

### THE TRIBUTE

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



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## Old Dominion Honor Flight Mission #6

Early on April 20th several Chapter members got out of their beds before the cows came home. Their mission to send the 6th Old Dominion Flight of Veterans from World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War to visit the Washington D.C. memorials dedicated to their sacrifice and service.

The honor flights are 100% supported by donations from individuals, memorials, and corporate gifts. The below picture and those on page 6 are from the latest mission. The next mission is set for mid-October 2024. See more pictures on page 6 of our newsletter.



**[SEE ODU CONTINUED ON PAGE 6](#)**

 Hampton Roads Chapter, Military Officers Association of America



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,

President's Message – May/June 2024

Details for upcoming luncheons and other events are available on our chapter website ([www.hrcmoaa.org](http://www.hrcmoaa.org)). Be sure to check there often for the latest information and updates on future events. Here are the highlights of what we have planned in the coming months:

- May 15, 2024: Membership Mixer at Anchor Allies on Shore Drive
- May 24, 2024: Ms. Lisa Oliver discussing VA Burial Benefits
- June 21, 2024: Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe (Special Spouse Appreciation Event)
- July 14, 2024: Tri-Chapter Brunch at Atlantic Shores
- August 16, 2024: Congresswoman Jen Kiggans
- September 20, 2024: Mr. Dave Huffman, Executive Director of Mission: POW-MIA.
- October 18, 2024: Ms. Barb Smith, "What to do before your spouse becomes a survivor"
- November 15, 2024: Annual Toys for Tots/USMC Luncheon
- December 7, 2024: Christmas Dinner Dance at Atlantic Shores

Thank you to all those who have renewed their membership in the chapter. Dues from members is our largest source of income so we appreciate everyone's help to bring in new members and to retain the members we have. If you have friends or neighbors who are active duty, former or retired military officers, or surviving spouses, please introduce them to our chapter and invite them to visit a chapter luncheon. Explain to them the importance of having a strong voice at the national and local level to advocate for benefits they have earned through their military service. This November we will have every position on the board up for election. We are looking for chapter members willing to help with the management of the chapter. Positions open on the slate include president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and all four director positions. Please consider giving back to the chapter by helping in a position on the board. Even if you aren't interested in an elected position, the

[SEE PRESIDENT CONTINUED ON PAGE 5](#)

## HRCMOAA DIRECTORY

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CAPT Loren Heckelman, USN (Ret.)

VICE PRESIDENT: (757) 482-1995  
CDR Bert Ortiz, USN (Ret.)

SECRETARY: (910) 554-8575  
LtCol Matt Dumenigo, USMC (Ret.)

TREASURER:  
Vacant

PAST PRESIDENT: (757) 237-3611  
MG John McLaren, USA (Ret.)

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Col Larry King, USMC (Ret.)

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CAPT Jim Daniels, USN (Ret.)

SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON:  
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ACTIVE DUTY LIAISON:  
Lt Col. Clarissa Blair USMC

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SURVIVORS



Emergencies can strike unexpectedly, leaving individuals and families grappling with chaos and uncertainty. Whether it's a natural disaster like a hurricane or earthquake, a house fire, or a medical crisis, being prepared can make all the difference in navigating through the turmoil. One often-overlooked aspect of preparedness is having essential documents readily accessible for yourself or a trusted person.

It might sound simple, but having your important documents organized and easily accessible can significantly expedite critical decision-making during emergencies. Imagine being evacuated from your home due to an impending hurricane (yes, that has happened to me), and in the rush to leave, you forget to grab essential documents like identification, insurance policies, or medical records. Having these documents readily available in a designated "important documents kit" ensures you have the necessary information on hand to prove your identity, access medical care, or file insurance claims promptly.

Also, having your documents prepared in advance can alleviate stress and anxiety during already tense situations. Emergencies are inherently chaotic, and the last thing you want to worry about is rummaging through drawers or files, searching for vital paperwork. By proactively organizing your documents and keeping them in a secure location, you can focus on prioritizing safety and addressing immediate needs rather than scrambling to gather paperwork under duress.

