



THE TRIBUTE

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

June 2019

THE TRIBUTE

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



In This Issue

- 2 [President's Message](#)
- 2 [HRCMOAA Directory](#)
- 3 [President's Message \(cont\)](#)
- 4 [Legislative Update](#)
- 5 [Farewell \(cont\)](#)
- 6 [President's Message \(cont\)](#)
- 6 [Military ID Card Notification](#)
- 7 [Memorial Day Ceremonies](#)
- 8 [NROTC Awards & Commissioning](#)
- 9 [Commissioning Ceremonies \(cont\)](#)
- 10 [Upcoming Events - 2019](#)
- 10 [Green Run High School Awards](#)
- 11 [Membership/Renewal Application](#)

Chapter Bids Farewell to CDR John E. Vermillion, USN (Ret) *CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret)*



CDR John Vermillion passed away May 8, 2019. A great man, John had tons of support through the years from wife Marty, son JC, and daughter in law Tina. HRCMOAA Chapter President from 2003-2004, John's military career spanned 28 years in the United States Navy, retiring in 1983. He was a member of the Distinguished Flying Cross Society, Association of Naval Aviation, Military Officers Association and The Ryan Club. He graduated from George Washington University, with a B.A. in Business Administration.



John's service to our nation included extensive war service and bravery. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal (8), Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V", Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, Meritorious Unit commendation, Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, Vietnam Civil Actions Unit Citation, National Service Medal, and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. Throughout his flying career, he flew multiple aircraft, to include the S-2F Tracker, P2V Neptune, C-47 Skytrain, C-117 Skytrain, T-29 Flying Classroom and AP2H Neptune.

SEE FAREWELL CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

 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,

It is with heavy hearts that we inform you of the death of our friend, chapter life member and past president (2003-2004), CDR John E. Vermillion, USN (Ret.). John passed away on May 8, 2019. A memorial service was held on May 23, 2019 and he will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. John was a friend and mentor to all of us who joined the chapter board in the past ten years and always had a positive and encouraging word while selflessly sharing his wisdom and guidance on how to effectively lead the chapter.

By the time you are reading this issue of the TRIBUTE, your MOAA Chapter will have again participated in Memorial Day events in both Chesapeake and Virginia Beach. Hopefully some of you were able to attend these ceremonies marking Memorial Day and helping to remember those who gave their all for our Nation's freedom. Their sacrifice, and that of their families, must never be forgotten.

We have also completed the graduation and commissioning season at the many local area colleges and universities with ROTC programs. Your MOAA Chapter participates in these ceremonies and presents Gold Bar sets to newly commissioned Army, Navy and Marine Corps Officers. Old Dominion University held their annual spring U.S. Army and U.S. Naval Service ROTC commissioning ceremony on May 9, 2019 at the Ted Constant Convocation Center. The US Army's ODU Monarch Battalion commissioned 16 Second Lieutenants in the US Army and the Hampton Roads NROTC Unit, a consortium comprised of four universities and a community college (Old Dominion

University, Norfolk State University, Regent University, Hampton University and Tidewater Community College) commissioned 12 Ensigns in the Navy and one Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps.

Hampton University's Ogden Hall was the site of a first ever Joint Army/Navy Commission Ceremony held on Saturday 11 May 2019. The ceremony commissioned seven Second Lieutenants in the U.S. Army, Army National Guard

SEE PRESIDENT CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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PRESIDENT FROM PAGE 2

and Army Reserves and four Ensigns in the U.S. Navy. We also recently completed presenting NJROTC Awards at several local area high schools in the Hampton Roads area. We are always looking for additional volunteers from the chapter to help with these presentations. You will find the experience very rewarding and will be impressed with the youth of today who are interested in serving in our military services. To assist with the presentations, contact CDR John Uhrin, Community Affairs Committee Chair.

Maintaining membership remains our biggest challenge. We must stay relevant to the needs of our currently serving, former and retired officers and their spouses. We need your help in doing that with your fresh ideas and suggestions. Our 2nd VP recently authored a survey which was distributed via email to our membership. Thank you to those who responded to our recent survey looking for input on how we can improve what we offer to our chapter membership in the way of programs and events. The response rate was low but there were some good ideas which the board will explore to see what can be incorporated into our program planning. A summary of the responses is included in this issue of the newsletter. We welcome additional ideas and suggestions at any time. The best recruiters of new members are our current members. We need your help to grow and sustain our membership numbers. Please bring a potential new member to one of our events and introduce them to the chapter.

