



# 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.

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MAY 2019

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



I want to thank Gordon Nelson for over 12 years of dedicated service, slaving over producing *The Salute* every month. For most of my terms as President, he has provided wonderful assistance and support in my efforts to disseminate as much information to members as possible in a timely manner. Gordon will continue to maintain and update the website and that is much appreciated!! I will be acting as the interim newsletter editor until someone else takes over so, unfortunately, you will not see as polished a newsletter as Gordon produced.

It was great to see 30 members, spouses and guests at our April meeting. One of the guests, Hope Irwin, was interested in finding out about the Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY) apprentice program. The other was our guest speaker, CAPT Torkelson, who graciously agreed to speak with only a week's notice. Thanks again to Irv Lindley, PACMOAA member who facilitated getting CAPT Torkelson to step in when our scheduled speaker had an emergency situation come up. CAPT Torkelson started his presentation by saying hello to his fellow VMI grads ( Hal Hostetler, John Rowe and Irv Lindley) and by thanking PACMOAA for inviting him to talk with us. One of his goals is to reach out to the community and tell them about the NNSY as well as learn as much a possible about its history. CAPT Torkelson presented a thorough and most thought provoking overview of the shipyards history and abilities as well as looking at the future needs. I can send you a copy of this presentation if you so desire.

He is the 108th Commander of the oldest continuously operating public shipyard and one the largest and most multifaceted industrial facilities belonging to the US Navy. Their mission is to



maintain and modernize naval ships and provide emergency repairs as needed. He noted that when older naval ships go in to civilian shipyards for repairs, due to long waits for repairs in naval shipyards, the civilian shipyards have more difficulty doing the repairs/maintenance, as they are not as familiar with the naval ships as with the newer ships they've constructed. The delays come from a variety of reasons - older facilities, Sequestration, many older ships needing maintenance/repairs.

Because "our" shipyard is the only East Coast Public Shipyard capable of dry docking aircraft carriers, it is widely known as "America's Shipyard". CAPT Torkelson also noted that although much of their work in concentrated in Portsmouth, NNSYs fleet support covers the globe, supporting half a dozen site on the East Coast as well as sending support personnel to the West Coast and to Greece, Diego Garcia, 5th Fleet AOR, 7th Fleet AOR in Japan, and Guam. There are about 600 - 1000 workers per day supporting the Navy's mission worldwide as well as about 11,000 workers per day at the shipyard, which has increased by 3000 in the past 2 1/2 years.

As we are in a global power competition with Russia and China, we have to respond to this with urgency. The new CNO stated our new security environment is shaped by a shrinking

competitive advantage. New technological advances and availability of information, which causes an accelerated pace of competition fuel the need to identify sustainable approaches for the Navy's long term success . He also said that the short term is obviously vital as well. Modernizing the shipyards facilities as well as accelerating individual learning and team effectiveness are essential. CAPT Torkelson encourages the workforce to share their thoughts and ideas and to not shy away from thinking boldly.

In addition to discussing facilities improvements, he mentioned the recent media coverage of privatized housing conditions across the military branches."Among our greatest responsibilities as military leaders is ensuring the health, safety and well being of our military members and their families." CAPT Rossler, Executive Officer in charge of Military Personnel for the NNSY, recently held a town hall meeting for members to discuss their concerns, has recorded a video that is posted on the NNSY facebook page and distributed fliers detailing ways residents can report and problems to ensure swift resolution.

May is a very busy month for PACMOAA members. Thus far, we have 7 JROTC award ceremonies to participate in - the Chesapeake AFJROTC schools have one combined award ceremony for all 6 schools. The Scholarship Committee will be selecting 2 scholarship winners in mid May and the Annual Memorial Day parade will occur on 27 May. This is the 135th Anniversary of Portsmouth's Memorial Day parade, one of the oldest continuous parades in the nation. PACMOAA will have 2 cars participating so anyone interested in riding with us, please let me know! Whether you attend/participate in the Memorial Day parade or other "holiday" activities, please take moment to think about the reason for this day of remembrance.

