



# The Salute online



Monthly newsletter of the Portsmouth Area Chapter, an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America, serving Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Smithfield and Franklin, Virginia, since 1983. Dinner meetings are held the Second Thursday of each month except July and August. Although [MOAA](#) and [PACMOAA](#) actively lobby legislatures for all US uniformed services members, we are nonpartisan do not participate in political activities.

VOLUME XXXVIII ISSUE IV

Learn more at [pacmoaa.org](http://pacmoaa.org)

April 2019



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I hope you have been doing well with all the weather changes from many bushes blooming to temps in the mid 30's. That's weather in Tidewater/Hampton Roads! This is the beginning of a very busy time of year for PACMOAA with scholarship applications going out and starting to schedule members to attend the various JROTC award ceremonies in the area. If you've never been to a JROTC award ceremony, it is an inspiring event, seeing all the cadets in their uniforms and hearing about all the their activities in JROTC, school and community events. It is also rather reassuring when we often hear negative feedback on the youth of today.

If anyone is interested in participating, I will publish the list of award ceremonies in the April and May newsletters and you can attend with a Leadership team member. That's how I became involved.

Even though there was a rather small group at the March dinner meeting, it was great to see former PACMOAA member and CO of the Pharmacy at NMCP, CAPT Roger Hirsh, USN (Ret). He rejoined PACMOAA and spoke briefly about his crusade to get a Navy license plate for Virginia. See more info later in the newsletter. It was also a pleasure to meet and talk with our guest speaker, Mark Whiting, Program Manager of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, Military Medics and Corpsmen (MMAC) program. As usual, the dinner was very good as was the fellowship.

Mark brought great packets that included a copy of his power point presentation as well as fact sheets about the program. I can obtain more packets if anyone that missed the presentation is interested or email you a copy of the power point presentation. Just let me know. As I mentioned in the last newsletter and in previous newsletters, several PACMOAA members attended the initial bill signing for the pilot program in June 2016. The pilot program lasted 2 years and the program became a permanent program in

### IMPORTANT ITEMS

CHAPTER NEWS	pg2
MORE CHPT NEWS	pg4
NEWS FROM VCOC	pg6
NEWS FROM MOAA	pg6
STORM FROM HOME	pg9

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Alyous Bruce
- Benjamin H Barnard
- Bettye Hussey
- James Stephan
- June Leckrone
- Kevin L Ray
- Leslie Pomeroy Jr.
- Robert M Pomeroy

### APRIL CALENDAR

	14 <a href="#">USAFR Birthday (1948)</a>
<a href="#">Month of the Military Child</a>	15 Tax Day
03 VCOC 2nd Quarter Mtg.	18 Holy Thursday
05 <a href="#">Gold Star Spouses day</a>	19 Good Friday
10 MOAA Storming the Hill	21 <a href="#">Easter Sunday</a>
10 <a href="#">Purple up day</a>	22 <a href="#">Earth Day</a>
11 PACMOAA Dinner	23 <a href="#">USAR 111<sup>TH</sup> Birthday</a>
	30 Congressional Luncheon

## CHAPTER NEWS

### April Dinner meeting

[Click Here for  
DIRECTORY](#)

The dinner meeting will be held on Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> at Hilton Garden Inn in Chesapeake/Suffolk on Harbour View Blvd. **Social hour will begin at 1730 with dinner at 1800. This change was voted on at the November 2018 Annual Business Meeting.** The cost of the meal is \$30.00 which includes tax and gratuity.

#### MENU

Spinach Salad with Mushrooms, Hardboiled Eggs,  
Bacon with Vinaigrette Dressing  
Ham Steak with Pineapple Slice Glaze  
Mashed Sweet Potatoes with butter)  
Green beans, Dinner Rolls and Butter  
Chef's choice for Desserts Ice Tea and Water at table  
Hot Tea and Coffee Station

Please make your reservation **no later than Sunday 7 April** with Sherry by phone or by email.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID!**

## GUEST SPEAKER

### Captain Kai O. Torkelson, USN



Unfortunately Bruce Gamble will not be able to speak at our April dinner meeting due to health and last minute home issues but PAC-MOAA member Irv Lindley contacted the NNSY Commander and he graciously agreed to speak.

