



The Salute Express



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 XXXXI Issue I

LEARN MORE AT PACMOAA.ORG

JANUARY 2022

REMINDER: Although MOAA and PACMOAA actively lobby legislatures for all US uniformed services members, we are nonpartisan and do not participate in political activities.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings,

Yeah- 2021 has gone away! What a year we had. In spite of all of the challenges we faced, I am thankful for the many blessings my family and I had. PACMOAA experienced many ups and down also. We lost some long-time members and struggled with Zoom meetings during COVID shutdowns. Nothing was normal, and yet, I think we have had a successful year. We've resumed in-person meetings, gotten new members, awarded scholarships (2), supported MOAA, etc. and we stuck together. Thank you all for your contributions to this effort and for taking care of each other!

Hello 2022! A new year with many new challenges and opportunities for us. I look forward to resolving the challenges and seizing the opportunities to serve our veterans and our community. My resolution this year is to stick to my resolution for more than a week! Actually, my resolutions are to lead PACMOAA this year,



Above: PACMOAA President opening remarks at the Christmas Gala

further develop our personal relationships, continue with in-person meetings, stay involved and HAVE FUN! I hope you will join me on this journey. Karen and I wish you health, happiness and best wishes for 2022! See you on the 13th at Roger Brown's.

Bill Smith
COL USA (Ret)



Bill presenting Marie, our waitress at Roger Browns, an additional Thank You from PACMOAA for her excellent service!

PACMOAA LEADERSHIP

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MAJ Sherry Ferki

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Co-chairs above
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Gladys Steorts

Surviving Spouse Liaison
MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret)

Historian
VACANT



CHAPTER NEWS

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 01 New Years Day
- [04 USPHS 132st Birthday Commissioned Corps \(1889\)](#)
- 13 PACMOAA Officer Installation Meeting CDR Linc Smith at Roger Brown's Resturant
- 14 First Quarter VCOC Meeting, Virtual
- TBD JLC DAY - Richmond General Assembly
- 16 Persian Gulf War Begins 1991
- 18 M.L. King Jr. Day
- 28 [USCG 106th Birthday.\(1915\)](#)
- 29 Vietnam Cease Fire (1973)

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Alice Fticsar Barb Iiams Mary Snyder
Rick Titi Stephen Watkins Jeff Westling
Van White, Jr

The Installation Dinner

will be held on **Thursday, January 13th** at Roger Brown's Banquet Room

Sign in and social hour begins at 6 PM, with Dinner Served at 6:30 PM.

Buffett Menu

Harvest Salad

Meatloaf

Catfish

Mashed Potatoes with Gravy

Sauteed Vegetables

Apple Cobbler

Water, Tea, & Coffee

Cost is \$25 (includes gratuity & tax). Please make your reservation no later than **Sunday, January 9th** with Sherry Ferki at 757-686-4650 or by email at navmedarmynurse@gmail.com .

A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID

CDR LINC SMITH, USNR (Ret)
Installation Speaker



I originate from New England, growing up in the greater Boston area. I graduated from Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut, BA in Government. My post graduate studies include an MA, Public Relations and Journalism, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, National Security Studies, United States Naval War

