

### THE TRIBUTE

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



### September 2024 Luncheon



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Our September 20<sup>th</sup> luncheon coincided with National POW/MIA day this year and featured Mr. Dave Huffman and Jeanie Huffman from the organization “Mission: POW-MIA” as our guest speakers. They recently returned from a trip to Vietnam and information and pictures about what they saw and learned while they were there. During the social hour, we learned that one of our surviving spouses, Mrs. Rita Smith, was a family member of a service member still missing from the Vietnam War.

Her husband, LCDR Robert Franklin Weimorts, was the pilot of an A6 Intruder call sign Buckeye 805 when it went missing over the Gulf of Tonkin North Vietnam on April 22, 1965. His side seater, LTJG William Nickerson is also still Unaccounted for.

 Hampton Roads Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

[SEE CHAPTER MEMBER EVENTS ON PAGE 5](#)



Visit our website at [www.hrcmoaa.org](http://www.hrcmoaa.org), to 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,

Thanks to Barb Smith for her presentation at the October luncheon on what to do before your spouse becomes a survivor. Valuable and important information for all of us to be aware of.

As we wind down this year, we have three more events to call your attention to:  
November 15, 2024: Annual Meeting/Election/Toys for Tots/USMC Luncheon at Atlantic Shores

December 4, 2024: Surviving Spouse/Spouse Tea at Princess Anne Country Club

December 7, 2024: Christmas Dinner Dance at Atlantic Shores

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.

At the November luncheon, we will have our annual Toys for Tots / USMC luncheon. This is also the occasion of our annual meeting and election. Positions open on the slate include president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and all four director positions. We are in need of help to continue the planning and execution of chapter business and events. 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 chapter could use your help with one of our committees or in helping with recruiting events throughout the year.

Barb Smith and Carol Tippin have organized a Surviving Spouse/Spouse tea for December 4<sup>th</sup>. They held one of these a couple of years ago and it was a very popular and successful event. The event is open to all chapter members and their guests. Details are in this newsletter and will be published on the chapter website as well.

**[SEE PRESIDENT CONTINUED ON PAGE 4](#)**

### HRCMOAA DIRECTORY

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SURVIVORS



### Avoiding Surprises During Your Time of Loss

Losing a spouse is a traumatic emotional event. When you are in the vulnerable time after your spouse's death, you do not need the extra stress of dealing with surprises. Prepare yourself now for the following:

The Social Security death benefit is only \$255. Pensions are paid forward. You should be prepared for a possible prorated claw-back of the last month of your spouse's pensions. A bill now under consideration in Congress would reduce the effects of the claw-back of your spouse's military pension.

The year after your spouse dies (if you have no dependents), taxing agencies will consider you a single person. That means that you will pay taxes at a higher rate. Deductions are reduced by one-half when you are single. If there is large equity in your family home, consider the tax consequences of a sale. Time the sale of large assets to reduce your tax implications.

If you do not already own a credit card in your name with a large available credit balance amount, it may be difficult to get one on your newly reduced income.

A regular monetary gift from a spouse's relatives may be reduced or eliminated.

Some life insurance policies are reduced or denied depending on the circumstances of death, for example accidental causes or suicide.

Some well-meaning people can give bad information. Seek professionals for advice on important matters.

### Funeral Costs, Timing, and Requirements

Burial costs can run from \$5,000 to \$20,000. If you delay the interment too long, there might be casket storage costs. These costs must be paid when the arrange-

### SEE SURVING SPOUSES CORNER - PAGE 4

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## Social Media Clicks

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Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) 6h · 🌐

Are you ready for 2025? Have questions? MOAA is here to answer them! Join us on October 29th: <https://event.on24.com/.../2D1D2FF240A280559270CB7749114459>

MOAA.ORG  
**TRICARE Toolkit: Preparing for Open Season**  
Is this the year you make changes to any of your health care plans? MOAA can help with your ...

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) 2 days ago · 🌐

Thanks to [Honor Flight Network](#), several MOAA chapters have been able to celebrate the service of many heroes.

MOAA.ORG  
**MOAA Chapters Celebrate Veterans Through Support of the Honor Flight Network**  
Members across the U.S. are involved as volunteers at their local Honor Flight hubs, which tran...