Captain Torkelson, the 108th Commander of the shipyard, is a native of Mount Crawford, Virginia and third generation naval officer. He was commissioned from the Virginia Military Institute Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. He holds a Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Virginia Tech and two Master of Science degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in both Naval Construction and Engineering and Ocean Systems Management. Torkelson served for 12 years in operational, training and engineering billets as a submarine nuclear trained officer. He served as the Chemistry Radiological Assistant (CRA), Damage Control Assistant (DCA) and Quality Assurance Officer (QAO) aboard USS Olympia (SSN 717), then as Assistant Professor of Naval Science at Virginia Tech from 1996-1998, and as the Engineer Officer aboard USS Alabama (SSBN 731) (Blue), responsible for the ship's



nuclear reactor and engineering plant operation. During this period, he also completed the requirements for submarine command. In 2002, he laterally transferred to the Engineering Duty Officer (EDO) Community where he has filled maintenance, staff engineering, technical, war zone, and program management positions. His project leadership assignments include Assistant Project Superintendent and Deputy Project Superintendent at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, on USS Jefferson City (SSN 759) Depot Modernization Period (DMP), USS Helena (SSN 725) Docking Selected Restricted Availability (DSRA), and USS Seawolf(SSN 21) and USS Connecticut (SSN 22) projects. Then at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, he served as Deputy Project Superintendent for the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) Planned Incremental Availability (PIA), and as the Submarine Repair Officer for Sub Squadron Six and Eight.

Torkelson was among the first five EDO volunteers for assignment to Operation Iraqi Freedom, as the J7 Requirements Officer for Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq. He traveled throughout 14 of the 18 provinces in Iraq, rebuilding the country's military bases with its military and Ministry of Defense, joint services and coalition military personnel. At headquarters, he has served as the Carrier/Submarine/Ship Fleet Readiness Requirements Officer in the Chief of Naval Operations Staff Logistics Division (OPNAV N43) and at Naval Sea Systems Command as Assistant Deputy/Commander Maintenance, Modernization, Environment and Safety (NAVSEA 04R).As a shipyard department head at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, Torkelson served as Code 300 Operations Officer, Code 900 Production Resources Officer, and as Code 1200 Business and Strategic Planning Officer. He was selected as the 108th Commander, Norfolk Naval Shipyard, and assumed command June 29, 2018.

Torkelson's personal awards include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service, Navy Commendation and Navy Achievement Medals.

(continued on page 1 PRESIDENTS DESK)

July of 2018. Mark's just wanted his introduction to note that he is the son of a WWII combat medic, the brother of an Air Force Vietnam Vet that flew medical airlifts, and has an uncle that is an Air Force veteran!

The MMAC Mission: It offers clinical, non-clinical and leadership career and educational pathways for veterans seeking employment in Virginia's healthcare system. Chesapeake Regional Medical Center was the first hospital system to get on board with this program even though Bon Secours has the most personnel involved at this point, closely followed by Sentara. Virginia is the first state to set up this type of program and is working with 5 - 10 other states interested in setting up a similar program. Candidates need to have done patient care within the past 12 months and have to complete a detailed application showing skills they have and state when they last performed that skill.

The MMAC three step process includes: 1) Recruit, 2) Review, and 3) Refer. Mark likened their job to that of head hunters in the civilian world. They also help recruits with their resumes and work with "Hire Our Heroes USA". The MMAC hiring pathways now includes: MMAC qualified, No Veteran left Behind (includes non clinical experience like HVAC, IT, HR, Pharmacy Tech, etc), and Healthcare Leadership like clinical operations or management experience in IT, HR, Supply, etc. (an example mark gave was a LCDR with 20 years of Healthcare Administration experience.)

