

THE TRIBUTE

The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the Hampton Roads Chapter Military Officers Association of America A MOAA Five Star Level of Excellence Chapter Since 2004. A Winner Printed Newsletter 2019 and Website For 2019. Serving Chesapeake, Norfolk, and Virginia Beach since 1959



Email/Website: hrcmoaa@cox.net www.hrcmoaa.org

February 2021

VOL 45-NO 1

NEVER STOP SERVING

THE TRIBUTE

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



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Legislative Affairs Update: February 2021

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



As we deploy into the New Year, HRCMOAA Legislative Affairs is haze grey and underway. This update consists of two primary sections. First, spotlight on the HRCMOAA Legislative Affairs Brief, now revised for 2021. Next, highlight of the Virginia General Assembly 2021, to include Joint Leadership Council Legislative Initiatives.

As always, this update closes with the all important reminder to visit the MOAA Take Action Center online, and advocate for the MOAA top legislative initiatives for 2021.

HRCMOAA Legislative Affairs Brief 2021

Our HRCMOAA Legislative Affairs Brief has been updated for 2021. The structure of our brief is fourfold:

- 1. HRCMOAA Legislative Committee Vision, Mission and Membership
- 2. HRCMOAA Legislative Affairs 2020 Year in Review
- 3. HRCMOAA Federal and State Legislators In Review

4. MOAA Legislative Goals, JLC Policy Initiatives and HRCMOAA Legislative Affairs Planned Events 2021

View the brief in entirety on the HRCMOAA Homepage at: <u>Legislative</u> <u>Affairs Committee Brief 2021</u>

SEE LEGISLATIVE CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



Visit our website at <u>www.hrcmoaa.org</u>, 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,

Happy New Year! What an interesting year for our chapter and members in 2020! We are looking forward to full deployment of the COVID vaccine and an end to the coronavirus so that we can return to a normal schedule of luncheons and other events as soon as possible. I hope all of you have remained healthy throughout the pandemic.

As you know, the chapter held a virtual election in November and the membership voted to extend all officers and board members for an additional year in their current positions. In addition, we elected Captain Andy Baan, USN (Ret.) to the 2nd Vice President position that had been vacated by CDR Bob Armour, USN (Ret.) moving over to chair our Community Affairs committee. Bob was also elected to our long vacant director position. As a result, we have a full board for the first time in some time. We can always use additional help on our various committees either as regular members or as ad hoc members to help with individual events. Once we start up our events again, any and all assistance

will be greatly appreciated. And as always, your ideas for chapter events and activities are always welcome. Contact any chapter officer with your suggestions or email me at Loren.Heckelman@cox.net.

Despite the constrained schedule of events this past year, the chapter closed out 2020 with a strong financial position thanks to a healthy renewal of membership (dues income). Dues are our primary source of income so sustaining and increasing membership is critical to sustaining our chapter and continuing to offer the luncheons, printed newsletter and other benefits of chapter membership. Each year at the end of December, a number of memberships expire and we urgently need those expiring members to renew with us to help keep our numbers up. To help us with our membership efforts, we ask that you invite your friends and neighbors who are eligible for MOAA membership to visit our website or one of our events (once they start up again) to see what we offer. In addition, please share your Tribute newsletter with potential members in your neighborhood and other organizations you participate in. The best recruiters of new members are our current members and the best way to get a new member is through a personal con

