



# THE TRIBUTE

The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the Hampton Roads Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
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VOL 43-NO 2

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April 2019

## 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



# I WANT YOU

It's wonderful that most of our members have been with us for many years. Unfortunately, we have recently noticed that we have some outdated information in our membership directory. If you have moved, changed phone numbers, or updated your email address in the last couple of years, **please ensure we have the latest contact info for you.**

Please send all updates to:

Email to: [hrcmoaa@cox.net](mailto:hrcmoaa@cox.net)

Mail: HAMPTON ROADS CHAPTER MOAA  
P.O. Box 4612  
Virginia Beach, VA 23454-0612



Visit our website at [www.hrcmoaa.org](http://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,

Our Hampton Roads Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America marks its 60th Anniversary this year. Our chapter was granted chapter status on April 23, 1959. In celebration of this landmark for our chapter, we will hold a commemoration celebration dinner and dance for our membership later in the year. Lieutenant General Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret.), CEO of MOAA, has accepted our invitation to attend and present the chapter with its 60th anniversary certificate. A committee is forming to plan the details but please mark your calendars and save the date of December 7, 2019 for this special anniversary event. It will be held at the Atlantic Shores Retirement Community in the Magnolia Room beginning at 6:00 p.m. As you can imagine, there are a number of things that go into the planning and execution of such an event and we could use help in making all the necessary arrangements. If you would like to help the 60th Anniversary planning committee in any way, please contact Bert Ortiz or me directly. Additional details will be published as we get closer to December.

Your HRCMOAA board, inspired and led by the efforts of our Second Vice President Bob Armour, is working hard to identify new ideas and approaches to help with recruiting new members – with a special focus on recruiting those currently serving on active duty. As I mentioned in my last message, we need every current member's help in sustaining and growing our membership to ensure our viability for the future. I am asking every current chapter member to bring at least one new member to our chapter this year. Invite someone who is eligible for membership to join you at one of our luncheons and help us explain the benefits of joining our chapter. Numbers matter and everyone in the chapter can help us improve those numbers.

SEE PRESIDENT CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

<b>HRCMOAA DIRECTORY</b>		
 PRESIDENT: 646-6448 <b>CAPT Loren Heckelman, USN (ret)</b>  SECRETARY (Acting): 495-3611 <b>MG John McLaren, USA (ret)</b>	FIRST VP: 482-1995 <b>CDR Bert Ortiz, USN (ret)</b>  TREASURER: 233-7218 <b>CAPT Doug Williams, USN (ret)</b>	SECOND VP: 426-1131 <b>Bob Armour, CDR, USN (ret)</b>  PAST PRESIDENT: 495-3611 <b>MG John McLaren, USA (ret)</b>
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<u>COMMITTEES</u>		
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**PRESIDENT FROM PAGE 2**

Upcoming events promise to be interesting to our entire membership and potential members. In April, we have Colonel Brian Anderson, USAF (Ret.), from MOAA Headquarters speaking to the chapter with an update on MOAA initiatives. May is our annual spouse appreciation luncheon with entertainment we are certain you will enjoy.

Finally, we continue to seek help with the work of the board. We are still searching for a chapter secretary but there are several other ways in which you can help depending on the time you have available and the amount of effort you can contribute. The more people working on a project, the less is required of each individual so please consider giving us a hand with setting up a single event, joining one of our committees or participating in one of the many ROTC and JROTC award and commissioning ceremonies we participate in throughout the course of the year.

Thank you for your support of the chapter.

Yours in service, *Loren Heckelman*



**Reminder — Time to renew Chapter Dues**

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

Dues for 2019 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 Update

*CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret)*

Chapter Legislative Affairs is haze gray and underway for Spring 2019. In this vein, the purpose of this update is threefold. First, present the MOAA National Top Priorities for 2019. Next, share the essential Legislative Affairs perspective of COL Dan Merry, USAF (Ret), MOAA National Vice-President, Government Relations. Finally, yet again remind our Chapter members of the MOAA Online Action Center.