Another compelling reason to have your important documents ready for an emergency is to safeguard against loss or damage. Disasters such as floods, fires, or earthquakes can destroy physical documents

[SEE EMERGENCIES CONTINUED ON PAGE 5](#)

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## Social Media Clicks

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Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

To qualify for a settlement regarding Camp Lejeune water contamination, a lawsuit or claim must be filed within two years of the enactment of the PACT Act. Learn more about who is eligible: <https://www.moaa.org/lejeunedeathline>



Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

NPR interviewed dozens of military families with the same stories: They can't get care on base, and they can't find Tricare appointments in town. MOAA's director of government relations for health affairs Karen Ruedisueli contributed to this report.



NPR.ORG

It's time to stop downsizing health care, the Pentagon says. This couple can't wait After a decade of outsourcing military health care, the Pentagon now plans to do the opposite...





U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



### VA COVID Vaccine Update

WASHINGTON — VA is offering updated COVID-19 vaccines for the 2023-2024 season, including an additional dose for people 65 years and older. The updated vaccines target more recent COVID-19 strains. Due to changes in the virus, it is important to get the updated vaccine.

Updated vaccines are available free of charge to VA health care employees and Veterans receiving care at VA.

#### Updated 2023-2024 COVID-19 shot eligibility

The following people should get an updated 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine:

1. Anyone who has not yet received an updated 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine (available after September 2023).
2. Anyone who has not yet received any COVID-19 vaccine should receive one updated Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine OR two updated Novavax vaccines spaced three weeks apart.
3. People with moderately to severely immunocompromising conditions may receive additional updated 2023-2024 COVID-19 doses if recommended by their provider.

Additionally, for adults 65 and older: CDC recommends adults aged 65 and older receive one additional dose of an updated 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine if it has been at least four months since their last COVID-19 vaccine dose. Adults who are younger than 65 are up to date after receiving one single dose of the most recent COVID-19 vaccine (the updated 2023-2024 Formula).

A VA health care provider can provide you with more information about COVID-19 vaccines. You can also receive your updated shot at no cost to you outside of VA. You can locate a vaccine site at [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) – [Search for COVID-19 vaccine locations](#). If you received your vaccine outside of VA, we encourage you to share this information with your VA health care team. You can do this by adding your vaccine information to your My HealtheVet health summary for your own records. To add your information, you'll need a premium My HealtheVet account. [Learn more about managing your COVID-19 vaccine records online](#).

### Reminder: Upgrade your Military ID Card in 2024.



There is a new ID card for military retirees and dependents. If you have not updated your old one to the Real ID Card System, then you need to make an appointment (or walk in) and get it done next year. There has not been much info put out on this and no date has been promulgated to have it completed but, it is advisable to get it done soon and avoid the rush, once the date is published.

Shown on the left are two photos of sample IDs, the new ID on top and old on the bottom. The new "Identification and Privilege Card" is tied into the Real ID program that follows other forms of ID like your new Driver's License.

The phone numbers for NAS Oceana is 757-433-2184, Norfolk: 757-445-3124, or email them at: [idcardofficeonline@mail.mil](mailto:idcardofficeonline@mail.mil). There is also a website (<https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco>) where you can make an appointment or order the ID card online and yes, have it mailed to you vice going into Pass & ID to get one.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Jim Daniels, HRCMOAA ID Card Program, Capt, USN (Ret)  
757-375-3973, [jakaoc@aol.com](mailto:jakaoc@aol.com)



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### EMERGENCIES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

stored in homes or offices. While some documents can be replaced, others, like birth certificates, passports, or irreplaceable family heirlooms, might be lost forever.

Digitally storing copies of essential documents in secure cloud storage like EVERPLANS or on encrypted USB drives provides an extra layer of protection against physical damage or loss, ensuring critical information remains accessible even if the originals are destroyed.

Furthermore, having your important documents organized facilitates seamless communication and coordination with emergency responders and relief agencies. Whether you're seeking medical assistance, applying for government aid, or navigating insurance claims, having all necessary documentation readily available expedites the process and ensures you receive the support and resources you need in a timely manner.

