



THE TRIBUTE

The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the Hampton Roads Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
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VOL 44-NO 3

NEVER STOP SERVING

June 2020

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

OFFICER COMMISSIONING SEASON - VIRTUALLY!

Congratulations ROTC Class of 2020 - Virtually of Course!

By: CAPT Mike Barea, USN (Ret.)

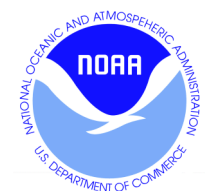


Despite COVID-19 restrictions and limitations, literally shutting down University and High School campuses throughout the region, HRCMOAA continued to support the myriad of Spring award presentations and commissioning ceremonies that normally occur this time of year. Assistant Director of Community Affairs and Board of Director CAPT Mike "Breeze" Barea, USN (Ret) personally visited respective University ROTC administration offices at Norfolk State University (NSU) and Old Dominion University (ODU) to hand deliver Spring Awards and Commission Ceremony Gold Bars and Congratulatory Letters that would be presented later on during virtual commission ceremonies.

On Thursday May 7, 2020 the first in a series of virtual commission ceremonies was initiated by the Hampton Roads Naval ROTC Unit headquartered at Old Dominion University (ODU). The virtual commission ceremony was broadcasted via ZOOM and YouTube for further review. The Hampton Roads NROTC Unit, commanded by Captain Michael C. Bratley, USN is a consortium comprised of four universities; Old Dominion University (ODU), Norfolk State University (NSU), Regent University (RU) and Hampton University (HU). The Naval Service ROTC Unit commissioned 19 Ensigns in the Navy and 5 Second Lieutenants in the United States Marine Corps. View the video later in the story or search Hampton Roads NROTC on YouTube.

The Norfolk State University Army ROTC Spartan Battalion conducted their commission ceremony over a three day period. The Spartan Battalion is commanded by LTC Lisa M. Abel, AG and commissioned 6 Second Lieutenants over these dates: Saturday May 9, 2020; Sunday May 10, 2020 and Monday May 11, 2020.

SEE VIRTUAL CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



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,



As we continue to experience the effects of the COVID-19 coronavirus, your chapter continues to put the health, safety and welfare of our chapter members at the top of our considerations in deciding about chapter events and activities. We are still not planning any events in the near term given the ongoing uncertainty with the reopening of facilities in the Hampton Roads area and also the continuing restrictions on the size of gatherings. We will keep you informed of any planned events via the newsletter and our website and we'll resume our postcard invitations once the luncheons are able to be held and are back on the calendar.

We held our May board meeting virtually using the Zoom meeting application. The meeting was successful, and committee chairs provided updates on activities within their respective areas – most of which are occurring virtually, by phone and by videoconferencing. Membership remains a top priority and we are continuing to follow leads for new members and encourage anyone who has let their membership lapse from 2019 or before to renew. As we have temporarily suspended the print copy of our newsletter, you can no longer find your membership expiration on your address label. If you don't know when your current membership expires, you can go to

the <http://hrcmoaa.org/memdir.shtml> and look up your name to let you know when you are up for renewal. If your membership expires at the end of this year, please consider renewing before 31 Dec 2020 to save us the expense of sending renewal notices.

In my last message, I mentioned that we were looking for chapter members interested in helping with community affairs, legislative affairs and newsletter/publicity. Since publication of our last newsletter, we did get a few volunteers to help with our Leadership Awards and Gold Bar Commissioning Ceremonies at the local ROTC units we support. Unfortunately, all of those ceremonies were held virtually due to the coronavirus so we were not able to participate in person. Thanks to the planning and preparation by CDR John Uhrin and Captain Mike Barea, your chapter still played an important and notable role in those ceremonies by providing medals, certificates and Gold Bars in advance of the virtual ceremonies. We will still welcome chapter members' assistance in the future when the ceremonies are once again conducted in a more traditional manner. If you can help with presentations in the future, please contact either **Captain Michael "Breeze" Barea, USN (Ret.)** at [Mi-chael.Barea@gmail.com](mailto:Michael.Barea@gmail.com) or via phone at 757-647-6876 or **CDR John Uhrin, USN (Ret.)** at juhrin3@verizon.net or via

SEE PRESIDENT CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

 HRCMOAA DIRECTORY 		
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PRESIDENT FROM PAGE 2

phone at (757) 689-8988. They will provide a detailed description of what is required and how to do the presenting. The attire for presenters is normally simply a coat and tie or suit, although you can wear your uniform if you so desire.