### MOAA Priorities 2019

This year, MOAA Government Relations will engage the 116th Congress, with focus on the top 10 MOAA National priorities:

1. Ensure any TRICARE reform sustains access to top-quality care.
2. Prevent disproportional TRICARE fee increases.
3. Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector.
4. Stop erosion of compensation and non-pay quality-of-life benefits.
5. End financial penalties for military survivors.
6. End concurrent receipt penalties for military retirees.
7. Achieve equity of benefits for Guard and Reserve members with their active duty counterparts.
8. Strengthen DoD-VA collaboration/services to support wounded warriors and an expanding population of women veterans.
9. Ensure timely access to service-earned VA benefits.
10. Protect military and veteran family support programs and policies.

Details of the above listed MOAA priorities for 2019 can be viewed at: <http://www.moaa.org/2019Goals/>

### A Legislative Affairs Perspective

In conferring with COL Dan Merry at MOAA National Headquarters this last month, he offered some legislative affairs counsel. What are his basic views on Legislative Affairs? In short, he believes grassroots advocacy has great impact, particularly when you forge long term relationships with members of Congress and their staffs. The following are some of COL Merry's advice;

“Starting with letters and phone calls: as we hear from staffers, and from experience, we know personal letters (typed or handwritten) get attention – usually by the staff members who prioritize these for their Member. Keep them short enough to invite the read; include a salutary note that acknowledges them and thanks them for support (give previous example with specifics if available). Next, frame your request; i.e., “I am writing today to ask you to support H.R. 553, the initiative to repeal the forfeiture of a portion of their purchased annuity to offset the Dependency Indemnity Compensation from the VA. You may already be aware and supportive but I wanted to personally enlist your follow-on support as this is very important to me and many others beyond those surviving spouses.”

Then, follow up with a phone call to the staff, ensure you talk to as many of them as possible, get to know them by name and ask them directly if they saw your letter and if they made sure their Member had a chance to review it.

If you do this a couple of times it will be like learning to ride a bike – gets easier and the experience keeps getting better. In the end, our elected officials know their future depends on how well they take care of people like you, like us, who are very willing to engage the political process. Thank you for making this effort to join our army of advocates.”

### MOAA Online Action Center

In the spirit of COL Merry's above suggested approach for Legislative Affairs, and in advocacy of the MOAA Top 10 Priorities for 2019, continue to make your voice heard. A simple and effective manner to do so is by visiting the MOAA Legislative Action Center on the web, where we can both track and take action on the MOAA Top Priorities, anytime:

<http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/?tab=Legislative-Action-Center>



## F-14 Tomcat Obelisk Planned for Tribute to Naval Aviation

COL Jack Hilgers, USMC (ret)



The F-4 Tomcat Monument Association is supporting construction of a long-awaited addition to its very popular Naval Aviation Monument Park at the Virginia Beach, Va. oceanfront.

A ten-foot tall, four-sided, black granite structure memorializing the venerable F-14 Tomcat and all who supported one of the most recognized and famous fighter aircraft of Naval Aviation is being constructed, with target for completion and dedication in 2020.

The structure will feature laser-etched storyboard panels depicting aircraft operations, a tribute to maintenance and operational personnel, and a commemoration of those who gave their all flying the Tomcat. Board member CDR (Ret) Alex "Rattler" Rucker is our artistic director.

The only way we can complete this project is through contributions from our members and supporters. The target goal is \$100,000.

Rear Admiral (Ret) "Bad Fred" Lewis, president of the F-14 Tomcat Monument Association, a 501(c)(3) organization, said: "We have inaugurated a serious undertaking to erect monuments to the F-14 Tomcat that we were all

proud to fly and learned to love as we operated that glorious machine in peace and in war. To that end, we have established the F-14 Tomcat Monument Association here in Virginia Beach to solicit contributions to fund a project to memorialize not only the airplane but also the aircrew and maintainers who dedicated themselves to the airplane and its mission. Special recognition and tribute will be given to those who gave their lives while flying the Tomcat."