College, Newport Rhode Island, and Regent University, MA, Government, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Most recently, I studied Executive Facilitation, Georgetown University, DC. I am retired Navy Public Affairs Officer. From 1981-1994, I was a Surface Line Officer in the United States Navy on both ships and ashore, to include service with International Peace-keeping Forces Lebanon, Operation Desert Storm, and on the USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67) and USS Miller (FF 1091). I became a Navy Public Affairs Officer (PAO) in 1995, after serving as the Naval Base Public Affairs Officer at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba during Operation Sea Signal. I hosted the radio show "Good Evening GTMO." In 1996, I became the final Public Affairs Officer on the USS America (CV 66), also returning to the USS Kennedy in 1996, this time as ship's PAO. I moved on to be a PAO at Bethesda Naval Hospital, Naval Sea Systems Command, and North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Supreme Allied Command Atlantic NATO (SACLANT), where I was stationed during Operation Enduring Freedom. My Broadcasting Career began during my undergraduate years, when I was news director for Connecticut College WCNI-FM. I was an intern at WHDH-AM, Boston and WNLC-AM, New London, Connecticut. I worked as a morning news co-anchor at WKOX-AM, Framingham, Massachusetts. While in graduate school, I was weekend editor at Ohio State University National Public Radio Affiliate, WOSU-AM/FM. I currently host my interview show, LincInterviews, now heard by an international audience in 10 countries, to include the United States, Canada, Europe, the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific. I also host podcasts for the Update-1 Program at the National Press Club, Washington, D.C. I periodically serve as co-host on the Nora Firestone Show, WKQA Freedom 1110 AM, Norfolk, Virginia. I work in voice over recording and as master of ceremonies for charitable, veteran and community related events. Amidst my broadcasting career, I advocate for Veterans with the Military Officers Association of America, two positions: Vice President, Virginia Council of Chapters and Legislative Committee Chair, Hampton Roads Virginia Chapter. Along with my Navy career of 25 years as both a Surface Line and Public Affairs Officer, my passion remains interviewing and broadcast journalism.

CDR Linc Smith will give an overview of the Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC) and it's website. He is currently serving as the President for VCOC and will install our newly elected PACMOAA Officers and Board of Directors.

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE AND RENEWAL REMINDER JAN 2021

You can pay your dues by mail or online at this time: PACMOAA, P.O. Box 5353, Portsmouth, VA 23703. About 63% of PACMOAA members that need to pay took advantage of the discounted rates for multiyear payment! Thank you all, you have made my job collecting dues much easier!! See membership application at the end of the newsletter if you need to pay dues this year. If you're not sure, check with Hans or Sherry.

Your dues money enables PACMOAA to pay for things like the newsletter; speaker expenses; VCOC dues and expenses; admin expenses like name tags, printing, postage and entertainment like the Tidewater Concert band that performed at our Christmas Concert.

Maintaining and/or increasing membership is essential for a chapter to survive and thrive. The PACMOAA Goals in order are Membership, Legislative, and Community Activities. Without adequate membership, legislative advocacy and community involvement are severely impacted!

PACMOAA had 71 "paid" members as of 30 December 2021 with several potential new members. This included 6 life members, 2 Honorary Life Members, another Honorary member and 7 new members. The membership includes 63 regular members and 8 Surviving Spouses. PACMOAA started and ended 2019 with 71 members!!

Reminder: Many members include donations for our scholarship fund with their dues payment and this can be done in-person, via mail, or online.

Guidelines for Paying PACMOAA Dues Online

Members need to create and/or login to their PayPal account.

From the Account Overview page, click the Send button. If prompted for whether the money will be sent to a business or friend, enter "friend". Type PACMOAATreasurer@gmail.com in the block where it says "name, @username, email, or mobile" and click "next". Enter the amount to transmit and add "For PACMOAA Dues" in the note section and click "continue". Review the information, including the bank account or credit card you want the funds to come from. Press "Send payment now" when everything looks correct.

If you paid for a two- or three-year membership renewal last year, then dues aren't applicable this year. A two-year membership will expire in January 2023, and a three-year membership will expire in January 2024. If you aren't sure when your membership expires, please contact either Sherry Ferki, or Hans Sache.

PACMOAA CHAPTER/MEMBERS RECOGNIZED BY MOAA FOUR TIMES IN 2021!

PACMOAA had an outstanding year in 2021 with the chapter/members receiving four awards from MOAA for activities in 2020. The most awards PACTROA/PACMOAA previously received in the 21 years since I joined the chapter was 2 in 2010.

Each has been noted individually by PACMOAA but the total is impressive.

2020 Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award : Five-Star Award for print newsletter and website. This was the 1st time PACMOAA applied for this award. Thank you very much to Ken App for all his hard work on both!!!

2020 Levels of Excellence Award: Five-Star Award. This was the **11th consecutive year** PACMOAA applied for this award and was recognized at the five-star level. Sherry submitted the packet, a compilation of PACMOAA activities for 2020. Thank you to the Leadership Team and PACMOAA membership for all your support!!

