



THE TRIBUTE

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**NEVER STOP
SERVING**

December 2020

THE TRIBUTE

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



Legislative Affairs Update: November 2020

By: CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret) - Legislative Affairs Committee Chair



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Our Fall 2020 Legislative Affairs update provides spotlight on two events. First, the Fall Joint Leadership Council (JLC) meeting, held on 21 October. Next, presentation of the Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOA) Federal and State Legislator of the Year Awards. This fall update closes with an important reminder to visit the MOAA Take Action Center online, and advocate for: Pass a Budget, on Time, to Avoid Damage Caused By Continuing Resolutions.

Joint Leadership Council

The Virginia Joint Leadership Council conducted their Fall meeting on 21 October at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond. During the October 21, 2020 meeting, the JLC adopted the following seven initiatives for 2021, then forwarding to Department of Veterans Services and the Virginia General Assembly:

JLC 2021-01 (Income Tax Subtraction for Low-Income Veterans)

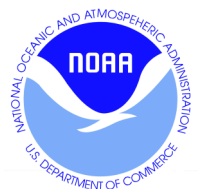
JLC 2021-02 (Tax Credits for Employers who Hire Nat'l Guard & Reserves)

JLC 2021-03 (Expand Tax Relief for Surviving Spouses)

JLC 2021-04 (Disabled Veteran State Park Passport)

 Hampton Roads Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

SEE LEGISLATIVE CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



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,

In some ways the year has gone by in the blink of an eye and in others, I have found myself wondering if we'll ever get through 2020 and all the unusual challenges we have faced here locally and across our great country. As we head into the holiday season, it's important to remember the blessings and freedoms we have as Americans and all that we have to be thankful for.

Your chapter board continues to put the safety and welfare of our membership at the forefront of everything we are doing as a chapter. For that reason, we have not resumed any in-person activities and do not foresee any at least until we see what the new calendar year brings with respect to the virus.

This is the time of year where we start to contact those members whose membership is expiring at the end of December. We would greatly appreciate you taking early action to renew and would like to remind you that by far the best deal for chapter membership is to renew for three years at the discounted rate of \$45.00 for regular dues and \$23.00 for surviving spouse dues. Your membership is important to our chapter and we thank you in advance for your continued membership and support.

I'd also like to remind everyone about our Scholarship Fund Drive. You'll find an update of our current status in this newsletter but I'd like to mention that we are short about \$1,132 for our calendar year 2020 goal of \$5,000. Anything you can do to support our scholarship fund would be greatly appreciated. As a reminder, if you contribute directly from the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) of a qualified IRA, the taxable IRA income can be reduced by the amount of the contribution. For additional details, it would be best to contact your IRA fund manager or tax accountant for specifics relating to your IRA.

Thank you for your continued support of our chapter. I look forward to seeing everyone again when it is safe for us to get back on schedule with our luncheons and other events and activities. I hope you and your family have a happy and safe holiday season and remain healthy in these unusual and challenging times. As always, if there is anything your HRCMOAA chapter can do to help you or your family, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Never stop serving!
Sincerely, *Loren Heckelman*

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FROM THE EDITOR



As a crazy year comes to a close, there are many things I'm thankful for. First and foremost, I'm blessed with an awesome family both at home and work. I count those blessings every day.

I also am thankful for my fellow HRCMOAA members and the great work that chapter members are doing to support our active duty, retired, and former service

members each and every day. In addition to being a National MOAA member, the benefits of being a member of our local chapter our outstanding and often overlooked.

For only \$45.00, membership can be secured for three years. Growing our membership is paramount as we have so much to do. Our chapter continues to support local high school NJROTC units, college ROTC units, and our HRCMOAA Scholarship Fund. Additionally, our chapter maintains a robust transition assistance program and access to a jobs network for veterans transitioning to the civilian world.

Each edition of the Tribute features a legislative update to keep our members informed on what the latest national and local issues for our benefits. More importantly, information on how to get involved is provided to help you join us in making a difference.

I'm super proud of both our support for surviving spouses and personal affairs for the loved ones of our members who are no longer with us.

When you're done reading this newsletter, please share it rather than recycling it. Please tell your friends who are eligible for membership about us, what we're doing, and encourage them to join the chapter.