Thank you all for your continued support of PACMOAA. Please keep our troops and their families in your thoughts and prayers and NEVER STOP SERVING!

## MAY DINNER

Our dinner will be held on **Thursday May 9<sup>th</sup>** at the Hilton Garden Inn (HGI) Ballroom at 5921 Harbour View Boulevard in Northern Suffolk. [LINK MAP](#) for an excellent map, GPS information and HGI contacts. Social hour will begin at 1730 hours with dinner at 1800 hours.

### MENU

Iceberg Tossed Salad with Ranch or Italian Dressing  
 Chicken Florentine – Spinach, Tomatoes and White Wine Sauce  
 Garlic Mashed Potatoes  
 Snap Green Beans and Rolls  
 Chef's Choice Dessert  
 Coffee and Hot Water for Tea Station  
 Water and Ice Tea

Cost is **\$30.00** (includes tax and gratuity) Please make your reservation no later than **Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>** with Sherry Ferki, . Come join us for good company, good food and a good time.

**A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID.**

## MAY CALENDAR

09 <u>PACMOAA DINNER MEETING</u>	18 ARMED FORCES DAY
10 MILITARY SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY	25 <u>VET FEST IN PORTSMOUTH</u>
12 MOTHER'S DAY	27 MEMORIAL DAY / <u>MEMORIAL DAY PARADE</u>
13 CHILDREN OF FALLEN PATRIOTS DAY	30 <u>PACMOAA BOARD MEETING</u>

## GUEST SPEAKER

### LCDR Jack Keane, USN (RET)



Raised in Holyoke, Massachusetts, Jack Keane graduated from The Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in 1980 with a degree in Electrical Engineering. After receiving his wings and attending VP-30, he joined the "Pelicans" of VP-45 during the final weeks of their 1982 Sigonella deployment. He made several other deployments with VP-45 as a Navigator/Communicator (Nav/Comm) and Tactical Coordinator (TACCO) to both Sigonella and Rota/Lajes, as well as supporting UNITAS-82 with detachments to Panama and Santiago, Chile. Jack left VP-45 in December 1985, joining the staff of Commander, Patrol Wing Two (CPW-2) in Barbers Point, HI where, over the next three years, he served as Assistant Training Officer, Weapons Officer, Current Operations Officer, and Anti-Submarine Warfare Operations Center (ASWOC) Director.

After a brief stint at Tactical Action Officer School, he joined the staff of Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group Eight (CCDG-8) during the final month of their Mediterranean deployment embarked in the USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN-71). During this tour, his assignments included Combat Systems Officer for Command and Control. He served as a Tactical Action Officer, Battle Watch Captain, Tomahawk and TACAIR Strike Planner, and Anti-Surface Warfare Commander for the Red Sea Battle Force while embarked with CCDG-8 in the USS *Saratoga* (CV-60) during the Persian Gulf War.

In 1993, Jack graduated from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA with a degree in Operations Research. He retired in 1995 at the rank of Lieutenant Commander after serving at the Naval Research Laboratory where he flew research missions worldwide.

He is currently a member of the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory's Principal Professional Staff and Branch Supervisor of the Precision Strike Systems Branch in the Force Projection Sector. He has conducted affordability analyses for the Joint Strike Fighter Program Office, served as a member of Department of Defense's Simulation-Based Acquisition Joint Task Force, as lead analyst in the development of theater and national missile defense war games, and participated in numerous studies involving force composition and command and control. In addition, he led the APL team in determining the requirements for the P-8 Poseidon aircraft, as well as the MQ-4C Triton Broad Area Maritime Surveillance Unmanned Air System, and follow-on aircraft to the EP-3 Aries. He has participated in several Defense Science Board Task Forces dealing with intelligence support to the global war on terror and to counter-insurgency operations.

He was a member of the adjunct faculty of the Johns Hopkins University Whiting School of Engineering. He is a past president and Fellow of the Military Operations Research Society (MORS). In 2014 he received the MORS Wanner Award, the Society's highest award for lifetime contributions to the field of Operations Research. In 2016 he was appointed to the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center Board of Governors by Maryland Governor Larry Hogan.