At Biennial Meeting and Luncheon on 5 October in Williamsburg:

MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret) presented with MOAA Leadership Award by COL Dan Merry, USAF (Ret) representing LtGen Atkins, USAF (Ret). Award was for advocacy efforts in 2020 Advocacy in Action activities with VCOC and the MOAA Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter related to Military Health Care reform/downsizing. This is the 2nd MOAA Leadership Award Sherry has been awarded.

LtCol Jim Stephen, USAF (Ret) presented with MOAA Outstanding Service Award by COL Dan Merry, USAF (Ret) representing LtGen Atkins, USAF (Ret). Award was for service to VCOC as Treasurer and acting Membership Chair.

Submitted by Sherry Ferki

PACMOAAs Christmas Generosity

PACMOAA members contributed to an overflowing box of gifts for **Toys for Tots** that were distributed at Military Mall in Norfolk. Lt Col Pratt (the Senior Instructor for the Marine Corps JROTC) had two of his US Marine Corps JROTC cadets (from Churchland High School) in uniform to collect the gifts. It was a pleasure to meet and talk with Lt Col Pratt, Cadet 2 Lt Knight and Cadet SSgt Highstreet while they were collecting the toys and as they joined us for dinner. Both young men were impressive in their uniforms and brimming with Christmas spirit! They made the evening even more enjoyable!!



PACMOAA members started donating to Toys for Tots at our Christmas Galas when Capt. Ron Mace was the senior MCJROTC instructor at Churchland High School over 10 years ago!

Members also donated many supplies for the **Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless (PVH)**- Darlene Washington was amazed at how much was contributed and very thankful for our generosity!! PVH decided to continue services, transitioning into their contingency operations since March 2020. They expanded their service delivery to “ensure our homeless brothers and sisters have access to basic, protective services.” Their expanded “Service Center-to-Shelter” has been providing 23-hour support and services, including:



- Extended Service Center hours for 0700-1800, 7 days a week providing a daytime option for the stay-at-home precautions. Before March 2020, these services were provided Monday-Friday 0800-1400, no weekends!
- Establishing a temporary facility for night sheltering.
- “Navigating clients through barrier assessment and related referrals to partner agencies for housing, mental health and substance use treatment opportunities.”

Many thanks to all those that contributed to Toys for Tots and/or PVH. Your gifts will certainly be appreciated. They both have been an important part of our Christmas Celebration for 10 years, except for last year. Please remember that PVH functions year-round and, ideally, we collect donations for them at each PACMOAA meeting.

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

Surviving Spouse Corner: What to Expect in 2022 With the ‘Widows Tax’ Repeal

By: Nancy Mullen From MOAA Website November 29, 2021

We are coming up on the second year of a three-year phase out of what has been known as the "widows tax," which required forfeiture of a dollar of Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) for every dollar of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) received. Please note this is only applicable to those surviving spouses who qualify for both DIC and SBP and are in receipt of the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA).

In Phase 1 (2021), surviving spouse SBP payments were reduced, or offset, by two-thirds of the DIC rather than the full dollar-for-dollar reduction. For many surviving spouses, this resulted in an increase in the amount of SBP paid as the gross amount of their SBP exceeded two-thirds of the DIC. Others have had to wait to see an increase in their benefit.

[MOAA Resources: [The Widows Tax](#)]

We are nearing the start of Phase 2 of the elimination of the offset for which the amount offset (or deducted) from the SBP will be reduced to one-third of the DIC payment. To estimate your benefit, subtract one-third of your current base DIC payment from your current gross SBP benefit. The result is approximately what your SBP payment will be in the second phase, plus any COLAs, which is expected to be approximately 5.9%.

Let's look at an easy example: We will assume a COLA of 5.9% for 2022, which puts the projected 2022 base DIC amount at approximately \$1,437.66. One-third of that new DIC amount is \$479.22. This is the amount you will subtract from your gross SBP amount. So, if your gross SBP without offset is \$1,000, then you would subtract \$479.22 from \$1,000 to give you a 2022 SBP payment of \$520.78 (\$1,000-\$479.22). You would also receive the SSIA, which is projected to be approximately \$346.