In addition to getting the veterans employed in hospital systems in Virginia, the program encourages them to continue their education and works with the Virginia Community College System. The college looks at the veterans service transcript and gives them credit for their experiences in the military. Medics can go through an LPN bridge program. As mentioned earlier, all the hospital groups in our area are very interested in hiring these veter

(continued from page 3 THE PRESIDENTS DESK)

ans but areas that are not heavy with military personnel are more resistant to the idea. So far, 125 veterans have been hired through this program. I actually met one the week after our program at my Doctors office and he will visit us in May and talk briefly about his experience with MMAC.

For more information, you can contact Mark Whiting at [mark.whiting@dvs.virginia.gov](mailto:mark.whiting@dvs.virginia.gov) or call (804) 482-8508. You can also locate more info per the program at <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov>, then click on Education and Employment and MMAC is one of the topics listed.

Just a reminder, the Virginia International Tattoo is honoring women in the military this year!! If you've never attended, this is an amazing event with lots of military bands and groups from around the world from April 25-29, 2019. I will be attending with the Military Women of Tidewater!

Please continue to serve as you have been doing and remember our active duty troops here and overseas. I hope you have safe and happy month.  
Sherry Ferki

## MORE CHAPTER NEWS

### WELCOME ABOARD

*The Salute* extends a hardy welcome aboard to CAPT Roger Hirsh, USN Retired and his wife Chris living in Suffolk.

Do not forget! This is the [MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD](#). They are an often missed group of individuals, [WHO ALSO SERVE](#). They seem to fade into a category of "dependent" or "family" without individual title: i.e. Sponsor or Spouse. They also didn't volunteer for the position but make the best of it. I was not fully aware of the affect of active duty and deployment on my children until af-

ter I retired. The following opportunity to show your appreciation to tots is from Sherry Ferki.

### PACMOAA WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE USO LITTLE PATRIOTS TRUNK HOP APRIL 2019

As I mentioned last month, one of the USO programs that caught my eye is Little Patriots Trunk Hop on Saturday 13 April in Virginia Beach. Different organizations give out candy and candy filled Easter eggs from the trunk of a vehicle. The event is only open to active duty military, reserve/national guard and eligible dependents. Valid Military ID required for entry. We have PACMOAA signs with magnetic backing for the sides of the vehicle. PACMOAA is entered to participate and I need at least one other person to participate with me handing out candy. I also need more contributions. Thus far, members have donated about \$150 dollars. We need at least 1500 pieces of candy, eggs filled with candy, etc. to bring with us. I have about 200 plastic eggs filled with candy as well as 8 large bags of candy and would like to put 2 or 3 small pieces of candy in little baggies to hand out to the rest of the children. At this point, cash is more helpful than candy. Anyone interested in assisting me on 13 April and/or donating money, please contact me. PACMOAA does not need to pay a fee to participate. Thanks in advance for any assistance you can provide!!

## PERSONAL AFFAIRS

### IN MEMORIAM

With sadness we announce the passing of CAPT Raymond V Cicirelli USCG (Ret). Ray died on 10 April

I am very sorry to have to relay this to you all. I just got off the phone with Peg after a long conversation. Apparently, Ray took a significant turn for the worse recently and died around 0300 on the tenth. One of their sons

came down and spent the day with her while they were running around trying to get things done. Peg said she was glad Ray wasn't suffering anymore and sounded at peace with that. He is going to be cremated and be at the cottage with her. There will be a Memorial Service probably in the summer time at Lake Prince Woods when all their children can attend. He will be buried when she dies and they'll be interred together. She is not going to put any obituary in the Virginia Pilot at this time but may put something in it when they have a date for the Memorial Service. Ray's illness was a long struggle for both of them. Take care and please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Please keep our members and families having problems in your thoughts and prayers; reach out to them if you can. If possible, please let me know if you, a member of your family, or another PACMOAA member is ill and would like visitors or for us to remember them in the newsletter. We cannot support members when they need us unless someone notifies us.

CAPT Bob Parker and his wife Eleanor are still at Brightwood Woodburn Memory Care Unit and would like to hear from PACMOAA members. Betty Lambdin is doing well and getting back to her normal activities; I hope to see her Thursday at dinner. Gladys Steorts recently had back surgery and is recovering well at home. She won't be able to join us at the April meeting but would enjoy visitors. Please call before going over.

