



The Salute Online



Monthly newsletter of the Portsmouth Area Chapter, an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America, serving Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Smithfield, Franklin, and surrounding counties, Virginia, since 1983. Dinner meetings are 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 and do not participate in political activities.

VOLUME XXXX Issue VII

LEARN MORE AT PACMOAA.ORG

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2021

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

PACMOAA EARNS 11TH CONSECUTIVE 5-STAR LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE AWARD!!! Congratulations to MAJ Sherry Ferki for all your hard work!

Greetings,

I hope you have had a wonderful summer. We had a great meeting in June at Roger Brown's in which we recognized our two scholarship winners, **Barrett Ferguson**, and **Jade Lewis** (pictures appear on page 11). We also enjoyed an inspirational talk by **Don Carey**, a currently serving Chesapeake City Councilman.

Additionally, in July, we hosted the **Joint Chapter Summer Brunch at Roger Brown's**. It was nice to interact with members from other local chapters and VCOC. For August, PACMOAA had no official events, so I just enjoyed the heat and humidity!!



Your leadership team has decided to **NOT** meet in-person for our September meeting. With the COVID Delta variant affecting our area,

we felt it prudent to conduct the September meeting by Zoom. Our speaker will be from the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater and her presentation will focus on the Holocaust and one of its survivors, **Kitty Friedenbach Saks**. I'm excited to hear this program and to learn more about this horrible and tragic chapter of the World's history. Please join us via Zoom on September 9, 2021.

If you are travelling this Labor Day weekend, be safe. See you on the 9th!

Warm Regards,

Bill Smith
COL USA (Ret)

The September Speaker's Biography appears on page 2, Kitty Friedenbach Saks on page 3.

PACMOAA LEADERSHIP



CHAPTER NEWS

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 02 VJ Day 1945
- 06-08 Rosh Hashanah
- 09 PACMOAA ZOOM Meeting Log in 6:45, Program 7pm
- 11 Patriot Day
- 12 Grandparents Day
- 15-16 Yom Kippur
- 17 Constitution and Citizenship Day
- 18 POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 18 US AIRFORCE Birthday (1947)
- 18-19 NAS OCEANA AIR SHOW (TBD)
- 22 Autumnal Equinox First Day of Fall
- 26 Gold Star Mother's Day

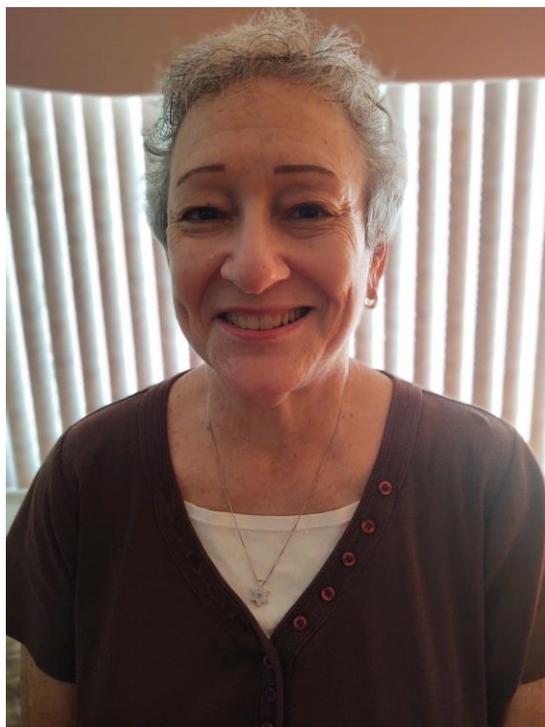
HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Dolly Cherrington

Herb De Groft Harry Miller Gordon Nelson
 Bob Steorts Steve Turner Karl Wilson

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ken App Joseph Barreca Scott Dickinson
 Paul Lucas Blaine Pearsall Hans Sache Bill Smith
 Margret Wilshusen Richard Yesensky



Your Holocaust Commission Zoom docent will be **Ina Mirman Leiderman**, (Pictured at left).

She has been a member of the Holocaust Commission since 2008. She retired after 32 years as a fulltime music teacher for the Virginia Beach Public Schools in 2006. She will be starting her 47th year of teaching elementary music, doing it one day a week at Centerville Elementary. The Holocaust Commission has been her passion and has been doing the *What We Carry* programs for middle and high school students as well as to military and community groups. "It is one of the most important things we do as a Commission - educating future students and adults so that what happened in the

past will not happen again."