**PRESIDENT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2**

Plans are shaping up for the Christmas Dinner Dance event on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, we experienced significant cost increases in the meal, the rental of the dance floor and the hiring of a disc jockey, so the price per person will be \$75.00. This is in line with other events of this nature and promises to be a great event as in years past. The chapter will still incur a small loss on the event but by raising the price this year, we will minimize that impact to the chapter’s financial health.

We continue to have mail for chapter members returned to us as undeliverable. 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 address. As a reminder, we do not share our member email addresses with anyone.

Finally, please consider a contribution to the chapter’s scholarship fund. We are a little behind where we usually are at this point in the calendar year but hope to catch up to that in the remaining two months of the year. Details are provided in the newsletter.

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

**SURVIVING SPOUSES CORNER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3**

ments are made. Even with pre-arrangement cremation policies, there might be additional costs.

A casket burial at Arlington Cemetery might be a six-month delay. Burial at your nearest national cemetery can usually be arranged in one to two weeks; a year wait might be required for a cremation burial. You will be asked for your spouse’s birth certificate, DD Form 214, your spouse’s parents’ names and their mother’s maiden name.

You will need 15-20 (maybe more) copies of the death certificate. If a religious service is held, as a member of a church or synagogue, you might be surprised with costs for music, program printing, security, flower attendant, and clean-up fees. Sometimes, there are even pastoral fees.

**Social/Personal Concerns**

Grief can affect your memory and reasoning skills. Take a trusted friend or child with you to important appointments. Your power of attorney papers should be changed as soon as practicable. Your new best friend might be the county veteran service officer.

Some of your spouse’s friends might not wish to continue the relationship with you. In a second marriage, some stepchildren might become aloof.

You might not realize or remember who attended the funeral. Have a guest book. Use it also to note especially thoughtful or kind acts that were shown to you. Later, in review, you can express your appreciation with less emotion and more gratitude.

Children, friends, and neighbors will rally around, but slowly their life will resume to normalcy. Yours will not. You must build your life anew. It’s a difficult task, but you can do it.



**OLD  
DOMINION  
HONOR  
FLIGHT #7  
CONTUNUED  
FROM PAGE 6**



## UPCOMING Events

### November Luncheon

**November 15th, 2024:** Atlantic Shores—Virginia Beach, VA. Social—1100 hours and Lunch—1200 hours. Speaker: Colonel D. T. Celotto, USMC, Commanding Officer, Headquarters and Service Battalion MARFOR-COM. Reservations required NLT 1200 hours Tuesday, November 12, 2024. Please RSVP to Barb Smith: 576-1114 (cell) or via e-mail at [carmelk123@gmail.com](mailto:carmelk123@gmail.com). For our USMC Toys for Tots donation drive, please bring an unwrapped toy. **Remember please, that a reservation made is a reservation paid.**

### Surviving Spouse Christmas Tea

**December 4th, 2024:** Princess Anne Country Club—3800 Pacific Ave, Virginia Beach, VA)—11:30am.: Menu consists of a variety of scones, finger sandwiches, mini desserts and tea - caffeinated and decaf. Price: \$35.00 per person. RSVP: By Friday, November 29, 2024 to: Barbara Smith, [carmelk123@gmail.com](mailto:carmelk123@gmail.com), 757-576-1114 or Carol Tippin, [caroltip@aol.com](mailto:caroltip@aol.com), 757-495-3046: **Remember please, that a reservation made is a reservation paid.**

### Chapter Dinner Dance

**December 7th 2024:** Atlantic Shores—Virginia Beach, VA. Social—1800 hours and Dinner—1900 hours. Reservations required NLT 1200 hours Tuesday, December 3, 2024. Please RSVP to Barb Smith: 576-1114 (cell) or via e-mail at [carmelk123@gmail.com](mailto:carmelk123@gmail.com).

#### MENU:

**1<sup>st</sup> Course:** House Garden Salad with Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Shredded Carrots & Red Onions with Ranch Dressing

**Entrée Choice 1:** Filet with Cabernet Sauce served with Buttermilk Mashed Potatoes and Asparagus

**Entrée Choice 2:** Seared Salmon with Dill Sauce served with Buttermilk Mashed Potatoes and Asparagus

**Entrée Choice 3:** Chicken Marsala served with Buttermilk Mashed Potatoes and Asparagus

**Dessert:** Black Forest Cake.

Water, tea and coffee. Cash Bar.