"I am pleased to say that we have gotten off to a rousingly good start. Our intent is to erect the first monument at the Naval Aviation Monument Park in Virginia Beach by 2020 with follow-on sites under consideration. In some way, all of you contributed to the success of the F-14 program and all of you need to have your association with the program recorded for posterity. What we are proposing to all of you and the thousands of other Tomcat veterans is an honorable way to have your efforts recognized. Please make that positive decision to help us make it happen."

There are three levels of contribution categories: Mach 2 Level - \$1,000; Mach 1 Level - \$500; and Afterburner Level - \$250; however, donations of any amount are welcomed. Afterburner, Mach 1 and Mach 2 donors will have their information (maximum 30 characters including spaces and punctuation) inscribed on the monument and should submit their name, call sign (as appropriate), rank and service with their donation.

They are an IRS designated 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and all contributions are tax deductible.

Contributions can be made by using the form on their website: [tomcatmonument.org](http://tomcatmonument.org).

The Tomcat obelisk will join several other monuments honoring Naval Aviation, aviators, aircraft, and aircraft carriers presently in the aviation monument park. Located at 25<sup>th</sup> Street and Atlantic Ave. at the Virginia Beach oceanfront, the park is visited by thousands of tourists and residents each year.

**ANYTIME, BABY!**



**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:

**April 9, 2019**

11:00am to 2:00pm  
Greater Norfolk Veteran HIRING EXPO  
Norfolk - The Murray Center; 455 E. Brambleton Ave., Norfolk, VA 23510  
<https://www.relianthiring.com/norfolk-veteran-hiring-expo.html>

**May 9, 2019**

11:00am to 3:00pm  
DAV/Recruit Military - Norfolk Veterans Job Fair  
Norfolk - Decker Half Moone Center  
<https://events.recruitmilitary.com/events/norfolk-veterans-job-fair-may-9-2019>

**May 30, 2019**

9:00am to 12:30pm  
Corporate Gray Military Friendly Job Fair  
Virginia Beach - Virginia Beach Convention Center  
<https://www.corporategray.com/jobfairs/407>

**August 1, 2019**

11:00am to 3:00pm  
DAV/Recruit Military - Hampton Veterans Job Fair  
Hampton - venue TBD  
<https://events.recruitmilitary.com/events/hampton-veterans-job-fair-august-1-2019#venue>

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Signature and Date \_\_\_\_\_



### February Luncheon



CAPT Kevin Buckley, USN, commanding officer of USNS COMFORT’s military treatment facility receives the Jefferson Cup from CAPT Loren Heckelman, USN (ret) after speaking at the February luncheon. CAPT Buckley discussed COMFORT’s primary mission: providing medical support to Marine Corps, Army and Air Force units deployed ashore, and naval amphibious task and battle forces afloat as well as it’s current configuration for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. CAPT Buckley explained the capabilities of the floating hospital to the chapter members in attendance and answered a number of questions from the audience.

### March Luncheon



Kenneth Reynard, Hampton Roads Harbor Tunnels Facility Manager was the guest speaker for our March luncheon. He discussed how the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is responsible for building, maintaining and operating the state’s roads (127,000 + lane miles), bridges (11,900 +) and tunnels. He shared some facts about tunnel traffic in the Hampton Roads area in 2018. The Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel (HRBT) was traveled by 27,764,540 vehicles and the Monitor-Merrimac Bridge Tunnel (MMBT) traveled by 21,602,830 vehicles. On average, 80,000-120,000 vehicles travel each tunnel every day. He presented a very informative brief about the HRBT expansion project estimated at \$3.66 billion.