KITTY FRIEDENBACH SAKS

Kitty was born in 1932 in Vienna, Austria, where she lived with her parents and grandparents. One day an officer in the Wehrmacht walked into their home, liked what he saw, ordered the family to leave, and took their home from them. So began her family's plans to cross the border into Belgium, trying to stay ahead of the Nazis. Her father crossed the border first, while her grandparents decided to stay behind. They were later deported and killed.

After a number of failed attempts to cross the border, which included armed guards, bribed mercenaries, and a strip search, Kitty, aged 6, and her mother, finally reached Belgium and joined her father in Brussels.

At the age of 9, Kitty's physical education teacher convinced her parents that in order to survive she must be moved to a Catholic school and take on the appearance of being a Catholic child - so began a journey of hiding "in the open," while moving from convent to convent, from school to Catholic orphanage and back, pretending to be someone she was not, and not giving herself away.

In the early days of September, 1944, the British troops entered Brussels and liberated the country from the Nazi stronghold. Shortly afterwards, Kitty was reunited with her parents who had survived in hiding, not far from the orphanage from which Kitty was ultimately liberated.

Kitty was married to Abbott Saks for 62 years and they had 2 grown children and 2 grandchildren. Abbott died in 2019 and Kitty died in 2021.

MEMBERSHIP

PACMOAA has 70 members paid as of 20 August. That number includes our 6 Life members and 2 Honorary Life Members as well as 7 new members for 2021. With the death of three of our longtime members, and several members moving out of state, only 4 members from 2020 have not paid their dues yet. I have been following up those members via letters, email and phone calls. One decided not to renew and I haven't had any response from the other three.

As has been mentioned many times previously, membership is our top priority and is crucial to maintaining a successful chapter. It is difficult to be legislative advocates and continue with community activities without adequate membership. Continually bringing in new members is vital and PACMOAA still has the policy that potential new members may attend their first dinner meeting for ½ price! Please consider inviting a friend and/or neighbor as your guest to one of our dinner meetings. If you know of someone that might be interested in joining, I would be happy to send them some information as long as you obtain their permission for me to do so. Encourage potential members to look on our website at PACMOAA TODAY.

With the increase in COVID cases in our area, Patriot's Colony had to change the Joint Recruiting Event scheduled for 9 September from in person to Zoom. Patriots Colony typically schedules a MOAA speaker to discuss current benefits and issues, has a tour of their facility for individual attendees, and serves heavy appetizers after the presentation. The participating chapters provide a list of potential chapter members with the assistance of MOAA to Patriots Colony. Patriots Colony sends out invitations to the event to the potential members and pays for one year of chapter membership for anyone that attends the joint recruiting event and signs up with a chapter. The only expense PACMOAA had was printing out some information sheets and membership applications. The first year PACMOAA participated was in 2017 and recruited 5 new PACMOAA members! No new members were recruited in 2018 and the event has either been canceled or rescheduled via Zoom 4 times since 2019.

PERSONAL AFFAIRS

I hope you all have been having a good summer and were able to spend time with family and friends. As I have mentioned in several previous columns, most recently in April 2021, planning ahead for your survivors is essential. MOAA has several publications that are great tools to help collect and documents the necessary information. I have copies of the 2015 version of *Help Your Survivors -- Now: A Guide to Planning Ahead* (the most current edition) and the Sept 2014 edition of *Personal Affairs Guide : A Personal Inventory for Peace of Mind*. The 2017 version of *Family Matters : A Personal Inventory for Peace of Mind* is only available online. I can bring copies of both of them to our dinner meetings.

At the Joint Brunch on 18 July, a recently widowed VIPMOAA Surviving Spouse asked me about resources. She was married to a retired military chapter officer for over 30 years and found out when he died that her name had never been filed as his spouse (his first wife's name was still in the file) and was not eligible for SBP or any similar benefits. Everyone at VIPMOAA was shocked that this very organized chapter officer had overlooked that detail!! This surviving spouse graciously allowed me to share her story to prevent this from happening to anyone else.

It has been emphasized at MOAA presentations and to me personally by several financial planners and senior lawyers that it is important to check on your beneficiaries periodically as well as ensuring that you have contingent beneficiaries on all accounts/policies.