**Remember please, that a reservation made is a reservation paid.**

## Chapter Member Events



Dave and Jeanie presented Mrs. Smith with the Vietnam War Commemoration Unaccounted-For pin, which is presented to family members of those service members still missing. Upon presenting the pin, Mr. Huffman commented, “It is always a moving experience to pin our Vietnam Veterans but this was especially moving for us to pin Mrs. Smith on National POW-MIA Recognition Day.”

You can learn more about Mission: POW-MIA at their website: <https://missionpowmia.org/>

**CHAPTER MEMBER EVENTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**



## Protecting yourself and others with Vaccinations

"The flu can lead to unnecessary hospitalizations and deaths, both can be prevented by getting vaccinated."



**VA Health Administration (Ashley P. Flowers):** As the leaves change color and the air turns crisp, respiratory illness season is approaching. This time of year is not just about pumpkin spice and cozy sweaters. It's time to think about protecting ourselves from getting sick. The best way to protect ourselves from respiratory illness is with vaccinations. Vaccines can help protect from flu, RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus), COVID-19 and pneumococcal pneumonia. These vaccines are available free of charge to Veterans receiving care at VA.

For Veterans, staying healthy is especially important. Many Veterans have underlying health conditions. These conditions can make illnesses like the flu, RSV, COVID-19 or bacterial pneumonia far more dangerous. They can lead to serious complications, especially in older adults and those with compromised immune systems.

By taking the simple step of getting vaccinated, you'll protect yourself and those around you. Most people have either mild side effects or no side effects after getting a vaccine. Some of the most common side effects are arm pain or swelling, headache and fatigue. These effects should not last more than 1 or 2 days.

You might have questions about vaccines, such as:

1. What vaccines are recommended for me this season?
2. How else can I stay healthy and keep from getting sick?
3. Can I receive all recommended vaccines at once, or should they be spaced out?

Your VA health care provider can help you answer these questions. You can call your local VA to learn when and where you can get vaccines. You can also send a secure message to your provider through My HealtheVet. Flu, COVID-19, RSV and pneumococcal vaccines are also available at VA's network of over 70,000 community pharmacies and urgent care locations nationwide. If you choose to get a vaccine outside of VA, let them know you're a Veteran enrolled in VA health care and bring this billing information card with you. Flu and COVID-19 vaccines do not require a prescription at VA network locations. For help with in-network community shots, call 877-881-7618 or your local VA facility. Learn more about no-cost shots.

If you received your vaccines 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.



### Old Dominion Honor Flight #7

On Saturday 19 October, Volunteers got really early to honor our Veterans on Old Dominion's Honor Flight Mission #7. Two additional pictures from event are on Page #4 of our newsletter. To donate to future Honor Flights, go to [www.olddominionhonorflight.org](http://www.olddominionhonorflight.org) and click on DONATE Today.

[SEE OLD DOMINION HONOR FLIGHT #7](#)  
[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4](#)



## Real IDs required by May 2025

Flying within the U.S. will soon require an extra document that's more secure than a state-issued driver's license or ID if you don't want to lug around your passport with you.

Beginning in May of next year, all U.S. travelers will be required to have the official document, known as a Real ID, on hand when traveling domestically by air. As an alternative, they may carry their passports with them.

The initiative is a long time coming. It was initially slated for enforcement beginning in May 2023, but the deadline was pushed back due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### What is a Real ID?

It's essentially an enhanced form of identification which, beginning May 7, 2025, will be required to access certain federal facilities, board commercial aircraft, and enter nuclear power plants.

The Real ID Act, passed by Congress in 2005, establishes minimum security standards for state-issued driver's licenses, permits, and ID cards. It's designed to reduce identity fraud, as it also prohibits Transportation Security Administration (TSA) personnel from accepting cards that don't meet the new minimum standards, according to the DHS.

### Who needs one?

Any traveler who is 18 years or older who plans to fly domestically or visit certain federal facilities will require a Real ID, or an alternative acceptable form of identification, such as a passport. Beginning May 7, 2025, TSA will only accept Real ID cards with the compliant star marking. A handful of states including Washington, Michigan, Minnesota, New York and Vermont are issuing Enhanced Driver's Licenses (EDL) with a flag marking, which also meet Real ID standards.

