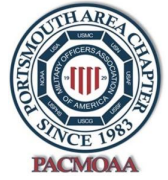




The Salute Online



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 XXXXI Issue II

LEARN MORE AT PACMOAA.ORG

FEBRUARY 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.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Greetings,

Hope everyone has been safe, warm, and dry during the last couple of snowstorms. Spring cannot be too far away, and I am hoping it arrives soon! Dealing with the weather, Covid, the economy, Ukraine, etc. makes me eager for 2022 to become the year we had hoped for after 2020 and 2021. Nonetheless, I am optimistic and feel blessed. I hope you have the same outlook for this year.

PACMOAA still has openings for a Secretary and Historian. I ask you to carefully consider filling one of these positions- they do not require great investments in time but are necessary to complete our Leadership Team. Our by-laws allow not only members but their spouses to hold office in PACMOAA. Please call me if you want more information on how YOU can serve this organization and fellow veterans.

Our February Dinner Meeting is scheduled for

February 10, 2022, at Roger Brown's Restaurant Banquet Room. I am excited to hear the Mayor of Portsmouth, The Honorable Shannon Glover's remarks. I would love for you to come, hear his presentation and for you to ask pertinent questions. See more details on menu, time, (page 2) and Mayor Glover's biography (page 3) in the Salute.

See you in February,

Bill Smith
COL USA (Ret)



CDR Linc Smith, VCOC President, swearing in our new Leadership Team

PACMOAA
LEADERSHIP

See pacmoaa.org under Leadership



CHAPTER NEWS

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

- 02 Army Nurse Corps Established 1901
- 02 [Ground Hog Day](#)
- 04 [USO Birthday \(1941\)](#)
- 10 PACMOAA Dinner Mtg, Speaker Portsmouth Mayor Glover
- 13 Super Bowl Sunday - Bengals vs Rams
- 14 [National Salute to Veteran Patients](#) Week of February 14
- 14 [Valentine's Day](#)
- 21 [Presidents' Day](#) third Monday in February
- 19 US Coast Guard Reserve Birthday (1941)
- 23 [MOAA Birthday \(1929\)](#)
- 27 Battle of The Java Sea 1942

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Shirley Barker Traci Green
 Gordon Iiams Alex Konczyk Sherry Miller
 Bob Parker James Rodney
 Lynn Terry Jamie Wise

The February Dinner

will be held on **Thursday, February 10th** at Roger Brown's Banquet Room,
316 High Street, Portsmouth (757) 399-5377

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

Buffett Menu

Corn Bread and Honey Butter
Lemon Pepper Chicken
Grilled Salmon
Macaroni and Cheese
Sauteed Vegetables
Apple Cobbler
Water, Tea, & Coffee

Cost is \$25 (includes gratuity & tax). Cash bar available. Please make your reservation no later than **Sunday, February 6th** with Sherry Ferki at 757-686-4650 or by email at navmedarmynurse@gmail.com.

A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID

GUEST SPEAKER

Portsmouth Mayor Shannon Elish Glover



Born in Erie Pennsylvania

Married to Paula Rochella Meadows

Children: Denzel (son), Alana (daughter)

Graduate of Norfolk State University, B.S. Interdisciplinary Studies

Moved to Portsmouth in 1990

Business owner in the City of Portsmouth:

- Commonwealth Employee Benefit Solutions, Inc, 2004
- Creative Learners Educational Center, LLC, 2001

Elected to the Portsmouth City Council in 2017 as City Councilman. Served from January 1, 2018-December 31, 2020. Elected Mayor of the City of Portsmouth on November 2, 2020. Term of Office January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2024.

Service to Country

- United States Navy 1988-1994, Honorable discharge
- Graduate of Naval School of Health Sciences 1990
- Portsmouth Naval Medical Center

Service to City

- Hampton Roads & Southside Mayors and Chairs
- Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance BOD/Exec. Com
- Hampton Roads Military & Federal Facilities Alliance (HRMFFA)
- Hampton Roads Transit (HRT)
- Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) & Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO)
- HR Workforce Council (Opportunity Inc)
- Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC)

Service to Community

- Past Board Member Paul D. Camp Community College
- Board member Boy's and Girl's Club Portsmouth Division
- Past mentor with Friends of Portsmouth Juvenile Courts
- Past Youth soccer and football coach in Parkview
- Past Board member of Volunteer Hampton Roads
- Habitat for Humanity volunteer in Suffolk and Portsmouth
- Volunteer mentor with Be A Reader Program at Lakeview Elementary (Portsmouth)
- Past Pop Warner Youth Football coach in Portsmouth
- Board Member Westmoreland Youth Association
- Board Member Church and Community in Action
- Board member Christopher Academy