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. We have many older members and/or members that are having problems especially over the past 18 months since the Pandemic began. Everyone has been more stressed over the past 18 months so we need look out for each other even more!

Thank you.

Sherry Ferki, Personal Affairs Officer
Home number: 686-4650 Cell: 630-5608

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

Surviving Spouse Corner: Financial Considerations for Spouses and Survivors from MOAA website : August 2021 Council and Chapter News

July 30, 2021

Planning and awareness can save money and effort and even prevent remorse.

By [Patricia Green](#), member, *Surviving Spouse Advisory Council*

You are never prepared for the loss of your spouse. That is true emotionally, and sometimes financially. Even if you do all the work of setting legal instruments in place, often something is overlooked or neglected or some circumstance has changed that requires an update or adjustment.

To prepare, compile papers (especially DD Form 214 and Disability Claims) and determine your financial standing. Calculate the income of each spouse if the other dies. The reality might surprise you. Curtailing your lifestyle, downsizing, saving more, or buying insurance products are options that can avert financial chaos. Give these options some serious thought.

Keep in mind these additional considerations:

Credit cards: Each spouse should have a credit card in their name — alone — as well as some jointly held cards. Be careful that automatic recurring charges, a monthly newspaper subscription, for example, are not billed to a card solely owned by one spouse. If that spouse dies, it takes more effort to have that card cancelled.

Pensions: When you are retired, determining your income seems pretty straightforward. Pensions don't change much. But what if that pension does not transfer to the surviving spouse? If you have the Survivor Benefit Plan, what percentage of the pension continues? Has it been assigned to the spouse or a special-needs child or to a spouse from a previous marriage? Will the spouse receive the veteran's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation?

Social Security: Decisions made about when to start taking Social Security are really difficult. Do what you must, but if there is flexibility, plan a strategy that will support you best and longest. Most people I talk to feel they started withdrawal too soon. Consider delaying Social Security withdrawals from the higher-incomed spouse. Statistically, women might face 20 years or more of widowhood. Each year that you postpone drawing Social Security creates a larger long-term benefit. Do the math. Ask for advice.

Investments: If you have IRAs, you must start withdrawing at a certain age (currently 72). If you have land investments or precious metals or own a small business, converting them to cash requires market timing. These conversions should be discussed with a sales professional specializing in that niche.

Gifts and inheritances: If you're wealthy Uncle Harry sends you and your spouse each a check for \$15,000 yearly, soon that gift is thought of as spendable income. But if one spouse dies, Uncle Harry can only send one check for \$15,000 without causing himself tax consequences. Besides, other family members won't think it's fair if you get \$30,000 and they each only get \$15,000. Be grateful, but consider this check a gift, not a reliable source of income.

If you own part of an income producing property that is supporting you in retirement, make sure the property is titled correctly and the deed transfer upon death achieves the result you need for that income. Take the example of owning a rental house in partnership with your father, and you and your spouse use half of that rental income for living expenses. You expect to inherit this property upon your father's death. But if you predecease your father and the property is not correctly titled, your spouse could be denied the half share of future income.

Taxes on investments: Losses on the sale of an investment owned by your spouse are not carried over after the year of the spouse's death. Offset that capital loss by selling an asset that produced a comparable gain. Don't procrastinate. Do this during the year of death to receive the full benefit of the write-off.

When a spouse dies and there are no dependents, the survivor pays taxes at the rate of a single person, not married or head of household. Examine the tax table; the single rate is much higher. It can happen that a survivor will have less income and still pay more income taxes. And if the survivor has a modified adjusted gross income exceeding \$88,000 a year, Medicare premiums will also be increased.

Secrets: That diamond ring from a former beau, stamp collection, or Bitcoin is not valuable if your spouse doesn't know the ID number or the bank deposit box where it is located. Be sure you discuss all your assets and debts with your spouse.

[Read past Surviving Spouse Corners.](#)

FROM MOAA & LEGISLATIVE

COUNCIL AND CHAPTER LEADER FIRST ROUNDTABLE ON 29 JULY 2021
ROTC and JROTC Programs

MOAA set up monthly discussions on topics many councils, chapter and individual MOAA members are involved in. The **Purpose of the JROTC & ROTC Roundtable**: MOAA encourages support of annual JROTC and ROTC cadet award programs by councils, chapters and individuals members...