The bulletin board feature recently added to our chapter website (www.hrcmoaa.org) is still there but not getting a lot of activity for obvious reasons. Anything of interest to you can be posted to find other chapter members with similar interests. You can find the bulletin board under "Activities Board" in the left hand column of quick links. If you have questions or need help in how to use the board, contact our 2nd Vice President, Bob Armour, at bobpetraarmour@cox.net.

I'd like to remind everyone again about our ID Card Renewal Notification program. You can register the expiration of your ID card and the ID card for family members with Captain Jim Daniels on our chapter website. You can find the link to register by clicking on the "About Our Chapter" link on the left hand side. Once you click on "About Our Chapter", you will see a drop down listing on the left hand side that shows "ID Card Notification Program" or you can just scroll to the bottom of the page. This shows the information about the program. Then there is a graphic link to a page where you can fill in information and it will be sent to Captain Daniels who keeps the data on when renewals are due. There is a link to the registration form and you have to type in the code word shown on the page to jump to that form. You can also contact Captain Daniels via email at jakaoc@aol.com to register for your renewal notification. There is a new address for making ID

SEE PRESIDENT CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Reminder — Time to renew Chapter Dues

If you haven't renewed your dues for 2019, please remember that they expired on 31 December 2019.

Dues for 2020 remain unchanged from last year:

- \$20.00 for Regular Members (\$35 for 2-yr, \$45 for 3-yr)
- \$10.00 for Surviving Spouse (\$17 for 2-yr, \$23 for 3-yr)

Dues are payable by:

- Completing and mailing the form on Page 11, with payment, or
- Including payment with your February luncheon payment, or
- Visiting the MOAA website
<https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx>



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Community Affairs - Hampton Roads Chapter ROTC Scholarship Fund

CDR John Uhrin, USN (ret)

This past year, several of your HRCMOAA board members met with Ms. Andrea Rand, the director of the MOAA Scholarship program to request some changes to how scholarships in our chapter name were being awarded. As a result of our suggestions and input, the MOAA Scholarship Fund Board has agreed to make several important changes. Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the MOAA Scholarship Fund Board will give preference in awarding scholarships and grants to children with HRCMOAA chapter member parents. While not guaranteed to go to the child of a chapter member, those children applying for MOAA scholarships with a parent who is a chapter member will receive favorable consideration and the review board will give preference in awarding scholarships to those children. Regardless of whether the student's parent is a chapter member or not, students selected for MOAA scholarships in the chapter name will always be from the area represented by our Hampton Roads Chapter. Below is the status of our chapter scholarship fund both for this year and overall for the 5-year goal.

As of 6/3/2020	Total Goal \$25,000	\$12,168	49%	Need by 12/31/2022	\$12,832
	Annual Goal \$5,000	\$2,168	43%	Need by 12/31/2020	\$2,832

Thank you to all that have contributed and hope you will all continue to contribute in 2020 and beyond. The following is a breakdown of the chapter members who have contributed to the scholarship fund this year. [New contributions are shown in blue.](#)

2020 Contributions

PLATINUM - \$500 and above

CDR Roberto S. Ortiz, USN (Ret.)

CAPT Douglas B. Williams, USN (Ret.)

GOLD - \$250 to \$499

SILVER - \$100 to \$249

CAPT Derek T. Anderson, USN (Ret.)

Bronze Under \$100

CAPT Joan Canter, USAF (FMR)
CDR James M. Brunson, USN
CAPT Cynthia B. Piccirilli, USN (Ret.)

There are three ways of donating. All donations are tax deductible since the MOAA Scholarship Fund is a qualified IRS 501(C)(3).



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS UPDATE

CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret.), Chair HRCMOAA Legislative Affairs Committee

Amidst the nationwide COVID 19 crisis, our chapter legislative affairs activity has remained steady. For Spring 2020, we have maintained close contact with our Virginia Delegation. This noted, there has been one significant difference in the nature of the contact: due to the Coronavirus pandemic, legislative affairs is being done virtually, versus in person.

This update focuses on three legislative events. First, a Zoom Conference conducted with Congresswoman Elaine Luria (VA 02) in April. Second, telephone conference with the office of Congressman Rob Wittman (VA 01), in advocacy for the halt of military medical cuts. Finally, our MOAA National Storming event, which has been underway since 1 May.

ZOOM Conference with Congresswoman Elaine Luria (VA 02)



On 29 April, I joined Congresswoman Elaine Luria (VA 02) and fellow Hampton Roads Service Organizations in a Zoom Conference. The focus of the Zoom conference was to advocate support for H.R. 6573, purpose of which is, “to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense to temporarily waive cost-sharing amounts under the TRICARE pharmacy benefits program during certain declared emergencies.”