What documents should you include in your important documents kit? While the specific documents might vary depending on individual circumstances, some essential items to consider include:

- Personal identification (driver's license, passport, Social Security card)
- Medical records (health insurance cards, medication lists, immunization records)
- Financial documents (bank account information, insurance policies, wills, deeds)
- Emergency contacts (family members, doctors, insurance agents)
- Important legal documents (DD Form 214, birth certificates, marriage certificates, power of attorney)
- Property records (homeowner's insurance, mortgage documents, property deeds)
- Copies of valuable photos or sentimental items

Every day you see stories about natural disasters, car accidents, medical emergencies, and unforeseen events that change someone's life forever. The peace of mind that comes from knowing you're well-prepared is invaluable. Take the time today to gather your important documents and create an important document kit — it could make all the difference tomorrow.

### PRESIDENT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

chapter is grateful for as much or as little assistance any chapter member can give as a committee member with any of our committees.

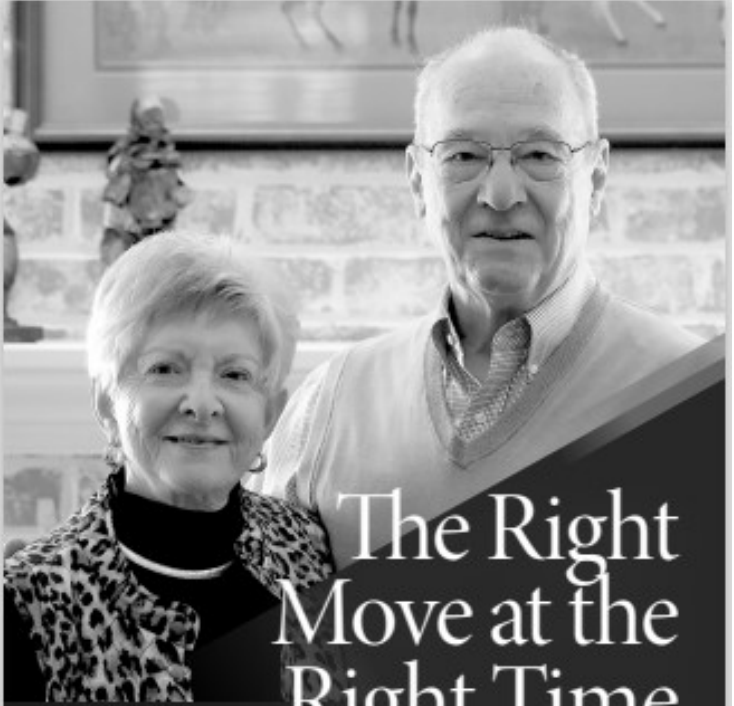
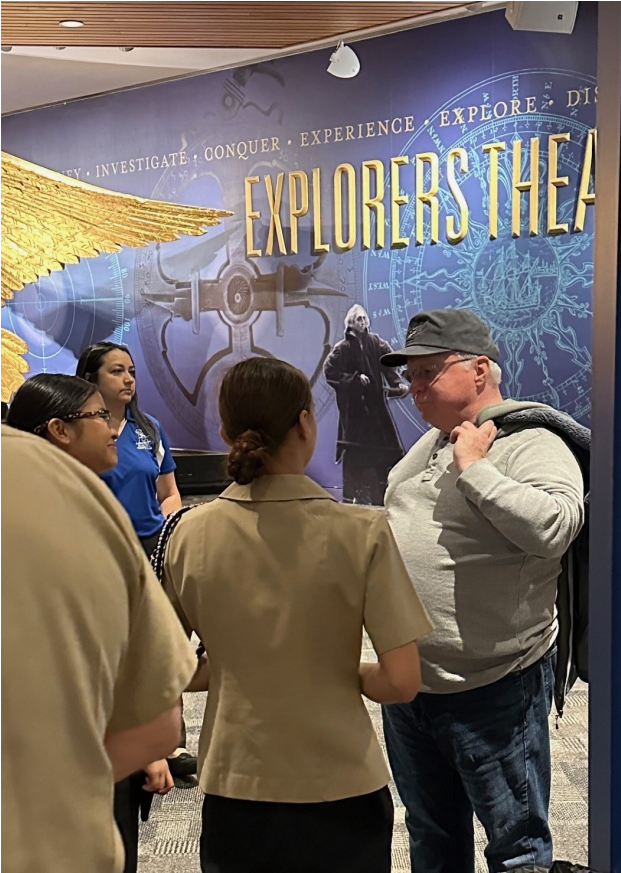
It is critically important that every member of our chapter be an advocate for legislative efforts in support of our military and their families. As an example, there have been recent studies and recommendations that there be a charge for Tricare for Life in the future. Tricare for Life is the supplemental insurance to Medicare and works very well in that regard. We pay Medicare premiums but should not have to also pay for our Tricare benefits. It's very easy to write to your legislators on this and other legislative issues. Just go to [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org) and click on "Advocacy" and then on "Legislative Action Center". There you will find the active legislative campaigns that MOAA is undertaking. You can scroll through the list and click on "Write" to find pre-populated letters which you can send as written or edit to add your own comments. This particular issue regarding TRICARE for Life is listed as one of the current issues MOAA is following.

