft in the Vietnam War.



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Patriots Colony Independent Living, sponsored by Riverside Health System, is a Continuing Care Retirement Community exclusively for retired and former military officers and retired and former federal employees and their spouses.

Coming Soon: April Luncheon



Guest Speaker will be Paula G. Moran, J.D., President and CEO of the USO of Hampton Roads and Central Virginia. She will discuss the mission of the USO and the services they provide locally for our military personnel and their families.

Dr. Moran has served in her role for about five and a half years. She received a Bachelor's degree in English in 1980 and a juris doctorate from the University of Baltimore's School of Law in

1987. She has worked for non-profit organizations for over a decade.

WHERE: Atlantic Shores, Chesapeake Room located in the main clubhouse (please note, we are not in the Magnolia Room)

TIME: Social-1100 hours, Lunch-1200 hours

MENU: Choice of one: **Chicken Picatta** or **Salmon Florentine** served with a house garden salad with cucumbers, tomatoes, shredded carrots, red onions (Italian & ranch dressings), roasted red potatoes, buttered broccoli, rolls w/ butter and a lemon meringue pie. Water, tea and coffee provided. Cash bar.

PRICE: \$25.00

RESERVATIONS / CANCELLATIONS: Reservations required by 1200 hours, Tuesday, April 17, 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

April Board Meeting (4/7) - 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) - Ms. Michelle Banks, TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) transition to FEDVIP; Atlantic Shores

October Board Meeting (10/13) - 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 (11/16) - 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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Regular Dues NEW
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2 Years: \$35.00
3 Years: \$45.00
Circle years & amount

Surviving Spouse Dues
1 Year: \$10.00
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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** Surviving spouse enter your Name and MOAA Number, where indicated.

Click on the above form to renew online (or print and mail)

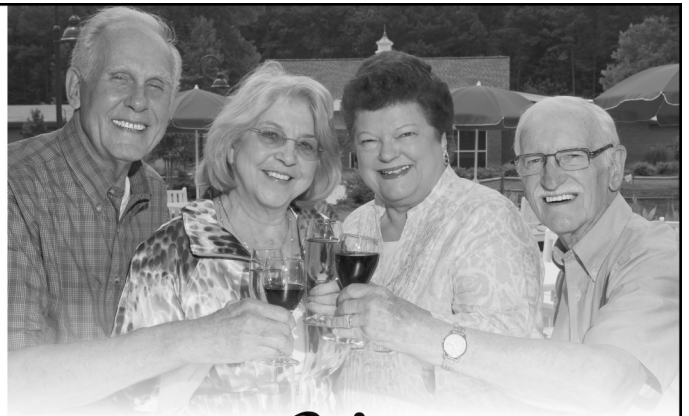


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MEMBERSHIP ALERT

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.

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April 2018

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**“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.

