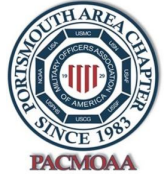




The Salute Online



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 VII

LEARN MORE AT PACMOAA.ORG

AUG/SEP 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,

I hope you all have enjoyed your summer. I did! Let's see- inflation, war in Ukraine, crazy stock market, Covid, etc. what could have been better? I missed seeing you at the Joint Brunch. Karen tested positive the day before and I thought it prudent to not attend. Nonetheless, I heard it was a grand time and that Col Robotham, from MOAA was great. Sorry I couldn't be there to visit with y'all.

Our next meeting is September 8th at Roger Brown's Restaurant. Hal has arranged for a speaker from the NATO HQ in Norfolk. Colonel Kovalenko, a Ukrainian Airforce officer, assigned to NATO will give a talk on the current world situation, from a NATO perspective – and, in particular, with regards to Ukraine of course! What a way to restart our meetings!

We have invited members of our neighboring MOAA local chapters to attend Colonel Kovolenko's presentation. I hope it will be well attended

and I will get to see you in September

Current events continue to be troubling. Please join me in praying for wisdom and vision for our leaders and for comfort and peace for grieving families.

Bill Smith
COL USA (Ret)

Right: June Meeting-Bill presents CDR Ken App the MOAA Marvin J Harris Communications Awards for 2021.

Far right: Ken & Bill try to find space on the latest Streamer.



PACMOAA
LEADERSHIP

SEE LEADERSHIP PAGE



CHAPTER NEWS

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 04 US COAST GUARD Birthday (1790)
- 04 Vietnam Conflict Begins 1964
- 05 Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) Established 1943
- 07 Purple Heart Day
- 13 1st Women Marine 1918
- 14 National Navajo Code Talkers Day

SEPTEMBER

- 02 VJ Day 1945
- 08 PACMOAA Dinner Meeting
- 11 Patriot Day
- 11 Grandparents Day
- 17 Constitution and Citizenship Day
- 17 POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 18 US AIRFORCE Birthday (1947)
- 17-18 NAS OCEANA AIR SHOW
- 22 Autumnal Equinox First Day of Fall
- 26 Gold Star Mother's Day
- 26-27 Rosh Hashanah

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Dolly Cherrington | Herb De Groft | Gordon Nelson |
| Bob Steorts | Steve Turner | Karl Wilson |

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ken App | Joseph Barreca | Scott Dickinson |
| Paul Lucas | Blaine Pearsall | Hans Sachse |
| Bill Smith | Margaret Wilshusen | Richard Yesensky |

The SEPTEMBER PACMOAA Dinner

will be held on **Thursday, SEPTEMBER 8th** 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

Harvest Salad

Backyard Chicken

Seasoned Catfish over Rice

Vegetable Medley

Bread Pudding with Bourbon Sauce

Cornbread and Butter

Water, Tea, & Coffee

Cost is \$25 (includes gratuity & tax). Cash bar available. Please make your reservation no later than **Sunday, September 4th**, with SherryFerki at 757-922-7030, or by email at navmedarmynurse@gmail.com.

A RESERVATION MADE, IS A RESERVATION PAID!

GUEST SPEAKER

SEPTEMBER'S GUEST SPEAKER CURRICULUM VITAE



Ukrainian Colonel Hennadiy KOVALENKO is currently serving as a staff officer at the **Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT) HQ**, Norfolk, Virginia. He can discuss the current World situation, from a NATO perspective especially with regards to Ukraine.

He graduated from the Kharkiv Air Force Military Institute (1996), and the National Defence Academy of Ukraine (2005). He completed the Joint Command and General Staff Course at the Baltic Defence College (2004), as well as graduated from the Royal College of Defence Studies (2014, UK).

In 2015, Colonel Kovalenko achieved his MA in International Security and Strategy at King's College London and completed his scholarship at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies (2018). Since July 2020 he has been accomplishing his Professional Doctorate Programme at the Cardiff Metropolitan University, UK.

Colonel Kovalenko has been serving in various positions in the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine (Head of NATO and the EU Section, Plans and Policy Department) as well as in the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (Head of Bilateral Cooperation Directorate, Head of Cooperation with Security Organisations Directorate, etc).

From the beginning of the Russian-Ukrainian armed conflict, he deployed at the operation area in different capacities, in addition, he was responsible for coordinating international support and assistance within the framework of the Multinational Joint Commission of Military Cooperation and Defence Reform (MJC).