HRCMOAA DIRECTORY FIRST VP: 482-1995 PRESIDENT: 646-6448 SECOND VP: 708-5229 **CAPT Loren Heckelman, USN (ret)** CDR Bert Ortiz, USN (ret) Andy Baan, CAPT, USN (ret) SECRETARY: 910-554-8575 **TREASURER: 233-7218** PAST PRESIDENT: 495-3611 LtCol Matt Dumenigo, USMC CAPT Doug Williams, USN (ret) MG John McLaren, USA (ret) DIRECTORS CDR Robert Armour, USN (ret) COL James Edge, USA (ret) Col Larry King "Live", USMC (ret) CAPT Mike "Breeze" Barea, USN (ret) CDR John Uhrin, USN (ret) LCDR Jeff Barrett, USN (ret) **Barbara Smith COMMITTEES** VCOC REP: 237-3611 PROGRAMS: 482-1995 LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS: 406-2949 CDR Bert Ortiz, USN (ret) MG John McLaren, USA (ret) CDR Linc Smith, USN (ret) MEMBERSHIP: 650-1086 PERSONAL AFFAIRS 434-1259 EDITOR/PUBLICITY: 618-6945 COL James Edge, USA (ret) Col Larry King, USMC (ret) LCDR Aaron Zielinski, USN (fmr) INFO SYSTEMS: 490-5792 COMMUNITY AFFAIRS: 477-5348 WEBMASTER: 490-5792 CDR Robert Armour, USN (ret) Maj Clifton G. Furedy, USAF (ret) Maj Clifton G. Furedy, USAF (ret) TRANSITION LIAISON: 646-6448 ACTIVE DUTY LIAISON: 760-213-0936 ID CARD NOTIFICATION: 427-2066 **CAPT Loren Heckelman, USN (ret)** LtCol Adam Winslow, USMC CAPT Jim Daniels, USN (ret) ASST LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS: 754-1667 SURVIVING SPOUSES LIAISON: 576-1114 4th DIST CONGRESS LIAISON: 406-2949 COL Jack Hilgers, USMC (ret) **Barbara Smith** CDR Linc Smith, USN (ret)

SEE PRESIDENT CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

PRESIDENT FROM PAGE 2

tact. We need your help to grow and sustain our membership numbers and you can help by bringing neighbors and friends who are eligible for membership to one of our events and introduce them to the chapter. The best way to get someone to join our chapter is for you – our current members – to invite them.

If you haven't been on the chapter website recently, please go take a look at www.hrcmoaa.org. We work hard to keep it current and to provide valuable information on a variety of topics to our membership.

Thank you for your support of our chapter. Never stop serving!

Sincerely, Loren Heckelman

Reminder —

Time to renew Chapter Dues

If you haven't renewed your dues for 2021, please remember that they expired on 31 December 2020.

Dues for 2021 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

What TRICARE For Life Enrollees Should Know About Medicare Advantage Plans

By: Lt Col. Shane Ostrom, USAF (Ret), CFP® November 16, 2020 - <u>MOAA Online</u>, Updated Dec. 10

As a Medicare/TRICARE For Life (TFL) enrollee, you get to choose which type of Medicare you want: Original Medicare Parts A and B or Medicare Advantage Plans Parts A and B. Original is the federal government insurance. Advantage is a commercial insurance company. Both act as your major medical coverage.

Medicare Advantage plans are all Medicare by law. The Advantage plans are also known as Medicare Part C.

Medicare approves and contracts with insurance companies to offer Medicare Advantage plans. The Advantage plan becomes your Parts A and B Medicare coverage. Per Medicare law, the Advantage plans must be as good as — if not better than — the original Medicare Parts A and B.

Technically, TFL supplements Advantage plans as it does Original Medicare since all are Parts A and B Medicare. However, TFL does not link with an Advantage plan in-system as Original Medicare does. This means claims will not flow automatically and seamlessly through the computer from Advantage plan to TFL as they do with Original Medicare.

You will probably have to file manual claims to TFL to have expenses that fall out of the Advantage plan reimbursed. You can call TFL to determine if coordination between TFL and an Advantage plan is possible by calling TFL at (866) 773-0404.

The premium amount of the Advantage plans can vary, but many use your established Part B premium amount as their monthly premium cost. Your Part B premium will pay the insurance company rather than Medicare. Some plans' premiums can be more than the Part B premium for the extra benefits provided. Advantage plans can provide extra insurance in the form of dental, vision, hearing, or health and wellness coverage. Some Advantage plans may have other costs beyond the premium like deductibles and copays, and some could cost less.

You must comparison shop to purchase an Advantage plan. Advantage plan availability varies by locale. The Advantage plan website allows you to customize features and cost. (You may find some added features are worth the extra cost.)

Since TFL is your Medicare supplement, you do not need to shop for Medicare supplement insurance.

Beware: Many Advantage plans provide automatic drug coverage, also known as Part D. As TFL members, you probably won't want another drug plan. Because TRICARE always pays last, you may find yourself filing manual claims to Express Scripts to exercise your TRICARE drug coverage. Plus, you will lose TRICARE home delivery by having another drug plan.

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.