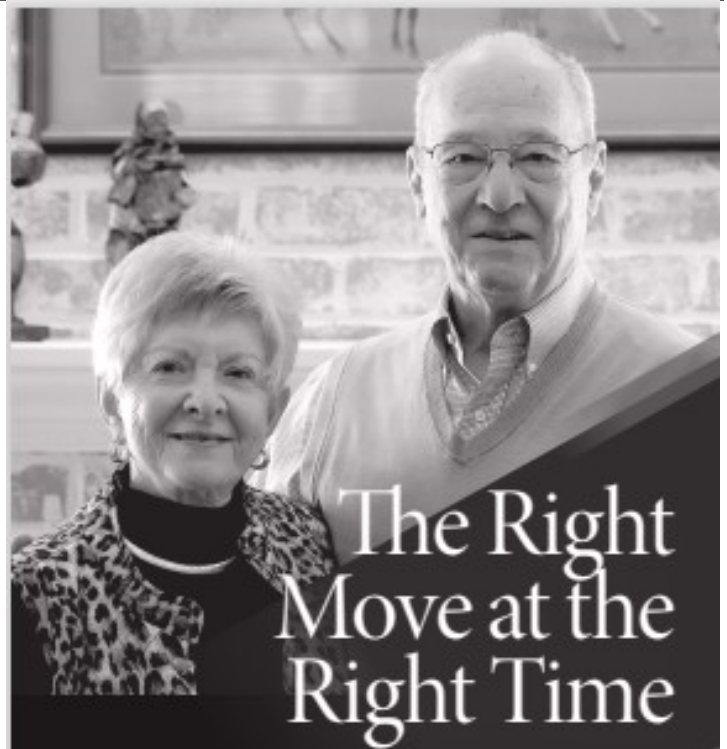
### Do I have a Real ID?

All Real IDs have a star marking in their top right corner.

If you recently renewed your driver's license, it could be an Enhanced Driver's License, or EDL, which also meets Real ID standards. Check the top right corner of your license for an American flag, indicating it is Real ID-compliant. If it doesn't have the stamp, it is not in compliance with the act.

How much does it cost?

There is no additional fee for a Real ID, but standard DMV processing fees do apply. Getting an enhanced ID costs \$30.



## 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."*



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

## 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

### November 14th, 2024.

Corporate Gray | Corporate Gray Virtual Job Fair (11:00am to 2:00pm) <https://www.corporategray.com/jobfairs/495>

### December 12th, 2024.

Corporate Gray | Corporate Gray Virtual Job Fair (11:00am to 2:00pm) <https://www.corporategray.com/jobfairs/496>

### January 22nd, 2024.

Corporate Gray | Corporate Gray Virtual Job Fair (11:00am to 2:00pm) <https://www.corporategray.com/jobfairs/501>

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

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(Include area code)

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

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





## 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 October 1, 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	7,215.00	29.0	12/31/2027	\$17,785.00
	Annual Goal for 2024 (Year 2 of 5): \$5,000	\$3,610.00	72%	12/31/2024	\$1,390.00

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.



## 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.

### 2024 Contributions

#### PLATINUM— \$500 and above

CAPT Roger Blood, USN (Ret.)

**Colonel Merlin Statzer, USMC (Ret.)**

**CDR George Coker, USN (Ret.)**

CDR Daniel Edwards, USN (Ret.)

#### GOLD— \$250 to \$499

CAPT Loren Heckelman, USN (Ret.)

CAPT Kenneth Marks, USN (Ret.)

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

LCDR Daryl Holland, USN (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.)

LT Stephen Hackney, USN (Ret.)

#### BRONZE— Under \$100

CAPT James V. Daniels, USN (Ret.)

COL Charles Shaver, USA (Ret.)

LCDR Eddie Seaton, USN (Ret.)

