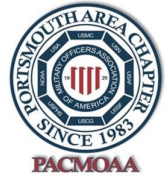




The Salute Online



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 IV

LEARN MORE AT PACMOAA.ORG

APRIL 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,

If you were unable to attend our March meeting, you missed a wonderful presentation. Ms. Sierra Lautman, Director of Jewish Innovation at the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater, spoke of her experiences after the massacre at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pa. Moving, thought provoking, insightful, instructive, emotional, and timely are all adjectives that could describe her remarks. I came away with a better understanding of racism and intolerance, and value that education about people "different" than me can help eliminate ignorance and fear. Ms. Lautman was delightful and wise beyond her years!

Our April 14th, our meeting **was** to feature CAPT Dianna Wolfson, the 110th Commander of the Norfolk Naval Shipyard. Due to unforeseen events she will not be able to attend our April Dinner Meeting. The Leadership Team

has gotten Ms. Edie Smith who will present virtually.

Regrettably, I will be traveling the week of April 10 – 15 and will be unable to attend the meeting. If possible, I will try to see it via JITS. In closing, remember the Ukrainian people and the struggle they continue to endure from the Russians. I continue to pray for God to give our President the wisdom, discernment and strength to lead us safely and successfully to a satisfactory conclusion to this crisis. **Please pray for peace and for the Ukrainian people. May God bless America!**

Bill Smith

COL USA (Ret)

Right: Bill Smith presenting Sierra Lautman with a PACMOAA Appreciation Certificate.



Above: Prestigious PACMOAA Coffee Mug presented to Sierra Lautman and Elka Mednick

PACMOAA
LEADERSHIP

See Leadership Tab



CHAPTER NEWS

APRIL CALENDAR

Month of the Military Child

- 01 April Fool's Day
- 05 Gold Star Spouses day
- 06 Persian Gulf War Ends 1991
- 06 VCOC 2nd Qtr Mtg, Virginia War Memorial 1030-1230
- 09 National Former POW Recognition Day
- 10 Palm Sunday
- 14 US Air Force Reserve Birthday (1948)
- 14 PACMOAA Dinner – Speaker To Be Determined
- 15 Good Friday/Passover begins at Sunset
- 18 TAX DAY/ Doolittle Raid on Tokyo (1942)
- 22 PACMOAA 39TH Anniversary/ Earth Day
- 23 US Army Reserve Birthday (1908)
- 24 Beginning of Ramadan
- 29 Arbor Day

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS

**SCOTTY BRUCE
BETTYE HUSSEY
BOB POMEROY
DOUG WELLER**

The April Dinner

will be held on **Thursday, April 14th** 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

Caesar Salad

Chicken Parmesan

Baked Flounder with Basil Cream Sauce

Baked Zucchini and Squash

Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Bread Pudding with Bourbon Glaze

Water, Tea, & Coffee

Cost is \$25 (includes gratuity & tax). Cash bar available. Please make your reservation no later than **Sunday, April 10th** with Sherry Ferki at 757-686-4650 or by email at navmedarmynurse@gmail.com .

A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID

GUEST SPEAKER

Virtual – Ms. Edie Smith, topic TBD
CAPT WOLFSON, NNSY Commander Had to Cancel At The Last Minute

MEMBERSHIP**APRIL 2022**

PACMOAA ended 2021 with 71 members and currently has about 90% of members paid/honorary members. That continues to be a much higher percentage of members paid by this time compared to previous years!!

We certainly want to increase our membership with new members but also to maintain the current members!! Our Communications Chair, CDR Ken App, USN (Ret), did a wonderful job putting together a recruitment brochure last year that can be sent to potential members, shared at meetings, and used at recruiting events.

As I mentioned last month, a comment made at MOAA Chapter Leadership Workshops: Every member is a recruiter and should have an elevator speech they can use to promote joining the chapter. The PACMOAA Mission Statement is a great short overview and was included in the most recent revision to the PACMOAA Bylaws: "PACMOAA supports the military community through legislative advocacy (State & National – Advocacy in Action which will start in April), mentoring youth (JROTC awards & PACMOAA scholarships), and community involvement" (e.g., Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless & Toys for Tots). I included examples of how PACMOAA accomplishes this mission. Please invite friends/neighbors that are eligible to be MOAA/PACMOAA members, and their dinner is ½ the regular charge for dinners.