These new changes will be effective in January 2022, which you will see reflected on the payment to be received Feb. 1, 2022. If you do not know your gross SBP, you can find that on your annuitant account statements, available in your myPay account. You should also receive an annuity statement in the mail in December 2021.

There are no changes to the post-9/11 active duty survivor child-only SBP option until 2023, and these changes do not impact the retiree child-only SBP option.

Thankfully, many resources are available to help you understand the basics of your benefits. If you are not already a member, please join the [Military Widows: SBP-DIC Offset](#) or the [MOAA Surviving Spouses and Friends](#) Facebook groups. These pages contain various important files you can use to read up on this and other issues as well as additional posts that might be of interest to you. You can also visit the [Defense Finance and Accounting Service \(DFAS\) website](#) for the most up-to-date information and other guidance, including the June 2021 survivor SBP newsletter, [The SBP-DIC Offset Phased Elimination: What to Expect in the Upcoming Phases](#), as well as a helpful frequently asked questions section. Visit the [DFAS website](#) to learn more.

Sherry Ferki, Personal Affairs Officer and Surviving Spouse Liaison
Home number: 686-4650 Cell: 630-5608

MOAA & LEGISLATIVE

MOAA in Action: Major Legislative Accomplishments at <https://www.moaa.org/content/topic-and-landing-pages/moaa-in-action/>

MOAA engages with Congress on all manner of issues related to the uniformed services community. These efforts can include collaboration with other like-minded organizations and with The Military Coalition. We also rely heavily on our members who make their voices heard by contacting lawmakers via [MOAA's Legislative Action Center](#), by participating in our annual signature advocacy event, and through local efforts at the [chapter and council level](#).

For [more than 90 years](#), this work has led to real results – pay and benefits protected from budget-driven threats, continued access to quality medical care, and countless other areas of concern to our members, our military, and the wider uniformed services community.

No list could encompass everything MOAA's achieved since 1929, but below, you'll find some of the highlights. Click the links for details on each of the items (or scroll below the boxes to see the full list), and reach out to MOAA's legislative team at legis@moaa.org to discuss your concerns on these or other topics. Note: Items with an asterisk (*) are recurringly under attack or under resourced.

- [Repealing SBP-DIC offset](#), known as the 'Widows Tax' – saving up to \$12,000 per year for nearly 67,000 surviving spouses.
- [Executing a credible game plan for oversight of DoD's health care](#) – protecting continued access to quality care.*
- [Securing comprehensive privatized military housing reform](#) – improving housing, establishing Tenant Bill of Rights, and Congressional oversight.*
- [Lessening impact of TRICARE fee hikes](#) (Family = \$300 vice \$900) – fighting multiple efforts to end grandfathering for those who entered service before Jan. 1, 2018.*
- [Protecting TRICARE For Life \(TFL\)](#) – blocked five consecutive administration budgets proposing TFL enrollment fees (2013-2017).*
- [Maintaining pay raise comparability](#) – ensuring pay raises for our uniformed services keep pace with civilian sector increases.*
- [Providing Wounded Warrior protections and caregiver enhancements](#) – securing multiple improvements to VA caregiver programs.*

- [Defeating ‘COLA Minus 1 Percent’](#) – ending Congressional attempts to reduce retired pay, costing an E-7 retiring after 20 years \$83,000, and an O-5 \$124,000, by age 62.*
- [Securing major GI Bill upgrades to include transferability](#) – and improving benefits for National Guard on Title 32 orders.*
- [Boosting compensation significantly for retirees with 50% VA disability](#) – still fighting for the rest to include those medically retired.*
- [Improving Guard and Reserve TRICARE coverage](#) – and securing a premium cut.
- [Ensuring Guard and Reserve retirement age credit for active duty service](#) – now allowing 90 days to sea stretch over two consecutive years.

MOAA’s 2022 Legislative Priorities at <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2021-news-articles/advocacy/moaas-2022-legislative-priorities/>

December 27, 2021 By [MOAA Government Relations Staff](#)

As we head into the second session of the 117th Congress, please take note of MOAA’s legislative priorities highlighted below. For 2022, we are continuing the momentum established over the previous year to carry our efforts into the second session of Congress. It is important to note all co-sponsors carry over, as do our messages and continued engagements.