Mrs. Sharron D'Angelo

## ***Thank you to our new and renewing members and in Memory of those who have passed 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

Mrs. Phyllis Y. Adams  
Mrs., Anne C. Darwin  
CDR Robert C. Armour, USN (Ret)  
CAPT James T. Freihofer, USN (Ret)  
CDR John F. Klemenc, USN (Ret)  
Major Michael Rohlf, USMC (Ret)  
Col Merlin V. Statzer, USMC (Ret)  
Colonel Martin Vozzo, USA (Ret)

### NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Jane L. Sautter  
Mrs. Mary L. Mobley  
Captain Jon M. Haas, USN (Ret)

### TAPS

Your Hampton Roads Chapter is saddened by the news of the passing of chapter member Colonel Melvin H. Sautter, USMC (Ret) and former chapter member Captain Ronald B. Bauman, USN (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

Make checks payable to HRCMOAA

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

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From the Editor

Hans Peter Juhl Hidle, LT USN (Ret.)

Getting colder, check. Walmart has Christmas stuff out, check, we must be getting close to Halloween. Yes, I prefer Christmas after Thanksgiving. Not that you find me in the stores the day after, BUT I like thinking of Christmas as something special and not the Commercial Merchant Man's Holiday.

By the time you read this we will have a new President elect. I hope you voted. If you didn't, you didn't take part in a time honored tradition in the United States and something a lot of other individuals around the world do not have the option to do. Thank you for voting. I am off my soapbox.

Again thanks to members sending information for the newsletter. I live out in the sticks, or about 5 minutes from cow and farm country in Suffolk. At times, it's not easy to get to events as traffic at times as all know can be a bear.

That said, it goes from feast to famine in one newsletter, so keep the information coming to me at—hansjuhlhidle@gmail.com. Our next newsletter will information from multiple events: November luncheon, Veterans Day parade and world famous Dinner Dance.

Lastly, if your membership in HRCMOAA expires at the end of the year, as mine does, send in your renewal early. It makes it easy for the board to make the budget for the year and decide where to spend money. We need your help to grow the organization.

Sincerely, Hans



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

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**MEMBERSHIP ALERT**

*If the date on your mailing label shows 2024, your membership expires on December 31, 2024. 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.***



**VA****U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**

VA's Claim Status Tool allows Veterans to view the status of their VA claims online using their VA.gov login. This tool displays which claims are in process and identifies any actions Veterans need to take. It also gives Veterans the ability to review recent claim activity.

### **Claim Status Tool enhancements**

VA recently enhanced the Claim Status Tool to improve your digital, self-service experience. The tool now shows a breakdown of the eight-step disability claims process, making it easier to understand where your claim currently is. The steps include:

- Step 1: Claim received
  - VA receives your claim in its system.
  - Step 2: Initial review
  - VA reviews your claim for basic information (e.g., name, Social Security Number).
  - Step 3: Evidence gathering
  - VA reviews your claim to ensure it contains all necessary information. VA may ask for more evidence at this step of the claims process. Additional evidence could include a claim-related medical exam or medical records from a VA or non-VA provider.
  - Step 4: Evidence review
  - VA reviews all collected evidence for a claim.
  - Step 5: Rating
  - VA decides your claim and determines the disability rating.
  - Step 6: Preparing decision letter
  - VA prepares the decision letter. Though this letter cannot be viewed in VA.gov until Step 8, it will identify if you are eligible for additional benefits. This letter will include details such as disability ratings, amount of monthly payments and when payments begin.
  - Step 7: Final review
  - A senior reviewer from VA will conduct a final review of the claim and decision letter.
  - Step 8: Decision letter available

You can view and download your decision letter for the claim on the Status page of the Claim Status Tool.

### **More about the Claim Status Tool**

The Claim Status Tool contains three main tabs:

- Status: The Status tab tells you what actions you can take to support your claim and lists requests for third parties.
- Files: The Files tab displays information requests to you, a button for uploading files and a list of supporting documents you have submitted to VA.
- Overview: The Overview tab provides you with a description of the claims process, spotlights each step, and explains the process may return to a previous step if more information is needed.

You no longer have to contact a call center or regional office for claims information. The claim status tool allows you to access important claim information when you need it. This tool is another step forward in VBA's ongoing mission to support Veterans and their families. To learn more about using the claim status tool, please visit [the Claims Status page](http://www.va.gov/claim-or-appeal-status/) (<http://www.va.gov/claim-or-appeal-status/>)





# 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 4845371/1548673205)**
-  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.