New ID cards will be required at some point in calendar year 2025. Be sure to check out the article in this newsletter about the new ID cards and how you can get yours. See page 4.

Please keep us updated on email or postal address changes so we can keep in touch. You can very quickly and easily provide an update by visiting this link and filling in your name and email address: [www.hrcmoaa.org/member](http://www.hrcmoaa.org/member). There are spaces for other information if you wish to provide it. The most important part is your name and email. As a reminder, we do not share our member email addresses with anyone.

Sincerely,  
Loren Heckelman  
Captain, USN (Ret.)  
*Never Stop Serving*





# The Right Move at the Right Time

**Bonnie and Wayne Jefferson (USAFA '59) decided on Patriots Colony At Williamsburg**

Bonnie enjoys bridge and a Bible study group while Wayne tinkers with golf, a painting class and German club.

Patriots Colony is a Riverside Health System active retirement community whose Independent Living is exclusive to former military officers, federal civil employees and their spouses or widow(ers). Enjoy gourmet dining options, an enriching social and activities calendar while being close to all the culture of this historic area.

*"When we moved in, it wasn't five minutes before our new neighbors brought us a bottle of wine. It's a great community."*



**PATRIOTS COLONY**  
*At Williamsburg*

Schedule Your Personal Tour Today  
800-716-9000 | PatriotsColony.com



**ODU CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

## 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](http://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/>



Virginia Employment Commission at: <https://https://www.vex.virginia.gov/job-fairs>

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

### May 23rd, 2024.

Corporate Gray | Corporate Gray Virtual Job Fair (11:00am to 2:00pm) <https://www.corporategray.com/jobfairs/490>

### June 20th, 2024.

Corporate Gray | Corporate Gray Virtual Job Fair (11:00am to 2:00pm) <https://www.corporategray.com/jobfairs/491>

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY---PLEASE USE A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL  
(Cut along dotted line)

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 \_\_\_\_\_



## UPCOMING Events

**May 15, 2024** – Anchor Allies on Shore Drive (4710 Shore Drive, Suite 117, Virginia Beach, VA). This event is intended as a membership mixer to invite eligible officers to join our chapter. Details are on our chapter website. Please help spread the word to eligible officers.

**May 17, 2024** - Atlantic Shores—Virginia Beach, VA. Social—1100 hours and Lunch—1200 hours. Speaker: Lisa Oliver, Funeral Pre-Planning specialist who will discuss VA Burial Benefits and planning. Reservations required NLT 1200 hours Tuesday, May 21, 2024. Please RSVP to Barb Smith: 576-1114 (cell) or via e-mail at [barb4mom@cox.net](mailto:barb4mom@cox.net).

**June 21, 2024** - Atlantic Shores—Virginia Beach, VA. Social—1100 hours and Lunch—1200 hours. Speaker: HRCMOAA welcomes Presidents Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe. These impersonators will put on a special presentation as we honor our spouses for our annual Spouse Appreciation Day. Reservations required NLT 1200 hours Tuesday, June 18, 2024. Please RSVP to Barb Smith: 576-1114 (cell) or via e-mail at [barb4mom@cox.net](mailto:barb4mom@cox.net).