Introduced by Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE-At Large), the bill may be viewed at: [H.R. 6573 Help Our Heroes Medicine Act of 2020](#). Media present at the Zoom Conference included Defense trade press and WTKR-TV, News Channel 3, military reporter Mike Gooding.

MOAA National has endorsed the bill, narrative for which may be seen at: [House Bill Would Provide Relief from TRI-CARE Pharmacy Copays During COVID-19 Crisis](#).

Congresswoman Luria’s press release regarding H.R. 6573 may be viewed at: [H.R. 6573](#).

Telecons with office of Congressman Rob Wittman (VA 01)

In April, I conducted telecons with the office of Congressman Rob Wittman (VA 01), in order to advocate for the halt to reduction of military medical capacity. As posted on the MOAA Homepage, “MOAA continued its work on the Hill to stop cuts to military medical capacity with an April 3 letter to House and Senate Armed Services Committee leadership. The letter urges a provision in the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to stop medical billet reductions and end the downsizing of military treatment facilities (MTFs).”

The halt to military medical capacity issue may be viewed at: [Halt to Military Medical Capacity](#).

MOAA National Storming 2020, May and June 2020

Due to the COVID 19 crisis, the annual MOAA National Storming in DC, previously scheduled for 25 March, was cancelled. Instead, a virtual national MOAA storming is now underway, continuing the remainder of April and into June.

To the MOAA website: “While the ongoing pandemic forced the cancellation of in-person events connected to Storming the Hill 2020, MOAA will continue its advocacy mission with a Virtual Storm highlighting the need to protect the military health care benefit earned by millions of service members, past and present.” In the vein, the top two storming issues are:



PRESIDENT FROM PAGE 3

card appointments on line that I ran across by accident a couple of weeks ago. The new link is <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/#/>.

In spite of the temporary cancellation of our luncheons and other in-person activities, we are continuing our scholarship fund drive this year. Our chapter is committed to funding the HRC ROTC Scholarship Fund, which is managed under the MOAA Scholarship at MOAA headquarters. The scholarship fund supports qualified ROTC cadets in need with financial support in the form of grants and low interest loans. Our goal is \$25,000 over a 5-year program with annual goals of \$5,000. All donations are tax deductible since the MOAA Scholarship Fund is a qualified IRS 501(C)(3). As a reminder, there are three ways of donating to the scholarship fund. These three ways can be found on [PAGE 7](#) of this newsletter.

And as always, please consider introducing potential eligible members to our chapter. The best recruiters of new members are our current members and the best way to get a new member is through a personal contact. Dues are our primary source of income so maintaining and increasing membership is critical to sustaining our chapter and continuing to offer the luncheons, newsletter and other benefits of chapter membership. We need your help to grow and sustain our membership numbers – especially during this time of restrictions on our ability to hold luncheons and other events for in person gatherings.

Thank you for your support of our chapter. We hope to be back on schedule with luncheons and networking events just as soon as it is safe to do so. I look forward to seeing everyone again when that time comes.

Never stop serving!

Sincerely, *Loren Heckelman*



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have served us,
only the best will do.*

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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.

SCHOLARSHIP FROM PAGE 4

The **first** way is for members to submit their donations online by utilizing the following website URL (Although the chapter is not an input on that page, MOAA will credit the contribution to the chapter utilizing your name and address): <https://ebiz.moaa.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Default.aspx?TabId=171>

The **second** way is to submit a check, made out to the MOAA Scholarship Fund and mail it to:

MOAA Scholarship Fund
PO Box 1824
Merrifield, VA 22116-9917

Note on your check that it is for the Hampton Roads Chapter ROTC Scholarship Fund. MOAA will continue to send receipts.

A **third** way is to contribute directly from bequests, wills, trusts, or IRA's. The fund tax identification number is 54-1659039. By contributing from the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) of a qualified IRA, the taxable IRA income can be reduced by the amount of the contribution. The contribution check must be marked as a charitable contribution. With the change in the tax laws last year, some of our members have found this method to be beneficial. For additional detail, it would be best to contact your IRA fund manager for specifics relating to your IRA.

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: 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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Name: _____ ID CARD EXPIRE _____
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TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL _____
(Include area code)

Please notify me of my ID card expiration by: Tel: _____ E-Mail _____ Mail _____

Signature and Date _____



VIRTUAL FROM PAGE 1

Two students per day were individually commissioned. These ceremonies were broadcast on GOTO MEETING and were later placed on YouTube for further viewing. Click the link to visit the [Norfolk State Army ROTC YouTube](#) page and watch the commissioning ceremonies. If reading a hard copy newsletter, google Norfolk State Army ROTC YouTube to find the page on the internet.