SEE **PRESIDENT** CONTINUED ON **PAGE 6**



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: Summer Update

CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret)

MOAA National Council Presidents' Seminar

During the week of April 8-11, I attended the MOAA National Council Presidents' Seminar 2019. The main event of the week was Storming the Hill, which included MOAA National visits to all 535 Representatives and Senators on Wednesday, 10 April.

Representing VCOC President COL Dan Warren, short notice, I was appointed team lead for the Virginia Storming Delegation. Our team membership included Admiral Walt Doran, USN (Ret), (MOAA Chairman of the Board 2018-2024), General Walter L. "Skip" Sharpe, USA (Ret), (MOAA Board of Directors 2017-2022), COL Frank Snyder, USA (Ret), (Chairman MOAA Scholarship Fund) CAPT Gordon Van Hook, USN (Ret), (Chairman MOAA Strategic Planning Committee), and Barb Smith, HRCMOAA Surviving Spouse. Our team schedule included both Virginia Senators, Senator James Inhofe (R-OK), (Senate Armed Services Chair), and 11 Virginia Representatives. We stormed on three primary issues: Military Pay and Benefits, Elimination of the "Widows Tax" (SBP-DIC Offset) and Stabilization of TRICARE Fees and Copayments.

VCOC Congressional Appreciation Luncheon 2019

Next, I represented our chapter at the annual VCOC Annual Congressional Appreciation Luncheon 2019 on 30 April, Capitol Hill Club, DC. As HRCMOAA Legislative Affairs Committee Chair, I was seated next to Congresswomen Eliane Luria (D-VA 2nd), establishing dialogue with her, to include mention of our Chapter Fall Legislative Luncheon, which, in turn, she mentioned as looking forward to during her remarks.



(L-R) Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA 11th) Staffers Molly Cole, Wayne Edmiston and MOAA Storming Team Mate CAPT Gordon Van Hook, USN (Ret)



With Congresswoman Elaine Luria (D-VA 2nd) and VIPMOAA President COL John Corson, USA (Ret)

In closing, two reminders

First, the MOAA National Top Legislative Priorities can be viewed anytime at:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2018-news-articles/advocacy/2019Goals/>

Second, looking Ahead: Congresswoman Elaine Luria (D-VA 2nd) is now scheduled as our chapter luncheon speaker on 23 August. Please consider visiting the MOAA Legislative Affairs Center online and attending our Fall Legislative Affairs Luncheon. Thank you for your ongoing support of our Chapter Legislative Affairs Program.

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



FAREWELL FROM PAGE 1

John's first assignment was with VP-10, an Anti-Submarine Squadron flying P2Vs out of Brunswick, Maine. He made deployments to Keflavik, Iceland\Port Lyautey, Morocco, and Rota, Spain. This was followed by a tour with VT-29, Navigation Training Squadron flying the C-47, C-117, and the T-29, in Corpus Christi, Texas. In follow on, John moved to Headquarters Support Activity flying the C-47 in support of the Republic of Vietnam Navy out of Saigon, Vietnam. Next, followed a tour in VP-1, the Anti-Submarine Warfare Squadron know as the "Screaming Eagles" out of Whidbey Island, Washington. His deployments were to Iwakuni, Japan and Saigon, Vietnam.



After John's VP-1 tour, he returned to the East Coast and Project Trim with the Weapon System Test at Patuxent River, MD. He flew the AP2H out of bases spanning coast to coast on test and development missions. After test completion, he was off to Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam for operational test and evaluation. Upon completing his tour, he moved to Commander, Naval Training Command (COMNAVTRACOM), Kenitra, Morocco flying the C-117 for mission support. Follow on tours included Fleet ASW School in Dam Neck, United States Naval Forces Europe (CINCUSNAVEUR), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Commander Maritime Air Eastern Atlantic (COMAIREASTLANT), and finally Pentagon Command and Control Center, Washington, D.C.

John's time in Vietnam included serving as Operations Officer for Project Trim and VAH-21, conducting night combat missions in Vietnam and on the Ho Chi Minh trail evaluating low light level TV and Infrared sensor systems for weapons delivery. He flew an impressive 6,277 accident free hours.