PERSONAL AFFAIRS**In Memory of CAPT Harry Miller**

I received the sad news that one of our **Charter Members, CAPT Harry P. Miller**, USN (Ret), died on 12 March 2022. He was 96 years of age. He was able to go out to lunch with his daughter 2 weeks before he died.

CAPT Miller was a mustang per Mary, his daughter, and started his career as a pharmacy tech. He rose in the ranks and retired as an MSC CAPT. Sources vary if he retired from either Bethesda or NMCP. CAPT Miller was very involved with PACTROA/PACMOAA from its beginning in 1983. Initially, he was the Historian and took over as Editor of the newsletter and Hospitality Chair. Several years later, PACTROA/PACMOAA received numerous awards from MOAA for Chapter Excellence and the Newsletter, due in large part to CAPT Miller's efforts! He held both positions for many years, stepping down from Hospitality Chair in May 2006 and from being Newsletter Editor in December 2006 for medical reasons. CAPT Miller

held many additional positions in PACTROA/PACMOAA including President, 1st & 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Legislative Committee Chair and BOD.

In 1997, when COL Bob Steorts, USAF (Ret) was elected President of VCOC, CAPT Miller was elected Secretary of VCOC. He also worked with George McGann in founding RetVIMS (Retired Volunteers in Medical Service). They volunteered throughout the NMCP with over half in the pharmacy from an article in the newspaper in 1988 and shared in the PACMOAA's 35th Anniversary program! The name was changed to REVIMS later.

Sherry Ferki, Harry Miller & Dolly Cherrington
(Standing by A Strach Line)



CAPT Miller calligraphed name tags and table place cards beautifully. He was a stickler for protocol and reminded me on many occasions that I was not following the protocol correctly. Harry was one of the main reasons I joined PACTROA – he and CAPT Parker were so welcoming at the first meeting my husband and I attended. I remember several occasions when I met him and Alice Taves at the Wheelhouse for lunch to check out the menu. While Harry was the Hospitality Chair and made the name tags and place cards, Alice coordinated arrangements and setting up the menu. They both filled those positions for many years. Harry participated in many PACMOAA activities outside of our monthly meetings, including the annual Memorial Day Parade (to the left, Sherry Ferki, Harry, and Dolly Cherrington) and Congressional luncheon in the spring.

In 2007, CAPT Miller moved to Mississippi and built a house next to Mary. They moved to Florida in 2014 and Harry maintained his PACMOAA membership until he died. The BOD voted to award him an Honorary Lifetime Membership in

PACMOAA in 2018 in recognition of his many years of dedicated service.

Even though Harry has not been in our area since 2007, he will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Mary and her family.

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



SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

Surviving Spouse Corner: Tips for Downsizing and Decluttering

By: Renée Brunelle February 25, 2022

Most people would agree they have experienced a move that did not go as planned. Missing items, broken items, and often a vague timeline for delivery from the moving company can make anyone have a few sleepless nights. Perhaps you have decades of “treasures” in your home you had planned on sharing with family. Then it is revealed all are not going to get passed down after all. Where do you start?

You must consider how long you have lived in the residence and how many people have lived there. As you add number of years and people, you also increase the number of weeks it will take to declutter.

I use the Marie Kondo “[Magic of Tidying Up](#)” approach to look at a client’s home with my business as a senior move manager. Start where there is the least emotional connection: clothing and accessories. Often, if you just declutter the clothes that don’t fit any longer and donate them, it can be a great way to start. Then tackle the books, papers, and general items (including bedroom, bathroom, office, and kitchen). End with mementos that hold the most sentimental triggers.

Luckily, help is available to begin this process and provide some professional guidance when needed. The [National Association of Senior Move Managers](#) has a website to find trusted professionals in a specific geographic area. They are experienced in helping someone sort their belongings and decide what is best to take, possibly sell, donate, or throw out. They can help with floorplan designs and mover scheduling if the final plan is to move. Depending on the business, they will charge by the hour or by the project.

Senior move managers often are a wealth of resources that can save you and your family time and/or money. They network with movers, senior placement specialists, senior living communities, Realtors, estate sale professionals, and many other businesses to be sure they can assist their clients when needed.