The Old Dominion University Army ROTC Monarch Battalion conducted their commission ceremony on Saturday May 16, 2020. The virtual commission ceremony was broadcasted via ZOOM and You Tube for further review. The Monarch Battalion is commanded by LTC Camala L. Coats, MI and commissioned 18 Second Lieutenants. Sadly one student will be posthumously commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. See below for the video. If reading a hard copy newsletter, search ODU Army ROTC from the search bar at YouTube.

In each of the virtual commission ceremonies HRCMOAA was individually recognized and mentioned for their continued support and in its recognition efforts to deserving students through various awards, medals and congratulatory letters individually signed by the President of the Hampton Roads Chapter Military Officers Association of America. Over the course of these virtual commission ceremonies a total of 48 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. HRCMOAA is proud to actively participate in these ceremonies and witness a number of our country's youth take the oath to defend the Constitution and put service above self.



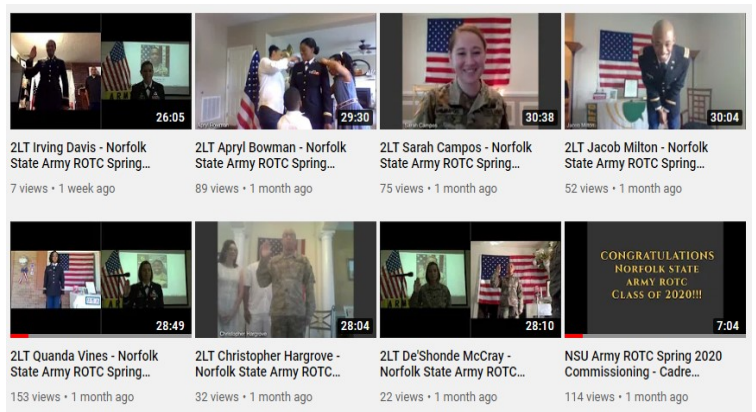
[Click above to view the Norfolk State University Army ROTC Cadre Congratulations Video on YouTube](#)



[Click above to view the Old Dominion University Army ROTC Commissioning Video on YouTube](#)



[Click above to view the Hampton Roads Naval ROTC Spring 2020 Commissioning Video on YouTube](#)



[Click above to view the Norfolk State University ROTC Spring 2020 Commissioning Videos on YouTube](#)





Naval Medical Center Portsmouth

COVID-19 Pharmacy Changes

EFFECTIVE APRIL 27, 2020

To maximize the safety of our patients and reduce crowding in the pharmacy lobbies, NMCP is enacting the following changes to pharmacy services.

NMCP and the Branch Health Clinic pharmacies will no longer fill any **NEW HARD COPY CIVILIAN** prescriptions, with the exception of controlled substances.

Controlled substance prescriptions can be dropped off at Oceana, Norfolk, Boone or NMCP.

Non-controlled prescriptions need to be sent to a military pharmacy electronically or filled at a retail network pharmacy of your choice that accepts TRICARE.

****REMINDER FOR ALL OTHER MEDICATIONS – PLEASE FOLLOW THESE STEPS****

1. All medications must be sent electronically by your provider to the pharmacy.
2. If your prescriptions are sent electronically by your provider, you can IMMEDIATELY initiate your prescription by calling the **NMCP Pharmacy Call Center** at **757-953-0258**.
3. A pick up date and time will be assigned to pick up your prescription at one of the following locations (please allow for a **two** business day turnaround time):
 - Oceana Pharmacy Drive Thru (M-F 0700-1600)
 - Norfolk Walk-In Pharmacy (M-F 0700-1600)
 - Boone Pharmacy Drive Thru (M-Sat 0730-1700)
 - Scott Center Annex Pharmacy Drive Thru (M-Sat 0700-1800 & Sun 0730-1600)

Due to the high volume of calls, you may experience long wait times.

**** Prescription refills must still be called in through AudioCARE at 757-953-6337 ****

The NMCP Pharmacy Call Center is open Monday - Saturday from 0730-1900. For more information call 757-953-0258 or ask any of our staff members.

Thank you for your cooperation, patience and understanding as NMCP continues to ensure the safety of our patients, staff and our community.



UPCOMING Events 2020

Dear members of the Hampton Roads Chapter of MOAA, In consideration of the ongoing issues with COVID-19 coronavirus, and wanting to ensure we employ every caution to protect the health and welfare of our chapter membership, all Hampton Roads Chapter of MOAA events scheduled in the near term have been cancelled. Additionally, we will not schedule any events until the concerns regarding COVID-19 in our local area have subsided. We do not want to put any of our members at risk. If you have any questions at all regarding this message or any of our chapter events, please feel free to contact HRCMOAA Chapter President, CAPT Loren Heckelman, USN (ret) directly at Loren.Heckelman@cox.net or via phone at 757-646-6448.