In the December 2004 issue of our Tribute, John penned his final letter to the chapter. He said, "As this will be my last memo to you as President, I would like to say thank you to all of our members, officers, directors, and committee members for their support during the past two years. It has been my pleasure to serve you and I look forward to assuming the duties of Immediate Past President. Keep Rolling."



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.

PRESIDENT FROM PAGE 3

Planning for the chapter's 60th Anniversary celebration is ongoing. 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 on December 7, 2019 at Atlantic Shores. Lieutenant General Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret.), CEO of MOAA, has accepted our invitation to attend and present the chapter with its 60th anniversary certificate. 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 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.

Finally, we continue to seek help on the board. We are still searching for a chapter secretary. This is an easy position to fill and a great way to learn how the board conducts its business in support of chapter membership. 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. Please consider visiting a board meeting, 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 our chapter.

Yours in service, *Loren Heckelman*

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Memorial Day Ceremony (Virginia Beach)

COL James Edge, USA (ret)



HRCMOAA participated in the VA Beach 2019 Memorial Day Ceremony on 27 June 2019. The Ceremony was well organized and conducted with dignity from the opening prayer through the conclusion with the playing of TAPS. It was well attended by our elected officials, active duty personnel, Veteran’s Organizations and most importantly the citizens of Virginia Beach. 30 organizations posted wreaths at the Memorial. Pictured here is COL Jim Smith, USA (Ret), COL Jack Hilgers, USMC (Ret) and COL Jim Edge, USA (Ret) presenting our wreath for posting at the Virginia Beach Veterans Memorial.

Memorial Day Ceremony (Chesapeake)

CDR Bert Ortiz, USN (Ret)

CDR Matt Krakower, USN (Ret) and CDR Bert Ortiz, USN (Ret) presented and rendered honors at the Chesapeake City Hall Veterans Memorial for the Chesapeake Memorial Day Ceremony and wreath laying yesterday, 27 May @ 1100. CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret), was the Master of Ceremonies. We were joined by our wives Sheila and Suzanne. Keynote speaker at this year’s event was Christina Murray, National President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association. The Grassfield High School Band provided the Armed Forces medley. It was completed with a 21 Gun Salute by the Training Company, Marine Corps Security Force Regiment and the playing of Taps, by MUC Peter Sutorius from the USFF Band. From left to right, CDR Bert and Suzanne Ortiz joined by CDR Matt Krakower.



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HAMPTON ROADS NROTC SPRING AWARDS CEREMONY REGENT UNIVERSITY

CAPT Mike "Breeze" Barea, USN (Ret)



The Hampton Roads Naval ROTC Unit held its annual Pass-In-Review and Spring Awards Ceremony at Regent University on Saturday April 13, 2019. Over 250 midshipmen were scheduled to march in formation in front of family, friends and senior military personnel. Unfortunately rain showers canceled this portion of the ceremony. Regent University has hosted the Spring Awards ceremony on their campus since 2014. The Hampton Roads Naval ROTC consortium is comprised of Old Dominion, Norfolk State, Hampton, and Regent Universities along with Tidewater Community College. It's the fourth largest NROTC in the country and the largest east of the Mississippi River. More than 40 students were recognized for their academic accomplishments, demonstrated leadership and military bearing from various Military and Civilian Organizations. Pictured on the left, CAPT Mike "Breeze" Barea, USN (Ret), Hampton Roads MOAA Board of Director and former Hampton Roads NROTC Unit Commanding Officer and Professor of Naval Science, presents the MOAA LEADERSHIP AWARD to Midshipman First Class (MIDN 1/C) Dylan Cox USN (Ret) Photo is courtesy of Lieutenant Colonel Claude Vann, III, U.S. Army (Ret).

Naval ROTC Commanding Officer CAPT Lenny Reed, USN and Consortium University representatives greeted the audience with opening remarks. The guest speaker was Rear Admiral Jesse A. Wilson JR., Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic. Son of a retired Navy master chief petty officer, he received a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the United States Naval Academy in 1986. He also attended the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California, earning a Master of Science in Operations Research and is a graduate of the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, where he received a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies. Additionally, Rear Admiral Wilson is a 2007-2008 Massachusetts Institute of Technology Seminar XXI Fellow and is a graduate of the Navy Corporate Business Course at University of Virginia-Darden. Rear Admiral Wilson is currently assigned as the commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic.

NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY (NSU) ROTC COMMISSIONING

COL Jim Edge, USA (ret)



The NSU ROTC Program, "Spartan Battalion," conducted an Army commissioning ceremony on May 3rd at the G.W.C. Brown Memorial Hall on the NSU campus. The ceremony was hosted by LTCOL Lisa Abel, Professor of Military Science at the university. Receiving commissions were Timothy Beaudoin (Signal Corps), Shaina Campos (Engineer Corps), Kayla Culbreath (Chemical Corps), Jamal McCoy (Engineer Corps), Julien Niyogushima (Chemical Corps), Jasmine Perpignan (Military Intelligence), Anita Satterthwaite (Quartermaster Corps), Romello Taylor (Medical Service Corps), and Terrance Womack (Transportation Corps). Three of the newly commissioned officers were the recipients of graduate degrees. Commissioning officer and guest speaker was Army LTGEN Darrell K. Williams, Director, Defense Logistics Agency. LTGEN Williams is a Distinguished Military Graduate of the Hampton Institute ROTC Program, graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College, and Distinguished Graduate of the National War College. He has

SEE COMMISSIONING CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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COMMISSIONING FROM PAGE 8

headed the Army's Combined Arms Support Command and the Army Material Command as well as serving in a wide variety of logistical command and staff assignments in CONUS and overseas. His awards include the Distinguished Service Medal and the Legion of Merit.

All the newly commissioned officers were presented with a set of Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Gold Bars by Colonel Jim Smith, Hampton Roads Chapter, as a symbol of their achievement and a reminder of their commitment to the defense of the nation. Following the commissioning, each officer was "pinned" with his or her shoulder boards by family members, and received traditional first salute by an enlisted member of the armed forces.

OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY COMMISSIONING

CAPT Mike "Breeze" Barea, USN (Ret)

Old Dominion University (ODU) Ted Constant Convocation Center was the site for the annual Spring US ARMY and US NAVAL SERVICE ROTC Commission Ceremony held on Thursday, 9 May 2019. The US Army's ODU Monarch Battalion, commanded by LTC Rhana S. Kurdi, USA commissioned 16 Second Lieutenants in the US Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserves. The Hampton Roads NROTC Unit, commanded by CAPT Lennie E. Reed, USN is a consortium comprised of four universities and a community college; Old Dominion, Norfolk State, Regent, and Hampton Universities along with Tidewater Community College. The Naval Service ROTC Unit commissioned 12 Ensigns in the Navy and one Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. A total of 29 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 a potential for future development in mind and character so as to assume the highest responsibilities of command, citizenship and government. Opening remarks were provided by University Representatives and the ceremony was honored to have, as its guest speaker, Major General (MGEN) Donna W. Martin, USA, Commanding General U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center of Excellence who provided keynote remarks and issued the Oath of Office.

MGEN Martin is a native of Yorktown, Virginia and graduated from Old Dominion University (ODU) with a B.S. in Criminal Justice. She was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Military Police Corps in 1988 and earned a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. MGEN Martin has served in every staff position from Battalion to Combatant Command (USPACOM).

MOAA Hampton Roads Chapter past president Colonel Jim Edge, USA (Ret) and Board of Director Captain Mike "Breeze" Barea, USN (Ret), attended the ceremony present-

ing GOLD BARS to newly Commissioned Officers following respective ceremonial first salutes.

JOINT ARMY/NAVY COMMISSIONING

Hampton University's Ogden Hall was the site of a first ever Joint Army/Navy Commission Ceremony held on Saturday 11 May 2019. The US Army's Hampton University Pirate Battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Lakicia R. Stokes, USA commissioned seven Second Lieutenants in the US Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserves. The "Charlie" Company NROTC Unit stationed at Hampton University led by Officer-In-Charge (OIC) LT Salvatore Sannuto, USN and Assistant OIC LT Jasmine Hilton commissioned four Ensigns in the Navy. A total of 11 students who will shortly be accepting more duties and responsibilities as they each report individually to their new combatant commands. Opening remarks were provided by University Representatives and the ceremony was honored to have, as its guest speaker, Lieutenant General (LTG) Darrell K. Williams, USA, who provided keynote remarks and issued the Oath of Office to the Army Cadets and CAPT (Sel) Timothy Moore issued the Oath of Office to the Navy Midshipman.