- Greater association engagement of ~ 3400 JROTC and ~ 1700 ROTC programs is beyond association's national capacity.
- MOAA appreciates the efforts of its affiliates and members efforts toward program and cadet success.

The **Goal** of the roundtable "is to provide the forum for us to share our idea and best practices".

Some initial JROTC thoughts were provided.

- The **Purpose** - "...to instill in students...the values of citizenship, service to the United States (including an introduction to service opportunities in military, national , and public service), and **personal responsibility and a sense of accomplishment.**" (10 U.S.C. § 2031 (a)(2))
- JROTC cadets exhibit better academic and graduation performance, attendance than peers." From MOAA slides published at www.moaa.org

There will be a different facilitator each month and the ROTC and JROTC programs roundtable was facilitated by Col. DK Berry, President, MOAA Arkansas. Several bullet points were provided to have attendees think about ahead of time. Several examples include – How does **Never Stop Serving** translate into your engagement in JROTC and ROTC programs? and JROTC local program programs and perspectives.

Seventy one members participated from all over the US and the discussion lasted 1 ½ hours even though it was advertised as a 1 hour program! It was amazing to hear all the different ways attendees worked with the cadets in their respective areas and a provided a wealth of great ideas. It was stressed that just participating in the JROTC award ceremonies was not enough involvement. Several participants noted that it was important to be involved in inner city and rural schools also.

Most of the initial speakers were from large councils or chapters and discussed ROTC programs. One supported 5 ROTC programs and gave \$1000.00 scholarships to 1 cadet at each school/ROTC program as well as providing each cadet they commissioned a MOAA packet with insignia and a copy of the book "Once An Eagle". Individual members sponsored each cadet.

I spoke briefly about the importance of JROTC also and that many small chapters had different issues, esp. funding, compared to larger chapters/councils. There was some discussion about the MOAA store – it closed during the pandemic and MOAA just found a new vendor. All the ROTC and JROTC awards as well as all MOAA memorabilia come from the MOAA store. It is supposed to open in October. Many councils/chapters either had material left over from 2020 or borrowed from other groups that had extra. I had ordered supplies (medals and MOAA certificate covers) early last year and all the schools in our area did not award MOAA medals last year so I had enough to cover us for this year.

Many chapters awarded the JROTC cadets a gift card or check for around \$25.00 to each cadet along with the MOAA medal and certificate. Others invited all of the awardees to their chapter dinners or to a picnic in their honor. Some chapters noted they had corporate sponsors to help provide scholarships to JROTC cadets like Walmart, Loew's, Home Depot, local grocery stores, etc. There was some discussion about 501 (c) (3) status . **NOTE:** The PACMOAA scholarships are awarded to any high school senior going in to an ROTC program in college but they do not have to be in JROTC. Many of our scholarship winners have been very active in JROTC programs but not all the high schools in our area have JROTC programs.

Another speaker suggested pressuring all JROTC instructors in your area to join the chapter as well as trying to get parents of the cadets to be chapter members. There was considerable discussion on this suggestion and most members suggested a much less aggressive position per JROTC instructor. PACMOAA has invited many JROTC instructors to dinner/programs meetings and usually invites the JROTC instructor of any scholarship winners in their group to the scholarship recognition dinner. For most of the 21 years I've been a PACTROA / PACMOAA member, the Churchland High School JROTC instructor has been a PACMOAA member!

Submitted by Sherry Ferki, JROTC Award Committee Chair and Scholarship Committee Co-Chair

UPDATE ON 2021 VCOC QUARTERLY MEETINGS

PACMOAA has been well represented with 3 to 4 PACMOAA members at each meeting this year – 12 Jan, 6 Apr, & 13 Jul. All meetings held via Zoom.

Review of Third Quarter Meeting on 13 July 2021

MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret), CWO3 Karl Wilson, USA (Ret), and COL Hal Hostetler, USA (Ret) attended representing PACMOAA.

Membership Report: Membership across all VA chapters only down 3 members from same timeframe in 2020. 2284 members as of 30 July 2021.

Communications and Public Affairs Report: CDR Linc Smith reviewed last Crier (VCOC Quarterly newsletter) and ongoing chapter events highlighted. PACMOAA was chapter in the Spotlight on the Chapters in the 2nd Quarter Crier for our 8 April dinner meeting with presentation by NMCP CO. He also noted that it was our 1st in-person meeting and 32 members attended.