Continuity and consistency of effort will be paramount to success — and we are closing in on many of these issues, so stay plugged in and ready to engage your legislators. There are other issues not listed here that are also being worked by our full staff of lobbyists. Our priorities will be shaped throughout the year depending on concurrent successes or emerging issues that warrant an all-hands approach.

We appreciate your grassroots efforts, which shore up all the work we are doing in the Capitol region. You can [follow us online](#) for updates on our progress.

Here is what we are focused on for 2022 (click each link for more on the topic):

- [Sustain pay raises and adequate BAH for the troops and COLA raises for retirees.](#)
- [Ensure the Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service continue to receive pay during a government shutdown.](#)
- [Protect the value of the military health care benefit.](#)
- [Protect the Military Health System pharmacy benefit, and achieve flexibility in TRICARE pharmacy copays.](#)
- [Address barriers to accessing care within the MHS, including TRICARE coverage gaps and mental health care access challenges.](#)
- [Protect family support programs, and ensure military-provided services \(housing, PCS, child care, youth programs, financial counseling\) are readily available and meet standards for quality and costs.](#)
- [Achieve equity of benefits, protections, and administrative support for Guard/Reserve members consistent with their active-duty counterparts.](#)
- [Sustain Veterans Health Administration \(VHA\) foundational missions and services.](#)
- [Reform the presumptive process to support veterans claiming service-connected disabilities for toxic exposures.](#)
- [Achieve concurrent receipt of service-earned retirement pay and VA disability pay.](#)
- [Protect full military honors and burial at Arlington National Cemetery for those currently eligible.](#)
- [Improve survivors’ benefits.](#)
- [Support a quality transition experience from active duty to veteran status for all servicemembers.](#)
- [Recognize the pandemic continues to affect the lives of our servicemembers.](#)

This Major, MOAA-Backed TRICARE Pharmacy Reform Will Improve Your Benefit

By: Karen Ruedisueli From MOAA Website December 21, 2021

The Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) report for its version of the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) includes language directing DoD to establish an appeals process for TRICARE coverage of Tier 4/non-covered drugs – [a change sought by MOAA](#) to reduce beneficiaries' financial risk and improve their access to effective drug treatments.

MOAA greatly appreciates the SASC's response; although directive report language is not legally binding, agency officials generally regard it as a congressional mandate and respond accordingly.

[RELATED: [Pay Raise, TRICARE Changes, and More: What Made the Cut in This Year's NDAA](#)]

The SASC language directs the Defense Health Agency (DHA) to establish a medical necessity and prior authorization process to allow a beneficiary to request coverage of a Tier 4 drug at the same co-pay or cost-share as a non-formulary drug. It requests a briefing to the Senate and House Armed Services Committees on the appeals process no later than Feb. 1, 2022.

The FY 2018 NDAA authorized DoD to exclude from the TRICARE pharmacy program any prescription drug that provides little or no clinical effectiveness over other covered drugs. These drugs are known as Tier 4 (non-covered). Since the establishment of Tier 4, MOAA has advocated for an appeals process on the basis of medical necessity. And because charges for drugs in this tier don't count against the catastrophic cap, beneficiaries can be exposed to significant costs if their prescription is moved to this tier.

We also have worked to get a specific drug, Dexilant, reinstated to the TRICARE formulary. Even with the pending appeals process, our efforts on Dexilant will continue given beneficiary feedback and our research on Dexilant coverage policies, which indicate TRICARE is out of step with commercial plans and other government payers.

[RELATED: [Need a New TRICARE-Network Pharmacy in the New Year? Here's What to Do](#)]

We will request an implementation update from DHA and will provide more information as soon as it is available. Thank you to the many MOAA members who shared their stories about the impact of Tier 4 – your contributions played a critical role in our advocacy efforts. Continue to share these details on your use of the TRICARE pharmacy program by emailing legis@moaa.org.