Sherry Ferki, PAO

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS REMAIN SLOW

This is not the year to be shy. With MOAA storming congress on the 10<sup>th</sup> this month, we need to show great strength! They are focusing on pay/benefits, the widows tax, and Tri-care benefits. Only 62% of the 2018 membership have renewed. Even that percentage is padded as it includes two new members. This level was attained only after Dolly Cherring-

ton sent out reminder letters to those who have not renewed. It is very hard to find new members so retaining current members is of paramount importance. Chapter membership gives us a loud voice in Richmond to advocate for legislation beneficial to us. We met several of our state objectives this year. Just maintaining your membership is a significant act.

### **REPORT ON THE PORTSMOUTH MAYOR'S MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (PMMAC)**

by Hal Hostetler.

Portsmouth being such a significant military city, it is logical that the city would have a sounding board for what's happening relative to our military. Both the Honorable John Rowe Mayor of Portsmouth and PMMAC President, COL Irv Lindley are members of PACMOAA. We have a seat on the committee, and I have had the privilege of meeting with the group each 4th Wednesday. We hear and share updates from Military, City, and Community leaders.

Representatives include those of Senators Warner and Caine, Command Master Chiefs of the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Naval Medical Center, U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic & 5th District, & the Norfolk Naval Base. Others include the Public Affairs of NNSY, USCG, & Naval Medical Center. Other Veterans organizations report from time to time such as the VFW, American Legion, DAV, etc. I am asked to report on PACMOAA activities. We hear from Elizabeth Psimas who represents Mayor John Rowe and the City Council.



At the last meeting we heard updates on plans for the Memorial Day Parade, the Military Economic Advisory Committee, and Portsmouth businesses.

Items of interest this month included women veterans, problems with military housing, an annual ceremony with Russian Officials at the Naval Hospital Cemetery, recent Coast Guard drug busts, the "George H. W. Bush," and the 29 April deadline for participants to apply for the Memorial Day Parade.

Our own Irv Lindley does an outstanding job of welcoming and coordinating each meeting.

## NEWS FROM VCOC

COL Frank G. Wickersham III, USMC (Ret) and VCOC Legislative Chair just sent a large email concerning bills passed and signed by the governor this year. You should have received the forwarded email. Although there were many positive results Frank highlighted the following items.

HB 2551-concerning commercial driver's licenses for military service members. Bill requires the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles to waive certain knowledge and skills tests required for obtaining a commercial learner's permit or commercial driver's license or a commercial driver's license endorsement for certain current or former military service members, as authorized by federal law.

HB 2129-Provides that the Board of Nursing shall process applications for expedited review for license or certification by military spouse and, if an applicant meets the criteria for licensure or certification, issue such license or certification within 30 days in cases in which an applicant for licensure or certification is licensed or certified in another state and is relocated to the Commonwealth pursuant to a spouse's official military orders.

HB 2169-Authorizes the Board of Medicine to issue a license by endorsement to an applicant for licensure as a physician assistant who (i) is

the spouse of an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States or the Commonwealth, (ii) is a graduate of an approved physician assistant education program, and (iii) holds a license as a physician assistant that is in good standing, or that is eligible for reinstatement if lapsed, under the laws of another state, the District of Columbia, or a United States possession or territory.

These programs differ from Virginia's Military Medics and Corpsmen (MMAC) program managed by Mark Whiting, our guest speaker last month in that the RNs and PAs have completed their education and are licensed.

## NEWS FROM MOAA

Every year, MOAA Council and Chapter Presidents from all 50 states storm Capitol Hill to visit nearly all 535 representatives and senators in support of key legislative priorities. This year MOAA efforts will be directed towards THREE CORE ADVOCACY ITEMS.

### 1. [PROTECT PAY AND BENEFITS](#)

Servicemembers are in line for their largest raise in 10 years, but as with all budget items, there are no guarantees.

President Donald Trump's budget proposal calls for a 3.1 percent increase in military basic pay. The figure matches the Employment Cost Index (ECI) from October 2018, the established benchmark lawmakers should use to set the raise servicemembers receive on Jan. 1, 2020.