Happy holidays, *Aaron Zielinski*

Reminder —Time to renew Chapter Dues

If you haven't renewed your dues for 2020, please remember that they expire on 31 December 2020.

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
- Visiting the MOAA website <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx>



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Community Affairs - Hampton Roads Chapter ROTC Scholarship Fund

CDR Bob Armour, 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 10/27/2020	Total Goal \$25,000	\$14,118	56%	Need by 12/31/2022	\$10,882
	Annual Goal \$5,000	\$4,118	82%	Need by 12/31/2020	\$882

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

CAPT Loren V. Heckelman, USN (Ret.)

COL Jack Hilgers, USMC (Ret.)

COL Merlin V. Statzer USMC, (Ret.)

CDR Robert C. Armour, USN (Ret.)

Maj. Clifton G. Furedy USAF, (Ret.)

LCDR Aaron J. Zielinski, USN (Fmr)

SILVER - \$100 to \$249

CAPT Derek T. Anderson, USN (Ret.)

CAPT Gilbert L. Kraine, USCG (Ret.)

CDR Carl A. Thoren, USN (Ret.)

Bronze Under \$100

CAPT Cynthia B. Piccirilli, USN (Ret.)

LtCol Carl W. Carrell, USMC (Ret.)

CDR James M. Brunson, USN

CAPT Joan Canter, USAF (FMR)

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



LEGISLATIVE FROM PAGE 1

JLC 2021-05 (Reduced Price Annual Pass to State Parks for Guard Members)

JLC 2021-06 (No Cost License Plate for Guard Members)

JLC 2021-07 (Partial State Tax Exemption for Military Retirement)

Further details regarding these initiatives, along with JLC Chair letters to Virginia Military Caucus Co Chair Senator Bryce Reeves (R 17th) and Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Carlos Hopkins, may be viewed on the DVS Homepage at: [Virginia DVS JLC](https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/dvs/joint-leadership-council-veterans-service-organizations-2) (<https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/dvs/joint-leadership-council-veterans-service-organizations-2>)

VCOC Legislators of the Year

Congressman Denver Rigglesman (VA 05) and State Senator Bryce Reeves (R 17th) were presented Virginia Council of Chapters Legislator of the Year awards for 2020.

Congressman Rigglesman was presented with VCOC Federal Legislator of the Year by CDR Linc Smith at his district office in Charlottesville, VA on 13 November 2020. Joining CDR Smith were members of the Central Virginia Chapter, to include COL Wes Loffert, USA (Ret), Capt Trish Sifka, USAF (Former) and CVC President LtCol John Down, USAF (Ret).

Senator Bryce Reeves was presented VCOC State Legislator of the Year by CDR Linc Smith at his district office in Fredericksburg, VA, 29 October 2020.

Details and associated pictures of the presentations may be viewed on the VCOC Homepage at: [MOAA VCOC Legislative Affairs](https://moaavcoc.org/legislativeaffairs/) (<https://moaavcoc.org/legislativeaffairs/>)

Closing

In reminder, The MOAA Online Action Center is located at: [Take Action](https://takeaction.moa.org) (<https://takeaction.moa.org>)

The key focus on the MOAA Take Action page is: “Continuing resolutions stall plans to modernize DoD and improve the lives of service members, military families, retirees, and veterans. New programs receive no funds while outdated ones limp forward. Looming shutdowns put some service members’ pay at risk. Ask your lawmakers to pass a budget on time this year.” With a few clicks, HRCMOAA Members can contact our representatives online at MOAA Take Action page in advocacy of this important issue, which is affecting all service members, military families, retirees, and veterans.



Pictured above, VCOC Vice President CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret), presents the VCOC State Legislator of the Year to Senator Bryce Reeves at his district office in Fredericksburg, VA, 29 October 2020.



Pictured above, presentation of VCOC Federal Level Legislator of the Year to Congressman Denver Rigglesman at his district office in Charlottesville, VA, 13 November 2020. From left to right, Central Virginia Chapter Legislative Affairs members COL Wes Loffert, USA (Ret), Capt Trish Sifka, USAF (Former), VCOC Vice President CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret), Congressman Denver Rigglesman, CVC President LtCol John Down, USAF (Ret).

