



# THE TRIBUTE

The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the Hampton Roads Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
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VOL 45-NO 3

**NEVER STOP  
SERVING**

June 2021

## 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

## CONGRATS ROTC CLASS OF 2021, CONTINUING WITH VIRTUAL REALITY

*CAPT Michael "Breeze" Barea, USN (ret)*

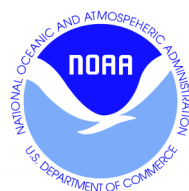
Despite COVID-19 restrictions and limitations literally shutting down University and High School campuses throughout the region, there seems to be indications that some of these restrictions are slowly being lifted. In the meantime, Hampton Roads Chapter Military Officers Association of America (HRCMOAA) continued to support the Spring 2021 commissioning ceremonies that normally occur during May 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 signed by the chapter's president, CAPT Loren Heckelman, USN (Ret) that would be presented during virtual commission ceremonies.



On Friday May 21, 2021 the first in a series of virtual commission, in-person (invitation only) and private ceremonies were 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 CAPT 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 15 Ensigns (6 to the Nurse Corps), one Lieutenant Junior Grade (Nurse Corps) in the Navy and seven Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. The Nurse Corps Commission Ceremonies were privately held for family members only.

SEE NROTC CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



Visit our website at [www.hrcmoaa.org](http://www.hrcmoaa.org), read the Electronic Newsletter, access Virginia Council of Chapters, MOAA National, Service Departments, Health and Benefit locations, U. S. Senators and Representatives and many others. If you do not have the Members Only "Password" please contact any of our Officers. The HRCMOAA Newsletter is published by the HR Chapter, which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters are nonpartisan. The advertisements that appear in this publication do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or this affiliate."

# President's Message



Fellow Officers and Spouses,

COVID fatigue. That's all I've got to say. I have had enough. I'd like to get back to normal but I'm not even sure what the new normal is going to be when all is said and done. Your chapter has continued with a lot of activity on a virtual level but there is really only so much you can do on a computer screen, via Zoom or via the telephone. As you have heard and seen, many of the restrictions are now being lifted... wishful thinking perhaps that we have turned the corner on this pandemic that has created so much change in how we live our lives. Many of you know friends or family members who were impacted by COVID in the most terrible way, and we extend our deepest condolences to you for your loss.



I'd like to extend congratulations and sincere appreciation to Aaron Zielinski, our newsletter editor, and Clif Furedy, our webmaster, for once again being recognized by National MOAA as recipients of the 5-Star Col Marvin J. Harris Communications Award for 2020. They continue to excel in providing valuable and informative resources to our entire chapter via both the newsletter and our website. Well done to both of them.

By the time you are reading this, the chapter will have participated virtually in all the local area JROTC leadership award ceremonies and ROTC commissioning ceremonies. It is a rewarding experience to see our young people receive their commission or receive leadership awards recognizing their achievements and potential for future leadership positions in our nation's military services.

There is a lot going on in terms of legislation that has the potential to impact all of us as veterans. As a reminder, you can go to MOAA's Legislative Action page on the MOAA website to engage your elected officials and let them know your thoughts and concerns. Here is the link: Home ([moaa.org](http://moaa.org)).

Each year in November, the chapter holds its annual meeting and election of officers and directors for the following two years of board membership and leadership of the chapter.

SEE **PRESIDENT** CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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



**PRESIDENT FROM PAGE 2**

We need additional help on the board. All but two of our officer and director positions are up for election this November. This is unusual and results from extending the officers and directors who would have been up for election last November for an additional year due to the COVID pandemic. That means we have eleven positions up for election. Many of these tremendous volunteers have been serving on the board for ten years or more. They continue to serve in a variety of capacities but we need additional and new chapter members to step up and give back to the chapter by serving on the board. Please consider joining your chapter leadership by volunteering to be on the slate for a board position. John McLaren will be heading up the nominations committee and you can reach him with your interest at [johnpmclaren@yahoo.com](mailto:johnpmclaren@yahoo.com) or via phone at 757-237-3611.