Service in Leadership

- Graduate of United Way Project Inclusion-Leadership development course
- Past President/ Area Director of Toastmasters International in Suffolk and Portsmouth
- Past President of Lefcoe Alumni Association
- Past President of Churchland Rotary Club

- Past President of Portsmouth Partnership
- Trustee/Vice-President Lefcoe Leadership Development Course

Professional Service

Member of National Association of Health Underwriters serving as Eastern Virginia Chapter Legislative Chairperson

Proudest Moment

Earning my college degree (1st in my family) and setting an example of educational achievement for our children.

Values

Faith in GOD, Love of country and family, Service to community.

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE AND RENEWAL REMINDER Feb 2022

You can pay your dues by mail, at a dinner meeting or online via PayPal: PACMOAA, P.O. Box 5353, Portsmouth, VA 23703. About 75% of PACMOAA members have renewed this year as of 27 January, most through the multiple year discounted payment last year! This is a great improvement over 2021 when only about 50% of members had renewed by 1 March!! Thank you all again, 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. Several members paid again this year even though they paid for 2 or 3 years in 2021. **I will send individual reminders to all members who have not paid their membership for this year yet.**

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 started 2022 with 71 “paid” members. Several members have changed their address to another chapter’s area or transferred to a chapter closer to their home.

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

Reminder: 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.

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

Surviving Spouse Corner: Reflecting on 2021 from <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2022-news-articles/surviving-spouse-corner-reflecting-on-2021/>

By: Gail Joyce January 03, 2022

The [Surviving Spouse Advisory Council \(SSAC\)](#) began 2021 once again dealing with the fallout of the pandemic. Yet, we continued to support surviving spouses and spouses in a positive way and promote MOAA's strategic priorities at every opportunity through education, encouragement, and engagement. We are proud of what we were able to accomplish during a most unsettling time.

Some of our accomplishments for 2021 include:

Surviving Spouse Liaison Training. SSAC members led surviving spouse liaison trainings during virtual meetings of four Regional Leadership Workshops and one in-person workshop. Average attendance for each workshop was 120, with 20 attending the surviving spouse liaison training. The year's final workshop was held in person in San Diego, where about 125 council and chapter leaders registered and 26 participated in our training. SSAC members continue to finetune the training based on evaluations and comments from participants.

Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter. Membership continues to grow, with 177 members from 35 states. The chapter now meets monthly, on the third Tuesday of each month. Every other month is a business meeting with a speaker and the other months are an informal social gathering to exchange information and ideas. Attendance varies, but usually includes 30 at the social meetings and about 60 at a more formal meeting. Former SSAC member Micki Costello is president with Gail Joyce as vice president of the virtual chapter. For more information, visit the [Surviving Spouse section of MOAA.org](#).

Articles for MOAA Newsletters. SSAC members write monthly Surviving Spouse Corners, which are published on the first Thursday of each month in *The MOAA Newsletter*. [Read past Surviving Spouse Corners](#).

Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award. This year, we were able to choose two excellent recipients of the award — one representing a chapter and one representing a council. Read more about the recipients, [Donna Martin of the Greater Birmingham \(Ala.\) Chapter](#), and [Sharon Douglas of the Arizona Council of Chapters](#). Congratulations to two very deserving, hardworking surviving spouses!

Surviving Spouse/Spouse Summit. The highlight of the year was a new endeavor, "The Surviving Spouse/Spouse Summit," held during the MOAA annual meeting in October in Arlington, Va. Over 75 surviving spouses, spouses, and military members attended the inaugural two-hour event that featured five panelists who spoke about relevant issues. Pat Green, of the SSAC, moderated the panel discussion and the lively question-and-answer session that followed. Overall, it was a huge success and something we plan to build on for future events.

Chapter Leaders Roundtable Discussion. SSAC members participated in the roundtable discussions about important chapter issues. This was an excellent opportunity for SSAC members to get to know chapter leaders from other states.

MOAA Surviving Spouses and Friends Facebook Group. [This group](#) has over 600 members and provides updated information on important surviving spouse issues, especially regarding the Surviving Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset. Former SSAC member Kathy Prout is the administrator, with current members Kathy Thorp and Nancy Mullen assisting.