Family members often have good intentions to help with the decluttering and downsizing process. However, their own emotional attachment to items can complicate the downsizing process.

[Read past Surviving Spouse Corners.](#)

Brunelle is a member of MOAA's Surviving Spouse Advisory Council and co-founder of Pathfinders Downsizing Solutions.

MOAA & LEGISLATIVE

What We Know (and Don't Know) About the President's Upcoming Budget By: Kevin Lilley March 23, 2022

President Joe Biden is expected to release his fiscal plan for FY 2023 before the end of March – less than three weeks after signing the FY 2022 budget. While the request is just the start of a long, complicated process, it will advance the administration's priorities and set the tone for congressional debates in the months ahead.

Keep up with [MOAA's advocacy news coverage](#) for the latest on the budget, but as we await its release, here's what you should know about the document, the process ... and the need to get it done on time.

The Timeline

Multiple media outlets have reported the budget will be released March 28. That's two months before [the FY 2022 budget came out](#) last May but more than a month later than the first Monday in February, which is the date [required by law](#) for the president to send his budget to Congress.

This president is not the first to miss these deadlines. The FY 2020 budget was released March 11, 2019, for example, and the FY 2014 budget was published April 10, 2013. However, the late release likely will contribute to ongoing problems faced by Congress to pass the budget before the start of the new fiscal year, forcing them to agree upon one or more continuing resolutions to keep the federal government functioning.

MOAA has [sounded warnings on this practice](#), which can cost DoD billions of dollars in spending power and creates painful choices for Pentagon planners. We continue to urge both the administration and lawmakers to move with haste on these discussions, avoid the partisan minefields associated with midterm election years, and break the cycle of harmful continuing resolutions.

The Breakdown

Reports put the topline DoD budget at [more than \\$770 billion](#), which would be the largest DoD figure in history. However, much of that purchasing power will be blunted by inflation, and the specifics behind the proposal – where the money will go to ensure national security and protect the pay and benefits of servicemembers and their families – [may not be known until April](#).

MOAA also will be actively engaged on the VA budget debate, to ensure proposed funding will cover both existing programs and needed benefit and staffing improvements, including access to caregiver support and more resources for underserved populations.

[RELATED: [Get an In-Depth Look at MOAA's Veteran Health Care Priorities](#)]

While lawmakers work through their required appropriations bills, they'll also begin the authorization process, with the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) serving as a staple of MOAA's advocacy efforts. Expect updates on that legislation in the coming weeks – the Senate introduced its initial version of the FY 2022 NDAA in May 2021, for example – to include calls to action for your lawmakers via MOAA's new [Legislative Action Center](#).

PACMOAA's Website, <http://www.pacmoaa.org>, has a link to the new Legislative Action Center.

From MOAA's President: Your Critical Role in This Year's Advocacy in Action Campaign at <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2022-news-articles/advocacy/from-moaas-president-your-critical-role-in-this-years-advocacy-in-action-campaign/>

By: Dana Atkins March 30, 2022

Changing laws on Capitol Hill is arduous work. Legislation addressing critical issues can remain stuck in subcommittees through an entire two-year congressional session. Other bills can advance through committees only to lose momentum and die before reaching a floor vote. MOAA members can move these changes forward, but only if we're all pulling in the same direction.

That's where Advocacy in Action comes in.

[ACT NOW: [Send a Message to Your Lawmakers Supporting MOAA's Advocacy in Action Priorities](#)]

I encourage all MOAA members to take part in this campaign throughout April. Click the link above to send letters to your legislators, preparing them for calls from MOAA's state leaders and other volunteers who will be arranging meetings online and in person. Special focus will be put on interacting with these lawmakers during their state and district work period (April 11-22), when they will be more accessible to their constituents.

Watch for updates and future calls to action via *The MOAA Newsletter*, MOAA's [Advocacy News page](#), and [MOAA.org/AiA](#). We aim to reach 535 congressional offices with our AiA message, and we can't do it without your support.