	GOAL	Contributed	% of Goal	Need Dates	Still Need
As of 12/27/2020	Total Goal \$25,000	\$15,649.55	63%	Need by 12/31/2022	\$9,350.45
	Annual Goal \$5,000	\$5,649.55	113%	Needed by 12/31/2020	-\$649.55

Thank you to all who helped beat our 2020 goal and hope you will all continue to contribute in 2021 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.)	LT Wanda Schmidt, USN (Ret.)			
GOLD - \$250 to \$499					
CAPT Loren V. Heckelman, USN (Ret.) COL Merlin V. Statzer USMC, (Ret.)	COL Jack Hilgers, USMC (Ret.) LCDR Aaron J. Zielinski, USN (Fmr) LCDR Daryl T. Holland, USN (Ret.)	CDR Robert C. Armour, USN (Ret.) Maj. Clifton G. Furedy USAF, (Ret.)			
SILVER - \$100 to \$249					
CAPT Derek T. Anderson CDR Carl A. Thoren, USN		L. Kraine, USCG (Ret.) McFadden, USN (Ret.)			
Bronze Under \$100					
CAPT Cynthia B. Piccirilli, USN (Ret.) LtCol William F. McEvoy, USMC (Ret.) CAPT. Jon E. Rix, NOAA (Ret.)	LtCol Carl W. Carrell, USMC (Ret.) CAPT Joan Canter, USAF (FMR) Mrs. Barbara J. Smith (USN)	CDR Floyd R. Anderson, USN (Ret.) CDR James M. Brunson, USN			

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

Virginia General Assembly

The Virginia General Assembly convened at Noon on January 13. General Assembly is scheduled to adjourn on February 11 (Adjournment Sine Die), also the last day to confirm gubernatorial appointments made during the recess. During even numbered years, the legislature meets for 60 days. In odd-numbered years, the legislature meets for 30 days. Hence, we are in a short session for 2021. This noted, it is not unusual for the legislature to extend a shorter session to 46 days.

In follow on, Governor Northam has indicated he might seek to extend the legislative session for 2021, as necessary. Keep in mind the Virginia Governor also has the ability to reconvene the legislature for special session.

View the Virginia General Assembly homepage at: Virginia General Assembly

Joint Leadership Council (JLC)

To the JLC Fall meeting of 21 October 2020, the JLC adopted and forwarded seven initiatives 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 National Guard and Reserves) JLC 2021-03 (Expand Tax Relief for Surviving Spouses) JLC 2021-04 (Disabled Veteran State Park Passport) 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)

Details of each initiative, including 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: <u>Virginia DVS JLC</u>

Standby for near future update on the status of each of these initiatives, once the Virginia General Assembly concludes.

Closing

Do you want to advocate for an issue with our Virginia delegation from your own computer?

HRCMOAA Members may contact our representatives online at the MOAA Take Action page in advocacy of MOAA issues for 2021. The MOAA Online Action Center is located at: <u>Take Action MOAA</u>



https://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/?1

MEET OUR NEW 2ND VICE PRESIDENT



Andy Baan is our new 2nd Vice President. He is a retired Navy Captain and Iraq War Veteran. He graduated from Notre Dame and received his commission from its Navy ROTC program. He served on two ships, earning his Surface Warfare designator. He left active duty to attend and graduate from law school, while continuing to serve in the Navy Reserve. He commanded six reserve units, and was recalled to active duty to serve in Desert Shield/ Storm, at NATO (SACLANT/ACT in Norfolk) after 9/11, and in Iraq. In civilian life, after practicing law as a prosecutor in Colorado, he works as a defense contractor and cybersecurity consultant in Tidewater.



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We invite you to experience the camaraderie and the enriching lifestyle at Patriots Colony. Schedule a tour and enjoy a complementary lunch on us.

757-327-4547 patriotscolony.org.

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

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): <u>https://ebiz.moaa.org/PersonifyEbusiness/</u> 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.

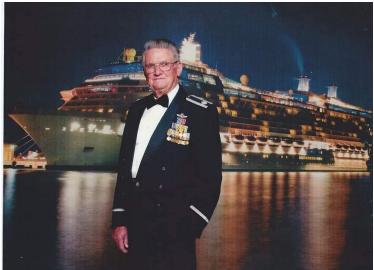
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WWII, Korea, and Vietnam War Veteran Remembered

By: Lawrence Johnson, Major and Grandson of LTC Jessie O. Sandlin, USAF (Ret), from 03DEC2020



Please take a second of your time to honor a great American. My Grand Father, LTC (USAF Ret.) Jesse O. Sandlin, passed away yesterday at the age of 97. He was a veteran of the 2nd World War, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. LTC. Sandlin flew 35 missions in the B-17 (Flying Fortress) in WWII. He continued to serve his country on other air platforms such as the F-86, RF-80, flying over 100 missions in Korea. In Vietnam, LTC Sandlin was a scene controller in the Airborne Command Control Center and flew missions as well.