Star Act Support: More Lawmakers Join the Fight for Concurrent Receipt from moaa.org

By: Mark Belinsky December 21, 2021

The Major Richard Star Act – a bill that would end an unjust offset faced by tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans – has grown co-sponsors in recent weeks as staffers have time to access constituent requests and engage with elected officials.

Co-sponsors for The Major Richard Star Act recently grew to 55 in the Senate and 151 in the House. You can check to see whether your lawmakers support the House or Senate versions at these links: [S. 344](#) | [H.R. 1282](#). Thanks to engagement from MOAA members and [The Military Coalition](#) (TMC) – a group of military and veterans organizations with a combined membership of nearly 5.5 million members of the uniformed services community – support for the Star Act is bipartisan and has good potential to reach a tipping point next year.

This holiday season is a very good time to reach out and ask for your representative and senators to co-sponsor the Star Act as they develop 2022 goals and prepare for midterm elections.

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Major Richard Star Act](#)]

According to the DoD Office of the Actuary, the Star Act would support over 48,000 combat-injured veterans with concurrent receipt of medical retired pay and VA disability. These individuals, often seriously disabled, are subject to an offset where their medical retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of VA disability received. In some cases, their retirement pay is completely reduced.

Retired pay is for completed years of service paid by DoD, while disability compensation is for lifelong injury paid by the VA. Two different payments for two different purposes. To reduce retired pay because of a disability is an injustice.

What Happened With the Bill in 2021?

Although cosponsors grew significantly for the Star Act, a supermajority of support is required for this legislation to get this through Congress due to the cost of the bill. The bill was introduced as an amendment in this year's House version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), but the House Rules Committee was unable to waive NDAA budgetary rules, preventing further movement on the amendment.

Unfortunately, the Senate limited voting on amendments. Securing more co-sponsors in both chambers can help overcome these procedural hurdles.

[RELATED: [Pay Raise, TRICARE Changes, and More: What Made the Cut in This Year's NDAA](#)]

Advocacy for concurrent receipt and the Star Act is part of a larger campaign MOAA has pursued for many years. In 2004, MOAA and TMC secured concurrent receipt for retirees who served at least 20 years and have a VA disability rating at 50% or higher. Left behind after that 2004 change are 20-year retirees with a 40% disability rating and below, and those who were medically retired under [Chapter 61](#) with less than 20 years of service.

MOAA and TMC advocate for concurrent receipt for all, and the Star Act is part of an incremental strategy. The total cost for concurrent receipt for those left behind was previously estimated at more than \$33 billion over 10 years. The Star Act is a much a smaller segment of our combat injured, and the bill must get out of committee to receive an official cost estimate.

Our combat injured are a compelling group to support in the year that witnessed the tragic exit from Afghanistan, leaving many with moral injury, and the year Maj. Richard Star, USAR, [lost his battle with cancer](#). [Reach out to your lawmakers today](#).

COMMUNITY NEWS**PACMOAA 2021 CHRISTMAS GALA**

<Shirley Barker and Gladys Steorts checking members in and Selling Scholarship 50/50 Raffle tickets

At right is LTC Paul Pratt USMC (Ret) and Cadets 2nd Lt Knight and SSgt Highstreet from Churchland JMCROTC collecting Toys for "Toys for Tots"





Hans Sachse, Sherry Ferki, Rick Titi, and Scott Dickenson



Donna App contributing to Toys for Tots.



<Bob Steorts & Karl Wilson



Bob & Nellie Wall >>



<< LTC Paul Pratt with Cadet Knight



Karen Smith with Donna App >>>



<<<Lisa Parker & Doug Weller



Irv Lindley with Cadet Highstreet>



<< Karl & Angela Wilson, & Joyce Johnson

Van & Elle White >>



<<Ken & Donna App

From left: Margaret Wilshusen, Bob & Cindy Brewer, Bruce LaLonde, and Karen Smith



<< Stephen & Kay Watkins

Bob & Cindy Brewer >>



<<<Darlene Washington, Diector of Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless

Sherry & Bruce Ferki>>>



Tidewater concert band pictures



Ruth Skelton, (above, at left, & below) Brenda Hostetler's mom, 101 in November, has been at almost all of the recent PACMOAA's CHRISTMAS GALAs.