## Chapter Member Events

The left picture is from our March luncheon where CAPT David Gray is presented with the Jefferson Cup. CAPT Gray is the U.S. Navy, Commanding Officer, Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story. He provided an update on the joint base operations and services available to active duty and retired members and families. On the right, Midshipman Second Class Lyric Austria receives the MOAA Leadership Award from CAPT Steve Nimitz, USN (Ret) at the Hampton Roads NROTC Spring Awards Ceremony. Included with the award was the book "Courage in Combat" which contained a hand-written congratulatory message from Chapter President Loren Heckelman. Midshipman Austria assumed command of the Hampton Roads NROTC Battalion at the conclusion of the awards ceremony and will lead the Battalion through the summer and into the next academic year. He plans to choose Navy Pilot at service selection in the fall.





## New Five-Year Scholarship Fund Campaign Update

The MOAA Scholarship Fund Board gives preference in awarding scholarships and grants to children with HRCMOAA 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 the MOAA scholarships in the chapter's name will always be from the area represented by our Hampton Roads Chapter.

Below is the current status of our chapter scholarship fund campaign for 2024 and for the five-year campaign that will cover 2023 - 2027:

HRCMOAA Scholarship Drive Status as of Mar. 31, 2024	<u>GOAL</u>	<u>Amount Contributed</u>	<u>% of Goal</u>	<u>Need by Date</u>	<u>\$ Still Needed</u>
	Total 5-Year Goal: \$25,000	\$4,840.00	19.4%	12/31/2027	\$20,160.00
	Annual Goal for 2024 (Year 2 of 5): \$5,000	\$1,235.00	24.7%	12/31/2024	\$3,765.00

New Five-Year Campaign began January 1, 2023 and runs through December 31, 2027

### How You Can Contribute to the Hampton Roads Chapter Scholarship Fund

The Hampton Roads Chapter has been very successful and fortunate in its previous two five-year scholarship fund campaigns thanks to the generosity of the chapter members and their commitment to helping young men and women attend college through scholarships and grants from MOAA. As a result of the success in the previous two campaigns, the board decided to commission another five-year scholarship fund campaign to run from 2023 through 2027 with an annual goal in each year of \$5,000.00 and an overall five-year goal of \$25,000.00.

There are several ways you can donate to the HRCMOAA scholarship fund. All donations are tax deductible as the MOAA Scholarship Fund is a qualified IRS 501(c)(3) entity.

The first way is for members to submit their donations online by using the following website URL:

<https://charities.moaa.org/>

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

MOAA Scholarship Fund  
P.O. Box 1824  
Merrifield, VA 22116-9917

Note on your check that it is for the Hampton Roads Chapter Scholarship Fund. MOAA will continue to send receipts to all contributors. A third way is to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution. 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 recent changes in the tax laws, some of our members have found this method to be beneficial. You can make qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) of varying amounts to more than one charitable organization each year. IRA owners age 70 ½ or older can give up to \$100,000 a year directly from their IRA to qualified charities. But you can split that amount among multiple charities. Say you want to give a total of \$50,000 through the QCD move. You could give five charities \$10,000 each, for instance, or two charities \$25,000 each. Just tell your custodian which charities you want to support and how much to transfer directly from your IRA.



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**2023/2024 CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PAGE 9**

Not only will the charity benefit from the QCDs, but you will too. The QCD amount is excluded from your taxable income and can also count toward your annual required minimum distribution. It's a win-win-win. For additional details, it would be best to contact your IRA fund manager, personal financial planner or tax accountant for specifics.

You also may contribute directly from bequests, wills, or trusts. You can find suggested language here: <https://www.moaa.org/content/about-moaa/scholarship-fund/scholarship-fund-planned-giving/>  
Finally, the chapter treasurer or president will accept cash contributions or checks at any of our chapter events.

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## 2024 Contributions

### PLATINUM— \$500 and above

### GOLD— \$250 to \$499

CAPT Loren Heckelman, USN (Ret.)

**CAPT Kenneth Marks, USN (Ret.)**

**Major & Mrs. Clifton Furedy, USAF (Ret.)**

### SILVER— \$100 to \$249

COL Jack Hilgers, USMC (Ret.)

**CAPT Stephen Nowak, USN (Ret.)**

**CDR Carl Thoren, USN (Ret.)**

**LT & Mrs. Hans P. Juhl Hidle, USN (Ret.)**

### BRONZE— Under \$100

CAPT James V. Daniels, USN (Ret.)