Lastly, if you haven't been on the chapter website lately, take a look at [www.hrcmoaa.org](http://www.hrcmoaa.org) and browse around on several of the pages to see how you like the changes we've made. You can provide any feedback you have to me at [Loren.Heckelman@cox.net](mailto:Loren.Heckelman@cox.net). A lot of time and effort goes into the website so please let us know how we can make it an effective resource for you.

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

Sincerely, *Loren Heckelman*  
 Captain, USN (Ret.)

**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>

*Social Media Clicks*




 **Twitter**

 **MOAA** @MilitaryOfficer · May 27  
 Thank you, @dodpaa for all the great work you do!




'We Will Keep Searching, and We Will Find You'  
 The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency works to recover the remains of servicemembers. Learn more about the mission.  
 moaa.org

 **Facebook**

 **Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)** · Yesterday at 12:01 PM

"Many of our Nation's Veterans have waited a long time for these benefits," said McDonough. "VA will not make them wait any longer. This is absolutely the right thing to do for Veterans and their families."



MOAA.ORG  
**VA Will Soon Begin Processing Claims for 3 New Agent Orange Illnesses**

10 · 1 Comment 4 Shares

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## HRCMOAA 2021 Annual Meeting and Election of Officers and Directors – November 2021

*CAPT Loren Heckelman, USN (ret)*

In November, the chapter will hold its annual meeting and election of officers and directors. We hope by then we'll be able to return to in-person luncheons and meetings but if not, we will hold the meeting virtually and hold the election via email as we did last year.

As you will remember, last year the board proposed and the chapter membership approved the extension of all officers and directors who were up for election in November 2020 for an additional year. We also elected Captain Andy Baan to the then-vacant 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President position and CDR Bob Armour to the then-vacant Director position. Their terms were for two years and they will serve for calendar year 2022 in addition to this year. That leaves the other eleven officer and director positions up for election this November. We need additional chapter members to step up and assist in the leadership of the chapter by serving on the board. Here are the positions that are up for election this November. Each is for a two-year term.

| <u>Office</u>                  | <u>Incumbent</u>                    |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| President                      | Captain Loren Heckelman, USN (Ret.) |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President | CDR Bert Ortiz, USN (Ret.)          |
| Secretary                      | LtCol Matt Dumenigo, USMC (Ret.)    |
| Treasurer                      | Captain Doug Williams, USN (Ret.)   |
| Director                       | LCDR Jeff Barrett, USN (Ret.)       |
| Director                       | Colonel Larry King, USMC (Ret.)     |
| Director                       | Colonel Jim Edge, USA (Ret.)        |
| Director                       | Captain Mike Barea, USN (Ret.)      |
| Director                       | CDR John Uhrin, USN (Ret.)          |
| Director                       | Ms. Barbara Smith                   |

Our immediate past president, MG John McLaren, USA (Ret.) is the chair of the Nominations committee and is collecting names of those interested in being on the slate for a position this November. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact John at [JohnPMcLaren@yahoo.com](mailto:JohnPMcLaren@yahoo.com) or 757-237-3611. Any of the current board members would be happy to explain board functions and answer any questions. You can also contact Loren Heckelman at [Loren.Heckelman@cox.net](mailto:Loren.Heckelman@cox.net) or 757-646-6448.

## ARLINGTON CEMETARY ELIGIBILITY COULD CHANGE SOON. ASK YOUR LAWMAKERS TO ACT

*By Lt. Col. Mark Belinsky, USA (Ret); MOAA Director - Currently Serving and Retired Affairs*

The new eligibility regulations for Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) could be published later this year, but there's still time for Congress to step in and take much-needed corrective action.

Karen Durham-Aguilera, executive director of the Office of Army Cemeteries, told lawmakers at a May 5 hearing the final regulations are expected to be approved and published in the Federal Register this fall. The proposed eligibility changes would dramatically reduce interment eligibility to those who receive a Purple Heart or are awarded a Silver Star and above, and would force many 20-year retirees to change their end-of-life plans.

The FY 2019 National Defense Authorization Act required the secretary of the Army to submit a proposal to extend the life of the cemetery by 150 years, a timeframe selected because the cemetery was 150 years old.

MOAA members were very vocal during the public comment period, describing the change as discriminatory by service, specialty, and gender. The public comments are going through a legal review.