Thank you for your understanding.

Events that have been rescheduled/cancelled/TBD:

August Luncheon (8/21) - Legislative Speaker; Atlantic Shores, VA Beach.

September Luncheon (9/18) - General Officer from the Army's Training & Doctrine Command; Atlantic Shores, VA Beach.

Old Dominion Honor Flight Mission #2 (10/10) - has been rescheduled for Saturday October 10, 2020

October Luncheon (10/23) - TRICARE/Dental Benefits; Atlantic Shores, VA Beach.

November Luncheon (11/20) - Toys for Tots w/ USMC Speaker and ROTC; Atlantic Shores, VA Beach.



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Chapter Membership or Renewal Application
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Join or Renew on-line: www.hrcmoaa.org/join.shtml

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Make checks payable to HRCMOAA

Table with columns: Regular Dues, NEW, RENEWAL, Surviving Spouse Dues. Rows for 1 Year, 2 Years, 3 Years.

Please print (If renewing, enter only your name and information that has changed)

Form fields for Date, Recruiter, Name, Grade, Service, Component, Status, Dates, Retired Date, Spouse's Name, E-mail address, Mailing Address, Home Phone, Work Phone, Cell Phone, Member of National MOAA, Not a National MOAA member yet?, Enclosed is \$, Signature.

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



LEGISLATIVE FROM PAGE 5

- 1. Thanking Congress for passage of the elimination of the SBP-DIC Offset "Widows Tax".
2. Halting Cuts to military medical capacity.

All in our chapter are welcome to join MOAA virtual storming 2020, details of which may be viewed at: MOAA Virtual Storming 2020.

Closing

In closing, a reminder that the MOAA Online action center is located at: MOAA Take Action : http://takeaction.moaa.org.

There are three primary sections to the action center:

- take action
• contact your representatives
• key bills

The MOAA legislative action center remains a safe manner for all members of our chapter to make their voice heard with our Virginia Delegation. As we continue into 2020, thank you for your support of our Chapter Legislative Affairs program.