LCDR Eddie Seaton, USN (Ret.)

**LT Stephen Hackney, USN (Ret.)**

**Mrs. Sharron D'Angelo**

## *Thank you to our new and renewing members in our Hampton Roads Chapter of MOAA*

In order to ensure you know how much we appreciate our new members who have joined and our current members who have renewed their membership, we are starting a new practice of listing those members who have renewed since the last newsletter was published. Since this is our first time doing this, we've included new and renewing members going back several months. If we missed anyone, please let our newsletter editor, Hans Juhl Hidle know at ([hansjuhlhidle@gmail.com](mailto:hansjuhlhidle@gmail.com)) and we'll be sure to include you in our next "Thank you" list.

### RENEWALS

LTC Thomas Metz, USA (Ret.)  
 Captain Patricia McFadden, USN (Ret.)  
 CWO4 Bill Sowers, USN (Ret.)  
 Ms. Jacqueline Meurer  
 Ms. Linda Moore  
 LCDR Paul Allen, USN (Ret.)  
 Ms. Jane Hart  
 LCDR Daryl Holland, USN (Ret.)  
 LtCol Tyler Freeburg, USMC (Ret.)

### NEW MEMBERS

Captain Anthony Jackson, USA (Fmr)  
 LCDR James Meekins, USN (Ret.)  
 Captain Steve Olson, USN (Ret.)  
 CWO4 Ken Knowlton, USN (Ret.)  
 COL Martha Brophy, USAF (Ret.)





Chapter Membership or Renewal Application
Army • Marine Corps • Navy • Air Force • Space Force • Coast Guard • Public Health Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Join or Renew on-line: www.hrcmoaa.org/join.shtml

Hampton Roads Chapter MOAA
P.O. Box 4612
Virginia Beach, VA 23454-0612

Make checks payable to HRCMOAA

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

Regular Member: Active, Reserve, Retired or Former Commissioned or Warrant Officer of the eight 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)

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)



From the Editor

Hans Peter Juhl Hidle, LT USN (Ret.)

Just back from a Aviation Rescue Swimmer reunion in Pensacola, Fl. 37 years ago, I enlisted in the United States Navy as an Naval Aircrewman. Since I set the record for a mile-flight suit swim, they decided to send me to Aviation Rescue Swimmer School, which after a detour to Millington, TN, for AW A School landed me in Jacksonville, FL where I stayed till I was commissioned some almost 10 years later.

SAR School has always had a significant meaning to me. It was one of the schools in the Navy that really tested me both physically and mentally. "Do you want to do this or not", was the comment from the instructors.

Of course, I met a lot of old buddies. Some of them, I hadn't seen in over 30 years. There was a lot of great big bear hugs and handshakes. Yes, we have all gotten old but it is interesting how we all felt at ease with each other. It's something you just don't get in civilian life.

Not doing too well on the it was 80 years ago series. Our newsletter tries to limit itself to 12 pages. We can do 16, which costs more, but we try to include local events as much as possible and therefore my trip to Guam was left on the cutting board, again. As we have many

events before our next newsletter, I will be back that article and large one about what happened in June and July in WWII. If you want to contribute, Let me know!

Sincerely,
Hans



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**MEMBERSHIP ALERT**

*If the date on your mailing label shows 2023, your membership expires on December 31, 2023. Please complete the membership renewal form on page 11. You may contact COL Larry King, USMC-Ret. at (757) 650-1086, Membership Chair. Rather than recycling your newsletter, please consider sharing your copy with a prospective member.*



## The Battle for Guam, Saipan and Tinian

In my second installment of 1944, I will move from the Intelligence world of Europe to the battle field of the Pacific. The Battle for Guam, Saipan and Tinian raged from 21st July to the 10th of August, officially. As in many other cases, Japanese resistance continued long after the combat was supposed to have ended.



As part of a US and Australia exercise (Tandem Thrust), I visited Guam on several occasions while stationed in Hawaii. At a planning conference, the senior Marine Corp mentor asked if we would like to see the beaches where the Marines came ashore and as I couldn't think of anything else to do I tagged along.