We'll rally behind these three issues:

- **Concurrent Receipt for Combat-Injured Servicemembers:** The Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 1242, S. 344) would fix a longstanding injustice by allowing tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans to receive full retired pay and disability pay. The act has amassed 205 House co-sponsors, adding 54 since January, and is at a critical point as lawmakers draft the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).
- **Affordable mental health for TRICARE beneficiaries.** The Stop Copay Overpay Act (H.R. 4824) would overturn the doubling of TRICARE copays for mental health care in recent years. The bipartisan bill has only four co-sponsors, but additional momentum from your AiA efforts would improve chances of inclusion in the FY 2023 NDAA.
- **A 4.6% military pay raise.** This raise applies to all eight of our uniformed services; the percentage is linked to the Employment Cost Index (ECI) by statute. It remains one of MOAA's annual priorities to ensure the raise is not reduced to fund other programs or pay table overhauls – cumulative reductions

over a recent three-year span (2014-2016) left servicemembers 2.6% below what they should have received.

RELATED: [Troops Would See 4.6% Pay Raise Next Year Under White House Budget Plan](#)

We cannot contact every one of the 535 lawmaker offices on Capitol Hill without your help. Your legislators want to hear from you, [by any method](#).

MOAA is no stranger to success in these efforts. Many of you participated in our decades-long effort to repeal the “widows tax,” which [ended with success in the FY 2020 NDAA](#), or in letter-writing campaigns to help MOAA overturn “[COLA minus 1 percent](#)” and restore the full cost-of-living adjustment for retirees via legislation passed in 2014.

Our renowned advocacy work ranges from events on Capitol Hill to in-person meetings in your hometown with your legislators. Through both our national and local efforts, MOAA has been recognized for the 15th year in a row as a Top Lobbyist by [The Hill](#), a highly respected publication in the competitive Washington, D.C., environment.

We can move mountains if we never stop serving. Thank you for being a part of this next chapter of success.

PACMOAA’s Involvement in Advocacy in Action (AiA) Spring 2022

VCOC is coordinating the AiA campaign in Virginia and making sure all legislators in the state are contacted per the 3 issues being focused on this year. MAJ Sherry Ferki participated in the MOAA Training webinar for AiA and in the VCOC planning session on Monday 28 March. She will lead the PACMOAA team which consists of President Bill Smith, and Legislative Rep COL Hal Hostetler, and former Legislative Rep CWO3 Karl Wilson. This team will meet with Congressman Bobby Scott to address the 3 MOAA issues:” Concurrent receipt for combat injured service members (the MAJ Richard Star Act), affordable mental health care for TRICARE beneficiaries, and a 4.6% military pay raise (which was included in the White House Budget Plan recently released). As of 3/31/22, Congressman Bobby Scott is not one of the 209 legislators (6 from VA) co-sponsoring the Richard Star Act. Sen. Warner is a co-sponsor. The more co-sponsors, the better chance the bill has of passing. We will keep you updated on our progress!

The April MOAA Military Officer magazine has postcards inside to send to your legislators related to the MAJ Richard Star Act. **Please send them in as soon as possible and/or go online to the new MOAA Action Center** at <https://moaa.quorum.us/> to contact your legislators about all 3 issues being addressed this year. Thank you all for your support.

Submitted by MAJ Sherry Ferki,

USA (Ret)



VCOC

VCOC 2ND Quarter meeting will be held, both in person and virtual on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, at 1030 Hours to 1330 Hours, at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond. If any of the

membership desires to attend virtually, please let Ken App know and he will forward the invite to you.

At-Home Tests

COVID-19 at-home test kits are now available for pick up at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth (NMCP) and its Branch Health Clinics in Norfolk, Oceana, and Little Creek.

The at-home test kits are available to NMCP beneficiaries with a military ID card. Test kits can be picked up at the NMCP Testing Tents Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and at Immunizations Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. They can also be picked up at the Branch Health Clinics (Norfolk, Oceana and Little Creek), Monday through Friday, 7:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Test kits are available on a first come, first served basis, while supplies last.

NMCP Pharmacy Update

April 1, 2022 via website at

<https://portsmouth.tricare.mil/Health-Services/Pharmacy>
and Facebook

Naval Medical Center Portsmouth

COVID-19 At-Home Tests

Now available for TRICARE Beneficiaries at NMCP Immunizations Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

At-Home Tests still available at:
 NMCP Test Tent: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 Branch Health Clinics at Norfolk, Oceana, and Little Creek: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.