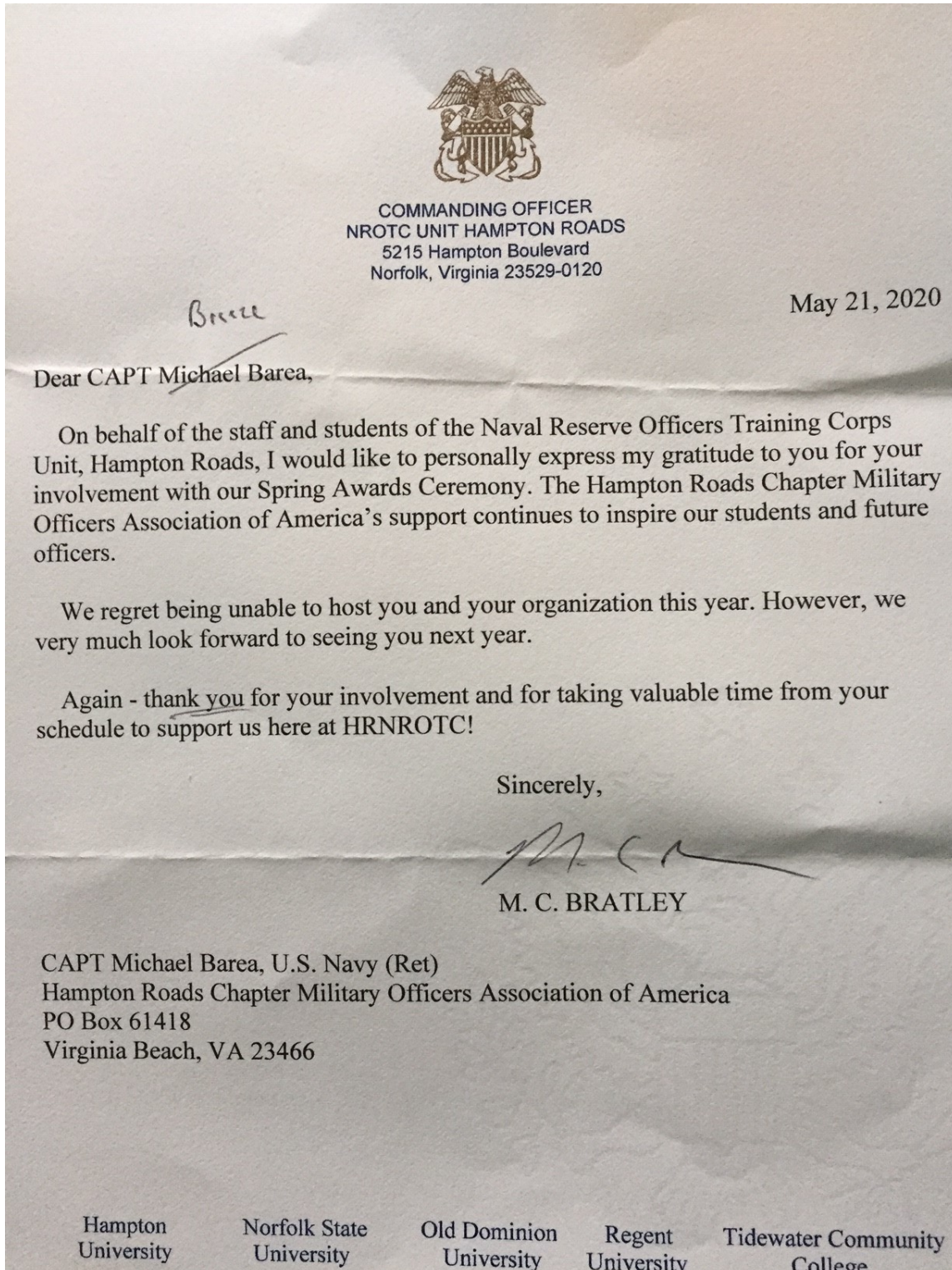


Bonus Content - Electronic Newsletter Only

Hampton Roads Naval ROTC Thank You

CAPT Mike Barea, USN (Ret.)

Our chapter continues to support local ROTC units. Below is a thank you letter we received from HRNOTC acknowledging HRCMOAA's continued support in commission ceremonies.



West Point - The U.S. Military Academy Class of 2020 Graduation

Shared by CAPT Loren Heckelman, USN (Ret.)

The U.S. Military Academy at West Point held its graduation and commissioning ceremony for the Class of 2020 on The Plain in West Point, New York, June 13, 2020. This year, 1,113 cadets graduated. Among them were 12 international cadets. The class includes 229 women, 132 African-Americans, 103 Asian/Pacific Islanders, 102 Hispanics and 10 Native Americans. There are 143 members who attended the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School (125 men and 18 women). There are 59 class members who are prior service, eight of those are combat veterans. In attendance were commencement speaker President Donald J. Trump, Secretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy and Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. James C. McConville.

Click on the picture below to watch the graduation and commissioning ceremony.



UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
WEST POINT



78th Anniversary of the Battle of Midway

Shared by CDR Bob Armour, USN (Ret.)



Observing the 78th Anniversary of the Battle of Midway

“The Battle of Midway is an enduring reminder of American resiliency and resourcefulness.”

Dr. J. Phillip London

The Battle of Midway, June 4-7, 1942, is often considered the U.S. Navy’s most decisive naval battle, yet the opposing fleets never actually met on the water. It was fought almost entirely with aircraft, launched from both carriers and by land, in a combat environment that tested the courage and willpower of the naval aviators of both sides. It was a struggle in which a numerically inferior U.S. Navy beat back a massive Japanese attack with air power and, most critically, intelligence. We take great pride in honoring this victory.

The Japanese Strategy

America’s Midway Islands were home to U.S. submarine and seaplane bases, and served as a forward staging point for American bombers. While the islands were not of great military value, Japanese Combined Fleet Commander Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto sought to use them to lure American naval forces into a trap and cripple U.S. Pacific power. Occupying Midway would also extend Japan’s defensive perimeter and position them for further attacks in the Pacific, and a possible invasion of Hawaii.

Yamamoto’s plan was to attack Midway and draw U.S. carriers into the battle, where they would be surprised and outgunned by Yamamoto’s huge fleet of carriers, aircraft, and warships. He believed his superior force and the element of surprise would deal a fatal blow to the U.S. Pacific Fleet. What he did not know was that U.S. Naval Intelligence had already discovered his plans.



The Midway Atoll islands were the scene of a decisive naval battle that marked the beginning of America’s naval supremacy in the Pacific.

The Intelligence Breakthrough

Weeks before the battle, naval radio operators began detecting communications Yamamoto had dispatched to prepare his forces. U.S. signals intelligence analysts led by Commander Joseph Rochefort and Pacific Fleet Intelligence Officer Lt. Commander Edwin Layton also had exceptional knowledge and understanding of the Japanese language and culture. By May 16, American codebreakers at Station Hypo in Hawaii were in possession of much of Yamamoto’s plans: the date, time, and location of the attack; the strategic order of battle; and the locations of Japanese ships. Armed with this stunning intelligence, U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander Admiral Chester Nimitz had all the information he needed to turn the tables on Yamamoto and let the element of surprise work for *him*.