Turns out our, our crusty old USMC general was a private and had been part of the initial wave of Marines coming ashore. He showed us exactly where he came shore and pointed at the pill boxes that fired interlocking fires right over his butt. After walking the beach, we walked up into the wooded area overlooking the beach. We came upon the canon or recoilless rifle trained down on the beach. In 1944, the Marines found a pair of them (the top picture shows one of the pair), which could have decimated the Marine landing force, except for the fact that the firing pin was not there.



After finishing up our tour of the landing beaches, we headed to the memorial on the island (2nd picture from the top) for American, Japanese and Guamanian who lost their life's in the battle. The memorial depicts folded hands in prayer. To the right of the memorial is a trail leading to a shallow canyon where the Japanese commander General Obata hid his command post in the final days before committing seppuku (ritual suicide) on 11 Aug 1944.

We walked the trail down to his last command post. In front of the cave signs briefly described the battle in both English and Japanese (3rd picture from the top). Further into the cave were bottles of beer, sake, burning incense and cigarettes.

We concluded our tour of battle fields at the US Navy facility at Guam where I had a picture taken in front of Japanese midget submarine very similar to those used in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor (picture to the right).

Guam is an interesting place to visit. If you ever get the chance, go and ensure to take a dive trip in Apra bay where can you swim over (at least back then) over the many WWII wrecks in the bay.





# Transition to Digital Prescriptions

E-prescriptions are safer and quicker to process than hard copy (paper) prescriptions. Naval Medical Center Portsmouth Pharmacy will soon transition to only accepting E-prescriptions.

## What this means for you, our patrons:

As of 3 January 2023, hard copy (paper) prescriptions will no longer be accepted at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth or its Branch and TRICARE Prime Pharmacies.

Hard copy (paper) prescriptions for controlled substances will be accepted through 1 February 2023

**Please share this information with all of your healthcare providers.**

Starting 3 January 2023, all non-controlled prescriptions must be sent electronically from your Doctor's office.

The Doctor's office can E-prescribe to our pharmacy at:

- DoD PORTS VA NMC ePhcy (Pharmacy NCPDP/NPI Number is 48453711/1548673205)
- We will only accept hard copy (paper) prescriptions for controlled substances until 1 February 2023 at which point, all prescriptions must be submitted electronically.
- Before presenting to the Pharmacy to pick up your medications, activate your new or renewed prescription by texting "get in line" to 1-833-217-2199.

**Please ask any pharmacy staff member for clarification or additional information.**



# Q-Anywhere

## New Prescription Activation by Text



It's easy to activate your new prescriptions at the pharmacy by text using the Q-Anywhere system.

Just follow these 10 steps.

Step 1 – Just text the words “get in line” to **833-217-2199**.

Step 2 – The system will ask for the 10-digit DoD Id number for the patient receiving the medication.

Step 3 – Enter the DoD ID Number - found on the patients ID or in DEERS.

Step 4 – The system will verify who the prescription is for.

Step 5 – Reply “edit” if the information needs to be changed. Reply “done” if it is correct. Or add an additional patients DoD ID if you are activating prescriptions for multiple patients.

Step 6 – The system will ask you to select the pharmacy you would like to pick up your prescription from.

Step 7 – Once you choose you will receive a confirmation and a Q-number for your prescription.

Step 8 – If there is a problem or question regarding your request, a pharmacy representative may reach out to you via phone or via text for clarification.

Step 9 – You will receive a text when your prescription is ready to pick up. Please do not report to the pharmacy until you receive this text.

Simply text “I am here” when you arrive at the pharmacy you chose that day.

If you are returning any day within the following 14 days, you will need to check in at the kiosk and get a Return for Pickup ticket.

Step 10 – The system will send you a message acknowledging your arrival. When it is your turn to be served, your Q-number will then be called to a pharmacy window.

Activate your prescription from anywhere

Pick them up when they are ready

January 6, 2023



# MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM **MHS GENESIS**

**You can now request prescription  
REFILLS online**

*Through the MHS GENESIS  
Patient Portal*



To access the MHS GENESIS  
Patient Portal, visit  
[patientportal.mhsgenesis.health.mil](https://patientportal.mhsgenesis.health.mil)  
or scan this QR code.  
(CAC or DS Logon Required)

Log in to your account and look for the  
**Rx Refills** tab.