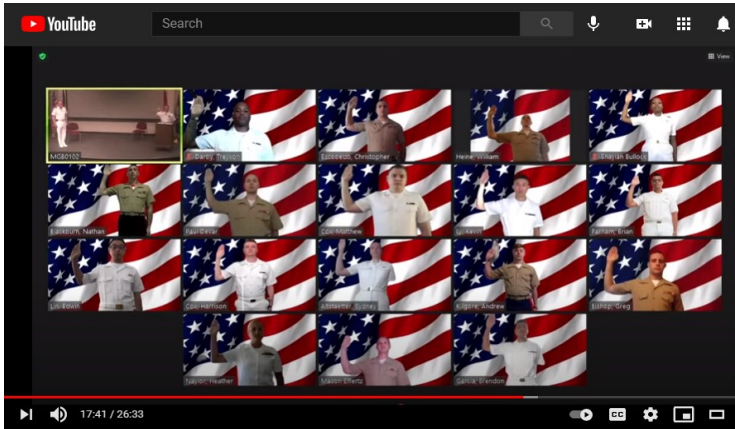
The next steps for the proposed rule change are:

- Army staff review
- Approval by the secretary of the Army
- Staffing through the armed services
- Approval by the secretary of defense
- Interagency review through the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
- Publish in the Federal Register