Navy cryptanalyst Joseph Rochefort helped break the Japanese Flag Officers Code, providing a decisive advantage to American forces.

The intelligence showed that the Japanese would lead their assault with the First Carrier Striking Force, commanded by Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo. Nagumo had led the attack on Pearl Harbor just six months before and was now steaming toward Midway with a fleet that included four aircraft carriers, two battleships, three cruisers, and 11 destroyers.

To counter this, Nimitz placed his own carriers – the *USS Enterprise*, *Hornet*, and *Yorktown*, which had been damaged a month earlier during the battle of the Coral Sea – on Nagumo’s flank, northeast of Midway. As Nagumo sped to Midway, Nimitz’s carriers lay in wait.

Battle in the Skies

Yamamoto began his attack in the early morning of June 4, 1942, sending 108 dive bombers, torpedo bombers, and fighter escorts of 36 planes each to



MIDWAY FROM PAGE 14

raid Midway. American scout planes had found the Japanese early that morning. Planes were launched from Midway itself to meet the Japanese ships. Among the aircraft, nine B-17s took off for the first air attack from Midway finding Rear Admiral Raizo Tanaka's transport group. Initial strikes did not go well. Under heavy anti-aircraft fire, their crews reported hitting four ships, but no significant damage was inflicted. However, the American forces were decisively repelled by Nagumo's own planes and withering fire from his ships. Nagumo then ordered his planes to land, refuel, and rearm for a counterattack. But this, too, Nimitz had considered

At approximately 10am Pacific time, the Japanese planes prepared their counterattack. Nimitz's Rear Admirals Raymond Spruance and Frank Fletcher were already ahead of them. Dive bombers from the *Yorktown* and *Enterprise*, dove in undetected from 15,000 feet. In a matter of seconds, they dealt lethal blows to three of Nagumo's carriers, leaving them listing and aflame, and soon knocked out the fourth.

Among the brave pilots was LTj.g. Jack "Dusty" Kleiss from the *USS Enterprise*'s elite Scouting Squadron Six. Kleiss took his SBD Dauntless into a near-vertical dive amid blistering anti-aircraft fire and released three bombs which fatally struck the deck of the Japanese carrier *Kaga*. Later that day, he also struck the carrier *Hiryu* and two days later contributed to the destruction of the cruiser *Mikuma*. Kleiss was the only pilot from either side to land hits on three different ships, which crippled the once-fearsome Japanese fleet. I received an author's signed copy of Dusty's book *Never Call Me A Hero*.



U.S. Navy Douglas SBD-3 "Dauntless" dive-bombers attacking a Japanese heavy cruiser at the Battle of Midway.

Another brave pilot was Lt.jg (later RADM) Paul Holmberg, part of a carrier-based Bombing Squadron THREE (VB-3), SBD-3 scout bomber attached to the *USS Yorktown*. Holmberg scored a direct hit on the Japanese carrier *Akagi*, one of the carriers which launched the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor six months previously. After attacking the Japanese aircraft carrier *Soryu*, Holmberg and others were unable to land on *Yorktown* after she was hit and temporarily stopped by Japanese dive bombers. Nearly out of fuel, he ditched successfully near the *USS Astoria*. I had the privilege of meeting him while I served as aide and administrative assistant to the Vice Chief of the Naval Material Command in 1969.

By the morning of June 5th, the battle was effectively over. While small strikes occurred over the next few days, in the end the Japanese suffered a crushing defeat, one heavy cruiser sunk and another wrecked, losing all four carriers, 322 aircraft, and over 5,000 sailors. On the American side, 147 aircraft, the *Yorktown*, a destroyer, and more than 300 seamen were lost. There was also extensive damage to installations at Midway, moderate damage to installations at Dutch Harbor, and Attu and Kiska islands were lost. The Japanese Navy never recovered, and the tide of war in the Pacific was turned.



Admiral Chester W. Nimitz anticipated the Japanese attack following U.S. codebreaking efforts, soundly defeating the Japanese First Carrier Strike Force.

In a June 6th communiqué, Nimitz magnanimously noted: "Through the skill and devotion to duty of their armed forces of all branches in the Midway area our citizens can now rejoice that a momentous victory is in the making."

On the 77th anniversary of the Battle of Midway, let us all celebrate our U.S. Navy and all those who served victoriously in this battle.



MOAA Magazine Features One of Our Own

CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret.) is pictured below as featured in the June edition of MOAA Magazine. Turn to page 92 of your magazine or visit the electronic version at: <https://www.qgdigitalpublishing.com/publication/?i=659993&ver=html5&p=94>



THEY PAY ME FOR THIS
Cool jobs under the radar.