Future Projects. We will continue to work on increasing surviving spouse membership for chapters, national MOAA, and the virtual chapter. We plan to develop a webinar on surviving spouse and spouse issues, and we will continue work on organizing future Surviving Spouse/Spouse Summits. Improving the training guidelines and support materials will also be at the top of our to-do list for 2022. We look forward to a very productive and exciting 2022.

MOAA Surviving Spouse Interviews Servicemembers for Veterans History Project

January 18, 2022 *By Contributing MOAA Editor Blair Drake*

Nearly 20 years ago, Patricia Tyson Redmond answered a call for volunteers to interview veterans for the [Library of Congress' Veterans History Project](#). Once she started, it quickly became her passion. To date, she has interviewed over 120 veterans, including five who served in World War I and 22 who served in World War II.

"I got so hooked on their stories," she said. "Each one had a story, and they were always so humble about their experiences."

The list of veterans she has interviewed includes some well-known names: Cpl. Frank Buckles, USA, who was the last surviving World War I veteran; Col. [Richard Cole](#), USAF, who served as the co-pilot to Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle during the Doolittle Raid; George Mendonsa, the "kissing sailor" in the famous V-J Day photo from Times Square (pictured with Redmond); and Army veteran Indiana Hunt-Martin, a member of the 6888th Central Postal Battalion, which was the only African-American Women's Army Corps unit to serve in Europe during World War II.

She also interviewed her husband, Lt. Col. Robert A. Redmond, USA (Ret), a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., who went on to serve a 20-year career in the Army. The two met in 1970 while he was teaching at West Point. They had been married for 33 years when he died in 2007 of cancer from Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam.

Redmond does an audio recording of every interview, which she uses to create a transcript for the Veterans History Project. She gives a copy of the interview to the family of each veteran.

"Families are delighted," she said. "It's family history they might not have heard otherwise."

She also has shared many of the interviews in her book, [Words from the Heart: When America's Veterans Speak](#) [Outskirts Press, 2011].

Redmond said she hopes the book will help teach more Americans about the military and the sacrifices servicemembers and their families make.

[RELATED: [Your Time to Shine: MOAA Seeks Submissions for Member Spotlight](#)]

"It's wonderful to be able to pick up a book and read these stories. ... It's a good way to understand what the military does and why we live in a free country," she said.

Redmond is also involved in numerous other veteran-related causes, including Wreaths Across America, Daughters of the American Revolution, and MOAA's [Upper Potomac \(Md.\) Chapter](#) and [Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter](#).

At age 80, she plans to continue to interviewing veterans. "It's been such an honor," she said. "And there are still a lot of veterans with stories to tell."

MOAA & LEGISLATIVE

Here's What the NDAA Means for Your TRICARE Coverage from

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2022-news-articles/advocacy/heres-what-the-ndaa-means-for-your-tricare-coverage>

By: Karen Ruedisueli January 26, 2022

Each year, MOAA advocates to close TRICARE coverage gaps to ensure the military health care benefit evolves with changes in technology, treatment protocols, and standards set by high quality commercial plans.

A provision in the recently signed FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) adds preconception and prenatal carrier screening coverage as a benefit under the TRICARE program for certain genetic conditions including cystic fibrosis, spinal muscular atrophy, fragile X syndrome, Tay-Sachs disease, hemoglobinopathies, and conditions linked with Ashkenazi Jewish descent. This provision brings TRICARE in line with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists [Committee Opinion](#) on carrier screening for genetic conditions.

After TRICARE stopped covering lab developed tests (including many diagnostic genetic tests) in 2013, MOAA's advocacy led to the introduction of the [TRICARE Laboratory Developed Test \(LDT\) demonstration](#)

[project](#) in 2014. The demonstration provides beneficiary access to LDTs that have been reviewed for safety and effectiveness. The FY 2022 NDAA builds on the project's progress by ensuring beneficiaries have coverage should they elect carrier screening to assess reproductive risk associated with certain genetic conditions.

Chiropractic Care Progress

TRICARE coverage for chiropractic care is another MOAA priority. Our advocacy has focused on the importance of supporting non-pharmaceutical treatments for chronic pain, closing coverage gaps with Medicare and commercial plans, and accepting the [Joint Commission](#)'s addition of chiropractic as a standard of care for pain management.

[RELATED: [MOAA's 2021-22 TRICARE Guide](#)]

The House Armed Services Committee report for its mark of the FY 2022 NDAA strongly encourages DoD to expand the TRICARE benefit to include chiropractic care for servicemembers and beneficiaries.