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LEGISLATIVE FROM PAGE 4

**Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC) Update**

*Col James Smith, USA (Ret.)*

The Hampton Roads Chapter is one of 18 MOAA Chapters in Virginia which are a part of the Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC). VCOC functions to coordinate and facilitate advocacy issues concerning active and reserve military and their families, veterans and military retirees with both the Congress and the Commonwealth Legislature and Administration. The VCOC is a prime participant in the Joint Legislative Council (JLC), which includes many veterans organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, etc., and which also advocate for veterans issues.

The VCOC meets quarterly to review those issues, develop strategies and plans of action, and monitor actions being taken by the Commonwealth and Congress to address those issues. Important parts of this advocacy effort includes VCOC and its Chapters meeting in Washington with Virginia legislators, encouraging individual Chapters and their members meeting with their District Senators and Delegates to support and improve veterans programs, and encouraging individual Chapter members to use letters, emails and phone calls to advocate for veterans issues. Much of the progress made to enhance and improve active duty and veterans benefits is as a result of the contact, direct and indirect, made by MOAA Chapter members.

An effective way to make contact with your National Senator and Congressman is through the MOAA website ([www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)) and enroll in the MOAA Newsletter. The Newsletter is a members-only e-newsletter which provides information on a wide variety of topics important to you. The Newsletter includes legislative issues involving you and your benefits; up to date information on TRICARE and VA benefits; financial advice and guidance; transition and career information; and gives you access to the MOAA Newsletter. Once into the Newsletter, go to the TAKE ACTION drop down to see the issues that are most timely and which provides you with a draft message you can email to your Senators and Representatives. Once you are registered in the MOAA Newsletter, you will receive regular emails that bring you up to date on important issues, and an opportunity to continue to send an email to your Congressman. If you are not now an email subscriber to the MOAA Newsletter, do it now; its important!

The next VCOC meeting is scheduled for 3 April 2019 at the American Legion Headquarters in Richmond. The rest of the Quarterly meeting are scheduled for 17 July and 9 October 2019. Contact Colonel Jim Smith at (757) 425-5934 for further information.

**MOAA free e-newsletters**


Our HRCMOAA website is a one stop shop for all your MOAA needs. Conveniently, we have a link for you to subscribe to MOAA's free electronic newsletters mentioned above by Colonel Smith. Go to our website: [www.hrcmoaa.org](http://www.hrcmoaa.org) and click "publications" on the left menu, then email preferences. Then, follow the link to the MOAA site by clicking on the EMAIL PREFERENCE CENTER pictured to the right. Once the page loads, enter your e-mail address and select the newsletter choices that you are interested in receiving.

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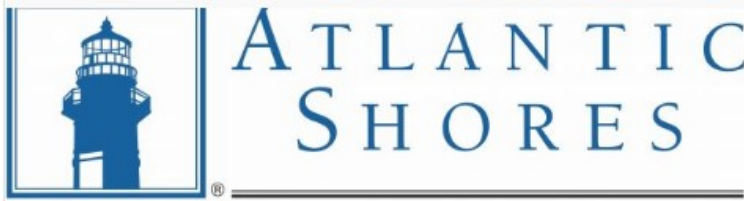

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*Coming: April Luncheon*

**WHEN:** Friday, 26 April 2019

**WHERE:** Atlantic Shores, Magnolia Room; 1200 Atlantic Shores Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23454

**TIME:** Social starts at 1100 hours. Lunch at 1200 hours

**MENU:** Menu is still TBD for this event. The great news is the food at Atlantic Shores is always great! Coffee, tea and water provided. Cash Bar. Keep an eye out in the mail for the luncheon mailer card with the menu details.

**PRICE:** \$25.00

**PROGRAM:** MOAA National Speaker - Col. Brian D. Anderson, USAF (ret), - Senior. Director Transition and Member Services).