Following the Commissioning Ceremony, students held their "First Salutes" outside on the steps of Ogden Hall where significant individuals in each newly commissioned officer's lives rendered first salutes to the newly commissioned. Each individual saluting received a silver dollar from the officer as sign of gratitude and signifying that they were the first to salute them as officers. MOAA Hampton Roads Chapter Board of Director, CAPT Mike "Breeze" Barea, USN (Ret), attended the ceremony presenting GOLD BARS to newly Commissioned Officers fol-



lowing respective ceremonial first salutes.

Above, CAPT Barea congratulates Ensign Kennedy Maldonado. Looking on from left to right, Ensign James Beckwith, III, Ensign Kendall Sapp, Ensign Sherman Grant. Photo taken by LTC Claude Vann, III, USA (ret).



UPCOMING
Events
2019

June Luncheon (6/28) - Harbor's Edge, Norfolk, RADM Kavanugh, USS Wisconsin.

Summer Multi-Chapter Brunch Mixer (7/14) - Smithfield Station, Smithfield.

August Luncheon (8/23) - Aberdeen Barn, Virginia Beach. 4th Congressional District, Rep. Elaine Luria.

September Luncheon (9/20) - Atlantic Shores, Virginia Beach. CAPT Chris Melhuish, USN.(Ret) - 65th Commander of USS Constitution

October Luncheon (10/18) - Harbor's Edge. TBD.

Pizza and Beer Social (10/24) - The Casual Pint, 5-7PM

November Luncheon (11/15) - Atlantic Shores, Virginia Beach. Toys for Tots w/ USMC Speaker and ROTC.

HRCMOAA 60th Anniversary Celebration and Christmas Dinner Dance (12/7) - Atlantic Shores.

GREEN RUN HIGH SCHOOL JROTC AWARDS

MG John McLaren, USA (ret)

On May 8, 2019, MG (Ret) John McLaren presented the MOAA Leadership Award for Green Run High School to Cadet Breanna Coleson during their annual awards night. She exemplifies the leadership of young NJROTC students nationwide. Green Run placed second in the nation this year in competition for best NJROTC units across the globe. This sterling performance follows a second place finish in 2016 and two first place finishes in the competition in 2017 and 2018.



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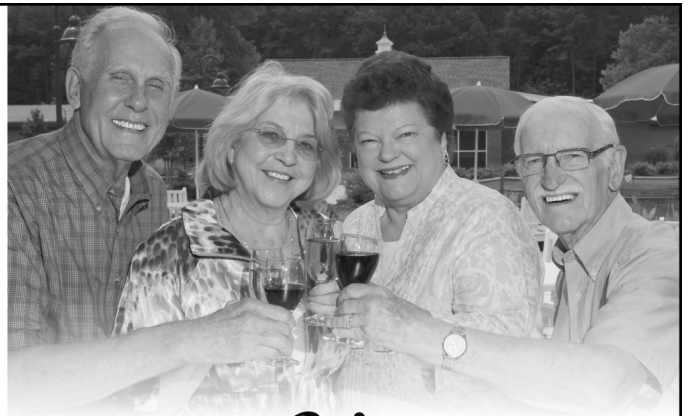


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You were proud to serve,
AND WE ARE PROUD TO SERVE YOU.



At Atlantic Shores you'll find comrades and mates who share your experiences, and a staff and community that honors and cares for you as you deserve. With a wealth of community activities and interest groups, you'll always have plenty to do. Don't feel like cooking? Atlantic Shores features three distinct dining venues and an award-winning culinary team. Situated on 100 beautiful wooded acres on the shores of Lake Redwing, our neighborhood is located within five miles of US Naval Air Station Oceana. The Commissary and Navy Exchange are conveniently accessible. In fact, within 10 minutes are major shopping districts, resort beaches, museums and performing arts. Secure and secluded, yet in the center of everything, at Atlantic Shores you have the freedom to create your perfect retirement – on your own terms.



CHECK OUT OUR
WEBSITE FOR
UPCOMING EVENTS AND
MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT THE
NEIGHBORHOOD.



Rethink the idea of retirement.