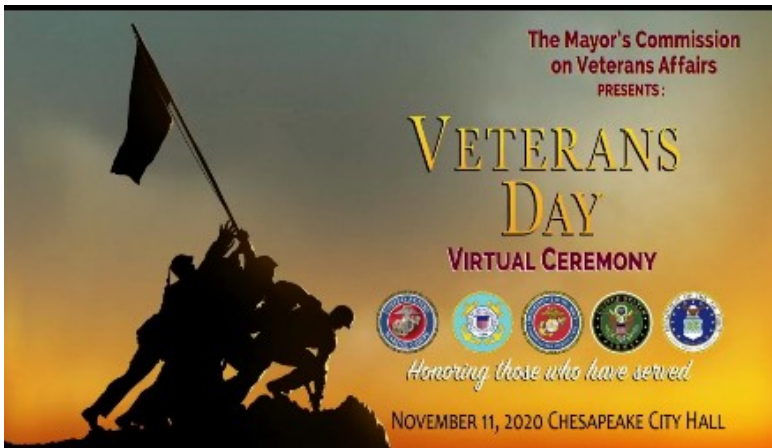


VETERANS DAY WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

Chesapeake, VA

The Chesapeake Mayor’s Commission on Veterans Affairs held a virtual wreath-laying ceremony on Wednesday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. HRCMOAA Legislative Affairs Committee Chair, CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret.) was the event’s MC. The ceremony can be viewed on the City of Chesapeake’s Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/CityofChesapeake/videos/3742092265803270/>



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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.

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

Signature and Date _____



Toys for Tots Drive

By: CDR Bert Ortiz, USN (Ret) - 1st VP, HRCMOAA



In an effort to continue support of our annual programs, and in light of not having a November membership luncheon due to COVID-19, the chapter has decided to continue assisting the local Toys for Tots Program.

HRCMOAA has been officially designated a drop off site for our chapter members to donate new and unopened toys ([Toys for Tots Drop Off Sites](#)). Toys can be dropped off at the **Oakbrooke Professional Center located at 516 Innovation Dr. in Chesapeake**. A Toys for Tots donation box will be located in the lobby of the building and also outside the second floor offices of AVMAC LLC (Suite 201). The offices are open M-F, 0600-1800.

Bert Ortiz, HRCMOAA’s Programs Chair, is our designated point of contact and he can also accept your check on the Chapters behalf if you wish to donate monetarily in Suite 201.

If you prefer, donations can also be made on-line at: https://marinetoysfortots.salsalabs.org/localdonationform/index.html?fun_local_campaign_designation=%27VA-Virginia%20Beach.

We ask that you add HRCMOAA to the organization line. Please help if you are able and we appreciate your support to this worthwhile and worthy program. The drive ends on Dec 11th.

If you need further assistance, please contact Bert directly at 757-560-3671 or at bert.ortiz@cox.net

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Would you like to make this a recurring monthly donation?

Make this donation recurring monthly. Your credit card will be billed monthly for your chosen donation amount.

\$25

\$50

\$75

\$100

\$ Other



Surviving Spouse Corner: There's a Facebook Group for That!

By Gail Joyce, Second Vice Chair of the MOAA's Surviving Spouse Advisory Council



Peter Dazeley/Getty Images

Are you wondering where to go to get information about issues affecting surviving spouses and families? Are you looking for a supportive, nonjudgmental group to assist you in learning and keeping up to date on benefits and legislation impacting our surviving families? Need a pick-me-up or to connect with others who share similar interests as you? Join the [MOAA Surviving Spouses and Friends Facebook page](#)!

Who can join? We have recently expanded our membership to include not only surviving spouses but also our families, military spouses, council and chapter surviving spouse liaisons, advocates, and others with an interest in issues that impact the survivor community, regardless of MOAA membership. Particularly in these times of COVID-19 restrictions, we all need a way to connect with others whom which we have common interests.

Is this a public or private group? This is a private group, and there are no fees or dues. You are required to answer a couple of brief questions and be approved by the administrators of the group to join. These questions are designed to ensure we provide a safe place to share information and connect with other like-minded people as well as protect the group from those who do not have a legitimate interest in our issues.