Legislative Committee Report: COL Monti Zimmerman, USA (Ret) reported on JLC initiatives supported by legislative committee and nominees for state and federal legislators of the year.

- Should sponsor or co-sponsor change from “killed in active duty” to “died on active duty” related to tax relief. Would increase about 8 or 9 widows/year receiving tax relief.
- Same as last year, should co-sponsor proposed tax relief for about 1000 lowest paid (near poverty level); primarily E-5 or E-6 retirees with no other taxable income. None pay more than \$4000/year. Could be a way to get “toe in the door” per retiree tax relief!
- Both above items approved.



- State Senator Jen Kiggins, (R), VA Senate 7th district recommended and approved as **VCOC State Legislator of the Year**. Jen is a former U.S. Navy helicopter pilot and now a Nurse Practitioner. Pictured to the left.



- Congresswoman Elaine Luria, (D), U.S. representative for the 2nd congressional district in the U.S. House of Representatives recommended and approved as **VCOC Federal Legislator of the Year**. She retired as a Navy CDR, and is pictured to the left.

- Suggested and approved adding a special legislative meeting to cover

issues that correlate with state legislative calendar in spring and summer 2022.

- JLC Legislative Initiatives for 2021. Only one approved (no-fee license plate for VANG) and one from last year (the Constitutional amendment to provide a tax free vehicle for 100% disabled veterans).
- CDR Linc Smith reviewed the virtual Advocacy in Action meetings.

Nominations Committee Report: All voted on and approved

- President: CDR Linc smith
- 1st VP:
- 2nd VP: CDR John Prevar
- 3rd VP: CDR Monti Zimmerman
- Sec: Lt Col John Down
- Treasurer: LTC Jim Stephan

Old Business:

- Voted to have 4th quarter meeting on 5 Oct in person with Lt Gen Atkins as guest speaker
- Minuteman Award from chapter level – CDR Linc smith chosen
- Minuteman Award to National MOAA staff member – Col Dan Merry, VP for Government Affairs chosen
- Other awards for service submitted to MOAA
- Bylaws Review – continues. Col Victoria Revilla in process of moving and heads committee.

New Business:

- Memorial Ceremony for chapter members deceased since Oct 2019 will be remembered at Oct 5 VCOC meeting.
- Open discussion per 2019 review of retiree state tax report.
- COL Hal Hostetler requests us to add the MOAA voice to the protection of Afghan interpreters and their families.

Included here is the link to The VCOC Newsletter “Crier” which Highlights PACMOAA as Spotlight on Chapters. https://moaavcoc.org/_static/3f709aa016ff91d405880d5bd0f5f694/vcoc-crier-second-quarter-quarter-2021-2.pdf?dl=1

Submitted by MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret)

Assistant VCOC Representative

COMMUNITY NEWS

Annual Joint Brunch 18 July 2021



The Portsmouth Chapter (PAC), the Hampton Roads Chapter (HRC), and the Virginia Peninsula Chapter (VIP) of MOAA hosted a brunch mixer at the Roger Brown’s Sports Bar and Restaurant. About 50 members, spouses and guests from all chapters attended and many pictured above in group shot. PACMOAA had 27 attendees including three PACMOAA members that have joined since March 2020 so this was their first joint brunch! MAJ Steve Watkins joined in April 2020 and attended his first PACMOAA dinner meeting in May 2021. His wife Kay was able to attend the brunch also and is very interested in becoming more active with us. Gordon Iiams, CAPT, USN (Ret) and his wife, Barb Iiams, CDR, USNR (Retired Navy Nurse) joined in May and have attended several PACMOAA dinner/program meetings.



This was also the first chapter activity a new HRCMOAA member was able to attend – JoJo Camano attended along with his wife, Ping, and their son, Joseph, pictured at left. Everyone expressed their pleasure at the camaraderie and great food! This was our first brunch at Roger Brown’s and not an event they usually have but the food and service were very good.

Gen George Patton, bedecked with medals and ribbons, made a “surprise” visit to the joint brunch. After marching into the room and calling everyone to attention, he preceded to deliver one of his very colorful rants. It was certainly not politically correct but thoroughly enjoyed by the whole group. Many thanks to Col Hal Hostetler, USA (Ret) for his superb performance and to Brenda Hostetler for his outstanding costume!!