This is not a legislative requirement, so MOAA will build on this momentum by continuing our advocacy on chiropractic coverage, particularly important since the opioid crisis has underscored the risks associated with relying on pharmaceutical treatments for chronic pain.

TRICARE Young Adult

For the remainder of the 117th Congress, MOAA will continue to build support for the Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act, which would extend coverage to young adult dependents and bring TRICARE in line with commercial plan requirements. We regularly hear from families who are disappointed to learn military kids' coverage is lacking compared to their civilian peers who are covered by their parents' health plans until age 26.

While the TRICARE Young Adult fix was not included in the FY 2022 NDAA, House leads Reps. Elaine Luria (D-Va.) and Michael Waltz (R-Fla.) [urged](#) support for the legislation during the Armed Services full committee markup. On the Senate side, Sen. Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.) introduced an amendment addressing TYA, but it was not considered when the [Senate](#) chose to accept the House-negotiated version as time constraints loomed.

Cost is the main barrier to TRICARE Young Adult parity – MOAA will continue to build support among member offices to overcome this obstacle while ensuring the young adult eligibility expansion is not funded by raising TRICARE fees. Have you experienced a TRICARE coverage gap?

Please let us know at legis@moaa.org.

PACMOAA's Website, <http://www.pacmoaa.org>, has a link to this [new Legislative Action Center](#).

Meet MOAA's New Legislative Action Center

JANUARY 04, 2022



Jon Hicks/Getty Images
By MOAA Staff

If you frequently engage with your lawmakers on issues key to MOAA's mission, first please accept the sincere appreciation from everyone here at MOAA – your efforts are critical to our success protecting and expanding the earned pay and benefits for the uniformed services and veteran communities.

Second, you may notice some changes at our [Legislative Action Center](#) and on individual "Take Action" messages. Our new system is designed to make it even easier to reach out to your lawmakers on these issues, as well as track what MOAA is engaging on in the halls of Congress.

Here are some answers to some of the questions you may have about the new setup:

Q. Why do I have to re-enter my information?

A. The changeover to the new system will require all users to enter in their details, but they will be able to create an account with those details the first time they visit the site. First-time users can sign in [at this link](#); you'll need to provide your information again if you sign in from another browser or device.

Q. Why do you need my cellphone number?

A. The new Legislative Action Center allows MOAA to provide members with up-to-date information on issues of interest, as well as inform them of new or urgent legislative action items via text message. It's just one more way of mobilizing our 350,000-plus members. Signing up using your phone number is optional, and you can opt out of these messages at any time.

Q. The system asked me to "enter a more specific address." Why won't it accept my address?

A. The Legislative Action Center allows you to contact your legislators on issues of critical importance. It requires your full address to match you with the right lawmakers. A drop-down list of suggested addresses should appear as you enter your information; choose the closest option from that list to ensure your letters and actions are being directed to the right individuals. Still having trouble? Email legis@moaa.org for assistance.

Q. I want to update my information, or check to make sure I've entered all the details properly. How do I do that?

A. Once you've signed into the Legislative Action Center, a greeting should appear in the top right corner of the homepage. Hover over the greeting or click on the arrow next to it and select the "Update Information" option to check all your details.

Q. I am not a member of MOAA. Can I still sign up and "Take Action" on bills?

A. Yes, anyone can sign up and use MOAA's Legislative Action Center. MOAA advocates for the entire uniformed services and veteran communities. You can read more about MOAA's key advocacy issues.

Q. What happened to the old "Take Action" items?

A. We've imported the old items into the new system – all of MOAA's ongoing legislative engagement efforts made the move. However, some of our engagements have expired as part of the regular legislative session, or for other reasons. Look for an expanded list of engagement opportunities as more bills are proposed in the coming year. Clicking on any of the old links should take you to the new Legislative Action Center website, where you'll be able to find an updated way to engage your lawmakers.

Q. I liked the old platform. Why did MOAA change platforms?

A. The new system not only offers an easier-to-navigate, user-friendly setup for our members and supporters, it also offers MOAA staff members multiple ways to track these advocacy actions, and to log interactions with staffers, representatives, and others. The change will mean an overall improvement in MOAA's ability to represent the needs of its members on Capitol Hill.