The group's rules are simple, and members may be removed at the discretion of the administrators. Here are a few of the do's and don'ts to remember:

- Do be kind and courteous; remember the Golden Rule and treat everyone with respect.
- Don't attack someone else just because you disagree with them. We can disagree with one another but keep it respectful. Hate speech and bullying will not be tolerated and such comments will be removed.
- Do respect the privacy of the group. Comments made within this group are not to be shared outside of the group. Some of the discussions can be sensitive and private in nature, and it is important that we can trust each other. Files may also not be shared without the approval of the administrators. Posts within the page cannot be seen by the Facebook "friends" of others in the group, unless they are members of the group themselves.
- Don't post sensitive information, such as your phone number, address, social security number, or bank account information. If you need advice that requires you to share this type of information, please privately contact the administrators for assistance.
- Do remember that "tone" is sometimes difficult to determine online. Stop and think before reacting negatively as you may have misinterpreted a comment or response. Remember that many of us are grieving, so please give a little grace.
- Don't post about politics or political events. This page is apolitical and will not be used to promote any candidate or political party.
- Do feel free to contribute material to the site, provided it does not violate group rules. If you are unsure, please reach out to one of the Facebook group administrators.
- Don't sell products or advertise your business. This is also not a dating site.

If you are a member of the group, you might have noticed more activity recently and even posts that are not benefit or surviving family specific. We intend this page to be not only an efficient way to disseminate information on benefits, proposed legislation, advocacy efforts, etcetera, but also a way for all of us to connect and uplift one another. Feel free to share an encouraging or funny meme and pictures of your loved ones and pets and post comments supporting each other.

Our group is expanding, and we would be happy to welcome more members. We would love to get to know each of you, and look forward to your comments on our page.

[Read past Surviving Spouse Corners.](#)



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 in person 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.



LCDR Glen M. Beale, USN (RET)
Martha Lee (Eigenbrode) Berkheimer
CDR Donald J. Buchanan, USN (RET)
Col Thomas M. Early, USMC (RET)



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Make checks payable to HRCMOAA
Regular Dues NEW
1 Year: \$20.00 RENEWAL
2 Years: \$35.00 Circle years & amount
3 Years: \$45.00
Surviving Spouse Dues
1 Year: \$10.00
2 Years: \$17.00
3 Years: \$23.00

Regular Member: Active, Reserve, 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.

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

Date MM/DD/YYYY Recruiter

Name** Last, First Middle or Initial Date of birth MM/DD/YYYY

Grade Service Component (Ex: USAR, USMCR, USAFR, USNR, ANG, ARNG)

Status Active - Reserve - Retired - Former - Surviving Spouse Circle one Service Dates MM/YY to MM/YY Retired Date MM/DD/YYYY

Spouse's Name Last, First Middle or Initial

E-mail address Spouse's Date of birth MM/DD/YYYY

Mailing Address Number and Street City State Zip code

Home Phone Work Phone Cell Phone

Member of National MOAA? Yes No If Yes, MOAA Number** MOAA Life Member? Yes No

Not a National MOAA member yet? Check here to receive a BASIC National Membership at no cost to you

Enclosed is \$ in dues payment

** Surviving spouse enter your Name and MOAA Number, where indicated.

Signature

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



Video Honoring Veterans Day

Shared by: CDR Bob Armour, USN (Ret)

Click the picture below to view an extremely well narrated tribute to our veterans by CDR (Ret) Rick Gile of Everett WA. The eight minute video shows his cadets performing the National Anthem and he ends with his school's choir singing from their homes. In the middle of the video, CDR Gile superbly narrates a history and tribute for Veterans Day. If you're viewing the electronic newsletter, just click the photo below or if you're reading the print edition of The Tribute, type the following URL into your browser: https://youtu.be/vdEChcludFs



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MEMBERSHIP ALERT

If the date on your mailing label shows 2020, your membership will expire on December 31, 2020. Please complete the membership renewal form on page 11. You may contact COL Larry King, USMC-Ret. at 650-1086, Membership Chair. Rather than recycling your newsletter, please consider sharing your copy with a prospective member.

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December 2020

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