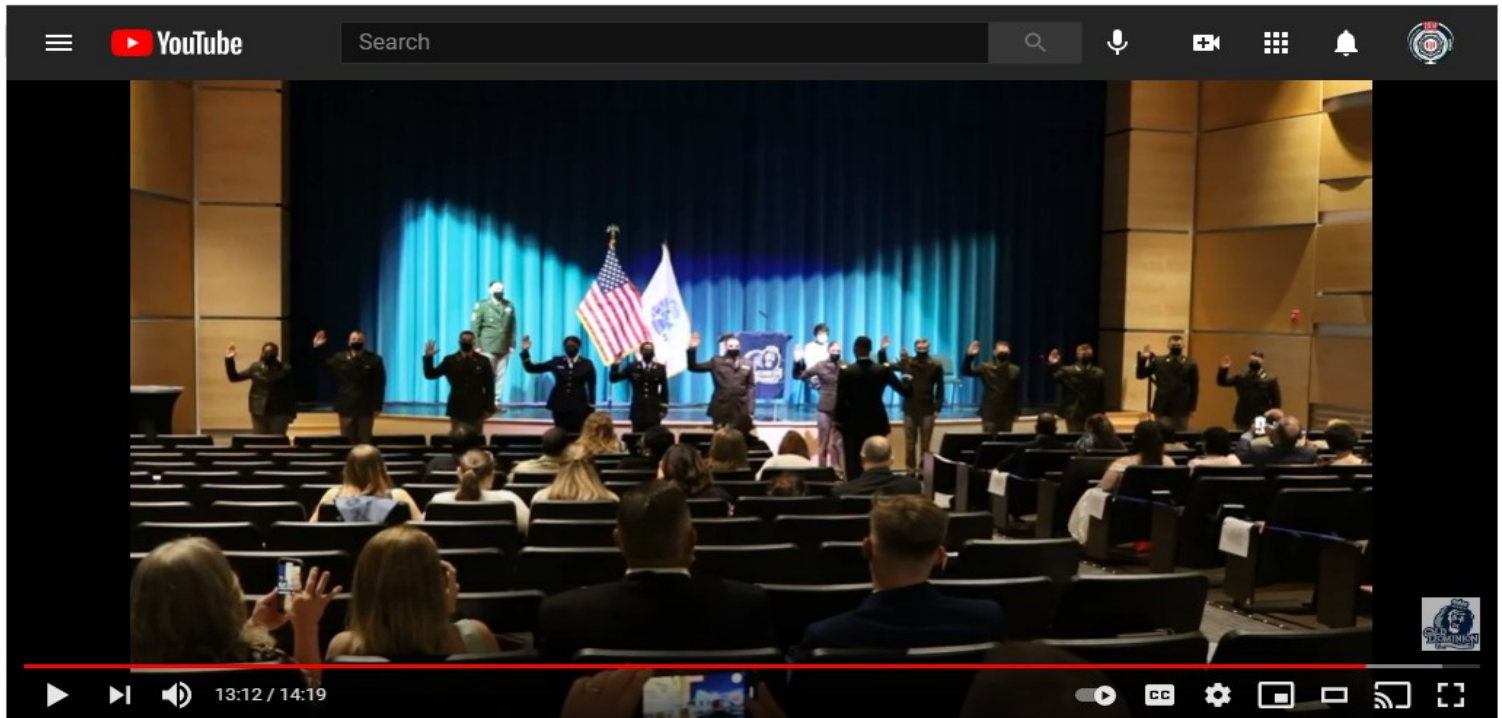


NROTC FROM PAGE 1

The Norfolk State University Army ROTC Spartan Battalion conducted their commission ceremony on Saturday May 15, 2021 as well. The Spartan Battalion is commanded by LTC Lisa M. Abel, AG and commissioned 13 Second Lieutenants. The commission ceremony was an in-person ceremony adhering to State and CDC guidelines broadcasted on YouTube for further viewing. Type <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLB8-xitP1w> into your browser or click on the photo to the left to view the Hampton Roads Naval ROTC Unit Commissioning from May 21st on YouTube.



The Old Dominion University Army ROTC Monarch Battalion conducted their commission ceremony on Sunday May 9, 2021. The commission ceremony was not streamed live but was made available shortly after the ceremony on YouTube. The ceremony was an invitation only event adhering to State and CDC guidelines. The Monarch Battalion is commanded by LTC Camala L. Coats, MI and commissioned 22 Second Lieutenants. Click the photo below or place visit <https://youtu.be/EgAbifBYvQQ> to watch the ceremony on 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, 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 58 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



### BLUE WATER NAVY - Nehmer

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it will readjudicate claims for Veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

This review is part of the Veterans Benefits Administration's implementation of the November 5, 2020, U.S. District Court of the Northern District of California decision to readjudicate previously denied claims as applied in *Nehmer vs. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs*.

Veterans who were previously denied service connection for an herbicide related presumptive condition due to lack of in-country Vietnam service will automatically have their claims readjudicated.

Readjudication means VA will review the evidence of record and provide replacement decisions in the cases of Veterans who were previously denied service connection for one or more herbicide related conditions on the basis that military service was not performed on the landmass of the Republic of Vietnam or on its inland waterways. This review will also apply to eligible survivors of deceased Vietnam era Veterans. VA is dedicated to ensuring all Veterans receive the benefits they have earned.

VA ensures that we have the proper resources in place to meet the needs of the Veteran community. Eligible survivors of deceased Veterans may also benefit from the policy and may be eligible for benefits based on the Veterans' service.

Veterans who have a condition caused by herbicide exposure during military service can learn more about Agent Orange exposure at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Website: <https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/>.



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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.**

**CAREER CORNER**

Once you transition from active duty, we want you to stay in our community and chapter. Don't wait until the last minute to start networking, learning about transition, and talking with recruiters at career fairs.



Join the HRCMOAA on LinkedIn at: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/5047678/>



MOAA Career Networking <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/164686/>

Here is a list of local military career fairs and networking opportunities:

**July 29, 2021**

11:00am to 3:00pm  
DAV/Recruit Military - Hampton Roads Area Veterans Job Fair  
Hampton - Venue TBD  
[https://events.recruitmilitary.com/events/1485/exhibitor\\_registrations](https://events.recruitmilitary.com/events/1485/exhibitor_registrations)

**October 4, 2021**

11:00am to 3:00pm  
DAV/Recruit Military - Norfolk Veterans Job Fair  
Norfolk - Venue TBD  
[https://events.recruitmilitary.com/events/1504/exhibitor\\_registrations](https://events.recruitmilitary.com/events/1504/exhibitor_registrations)

**November 23, 2021**

12:00pm to 4:00pm  
Recruit Military - National Virtual Career Fair for Veterans  
<https://recruitmilitary.careereco.com/Fair/EventDetails?fairId=c259ce6c-bfa3-4785-9d4e-ac720168af3f>

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.....