Submitted by MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret)



L-R Gladys Steorts, CDR Jack Lyons, Kay & MAJ Steve Watkins, Lt Col Bob Steorts



CAPT Roger & Chris Hirsh



Col & Mrs. Cliff McKinstry (VIPMOAA)



CDR & Mrs. Bert Ortiz (HRCMOAA), & CAPT Rick Titi



CWO3 Karl & Angela Wilson



(VIPMOAA) Frankie Gorrell (SS) Col Boyd (VCOC Pres) & Sharon Nix, Lt Col Jim & Pamela Stephan



MAJ Sherry Ferki, Karen & COL Bill Smith



CAPT Gordon & CDR Barb Iiams, Donna & CDR Ken App

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION DINNER RETURNED IN 2021!!



It was great to meet our scholarship winners in person this year! Our scholarship meeting last summer was held via Zoom and was our first Zoom meeting of 2020. PACMOAA was able to utilize part of the \$300.00 USAA Grant awarded in 2020 to help recognize scholarship winners, their parents and JROTC cadets. Again, many thanks to USAA for their continued generous support. **This was the 5th time PACMOAA was awarded the USAA grant!** Both scholarship winners, their parents and JROTC instructors were able to join us this year.



Joe, Carol, & Barrett Ferguson, Chesapeake City Councilman Don Carey, LTC Pete Badoian USA (Ret)

Barrett Ferguson graduated from Smithfield High School and is going to attend Virginia Tech. Both his parents, Joe and Carol Ferguson, were able to join us as well as his JROTC instructor, LTC Pete Badoian, USA (Ret).



L-R Lt Col Christian Wendler USAF (Ret), Jade Lewis, Chesapeake City Councilman Don Carey, & Jade's parents, Rachel and Jason Lewis

Jade Lewis graduated from Great Bridge High School and is going to attend Liberty University. Her parents, Rachel and Jason Lewis, were able to join us as was her JROTC instructor, Lt Col Christian Wendler, USAF (Ret). It was a pleasure to talk with both of these very accomplished students and their families. It was also interesting to have 3 JROTC Senior Instructors from different services as LtCol Paul Pratt, USMC (Ret) attended and facilitated their interaction.

After being presented a certificate and beautiful PACMOAA mug, **Barrett** discussed his goal of majoring in aerospace engineering and thanked the group for his scholarship. **Jade** read a prepared statement to the group as follow:

Good evening,

My name is Jade Lewis. I will be graduating from Great Bridge High School. I've been involved in JROTC for the past 4 years and currently I hold the rank of cadet 1st lieutenant. In the fall I will be attending Liberty University and I will be joining their Air Force ROTC corps. While at Liberty I plan to study chemistry and plan to pursue a career in the medical field in the Air Force after graduating. I would like to thank the Portsmouth Area Chapter of Military Officers Association of America for selecting me for this scholarship. Portsmouth has played an important part in my desire to serve in the military. I come from a military family and we've been stationed at Portsmouth Naval Medical Center several times. I would also like to thank God, my family,

and my JROTC instructors, Lt. Col. Wendler and SMSgt. Smith for encouraging me to be a leader at Great Bridge High School. I've learned many lessons to take with me for my future career. Thank you, this has been a true honor. Have a good evening.



The Churchland MCJROTC under the direction of Gunnery Sgt Nash, presented the colors before we said the Pledge of Allegiance and were led in prayer by Bob Brewer, CAPT, USN (Ret). Unfortunately, the JROTC cadets could not join us for dinner this year. The Churchland MCJROTC has presented colors at several other scholarship dinners including in 2019. Woodrow Wilson High School AJROTC, I.C. Norcom NJROTC and Smithfield High School AJROTC also presented colors at previous scholarship recognition dinners.

PACMOAA again offers our congratulations and best wishes for successful college experiences and military careers to these outstanding students. Their parents and JROTC Instructors are to be commended for facilitating the success of Barrett and Jade thus far.

Submitted by: Sherry Ferki

ROGER HIRSH on WAVY TV!!!

Roger is close to getting "The NAVY Plate" approved to go before the Virginia House of Delegates. Click on the link to see Roger being interviewed on WAVY, The Hampton Roads Show. <https://www.wavy.com/hr-show/cc-navy-plate-virginia-campaign/>

PHARMACY SERVICES UPDATE EFFECTIVE MONDAY SEPT 6, 2021

Per NMCP Facebook posting

Changes to Boone Clinic Pharmacy and Scott Center Annex Pharmacy

Boone Health Branch Health Clinic, located at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, is discontinuing Saturday Drive Thru Refill Services.