LTC. Sandlin's list of decorations, achievements, and notable mentions are dwarfed by his volunteerism and his humble demeanor. He was the President of the USAF Retired Officers Club. He was an avid golfer and continuously preached the importance of education. He was awarded

France's highest medal in 2016. He was contacted about his upcoming award and asked if he would be present. He politely declined. He told his family "I don't need anymore awards." After some pressure by his family, he told the officials that he couldn't make the journey at his age (93). The French officials said no problem, and had a small ceremony in Norfolk, VA, just for him.

I know most of us served in some capacity or another. There are not many WWII veterans alive today. My Grandfather was part of a small community that served in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. I am proud of him and even though he turns away from the attention and accolades, I believe veterans deserve to hear about the amazing people that came before them. I know their stories will motivate this generation to carry Lady Liberty's torch to the next generation.

If you're reading the electronic version of the newsletter, please click on the URL or the image of the Veterans History Project to listen to an audio interview of LTC Sandlin as he tells his story on March 1, 2001. Alternatively, it can be found by typing the following URL into your browser on your computer, tablet, or mobile phone:

https://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.01318/



CONGRATS ROTC CLASS OF 2020, ANOTHER VIRTUAL REALITY

By CAPT Michael "Breeze" Barea, USN (Ret)

Despite COVID-19 restrictions and limitations, literally shutting down University and High School campuses throughout the region, Hampton Roads Chapter Military Officers Association of America (HRCMOAA) continued to support the Fall 2020 commissioning ceremonies that normally occur during December of each year. Assistant Director of Community Affairs and Board of Director CAPT Mike "Breeze" Barea, USN (Ret) personally coordinated with each Unit's Commanding Officer to arrange visiting respective University ROTC administration offices at Norfolk State University (NSU) and Old Dominion University (ODU) to hand deliver Commission Ceremony Gold Bars and Congratulatory Letters that would be presented during virtual commission ceremonies.

On Friday December 11, 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 7 Ensigns in the Navy and 1 Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps.

The Norfolk State University Army ROTC Spartan Battalion conducted their commission ceremony on Friday December 11, 2020 as well. The Spartan Battalion is commanded by LTC Lisa M. Abel, AG and commissioned 7 Second Lieutenants. The commission ceremony was an in-person ceremony adhering to State and CDC guidelines broadcasted on YouTube for further viewing.

The Old Dominion University Army ROTC Monarch Battalion conducted their commission ceremony on Saturday December 18, 2020. The virtual commission ceremony was held over several hours providing an individual in-person commissioning experience allowing immediate family members while keeping within State and CDC guidelines. The ceremony was broadcasted via ZOOM and You Tube for further review. The Monarch Battalion is commanded by LTC Camala L. Coats, MI and commissioned 4 Second Lieutenants.

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, gold bars, leadership medals and congratulatory letters individually signed by the President of the HRCMOAA. Over the course of these virtual commission ceremonies a total of 19 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, the cloth of this nation and put service above self.



The photographs above are taken from the universities'' YouTube video feeds. Left: ODU NROTC // Right: NSU AROTC



UPCOMING Sevents 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 757-646-6448 or via e-mail at Loren.Heckelman@cox.net.

Thank you for your understanding.



Sonya Ann Myers LCDR Stephen George Riley, Jr., USN (Ret) CAPT Amedeo Henry Galvani, USN (Ret) Annette Myrtie Chance CAPT Christopher R. Vatidis, USN (Ret) CAPT James J. Spillane, SC, USN (Ret) Lt. Col Jesse O. Sandlin, USAF (Ret)





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MOAA 🤣 @MilitaryOfficer · Jan 20 #DearJoe



Read MOAA's Letter to President Joe Biden The first 100 days offer an opportunity to address several key advocacy concerns. \mathscr{O} moaa.org

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Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) 🥥

The first day to file is February 12th. Join us to get ready for Tax Season.



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"The United States Army: 1775 - 1899" - A History of Heroes https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H148UbMwNeU



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MEMBERSHIP ALERT

If the date on your mailing label shows 2021, your membership will expire on December 31, 2021. 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.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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February 2021

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