With the budget request and the ECI in agreement, servicemembers and their families can breathe easy, right? Not exactly.

**CBO concerns:** Pay caps -- holding the basic military pay raise below the ECI -- aren't off the budget radar. December's Congressional Budget Office report on ways to reduce the federal deficit includes a suggestion to "cap basic pay raises for military service members at 0.5 percentage points below the increase in the ECI for five years starting in 2020 and

then return them to the ECI benchmark in 2025.” Lawmakers looking to free up funds, or DoD officials seeking to shuffle their budgets, could see the CBO report as cover for a move that could prove costly to servicemembers and their families.

**Health of the force:** Fair compensation is an element of readiness—underpaying servicemembers will lead to the loss of well-qualified, well-trained men and women, and that means a less-secure nation. As services struggle with recruiting goals, and as retention experts try to figure out what the new Blended Retirement System will mean to retaining the best talent, the last thing the military can afford is a decrease in overall benefits for its members.

**Beyond basic pay:** Even if the 3.1 percent raise goes into effect, servicemembers still could see reductions in other benefits, including their retirement contributions and housing allowances, and their purchasing power at commissaries and military exchanges. Their families also could face increases in TRICARE fees. An impressive top-line figure is a good start, but it's not enough to ensure military families receive all of the benefits earned by service.

## 2. [END THE WIDOWS TAX](#)

### [VIDEO](#)

TO CARE FOR HIM WHO SHALL HAVE  
BORNE THE BATTLE AND FOR  
HIS WIDOW, AND HIS ORPHAN

Abraham Lincoln



Under current law, survivors of deceased servicemembers must forfeit part or all of their purchased Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity when they are awarded the VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). The loss of any portion of the SBP annuity is known as the widows tax. For approximately 66,000 military survivors, the "widows tax" makes SBP the only insurance product in the country that you pay into but

can legally be prohibited from collecting.

SBP is a voluntary, member-purchased annuity provided by DoD, allowing a continuation of a portion of military retired pay upon the death of the servicemember. According to DoD, the intended purpose of SBP is to “insure that the surviving dependents of military personnel who die in retirement or after becoming eligible for retirement will continue to have a reasonable level of income.” After 9/11, coverage was expanded to include surviving dependents of active duty personnel deaths as well.

## 3. [STABILIZE AND IMPROVE TRICARE](#)

Some excerpts from Capt. Kathryn M. Beasley, USN (Ret) article on TRICARE COSTS.

“Congress has fairly consistently supported the principle that military retirees - by virtue of their service - should be recognized with some level of health care premium support. However, that level of support has always been vague, leaving it ripe for erosion.

Further, as a result of several years of TRICARE fee increases, today's working-age TRICARE retiree cost shares are closely aligned with the average civilian's cost shares and in proportion to civilian employers' cost of coverage.

We must resist the urge to compare military retiree health care cost shares with civilians'. The cost disparities between civilians and veterans cannot truly be compared; those who served have already paid their share of their health care premiums through decades of service and sacrifice - the true costs of which are significant.”

“While I realize I don't have much to complain about - \$30 here and \$30 there - [when it's] combined with increased prescription costs and the annual fee, [it] eventually [adds] up to real money,” says Capt. Craig Herrick, USN (Ret), of Mechanicsburg, Pa. “I appreciate the value of this earned benefit, and I'm concerned by the slow erosion.”

**“Basic Costs**

In the civilian economy, approximately three of four full-time employees participate in employer-sponsored group health plans.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation Employer survey, the typical employee paid about 29 percent of the company's total premium cost for family coverage in 2018; the employer paid the remaining 71 percent. Premiums for employer-sponsored health plans vary mostly by the type of coverage, individual or family.

Other health insurance premiums and out-of-pocket expenses for the average civilian family and the amount of cost shares (including pharmacy costs) for military retirees under age 65 are becoming much more closely aligned. It also is important to note retirees age 65 and over continue paying some of the highest costs of all.”