- Patients being seen at the Boone clinic on Saturday and Sunday will be able to pick up medications at the Boone Pharmacy.
- Patients can continue to pick up refill medication via the Boone Clinic Pharmacy drive thru Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Patients can pick up refill medications at the drive thru at Scott Center Annex's Pharmacy, located at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, on Saturday if the prescription was placed for that location,

The Scott Center Annex Pharmacy drive thru refill hours will also change to 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. , Monday to Saturday.

UPDATE ON MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM REFORM August 2021

The Defense Health Agency was established in 2013 to help reorganize the DOD health care programs, based in part on the recommendation of a task force's report on the management of U.S. military health care in 2011.

MOAA has been tracking all proposals related to this “transformation” and PACMOAA has included numerous articles/updates over the past several years of proposals in the yearly NDAAAs. MOAA has sent out many request for members to “**Take Action Now**” on bills /NDAA sections related to this transformation, especially over the past several years. Detailed information about the history and changes since 2015 is available on the MOAA website at <https://www.moaa.org/content/topic-and-landing-pages/mhs-reform/>.

The **Tidewater Market** covers southeast Virginia and was certified on 19 April 2021

New Markets, MHS Transformation and You: What Does it All Mean?

From <https://health.mil> Official website of the Military Health System

7/27/2021 by: Jacob Moore, MHS Communications

The Military Health System's transformation is quickly accelerating as the Defense Health Agency launched 10 new markets in locations across the country on July 26.

Eight large single-service markets and two large multi-service markets were added to the ever-growing number of geographically-determined markets under the management of the DHA, bringing the total number of markets to 17.

The 10 newly established markets are:

- Puget Sound (multi-service)
- Hawaii (multi-service)
- Southwest Kentucky
- Southwest Georgia
- Central Texas
- Coastal North Carolina
- Low Country (Georgia)
- San Diego
- Augusta (Georgia)
- Sacramento

They follow other markets that were recently launched, including: San Antonio, Colorado, **Tidewater (Virginia)**, National Capitol Region, Jacksonville (Florida), Central North Carolina and Coastal Mississippi.

Markets are groups of military treatment facilities working together with their TRICARE partners, Veterans Affairs hospitals, other federal health care organizations, private sector teaching hospitals and medical universities, as well as other civilian health care partners in their area. These markets operate as a single system to support the sharing of patients, staff, budgets, and other functions across facilities to improve readiness, and the delivery and coordination of health services.

But what does this all mean for you and your family, as beneficiaries?

Here's what U.S. Public Health Service Capt. Tracy Farrill, the transition director for the DHA Assistant Director for Health Care Administration, said beneficiaries should know about a new MHS market standing up in their area:

Better Access to Care

"You're pooling all your resources from that market to make them available to all the beneficiaries, so access will definitely improve" said Farrill. "One of the biggest goals of the market construct and the transition is to

standardize things from location to location so, no matter where you go, you know what to expect when you walk in the door."

Farrill said this standardization will make it easier for both the patients and providers to navigate an array of services including medical records, prescriptions, and lab work.

Improved Outcomes

Standardization and easier access will inevitably lead to improved outcomes, Farrill said.

"If we standardize and create better access points and use all of the talent throughout the market, then that's going to create the best care because they're optimizing that within the market," she said. "The beneficiaries should not only get quick access, but also the best providers and the best timing, where providers aren't having to learn a new system every time they go to a different facility."

Improved Access to Local MTFs and Specialized Care

Patients will be able to continue to go to their local MTF. The advantage comes in the way of specialized care. If, for instance, a patient requires a treatment option that an Army hospital doesn't have, but a Navy or civilian hospital does have, that care will be available to them, quickly and easily.

No Impact on Your Primary Care Provider

"You should be able to keep your provider if you want to keep your provider, but it will open up a whole other group of providers for specialized care," said Farrill.

The goal, Farrill said, is for the transition from the services to the DHA to be seamless.

Improved Customer Service

"Our goal is for beneficiaries to be able to get care quickly, without having to figure out how to get it," Farrill said. "For centralized appointing, for instance, they shouldn't have to figure that out. It will all be in one place where they can access it."

Improvements on the information technology side of the transformation include [MHS GENESIS](#), the new electronic health record, which will eliminate the need to take medical records from one duty station to another duty station, and will also give providers' instant access patients' records.