In his spare time, when not researching his family history, Jack is the Vice-President of the Maryland VMI Alumni Chapter and mentors non-commissioning VMI cadets as they embark on their careers upon graduation. Additionally, he has served as the Secretary of the VP-45 Association since October 2012.

Jack currently resides in Waldorf, Maryland and his topic will be "Maritime Patrol in Vietnam".

## PACMOAA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE USO LITTLE PATRIOTS TRUNK HOP APRIL 2019

Unfortunately, the USO event was rescheduled from 13 April to 27 April due to bad weather, the same weekend as the "Something In the Water" event. Since May is the Month of the Military Child, the USO already had another event scheduled that day - Spring Up! For Military Kids!" at a location near the VA Aquarium. None of the members that volunteered to participate felt comfortable being in VA Beach with all the activities going on so PACMOAA did not attend the Little Patriots Trunk Hop. I delivered the candy we collected to Chelsea Lynch on Thursday before the Saturday event - 200 candy filled plastic eggs and 1300 small baggies filled with several different kinds of candy. PACMOAA members donated \$230.61 worth of candy and cash and that was the amount spent on candy. Thanks again for all the donations - it was really appreciated by myself and especially the military kids!!

Per email from Chelsea on 2 May: *I wanted to thank you again for your wonderful donation. It was a huge hit and we had almost 4,000 service members and their families out for the day!*

When I spoke with Chelsea later that same day, she said everyone ran out of candy and that the candy we sent really helped them!!

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

## MEMBERSHIP IMPROVING!!

PACMOAA currently has 62 paid/honorary members - that includes 3 new members (Michael Halley, Roger Hirsh and Daniel Henkel). That is a great improvement from last month when only 45 members had paid. Many thanks to Dolly for her persistence with phone calls, emails and letters to remind members to renew their membership!! Out of the 73 members PACMOAA ended the year with, two relocated and, sadly, two long term members ( Chuck Kuehn and Ray Cicirelli ) died.

MOAA mentioned some time ago that chapter with less than 75 members are dying. PACMOAA is small but accomplishes a lot. I just submitted the application for the Levels of Excellence Award and it always amazes me as I review our accomplishments for the previous year.

As I noted at our 35th Anniversary last year, **membership is a top priority**. Without more members, it is difficult to succeed in other endeavors. All of us need to help PACMOAA grow. In February, the Board of Directors vote to extend the initiative to encourage members to invite potential members as their guests. The potential guest's dinner would be half price. Please consider inviting a friend to a dinner meeting.

### WELCOME ABOARD

**The Salute extends a hearty welcome aboard to new member COL Daniel Henkel, USAF (Ret.) and his wife Angel living in Suffolk.**

**The Harley Davidson dealership in Portsmouth is having Vet Fest on Saturday 25 May and PACMOAA can have a table but need volunteers to man the table from 0900 to 1700 - we can take shifts of 2 to 4 hours. Last year, 1700 vets attended. This is a great**

opportunity to get new members but we need assistance!!! Please let me know ASAP if you can help.

Many members take the opportunity to send a little extra money with their dues to help with scholarships. **Please pay your dues as soon as possible so we can continue to provide all these services** and include the renewal form if any changes have occurred to help us up-date our records. If you are not sure if you have paid yet, check with Dolly Cherrington or Hans Sachse. Remember the effectiveness VCOC has in the state legislature relates to chapter membership! Thank you for your continued support of MOAA and PACMOAA.

## UPDATE FROM 2015 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER BAILEY KEY

21 MARCH 2019

MAJ Ferki,

Good morning. My time at NC State and in AROTC have been great! I will commission this May as an active duty Field Artillery Officer. Upon my commissioning, I am heading to Fort Sill, OK for 18 weeks starting in June to begin my Artillery Officer training course. This past summer I spent a month at Fort Knox completing my final ROTC training, Advanced Camp. This training consisted of several field training exercises, marksmanship, tactics, land navigation, and leadership trials. I ranked in the top 15% of my platoon.