“While all generations of servicemembers, veterans, and retirees have endured tremendous sacrifices for the nation, **service in Iraq and Afghanistan during the past 20 years has unquestionably affected servicemembers and their family members in ways not yet fully understood.**

**1. Deployments.** In its annual [Military Family Lifestyle Survey](#), Blue Star Families has consistently found servicemembers and spouses rank the amount of time away from family as their top issue of concern, followed by concern regarding military pay and benefits.

**2. Transition.** A recent survey by the Pew Research Center focusing on the transition from the military into civilian life found veterans who served after 9/11 have experienced difficulties readjusting to civilian life. - - -”

**“3. Physical health.** It's not often recognized that those who have served for any amount of time in uniform, much less a full career in service, have a difference in their physical health status from civilians who have never served. MOAA, in partnership with the United Health Foundation, examined these differences across

a number of domains using data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention surveys from 2011-16.

The most recent iteration, [America's Health Rankings Health of Those Who Have Served Report](#), was published in 2018. Overall, individuals who have served reported their general health was better than reported by their civilian counterparts. However, despite reporting better health, those who have served actually present higher rates of chronic disease than civilians, and few improvements have been made on many important markers of good health.

Many chronic disease rates for those who have served indicate significant differences, especially among veterans over age 50, whose rates are even more disparate from their civilian counterparts.

**4. Mental health.** The report also noted, “Both men and women who have served have higher rates of depression, anxiety, and frequent mental distress than civilian men and women.” Since the first time MOAA and United Health Foundation examined these numbers, in 2011-12, the rate of depression among those who have served has increased as much as 32 percent among those ages 26-34, and 9 percent overall. During this time, little improvement has been observed in rates of anxiety and frequent mental distress among those who have served.”

**A Need for Change**

“Military health care costs have decreased and leveled off since 2010. The Defense Health Agency (DHA) has even reprogrammed funds from end-of-year health care savings back into DoD to be used for readiness. In 2018 alone, the DHA reallocated \$870 million, which was then spent on night-vision goggles and put back into the DoD working capital fund. It was not invested back into the health care program nor provided to beneficiaries to lower their costs.”

**“The two major complaints that I hear**



**from providers [are] that the referral submission procedures seem to change on a daily basis and that TRICARE pays less than Medicare. The latter issue is such that many providers are losing so much money that they are either reducing services provided or dropping from TRICARE,”** says Maj. James B. Carr, USA (Ret), of Valdosta, Ga.”

“Through the years, adjustments have been made to TRICARE in terms of managed care contractor changes, TRICARE regional office configurations, and where TRICARE Prime would be offered. However, as a result of the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), TRICARE has experienced its greatest reforms since its inception.”

“DHA believes it can better prepare for future budget strategies by consolidating enterprise-wide functions such as pharmacy and information technology. The objective is to reduce duplication and create greater savings and efficiencies across the system.

The beginnings of those savings, which include increases in pharmacy and TRICARE cost shares paid by beneficiaries, are being realized by DoD. As of FY 2017, they have remained ahead of schedule.”

“Ever since our contractor switched, we have had an incredibly difficult time getting payments processed on referrals - multiple calls and resubmissions, and payments coming six months late. Makes me wonder how many people give up fighting for our benefits and just pay to avoid being turned into collections,” says Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brian K. Slaybaugh, USA (Ret), of Gettysburg, Pa.”

“People will realize the threat to their well-being associated with being in the military is not worth the benefits if their compensation differs only marginally from what is available in the civilian sector.”

“Those looking at military budgets and ways to reduce costs have no clue as to what happens to retirees when they turn 65, and what

the true costs are for the programs set in place,” says Lt. Col. George Glann Jr., USA (Ret), of Fayetteville, N.C.”

## STORM FROM HOME

By: MOAA Staff

MOAA representatives from across the nation will convene on Capitol Hill April 10 with a goal of visiting every legislator's office to make MOAA's case for ending the Survivor Benefit Plan-Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset (widows tax), stabilizing TRICARE fees, and maintaining compensation for currently serving troops.