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID CARD EXPIRE \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last, First, MI) (Day, Month, Year)

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Include area code)

ALTERNATE CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_ RELATIONSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Include area code)

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

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



## Surviving Spouse Corner: Focusing on Finances After Loss

By: Barbara Smith, MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisory Council on April 30, 2021



As a surviving spouse and a member of MOAA, you have access to a host of people who are there to guide you through any difficulties or questions you might have. MOAA exists to protect military benefits and to offer you resources which cannot be found elsewhere.

MOAA membership is 350,000 strong, of which 16% are surviving spouses. Experts in the Washington, D.C., area advocate for legislation benefiting our community; they are equally vigilant when fighting legislation that would harm our benefits.

You are encouraged to visit [MOAA.org](http://MOAA.org), where you can sign up to receive The MOAA Newsletter and choose areas of most interest to you, such health care and earned benefits, finance, and spouse and family.

On the homepage when you see the prompt "I AM A," scroll down and click on "Surviving Spouse," which will lead you to the Surviving Spouse Page. This site provides information relevant to our community.

MOAA has a Surviving Spouse Advisory Council (SSAC) consisting of eight surviving spouses advocating for issues and concerns of interest to our community. Email [SSACouncil@moaa.org](mailto:SSACouncil@moaa.org) with any questions or concerns you may have.

MOAA's Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter meets once a month and is open to all MOAA surviving spouses and surviving spouse liaisons. Speakers cover important information regarding issues and concerns one month and the next is an open forum meeting taking questions and hearing concerns of attendees. Learn more about the chapter, including how to join.

Additionally, MOAA's Surviving Spouses and Friends Facebook group provides information, answers questions, and offers an opportunity to interact with others traveling the same course. Although not sponsored by MOAA, another Facebook group, DIC Surviving Spouses & Friends, is open to all surviving spouses who receive or who have questions regarding Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.

Check out your local MOAA chapter where you can meet new people and other surviving spouses. Some of our events have speakers on a variety of subjects that might interest or concern you, with some other events providing entertainment. Most chapters have a surviving spouse liaison who is there to assist you with any issues or concerns you might have or just to provide some comfort or a sounding board. <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2021-news-articles/surviving-spouse-corner-resources-for-surviving-spouses/>

## LATEST SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER ENTRIES



**Surviving Spouse Corner:  
Focusing on Finances After  
Loss**

MAR 26, 2021



**Surviving Spouse Corner:  
How to Become an Effective  
Advocate**

FEB 26, 2021



**Surviving Spouse Corner: The  
4 Facets of Grief**

JAN 29, 2021





## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS - MOAA ADVOCACY IN ACTION 2021 NOW UNDERWAY

By CDR Linc Smith, USNR (ret)

With the first day of summer 2021 fast approaching, MOAA Advocacy in Action 2021 is well underway. Amidst the now over year long COVID 19 Pandemic, the opportunity for in-person meetings on Capitol Hill with our Virginia Legislators is surely missed. Advocacy is centerpiece to the mission of our Chapter, as well as to the MOAA National Board of Directors and the MOAA staff.

### MOAA Advocacy in Action 2021 Efforts To Date

This year, our Advocacy is called Advocacy in Action 2021, a new label for the otherwise many decades of MOAA legislative work on Capitol Hill. As of 11 May 2021, 54 meetings with legislators and staff members have been completed from chapters nationwide, along with nearly 7,200 letters sent seeking support. With my lead of our Zoom Session with the Office of Senator Tim Kaine (D VA) on 12 May 2021, our Hampton Roads Chapter is among the participants with the aforementioned effort. To the remainder of May and most likely into June of 2021, we will be advocating with other members of the Virginia Delegation.

As with previous years, topics for our Advocacy 2021 focus on those who are currently serving, veterans and recent retirees, and members of the National Guard and Reserve forces.

What are the Topics for MOAA Advocacy in Action 2021?

### MOAA Advocacy in Action 2021 Topics; A Brief Review

The MOAA Advocacy in Action for 2021 top three advocacy issues are:

1. Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform
2. TRICARE Young Adult Parity
3. Basic Needs Allowance

In addition to the top three topics, the Maj. Richard Star Act is being advocated.

The Star Act is designed to amend title 10, United States Code, to expand eligibility to certain military retirees for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay or combat-related special compensation, and for other purposes.