"Your doctor today can see what your doctor put in when you were stationed elsewhere. It's all in the same system," said Farrill. This includes access by civilian providers.

Optimized Care for the Warfighter

"In a market, you're bringing all the right people and skillsets together," said Farrill. "The warfighter should have the best outcome and you should have the best of all services, no matter where you go - whether you see a doctor from the Navy, Army, Air Force or the Public Health Service."

The warfighter, she said, shouldn't be able to tell the difference. Only that they are being seen by the highest quality of provider.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES SUMMER 2021

The Churchland High School MCJROTC had a car wash on Saturday 28 August at Advance Auto Parts in Churchland to help raise money for JROTC activities this fall. LtCol Paul Pratt said they have about 1/3 of the funds they usually have this time of year. Fund raising activities have been more difficult to hold in 2021 and no funds will be sent to them from the USMC Training and Education Command (Marine equivalent to USA



TRADOC) headquarters until about 15 October 2021. The school district does not provide any funds for JROTC! The funds will be used for any expenses the JROTC incurs like uniform, travel to events, etc. I will keep you updated on future fund raising events.

Seven cadets were working, usually more cadets participate per LtCol Pratt. Paul said they had a pretty good turnout – most of the attendees were from PACMOAA , American Legion and VFW. He really appreciated the turnout by PACMOAA members!! All the cadets worked hard and did a good job washing and drying cars.

Cadet Sgt Brianna Rowson was one of the cadets that collected Toys for Tots at our December 2018 Christmas Gala. She graduated this year but still

participated in this fundraising event. The colorful sign that Brianna and Cadet PFC Timothy Artemus are holding above was displayed in the front of Advance Auto Parts. Cadet Artemus danced and twirled the sign even though he was dressed in his hot dress uniform!!

PORTSMOUTH MAYOR'S MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (PMMAC)

On 18 August at 0800 hours the PMMAC met for the first time in over a year due to the rise of COVID-19. Several new faces were present as many command positions have changed. Notably, representatives for Senators Warner and Caine have both changed. Neither was there for this first meeting. Our own Irv Lindley, Chairman, moderated the meeting. The Coast Guard representative announced that nine cutters were in port with two more coming soon. Other updates were from Councilman William Moody and various commands and agencies (Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, City Manager, MWR). I gave a brief update on PACMOAA's mission and activities.

A special memorial service **Remembering "9-11"** will be held outside at City Hall, Saturday, 11 September at 0830 hours. A return to a traditional Veteran's Day Ceremony was set for Thursday, 11 November at 11 A.M. at the City Flag Pole. LAVORICE PACE announced his leaving Portsmouth for a similar role with the city of Norfolk.



COL Irv Lindley, USA (Ret) seated far left next to Councilman Moody.

Hal Hostetler

Portsmouth Community Concerts were announced, including the Tidewater Concert Band at a Christmas Concert at Churchland High School, Friday, 3 December at 1930 hrs. Of course, you'll get most of that concert free when you attend our PACMOAA Christmas Gala on 9 December. But, if you enjoy it enough you can go again.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**“Peace and Love vs war and evil”**

The weapons of war are enormously powerful and capable of destroying fortresses. However, and not infrequently, history has made nonsense of promises of peace achieved by war. However, the history of God's Kingdom and human kindness can demonstrate that the peace of God is indeed achieved with acts of love that can overcome the powers of evil. The following is an example unique heroic kindness quoted in the book Life is Messy by Matthew Kelly which took place in a Nazi prison camp.

One morning in Auschwitz, after a prisoner had escaped, the guard decided to murder ten prisoners to discourage others from trying to escape. One of the men selected cried out, “My wife! My children!” It was a desperate plea in the face of brutal inhumanity. The guards didn't care. But one of the man's fellow prisoners did. “I'll take his place,” he announced. He stared directly into the face of Nazi brutality and provided an epic moment of kindness. In the face of cold indifference, it was a moment of glowing love. His name was Maximilian Kolbe.

In a world that can be cold, harsh violent, and at times brutal, kindness proves that our humanity has a better side, a side that is caring and gentle, a side that can rise above almost anything.

Often quoted is the scriptural statement that *“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends” (Jn. 15:13).*

Acting Chaplin: Dr. Bob Brewer

THAT'S A WRAP FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2021!