Q. I had an interaction with my representative on a topic of interest for MOAA. Can I let you know about it?

A. Yes! Click the "[Log an Interaction](#)" button at the Legislative Action Center and follow the prompts – these meetings not only show lawmakers how engaged MOAA's members are on key issues, they can be taken together as a show of strength for the organization on a national level.

Q. How do I find what bills MOAA supports in the current session of Congress?

A. Click the "[MOAA-Supported Legislation](#)" button on the homepage of the Legislative Action Center to see what bills MOAA has publicly supported for the current session of Congress. The organization's endorsement process is deliberative; MOAA will not support or oppose any legislation without a thorough review of its potential effects, positive or negative.

Q. I have more questions about the Legislative Action Center.

A. MOAA's Member Service Center can field all manner of technical questions about the website; visit [MOAA.org/contact](https://moaa.org/contact) for full details on the best way to get in touch. Have a question about the bills themselves, or about MOAA's advocacy work? Email legis@moaa.org.

SBP-DIC Offset: Surviving Spouse Benefit Payments Will Change in February from <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2022-news-articles/sbp-dic-offset-surviving-spouse-benefit-payments-will-change-in-february>

By: Kevin Lilley January 26, 2022

Surviving spouses whose benefits increased last year as part of the phased elimination of the Survivor Benefit Plan-Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (SBP-DIC) offset will see another increase on February 1.

MOAA waged a long fight to end this offset, commonly referred to as the “widows tax,” under which the amount of a surviving spouse’s SBP annuity would be reduced, dollar for dollar, by the amount of their DIC payment. Language in the FY 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) will end the offset by 2023. Here’s the breakdown:

- In 2021, all surviving spouses affected by the change should have seen their SBP offset cut to no more than two-thirds of their DIC payment.
- This year, beginning with their Feb. 1 payment, surviving spouses should see their SBP offset cut to no more than one-third of their DIC payment.
- In 2023, the offset will be removed entirely.

[FROM 2020: [MOAA President Reflects on Repeal Becoming Reality](#)]

All [surviving spouses](#) eligible for the Special Survivors Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) will continue to receive that benefit in 2022, according to [the Defense Finance and Accounting Service \(DFAS\)](#). The maximum SSIA benefit is \$346 per month for 2022, per DFAS, or equal to the gross SBP amount (if SBP is less than \$346 a month).

SSIA will no longer be paid in 2023, when the full offset is removed.

Resources to Know

Surviving spouses affected by this change should have received a letter from DFAS in December with individualized estimates of your upcoming benefit payments. [Click here](#) for a sample letter, which includes links for more information on eligibility verification, managing your benefits online, tax statements, and the [DFAS Survivor SBP Newsletter](#).

Beneficiaries with questions about the SBP-DIC changes can contact DFAS at (800) 321-1080. Beneficiaries with questions about their myPay online account can call (888) 332-7411. Surviving spouses interested in more information about MOAA’s advocacy and charitable causes, or in furthering any one of MOAA’s [survivor-related advocacy efforts](#), may be interested in joining MOAA’s Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter; get more information [at this link](#).

VCOC and JLC

Virginia Council of Chapters, VCOC, January 29, 2022 Update **VCOC 1st QUARTER MEETING Friday, 14 January 2022 Zoom Meeting via Zoom Link**

Started 1000, Ended 1224.

Roll Call. Ten chapters were represented of the total of seventeen active and inactive chapters. A quorum was thus achieved.

Guest Speaker: MOAA HQs Briefing • Jim Carman, CAPT, USN (Ret), MOAA Vice President for Council/ Chapter and Member Support, provided a roughly one-hour report.

MOAA 2022-2026 Strategic Plan: No major changes. Covers Advocacy, Leadership, Education, and Service. For more information, please go to “About MOAA” ON THEIR WEBSITE MOAA.ORG.

Advocacy in Action for 2022

a. There will be no open visits to Capitol Hill due to COVID and security concerns.

b. MOAA HQs unsure about format for advocacy. Looking at 26-27 April 2022. See the MOAA Magazine for format. The ROA Building at 1 Constitution Avenue has been reserved as an option, where legislators would meet with advocates.

c. State Legislative Consortium. CAPT Jim Carman presented contact information for this event. Send inquiries to jimc@moaa.org

MOAA Membership

a. There are about 350K members worldwide. 46% of these are Life Members; 17% Premium Members; and 37% Basic (free) Members.

b. Providing near real-time join report for identifying new members.

Councils and Chapters Roundtables Conducted near the end of each month. December was on the MOAA Communications Award, which was viewed in its entirety by CDR Ken App. The January roundtable was attended by CDR App. Topic was “Cookbook on Social Media”.