At right with Elle and Van White >



NAVY PLATE VIRGINIA UPDATE: State Senator Jen Kiggans will present the U.S. Navy license plate bill to the Virginia General Assembly in January. I have collected the required minimum of 450 paid preorders, but welcome additional preorders. All current and former Navy members, as well as un-remarried surviving spouses, are eligible. This is a revenue share plate to benefit the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. Plate options include motorcycles, personalized, and disabled. Go to www.NavyPlateVirginia.com for details and preorder forms.

PACMOAA ACTIVITIES 2021

1. Monthly newsletter (The Salute) except June/July & Aug./Sept. issues.
2. Ongoing emails and/or phone calls, postings on PACMOAA Facebook page, and information in newsletters per NMCP pharmacy changes, COVID vaccine eligibility and availability as well as flu vaccine availability. Vaccine updates included both NMCP and civilian information.
3. Membership brochure developed by 3rd VP CDR Ken App, USN (Ret) with input from Leadership Team.

4. Usually monthly program/dinner meetings. Zoom program meetings 3 months, dinner/ program meetings (also available via Zoom) 5 months, Christmas Gala with band. Examples of speakers included NMCP CO and Congressman Bobby Scott.
5. Annual joint brunch in July with other local Chapters of **MOAA** at Roger Browns.
6. PACMOAA covers 14 local High Schools with JROTC groups. Certificates and medals are usually given to students by a member of the **PACMOAA** Leadership Team at JROTC Award Ceremonies. Only 3 out of 14 school had in person ceremony and PACMOAA member participated. MOAA medals & certificates mailed to JROTC leaders for 5 schools.
7. Scholarships awards for 2 local students going to college ROTC presented at Annual Scholarship Recognition Program/Dinner Meeting in June.
8. Unable to participate in community activities like parades, especially annual Memorial Day parade in Portsmouth with **PACMOAA** banner on cars as it was canceled in 2020 & 2021.
9. Participation in Toys for Tots program at Christmas meeting. Membership very generous as usual.
10. Donations to the Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless usually done monthly but decreased during the year with fewer meetings but numerous donations made at Christmas Gala.
11. Membership in VCOC (Virginia Council of Chapters) which is very active in state legislative issues. **One of the six VCOC officers is a PACMOAA member!** Two to five PACMOAA Leadership Team members attended each Quarterly Meeting.
12. Several Leadership Team Members participated in MOAA's Virtual Chapter Leaders Workshop as well as monthly MOAA Leadership Roundtable Discussions via Zoom.
13. Advocacy in Action via Zoom meetings with legislators. Information in every newsletter per state and/or national legislative issues.
14. Leadership Team members participated in the 4th Qtr. VCOC Meeting, Luncheon, Biennial Remembrance, and Award Ceremony in Williamsburg. COL Hal Hostetler, USA (Ret) conducted the Remembrance Ceremony. MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret) received her 2nd MOAA Leadership Award and Lt Col Jim Stephan, USAF (Ret) received the MOAA Outstanding Service Award.
15. PACMOAA has been recognized as a **5th Level of Excellence Chapter** for the **11th** year in a row and received **Col Marvin J. Harris Communication Award** at **Five-Star level** for **Print newsletter & Website** for 1st time!! These are the highest awards MOAA presents to chapters.

MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

CDR MARGARET CICIRELLI, USCGR (RET)

CDR Cicirelli (Peg) attended NAVOCS, Newport, RI, in 1964/65. After tours in DC, FLTOCNAVEUR, London, UK, and back to DC, she resigned in 1971. Pregnancy while on active duty was frowned upon with an official policy change occurring in 1975/76. Peg served in USCG Reserve Group Monetary and was recalled to active duty to teach at the US Coast Guard Academy, New London, CT in 1977. While there, she was selected as a career Reserve Program Administrator. Among other billets, mostly at USCGHQ, Washington, DC, Peg served as Assistance Chief of Reserve in New York (USCGD3), where she met and married CAPT Raymond Cicirelli in 1984. In 1988, Peg was assigned as Training Officer,



Recruit Training Center, Cape May NJ until 1991. She retired in 1993; and she and Ray moved to Portsmouth, where they later joined PACTROA/PACMOAA (in 2000).