Following Advanced Camp I had an internship through Army ROTC at the Rock Island Arsenal in Illinois. Here I learned about making military equipment and the manufacturing process. The school year has been very busy, too. I was the Battalion Commander of my ROTC Program and ensured that all training was carried out to standard. I am very excited to graduate in May as summa cum laude with a BA in Communication. Thank you!

Very Respectively,

Bailey Key NCSU Army ROTC

## REMEMBERING

### CAPT RAYMOND CICIRELLI, USCG (RET)

Ray Cicirelli was a long time member PACMOAA and he and Peg attended dinner meetings regularly until recently as Ray's health declined. He and Peg also participated in the annual Memorial Day Parade several few times.

One of my earliest memories of Ray was when he printed and assembled a PACTROA directory early in my first Presidency. The expense of printing the directory was more than our budget could handle. Another of my memories was enjoying watching him and Peg dance together at our annual Christmas Galas! They moved so



effortlessly and obviously enjoyed doing so.

Ray was elected to the Board of Directors for three consecutive terms from Jan 2005 to Jan 2011. Even when he wasn't an elected member of the Leadership Team, he assisted as needed.

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, a Memorial Service will be held at Lake Prince Woods in Suffolk probably this summer and an obituary will be posted then. Peg will let me know as soon as she confirms a date with their children.

Please keep Peg in your thoughts and prayers. She asked me to let everyone know she really appreciates all the members that called, visited, and/or sent cards during Ray's illness and after he died.

### IN MEMORIAM

With sadness, we announce the passing of Lynn Fowler Hartwell, wife of PACMOAA member, CAPT Dan Hartwell, USN (Ret). Our thoughts and prayers are with Dan and his family.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

### The Vision

I thought being raised in a devout Roman Catholic family would give me the faith and courage to face any hardship a young man of nineteen would be asked to bear, but I quickly realized nothing can prepare a young man for war.

Originally assigned to a supply division during World War II, I found myself at the front when the generals began stripping the rear units for more replacements to cover their heavy losses. As part of Patton's Third Army, I joined up with a squad that spearheaded the American advance through France. Our job was to probe the front line, looking for the enemy. Hitching rides on the back of tanks and armored vehicles, we drove through many French towns, all the time pushing back the German troops. When we made contact, my squad would deploy on the flanks, setting up a fifty-caliber machine gun, and wait for our infantry to close in. The German soldiers were first rate; well trained, highly disciplined and unwilling to give up their conquered territory, they fought viciously in retreat. We were always a prime target, and German artillery fire was deadly accurate. Many buddies, as well as guys I barely knew, were hit. I lived moment to moment, always in fear of being the next GI carried out. This pattern persisted day after day. Village after French village was leveled in our effort to push the enemy out, towns and cities reduced to smoldering rubble. Witnessing all the destruction - seeing guys like me, getting killed or wounded - I despaired that I would ever see my home and family again. The ruined French towns were also filled with civilians looking for loved ones, digging through debris for anything that might help them live. Through all of this chaos, I prayed constantly for the strength to continue. Dog-tired, constantly on the move, alert every minute to the possibility of enemy fire and numb to the violence surrounding me, I was drained of all hope for my survival.

As we approached the German border after endless months of fighting, one last nameless French village lay ahead. A recent artillery exchange had left the town another smoldering wreck, and we probed cautiously forward. Riding in the back of a half-track, my vision obstructed by the haze from still-burning fires, I caught a glimpse of a bombed-out Catholic church. There on the only standing wall, was a crucifix, the body of Christ, arms still outstretched, eyes lifted to the heavens, untouched by the destruction around it. I could see the wounds Jesus had received at the hands of a different enemy, but he had been left perfectly safe from this battle. I instinctively made the sign of the cross, tightening my helmet strap another notch and gripped

my rifle even firmer. If he had made it through, I could make it through. Although almost destroyed by the harsh reality of war, now I was able to continue. I carried this sight within my heart and mind into many more battles through he war, and then safely home. The image had never left me.