**RESERVATIONS / CANCELLATIONS:** Reservations required by 1200 hours Tuesday, 23 April 2019.

Please RSVP to **Barb Smith:** 576-1114 (cell), 427-3475 (home) or e-mail: [barb4mom@cox.net](mailto: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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## SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER: MENTORS AND ROLE MODELS

*By Michelle Costello, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee*

You've probably been both a mentor and a role model, but do you know the difference between the two?

Children look to parents, teachers, coaches, or even older siblings or relatives as role models for inspiration on how to behave. Even adults seek to model themselves after those who appear to be successful or who they consider are worth emulating, such as famous leaders in history, professional athletes, and entertainers. It is important to remember, however, that role models can be positive or negative, and it is up to the individual to choose whose actions to follow.

Role models and mentors, though similar, are, in fact, quite different. Role models often are distant, having no actual connection or contact with those who admire them. A mentor, as described in Webster's Dictionary, is "a trusted counselor or guide," and because of a close relationship with his or her students, have a more profound impact. A mentor is someone who looks for ways to help others reach their full potential.

Whether we realize it or not, each of us has been a mentor and a role model at some time in our lives. Good mentors provide a positive influence on those around them by being willing to share the knowledge, skills, and expertise they have gained and developed. Effective mentoring takes work and enthusiasm; it requires the mentor to take a personal interest in his mentee, providing guidance and constructive feedback in an effort to grow that person to his or her fullest.

John Crosby aptly describes a mentor as a "brain to pick, an ear to listen, and a push in the right direction." As a leader, one should first practice the behavior desired for others to follow and then look for opportunities to share experience and learning to help the protégé "navigate a course to the destination." (John C. Maxwell)

[Article courtesy of MOAA's Surviving Spouse Corner](#)

<http://www.moaa.org/Content/Chapters-and-Councils/Council-and-Chapter-eNewsletters/Council-and-Chapter-News/Past-Editions/February-2019-Council-and-Chapter-News.aspx>

**UPCOMING**  
*Events*  
**2019**

The planning committee is hard at work developing a great events calendar for the year ahead. Below is listed a very tentative listing of events for 2019. Events will be updated in the next newsletter, but stay tuned to the chapter website for the most up to date information:

<http://hrcmoaa.org>

April Luncheon (4/26) - MOAA National Speaker - Col. Brian D. Anderson, USAF (ret), - Senior. Director Transition and Member Services). Atlantic Shores, Magnolia Room.

May Luncheon (5/31) - Surviving Spouse Appreciation Luncheon. Atlantic Shores, Magnolia Room.

June Luncheon (6/28) - Commander, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, VA. Location TBD.

Summer Multi-Chapter Brunch Mixer (July)

September Luncheon (9/20)

October Luncheon (10/18)

November Luncheon (11/15)

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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3 Years: \$45.00
Surviving Spouse Dues
1 Year: \$10.00
2 Years: \$17.00
3 Years: \$23.00

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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)

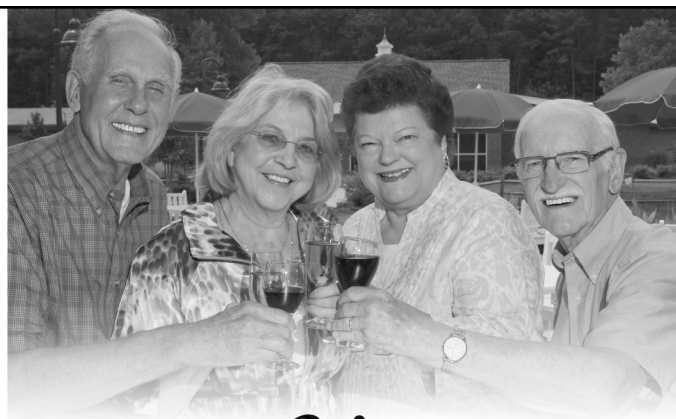


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**MEMBERSHIP ALERT**

*If the date on your mailing label shows 2018, your dues expire in December 2018. 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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*Rethink the idea of retirement.*