Peg served on the Board of Directors from Jan 2013 to Jan 2015 and served on the Scholarship committee from 2015 to 2018. During her tenure on the Scholarship committee, Peg updated the scholarship distribution list and assisted with JROTC medal/certificate presentations several times. Peg has continued to support the PACMOAA Scholarship Fund through regular donations!

In addition to PACMOAA service, Peg retains memberships in the Reserve Officer's Association, as well as MOAA, Military Women of Tidewater, and other organizations. Peg was honored by Girls Inc. of Southwest Hampton Roads Center for Youth as one of ten "Strong, Smart, and Bold" women in 2008. She has been awarded multiple awards while a LION in Western Branch LIONS Club. From 1996 until 2010, Peg served as a hospice volunteer for, first Bon Secours and , later, Sentara Hospice, serving over 60 families. She was also an active volunteer in her fourth parish and did volunteer work at St's Mary's in Suffolk and Lake Prince Woods, an Independent Living Community in Suffolk, where the Cicirelli's moved to in 2010. Sadly, Raymond died in 2019 after an extended illness. Peg continued to attend PACMOAA activities until recently when health issues interfered.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

As I approach the New Year and the end of Christmas Season, I was looking for a good thought to begin the New Year.

I found this New Year Prayer written by Helen Steiner Rice in "Sweet Rose of Thorns" which truly touched my heart as we begin a new year.

God grant us this year a wider view,
 So we see others faults through the eyes of you.
 Teach us to judge not with hasty tongues,
 Neither the adult...nor the young.
 Give us patience and grace to endure
 And a stronger faith so we feel secure.
 Instead of remembering, help us forget
 The irritations that caused us to fret.
 Freely forgiving for some offense
 And finding each day a rich recompense.
 In offering a friendly helping hand
 And trying in all ways to understand;
 That all of us whoever we are...
 Are trying to reach an unreachable star.
 For the great and small. .the good and bad,
 The young and old...the sad and glad
 Are asking today; Is life worth living?
 The answer is only in, loving and giving
 For only Love, can make man kind
 And Kindness of Heart brings Peace of Mind.
 To lift the clouds of hate and fear.

CAPT Bob Brewer, USN (Ret)

THAT'S A WRAP FOR JANUARY 2022

PACMOAA MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM 2022

FULL NAME: _____ NICKNAME: _____

GRADE/RANK: _____ SERVICE: _____ BIRTH DATE: _____

STATUS: Active Retired Former Surviving Spouse

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

MOAA Membership No.: _____ (From MOAA card or Military Officer Mailing Label)

Spouse's Name: _____ Spouse's Nickname: _____

Are you willing to serve as board member or on a committee? () Yes () No

Please circle payment plan you select:

	Discount	15%	20%
			<u>Best Value</u>
Membership Category	1 Year	2 Year	3Year
Retired/Active/Vet Regular (Voting Member)	\$25.00	\$42.50	\$60.00
Surviving Spouse (Voting Member)	\$20.00	\$34.00	\$48.00
Active Duty (Non-Voting Member)	\$5.00	\$8.50	\$12.00

Mail payment to: PACMOAA at PACMOAA, PO Box 5353 in Portsmouth, VA 23703

Or pay via PayPal:

From the PayPal Account Overview page, click the Send button. If prompted for whether the money will be sent to a business or friend, enter "friend". Type PACMOAATreasurer@gmail.com in the block where it says "name, @username, email, or mobile" and click "next". Enter the amount to transmit and add "For PACMOAA Dues" in the note section and click "continue". Review the information, including the bank account or credit card you want the funds to come from. Press "Send payment now" when everything looks correct.

If you paid for a two- or three-year membership renewal last year, then dues aren't applicable this year. A two-year membership will expire in January 2023, and a three-year membership will expire in January 2024. If you aren't sure when your membership expires, please contact either Sherry Ferki, or Hans Sachse.

DATE: _____ SIGNATURE: _____