From *Chicken Soup for the Veterans Soul*

We have just celebrated Easter, and the cross was the focus there. This young soldier was able to grasp something to keep his faith alive through all the strife of battle. May we find an inner strength to help us endure hardships.

Bob Steorts, Chaplain

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING AN ITEM TO DONATE TO PORTSMOUTH  
VOLUNTEERS FOR THE HOMELESS**

PVH WISH LIST from Facebook May 2019:

Thank you for helping us by donating some of our frequently needed items!

Men's boxers (L-3XL)

Men's T-shirts (L-3XL))

Women Undergarments (8-12)

Thermal Underwear

Deodorant (travel sized)

Baseball Caps

Shaving Razors (Men/Women)

Socks (Men/Women)

Plastic Soap Containers

XL Ziploc Bags (10 gallon size)

Cases of bottled water

Lysol

Clorox Disinfectant Wipes

First Aid Kits

Laundry Detergent

Toilet Paper

## NEWS FROM MOAA

### TELL CONGRESS NOT TO DISMANTLE MILITARY MEDICINE

By: Capt. Kathryn M. Beasley, USN (Ret)

First and foremost, military medicine is a national treasure, and its importance to our country cannot be overstated. The military has a long history of producing medical innovations which have resulted in great benefit for civilian medicine. The progress made on the battlefield during the past 18 years of war represents a transformation of extraordinary medical achievement for the United States and the world.

However, now there is tangible movement to dismantle this national treasure and potentially damage it beyond repair - and this takedown has been insidious. Thus, it is a fair question to ask, is the true intention to outsource military medicine?

**[TAKE ACTION: [Tell Congress Not to Dismantle Military Medicine](#)]**

The Defense Department's fiscal 2020 budget calls for the elimination of about 18,000 military medical positions. This is roughly 20% of the military's medical force. This reduction in medical capacity seems to have been developed absent a medical readiness requirement analysis in support of combatant operational plans. Instead, the cuts appear to be based on a market or network analysis in the vicinity of installations.

[PACMOAA](#)  
[LRADERSHIP](#)

A 20% force reduction constitutes a qualitative change to the military health system, which will cause unintended consequences and may affect all of American medical care. These consequences will be felt in the areas of combat casualty care capabilities; recruitment and retention; and in the already taxed civilian health care sector. These changes will not only dramatically affect currently serving troops. Retirees could see, and many are already experiencing, reductions in care, including pharmacy services. Many TRICARE Prime enrollees are already being pushed into the civilian network for all of their care. This may be just the beginning.

MOAA is looking for answers to the following key questions and more:

- Surge capacity – can military medical departments still support operational plans, medical requirements, combat operations, humanitarian aid and disaster relief missions? Simultaneously?
- How will the reductions affect recruitment and retention of military medical professionals to include the reserve component?
- Will there be adverse effects on retention for each of the parent services? (The military health benefit is a key factor for military families who are making re-enlistment decisions).
- What is the stateside-to-overseas dwell ratios for deployments? Are they acceptable and predictable levels, or will the reductions result in more frequent deployments?
- What will be the effect on the Graduate Medical Education programs (the pipeline of physicians)? Not to mention the quality...
- What will be the effect on civilian medical communities associated with closure or downsizing capabilities of military treatment facilities?
- Proceeding without full analyses and transparency could leave the military community insufficiently sized or with inexperienced medical personnel stateside to support overseas deployments, combat operations, and humanitarian missions. MOAA asks that you alert Congress to this issue by asking them to include provisions in the upcoming 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) directing the DoD to:
  - Develop metrics to measure long-term impacts on military readiness, family member readiness, graduate medical education, and combat casualty care capabilities.
  - Delay medical force restructuring implementation until approved metrics are implemented and can be monitored.
  - Develop a phased implementation plan with milestones for each phase to be met if and before advancing phases.
  - Provide Congress with a full assessment prior to any proposed large-scale billed reprogramming initiative.

**THAT'S A WRAP FOR MAY**