IN HIS WORDS:
Cmdr. Lincoln
Stephen Smith,
USN (Ret)
LIFE MEMBER
Podcast host

'So that delicate balance between the national security of the U.S. and the freedom of the press, it's got to be there.'

Lincoln Stephen Smith is a former naval surface line officer, public affairs officer, and broadcast journalist who spent decades telling the Navy story. Smith launched his own interviewing platform, *Linc Interviews*, in 2018.

FACT-FINDING MISSION
I love broadcasting, interviewing in particular. I did it in college and throughout my Navy career and working in the radio industry. The purpose of this interview series is to be fact-based — what do you think based on facts, not editorializing? That's a big thing with us, and I think people are hungry for that.

HONESTY VS. DIPLOMACY
Sometimes there's things you can't say in the name of national security. But the public pays for our defense through tax dollars, and they have a right to know what we're doing with the money. So that delicate balance between the national security of the U.S. and freedom of the press, it's got to be there.

POSING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS
I have no problem forwarding questions in advance to the interviewee, so you can get some better answers. The quality is what I'm interested in.

STORIES TOLD, TRUTH DISCOVERED
I've interviewed mayors, governors, senators. I've interviewed folks on the street, almost homeless. I've interviewed people in the medical profession, people in the entertainment profession. And it's fascinating. I love asking someone about something, letting them say it, and then letting the listener decide what they think. ||||

— By Todd Gilchrist

 You might recognize Lincoln Stephen Smith's silver tongue from MOAA's video highlighting our 2019 milestones. Visit www.moaa.org/2019-video for a recap.

IMAGES: PHOTO COURTESY LINCOLN SMITH FOR THE RELEVANT ARTISTS SOCIETY IMAGES



Surviving Spouse Corner: The Benefits of a Canine Companion

By Georgie Sutor, Surviving Spouse Advisory Council member



“For me, a house or an apartment becomes a home when you add one set of four legs, a happy tail, and that indescribable measure of love we call a dog,” said Roger Caras, president emeritus of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

I couldn’t agree more. Dogs truly are loving, protective, understanding canine members of our families. Science tells us dogs feel our moods and bring comfort when needed, as well as great amounts of humor and wonder.

For seriously wounded members of the military, a dedicated companion dog can help with the healing and recovery process. Because each of these specially trained canines is able to read human body language, there is a dedication to meeting physical and emotional needs, while forming trusted relationships and achieving a sense of human independence.

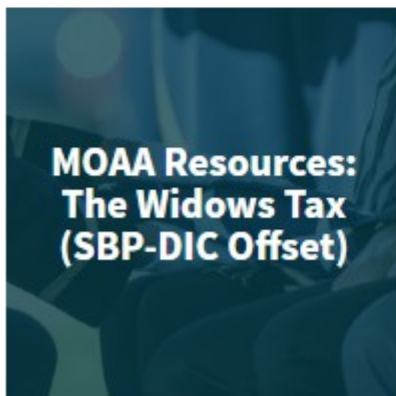
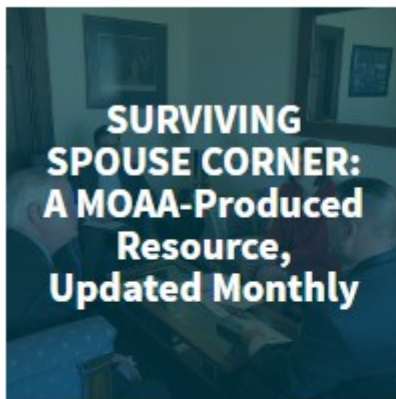
As a strong advocate of rescued pet adoption, for the past three years, I have had the joy of having Shih Tzu rescue brother and sister, Tye and Sadie, as members of my family. While sheltering in place during the COVID-19 pandemic, Tye and Sadie have kept me active with four walks a day and laughing, and I think they are quite happy to have me at home — most of the time.

Written content courtesy of MOAA: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2020-news-articles/surviving-spouse-corner-the-benefits-of-a-canine-companion/>

Photo by Bread and Butter Productions via Getty Images

Click below on the picture to go to Surviving Spouse Resources on the MOAA Website

SURVIVING SPOUSE RESOURCES



Blue Angels and Thunderbirds

Shared by CAPT Loren Heckelman, USN (Ret.)

Click on the video screen shots below to watch some awesome military aviation. The first video is of the Navy's flight demonstration squadron. The second video is of the Blue Angels and Thunderbirds flying together over New York City.



U.S. Navy's Blue Angels flying over Downtown Detroit during "American Strong" flyover tour.



Blue Angels and Thunderbirds fly together over New York City.



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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.



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Rethink the idea of retirement.