CDR Linc Smith, VCOC President, moved on to the upcoming legislative advocacy events. We will focus on the top two or three MOAA objectives in that regard. Linc aims to meet with Virginia’s two Senators, Kaine and Warner, in the near term to advocate for support of those key priorities.

CDR Smith attended/participated in the remembrance ceremonies for Sen. Bob Dole.

With a view to our next meeting, we intend to have both in-person and virtual capability for our 2nd Quarter meeting. Physical presence will be at the War Memorial in Richmond. Date and Time TBD.

Membership & Chapter Affairs CDR John Prevar presented the membership report that reflected chapter members as of 31 December 2021. The report shows a slight decline over previous periods, but generally, we were pretty stable.

John mentioned that he has **MOAA banners** if desired to support chapter recruiting efforts.

MOAA Board of Directors MOAA has twelve directors. Anyone interested in serving on the MOAA Board of Directors can apply through 31 March of this year. This is a self-nominated process.

Submitted by Ken App, CDR, USN (Ret)
PACMOAA VCOC Representative

VCOC Legislative Report as of 29 January 2022

Notes compiled primarily from Legislative Update by COL Monti Zimmerman at 14 January VCOC Meeting; briefing at MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter (SSVC) Meeting on 18 Jan on the two Joint Legislative Committee (JLC) initiatives focused on spouses and surviving spouses, JLC #2 (the surviving spouse property tax exemption) and JLC #4 (the exemption from spouses being required to pay \$400 for burial at state veterans' cemeteries); updates via email from Col Zimmerman and from Facebook Virginia Military Widows Property Tax Waiver group.

NOTE: The General Assembly 2022 Session started on 12 January and ends on 13 March.

There are seven Virginia Joint Leadership Council (JLC) Legislative Policy Initiatives for 2022, view here: [Summary of 2022 JLC Initiatives](#).

Proposals include:

- JLC 2022-01: Suicide Prevention among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families
- JLC 2022-02: Expanded Tax Relief for Surviving Spouses of Military Service Members to also include “Died in the Line-of-Duty”
- JLC 2022-03: VSO Color and Honor Guards
- JLC 2022-04: Increase GF Support for State Veterans Cemeteries; Eliminate Spouse Burial Fees
- JLC 2022-05: Promote Hiring of National Guard and Reserve Members

- JLC 2022-06: Virginia National Guard State Park Admission
- JLC 2022-07: Virginia National Guard Income Tax Exemption

I will focus on JLC 2022-02.

“Examples of line-of-duty deaths include service members who die in pre-deployment training exercises; are killed in airplane and helicopter crashes; and die in non-combat-related vehicle crashes, while in a combat zone. This classification requires an investigation into the death to determine that the service member did nothing dishonorable to the service that resulted in the service members’ death” copied from Position Paper 2022-02 on JLC website. Also, according to this position paper, DOD information per the number of surviving spouses in Virginia receiving SGLI benefits due to the death of their military service member would be very low: 40 in 2018 and 31 in 2020. Thus, the fiscal impact on any one local government would be small but the impact on the quality of life for the surviving spouse is immense.

In order to pass a constitutional amendment in Virginia, the issue is voted on in year 1 (2022); there is an election in year 2 (2023); and it is voted on by the citizens in year 3 (2024). One issue that Monti discussed at the SSVV meeting was that in year 1 and year 2, both the House and the Senate have to agree on the same language in the bill.

Del Kathy Tran, D-VA 42nd District, from Northern VA, is the patron of HJ 83 (which is a constitutional amendment) and HB 957 (which would begin the tax exemption in July 2022 if it passes). The Virginia Military Widows Property Tax Waiver Facebook group, as of posting on 28 Jan, is still looking for co patrons for HJ 83 and HB 957. Unfortunately, Senate Bill SJ 19 was carried over until 2023 so it will be more difficult to pass the House bills without co patrons. Edith Smith is very involved in this process and is happy to provide anyone more information. I will be happy to provide you her contact information. You can call me at 757-686-4650 or email at navmedarmynurse@gmail.com.

Over 200 bills were submitted relating to veterans. JLC 2020-04 would eliminate the \$400 fee for spouses buried in Veterans Cemeteries. Multiple bills related to tax relief per military retirement pay listed below per email from Monti Zimmerman on 17 January:

HB 1128, SB 528 & SB 568 provide a tax year 2021 \$20 K deduction from taxable military retirement income, a \$30 K for 2022 and a \$40 K deduction in 2023.