Issued: March 24, 2022

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Churchland MCROTC Activities Winter/Early Spring 2022

The Churchland MJROTC have been active in March. They participated in a Marksmanship Competition in Rutherfordton, NC on 4-5 March and Drill Team competitions in Atlanta from 10-13 March. Most of the expenses for these competitions is covered by fundraising efforts like the carwash on 26 March with cadets doing all the washing and drying!



This was our first time competing in the Hill Topper Classic in Rutherfordton NC (R-S Central HS). Our young team--only one previous competitor finished in 7th place out of 15 teams competing--including 2 previous national championship teams.

Cadet Tijuan Jacobs is to the left.

The Churchland High School JROTC Drill Team traveled to Stone Mountain, GA, in an to attempt to qualify for the Marine Corps National Drill Competition in Daytona Beach FL. Led by Team Captain Cadet SSgt Aodahn Highstreet (one of the cadets at the Christmas Gala collecting Toys for Tots and pictured at left), this marked a return to high level competition for the young team, with only two of the eighteen members of the team having any prior year experience. The team acquitted themselves well, getting stronger with each event. With the majority of the team returning for the upcoming drill season hopes are high for a return to the levels that are expected in Churchland!

Cadet Dalton below. Both cadets were participating in the inspection portion of the Drill Competition. It is the first event for each team, and sets the tone for the entire event.



We hope to have a couple of seats for the upcoming Drill Camp in Texas.

Many thanks to LtCol Paul Pratt, USMC (Ret) Senior Marine Instructor and PACMOAA member for supplying the information and pictures from both events!

As mentioned earlier, most of the expenses for the MCJROTC activities are covered by fundraising activities. Few competitions or other activities were held over the past 2 years so most students have minimal if any experience in competitions. There were also limited chances to conduct fundraising activities over the past 2 years. I will keep

members posted when more fundraising events occur.

Submitted by Sherry Ferki



NAVY PLATE VIRGINIA APRIL UPDATE: The Navy Plate Bill SB212 passed by the full House, it will go to the Governor for signature, but will become Law on April 11th, even if the Governor doesn't get around to signing it by then. Preorder deadline is April 15th, and Roger will turn over all paperwork and funding to DMV by May 1st. Law is enacted on July 1st, so plates will

be produced and mailed shortly after that to those who have preordered. Should show up on the DMV website by late July or August. Roger is still accepting preorders, with details and forms at www.NavyPlateVirginia.com. DMV will fulfill all preorders (~Aug-Sep) prior to general release. 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.



Submitted by:

CAPT Roger Hirsh USN (Ret)

Roger received the actual Metal Sample on April 1, 2022

PROGRAMS

May – CAPT Kevin Knoop USN (Ret) – Bee Keeping in America

June – (Tentative) Princess Elizabeth of The Elizabeth River Project

July – (Tentative) Joint Brunch



Submitted by:

COL Hal Hostetler, USA (Ret)

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Cindy Brewer helping Bob with the March 10th Dinner evening's prayer

As we enjoy spring and face new life and the Easter Season my thoughts and prayer turn to beauty of nature well expressed in the words of Francis of Assisi in "The Canticum of the Creatures" p 54. (From Companion Prayer of St. Anthony).

"Most High, all powerful, good Lord, Yours are the praises, the glory, the honor and all blessings.

To You alone, Most High, do they belong, and no one is worthy to mention Your name.

Praise be You, my Lord, with all Your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun, Who is the day through who You give us light. And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor; and bears a likeness of you, Most High One. Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind, and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather through which You give sustenance to Your creatures.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water, which is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

Praise be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom You light the night, and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praise be You, my Lord, through Sister Mother Earth who sustains and governs us, and who produces varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.

Praised be You, my Lord, through those who give pardon for you love, and bear infirmity and tribulation.

Blessed are those who endure peace, for by You Most High, they shall be crowned.

Praise and bless my Lord, and give Him thanks and serve Him with great humility"



Submitted by
CAPT Bob Brewer,
USN (Ret)
Chaplin

THAT'S A WRAP FOR APRIL 2022

CDR Ken App
USN (Ret)
Salute Editor