Your support for these efforts is crucial. Here's how to be an effective advocate:

### 1. Email your legislators with a MOAA-suggested message.

Visit [takeaction.moaa.org](http://takeaction.moaa.org) to find pre-written emails outlining MOAA's advocacy positions. Enter your ZIP code, and they'll be delivered right to your senators and representative. Some members ask us whether these pre-written messages are effective; our experience says yes. Legislative staffers know a constituent who takes the time to send a message is one who will vote in November.

### 2. Make a phone call.

Call (866) 272-MOAA (6622), MOAA's toll-free line to the U.S. Capitol switchboard, to be connected with your legislators' offices. Congressional staff members track constituent calls, and elected officials pay close attention. You can find talking points at [takeaction.moaa.org](http://takeaction.moaa.org).

### 3. Increase our reach.

Follow, like, and share MOAA's posts on Facebook to help spread information about our advocacy to the wider community on social media. You also can follow MOAA on Twitter @Military Officer and on Instagram @MOAA Official

MOAA combines the voices of active, reserve, retired and former officers - as well as their spouses and survivors - on behalf of the entire

military community. If you aren't receiving our email updates, sign up for [The MOAA Newsletter](#). You can choose how often you want to hear from us as well as which topics are included in your newsletter.[]

I am adding the reminder to mail any tear out mailings enclosed in your monthly copy of *The Military Officer*.

## UPCOMING EVENTS SPRING 2019

**PACMOAA will participate in LITTLE PATRIOTS TRUNK HOP this month. More info to follow.**

**30 APRIL CONGRESSIONAL LUNCHEON:** The eighteen Virginia chapters and the State Council representing over 4000 active and retired military officers in Virginia hold its Annual Congressional Appreciation Luncheon in the Capitol Hill Club in Washington D.C. Besides exchanging information on items of current interest, the primary purpose of this event is to honor the thirteen members of the Virginia Congressional delegation for their efforts and continued loyal support of the U.S. Military Community and the Armed Forces: active duty-reserves-National Guard-retirees-veterans- surviving spouses-family members. **Seating is limited so make your reservation as soon as possible! Contact Karl Wilson, PACMOAA Legislative Rep.**

**9 MAY DINNER MEETING:** Jack Keane, LCDR, USN (Ret) Topic - Maritime Patrol in Vietnam

**JROTC AWARD CEREMONIES** - The 14 High Schools covered by PACMOAA will be visited by Leadership members throughout May and June to present MOAA medals and certificates to the cadets selected by high school JROTC leadership.

**27 MAY 135TH PORTSMOUTH'S MEMORIAL DAY PARADE** - PACMOAA will have two cars in the parade this year. **WE STILL NEED PARTICIPANTS!** Contact Sherry Ferki

## 30 MAY PACMOAA BOARD MEETING

**13 JUNE DINNER MEETING** will include presentation of the 2019 PACMOAA JROTC Scholarship winners. A ROTC Color Guard will present colors and our speaker is CAPT Lennie Reed, Professor of Naval Science, ODU, Hampton U, NSU.

## WILL ROGERS ON TAXATION

"We owe more money than any Nation in the World, and we are LOWERING TAXES. When is the time to pay off a debt if it is not when you are doing well? You let a Politician return home from Washington and announce, 'Boys we lowered your taxes. We had to borrow the money to do it, but we did it.' Say, they would elect him for life." Jan. 10, 1926

"The whole trouble with the Republicans is their fear of an increase in income tax, especially on higher incomes. They speak of it almost like a national calamity. I really believe if it come to a vote whether to go to war with England, France and Germany combined, or raise the rate on incomes of over \$100,000, they would vote war." Feb. 27, 1931

"The crime of taxation is not in the taking it, it's in the way that it's spent." March 20, 1932

How many New World colonies were under the British Flag when the American Revolution against taxation began? The correct answer is 15! La Florida established by the Spanish in 1513 developed into East and West Florida with St Augustine settled on the east coast in 1565 and Pensacola in the 1600's on the panhandle. They were British Colonies from 1763 to 1783 but opted not to participate in the revolution. Both Floridas became part of the US as a single territory in 1821. You should read all about it; very interesting.

## THAT'S A WRAP FOR APRIL