HB 1045 provides a deduction of \$10 K for 2022 and an increase of \$10 K per year for the next four years (\$40 K in 2025).

HB 1069 & SB 381 provides the full \$40 K for 2022.

NOTE: There were 149,848 retired military veterans receiving benefits and living in Virginia during 2020 per revenue impact statement for SB 381. This would have a significant impact on the overall budget but only 6 states plus the District of Columbia fully tax military retirement!! North Carolina no longer taxes military retired pay and Maryland doesn't tax \$15,000 of retired pay for those 55 and older.

Crossover date for bills in the General Assembly is 15 February. We will keep you updated on bills impacting our members.

Submitted by Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)

Assistant VCOC Rep and Surviving Spouse Liaison for PACMOAA and VCOC

Portsmouth Mayor's Military Affairs Committee (PMMAC)

Thursday, 20 January, 2022

Karl Wilson and I attended the monthly PMMAC meeting that was rescheduled from Wednesday to Thursday. Karl and I both have a shared obligation each Thursday morning at that time. We will have to share this coverage but would like to invite another PACMOAA member to take on this activity that is always interesting and informative.



The PMMAC is chaired by our own COL Irv Lindley as seen in this photo. He is the fifth person from the left. To his left is Councilman Bill Moody whom we discovered once served as a loadmaster for C-130's dropping paratroopers.

Gene Garland, new congressional liaison for Sen. Warner, was introduced and announced the senator's interest in reducing or eliminating state tax on military retirement pay.

The Naval Hospital announced that it is now giving Covid inoculations only to military active duty and deploying personnel. Karl and I spoke with DAV's Umberto Rodriguez-Lopez about joining with American Legion and VFW representatives to present their organizations to PACMOAA.

Announcements included fishing authorized at the Coast Guard Base, and that the city currently plans to have a full-scale Memorial Day Parade.

Submitted by COL Hal Hostetler, USA (Ret)

NMCP Pharmacy Update

27 January 2022 via website at <https://portsmouth.tricare.mil/Health-Services/Pharmacy> and Facebook

NMCP PHARMACY UPDATE

In an effort to minimize crowding at the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth (NMCP) Pharmacy waiting area, please consider other options in placing and picking up your medications.

- Scott Center Annex Pharmacy Drive Thru - 7:30 a.m. to 5:30, Monday through Friday, and 7:30 a.m. to 4:30, on Saturday, Refills Only - Call 757-953-0258 to submit perscriptions
- TRICARE Prime Clinic (TPC) Suffolk - refills only.
- TRICARE Express Scripts - For home delivery <https://militaryrx.express-scripts>

If you do need to pick up your medications at NMCP

- Drop off your prescriptions
- Enter your phone number at the kiosk or pharmacy window
- Receive a text when your prescription is ready

There is plenty of room at many of the other areas in the medical center where you can wait for your prescription to be filled.

The safety of our patients and staff remains our top priority!



UPDATE ON PACMOAA SCHOLARSHIP FUND, CO-CHAIR

February 2022

Since I took over as the chair, now co-chair, of the Scholarship committee in 2001, PACMOAA has awarded 38 scholarships, 32 of which were paid. One student failed his school ROTC physical, three students dropped out of school shortly after the first semester started, and two of the awardees never started college.

One to three scholarships have been awarded each year, ranging from \$1000 to \$2000. The scholarship is awarded over the first two semesters in school and is contingent upon continued enrollment in ROTC. The money may be used for tuition purposes, room and board, and other school related expenses. *Unlike the MOAA scholarships, the students do not have to come from a military family.*

Information about this scholarship will be going out to local high schools in Portsmouth, Suffolk, Franklin, Chesapeake, Southampton, and Isle of Wight in March. That includes over 30 local high schools in addition to 13 JROTC units. CDR Scott Dickinson, the Co-Chair of the Scholarship Committee revised the application so that it can be filled out electronically and also set up an electronic scoring sheet for the PACMOAA Scholarship Committee members to facilitate a better review of applications. Scott also emailed the scholarship information to the local high schools and his assistance is greatly appreciated!

The number of scholarships to be awarded for the year is voted on by the Leadership Team and is based on donations from PACMOAA members. We would like to award at least 2 scholarships if members donate enough.