Details of the MOAA Advocacy Campaign 2021 may be viewed on the MOAA National Website at: [Advocacy in Action: Details on MOAA's Spring Campaign](#)

### Call to Action

With The MOAA Take Action Center, HRCMOAA members can be part of the 350,000 members of Advocacy in Action 2021. Be a part of Advocacy in Action 2021 by forwarding our Virginia Delegation letters online urging support of Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform Legislation, TRICARE Young Adult Coverage Gap and the Basic Needs Allowance.



In closing, be a part of the embodiment of MOAA's commitment to Never Stop Serving. In the convenience of your own home, take a few minutes to go to the MOAA Virtual Take Action Center, which may be reached at: [MOAA Take Action Center](#). Our currently serving, veterans and recent retirees, and members of the National Guard and Reserve forces are depending on our support.

If you are reading the print version of our newsletter, you the link to the MOAA Take Action center is:

<https://takeaction.moa.org/moa/?0>



## UPCOMING Events 2021

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](mailto:Loren.Heckelman@cox.net).

Thank you for your understanding.



CWO 4 Leon E. Ryder, USN (Ret)

CDR Robert Francis Deegan, USN (Ret)

### ARLINGTON FROM PAGE 4

MOAA discussed the significance of the proposed rule change in a recent meeting with an Army senior leader. It is a sensitive subject not lost on military senior leaders, but because of the language in the 2019 NDAA, only Congress has the authority to make a much-needed course correction via a change in law.

MOAA's three priorities for ANC eligibility and expansion moving forward:

1. Ensure 20-year retirees now eligible for ANC will not have to change end-of-life plans. They deserve full military honors at our national cemetery (the VA cemetery system does not afford full military honors) and should be grandfathered in regardless of eligibility changes.
2. Provide full consideration of noncontiguous expansion for ANC, which was directed by Congress in Public Law 114-158 (approved May 20, 2016) but was not fully considered. The law directed "considerations for additional expansion opportunities beyond the current boundaries of the cemetery."
3. Set a clear path forward for the next national cemetery: ANC will run out of room no matter what, and designating the next cemetery that affords full military honors is a matter of national conscience. If the current eligibility rules remain, ANC would reach capacity in 2050, leaving ample time to plan for the future.

[The 2017 ANC report to Congress outlining the capacity](#) concerns also provides a course of action that would address the challenge of addressing space at ANC: "[E]stablishing a new Department of Defense-run national cemetery in another location. This would mean building a new cemetery in a suitable place that would offer the same burial honors as ANC. While it is impossible to recreate the aesthetic appeal and history of ANC, this new cemetery could grow to become iconic over time, in the same way that ANC has gradually evolved over the past 150 years."

MOAA will continue to engage Congress on Arlington National Cemetery, and we need your voice as constituents. [Reach out to your lawmakers](#) and ask them to include language in the FY 22 NDAA that would require DoD to designate the next national cemetery.

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2021-news-articles/advocacy/arlington-cemetery-eligibility-could-change-soon.-ask-your-lawmakers-to-act/>





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COMMANDING OFFICER
NROTC UNIT HAMPTON ROADS
5215 Hampton Boulevard
Norfolk, Virginia 23529-0120

April 20, 2021

Dear Captain (Ret.) Michael Barea,

On behalf of the staff and students of the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Unit, Hampton Roads, I would like to personally express my gratitude to you for your involvement with our Spring Awards Ceremony. The Hampton Roads Chapter Military Officers Association of America's support continues to inspire our students and future officers.

We are grateful that we were able to host this event and feature your video in the ceremony. The midshipmen greatly appreciated the personal touch that your video added to the virtual experience.

Again - thank you for your involvement and for taking valuable time from your schedule to support us here at HRNROTC!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

M. C. BRATLEY

Hampton Roads Chapter Military Officers Association of America
Attn: CAPT Michael Barea, U.S. Navy (Ret)
4542 Genoa Circle
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

NROTC FROM PAGE 5

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.

Pictured on the left is a letter written by CAPT Michael C. Bratley, USN, Hampton Roads NROTC Unit in appreciation of the chapter's support and involvement in HRNROTC.



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**June 2021**

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