College expenses are increasing as are all other expenses. **Please consider a donation to help these students in their quest for a career in the military.** Most of the money contributed to scholarships is submitted with dues payment. You could also add \$5.00 or \$10.00 to your dinner check. All donations are greatly appreciated and most helpful! Thank you for your generous support over the years which has made our program so successful!



The scholarship winners and their parents usually attend the June PACMOAA dinner meeting and are recognized there. It is always a pleasure to meet them and hear of their accomplishments in school as well as their goals.

Barrett Ferguson and his parents, one of 2021 Scholarship winners to the left.

By Sherry Ferki

2020 Scholarship Winner Morgan Magrisi Update from email 23 Jan 2022



Dear PACMOAA,

I hope you are all doing well. I would like to first off thank you all for selecting me as the PACMOAA Scholarship Recipient 2020. I am extremely thankful to all who helped and contributed to the Scholarship.

I currently attend Virginia Military Institute and am part of VMI Class of 2024. I am a 2020 PACMOAA Scholarship Recipient as well as a 4 Year National NROTC Scholarship Recipient. During my time at VMI, I have been studying Mechanical Engineering and have retained a 3.3 Cumulative GPA. Also at VMI, I have participated in many clubs and sports such as NCAA Division 1 Men's Soccer and VMI Club Soccer. In the past two years, I have been through an abundance of military training and academics as I continue to pursue a **US Navy Commission**.

At VMI, I had to go through rigorous training for approximately 6 months known as the Ratline in order to become a Cadet. During the first few days known as Hell Week, this training consisted of intense physical workouts daily, military training, and day to day briefs. My Class also made history at VMI by having the longest duration of Hell Week which lasted 14 days and also having the largest Matriculation Class in VMI History. After completion of Hell Week, my Brother Rats and I completed our first semester of college which followed a strict schedule every day. After returning from Christmas Break in January of 2021, my Class had only a few weeks left of being Rats, which we soon go on to become VMI Cadets. During the last week of the Ratline, my Class and I went through tough physical workouts, early wakeups, late nights, and multiple missions given to us by upperclassmen. In order to become a Cadet, our Class had to complete "Breakout" which was a full day of physical activity which included an early wakeup by cannon and rifle fire to log runs and the final low crawl across the Parade Field.



Since completing my second semester of college at VMI, I travelled home during Summer and proceeded to attend CORTRAMID which is the US Navy's Summer Training for all Midshipmen. While being Norfolk Naval Air Station for about 1 month, I was fortunate enough to visit Destroyers, Carriers, fly in planes and helicopters, play with countless simulators, and go underway in a Ballistic Missile Submarine for 48 hours. This was my first real exposure to the US Navy, and while overwhelming, was extremely exciting. Returning to VMI for my third semester, I joined Club Soccer and also tried out for our Cadet-run Naval Special Warfare – Prep Group. This NSW-P Group consisted of about 15 Cadets from all 4 Classes who are all interested in Naval Special Warfare and do extensive physical training in running, lifting, and swimming.

Once again, thank you all to have supported me in attending Virginia Military Institute and also to those who support the PACMOAA Scholarship. I have had an incredible experience at VMI and will continue to do so in the next 2 years. I have made countless friends here and am absolutely loving the military environment that VMI provides.



Very Respectfully,
Morgan Magrisi
VMI Class of 2024

NAVY PLATE VIRGINIA FEBRUARY UPDATE: The Virginia Navy license plate bill passed the Senate unanimously, 40-0 on Monday Jan 24. It will now go to the House of Delegates for review. For details and preorder forms go to www.NavyPlateVirginia.com. DMV will fulfill all preorders (~Aug-Sep) prior to general release. Roger has 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. Go to www.NavyPlateVirginia.com for details and preorder forms.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

In February we celebrate President's Day, and it seems appropriate to remember some of the words of one of our greatest US presidents who lost his life in an effort to unify the country at a very troubled time. His words of long ago, although not written as a prayer have spiritual meaning which can be applied both then and today. Let us remember some of these famous words and continue their application to our country today.

"A house divided against itself cannot stand" President Lincoln in 1858.

This was taken from the Gospel of Mark 3:25: *"If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand."*

A solution and prayer were offered by President Lincoln at the end of the Gettysburg address in 1863:

"---that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

My prayer is that we can come together for the sake of our country and unite as a people of God for the benefit of all.

CAPT Bob Brewer, USN (Ret)

THAT'S A WRAP FOR FEBRUARY 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

<u>Please circle payment plan you select:</u>	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 is 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: _____