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Report September 2022

PACMOAA currently has 66 members. Of the 71 members at the beginning of the year, only 2 did not renew, there was 2 deaths, and 2 members live elsewhere and transferred to a chapter closer to them. Thus far this year, emails, letters including copies of our membership brochure as well as personal invitations have not resulted in any new members. Any suggestions would be most appreciated.

As I've mentioned in many newsletters, *Every member is a recruiter* per MOAA Leadership workshop suggestions on membership and should have a brief prepared 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 – MOAA Advocacy in Action campaign usually occurs in April but advocacy issues are addressed year round), 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. We have a great speaker for September, and this would be an excellent meeting for potential members to attend.



Submitted by:
Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)
2nd VP/Membership Chair
cell 757-630-5608 navmedarmynurse@gmail.com

At right: Scan the QR code with your Smart Phone Camera to go to pacmoaa.org



PACMOAA TODAY.
PACMOAA, a five star
level of exce...
www.pacmoaa.org

PERSONAL AFFAIRS

IN MEMORIAM BOB POMEROY



Picture of Bob Pomeroy in his active-duty days to the left.



Carol and Bob Pomeroy with Bob Steorts above

I was very sorry to hear that one of our PACMOAA members, Bob Pomeroy died. He was a member for about 10 years and had a wonderful smile and engaging personality. He was very knowledgeable about Islam and was scheduled to be the speaker at one of our monthly dinner/program meetings but became ill just before the meeting. Unfortunately, Bob and

Carol had not been able to attend any meetings in some time due to health issues. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Carol and her family.

From The Virginian Pilot obituary on July 31, 2022 at

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/pilotonline/name/robert-pomeroy-obituary?id=36033353>

Robert ("Bob") Murray Pomeroy, age 96, died peacefully on July 24, 2022. He had a long and distinguished career as a U.S. Air Force pilot and academic. He grew up in Dalton, Massachusetts, and was the youngest of Theodore and Julia Pomeroy's six children. He attended Peekskill Military Academy preparatory for admission to the U. S. Military Academy at West Point. He met his future wife, Carol Townsend Young, in Peekskill. He graduated from West Point in 1948 and joined the newly formed U. S. Air Force. On June 8, 1949, he married Carol Young, four days before her graduation from Connecticut College. On June 8, 2022, they celebrated 73 years of marriage.

Bob proudly served his country for 31 years in the Air Force. Among many varied assignments, many of which were in Europe, he flew as a Tactical Air Control pilot in the Korean conflict, earning a Purple Heart and two Air Medals. He served in Vietnam with the 7th Air Force as Chief of Reconnaissance and Electronic Warfare, earning another Air Medal and Legion of Merit award. He received the Air Force Commendation Medal for his service with the Undersecretary of the Air Force at the Pentagon. He earned a Master of Science in Business Administration from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 1972. He served on the faculty at the Royal Air Force Academy in Cranwell, England and at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, PA. His final tour of duty was in Belgium, serving as the U.S. National Military Representative at NATO's Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE). He earned a Defense Superior Service Medal before retiring in 1979 at the rank of Colonel.

Bob and Carol retired to Alexandria, Virginia, where Bob worked for the Air Force Aid Society and Carol became a professional tour guide for Washington D.C. Bob has three children of whom he was immensely proud: Robert,

Jr., (Patti), a lawyer in Denver, CO; Diane (Earl), a judge in Portsmouth, VA; and Dave (Regina), a successful studio musician, songwriter and performer, currently President of the Nashville Musicians Association, AFM Local 257. In addition to his three children, Bob's progeny includes seven grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren, who live across the United States. May God watch over all the people of our nation as we acknowledge and appreciate Robert Pomeroy's legacy of dedication to our country.

Burial with full military honors will be at the Arlington National Cemetery. R.W. Baker & Company is serving the family. Read full obituary and register online condolences at RWBakerFH.com.

Published by The Virginian-Pilot on Jul. 31, 2022.



Submitted by:
Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)
Personal Affairs Chair
New Home number: (757) 922-7030 Cell: 630-5608

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

Surviving Spouse Corner: 4 Resources for Older Adults

By: Renée Brunelle May 31, 2022

The community of military spouses, encompassing all past and present, is a resilient group of individuals. The ability to change plans in a moment's notice is a skill acquired over years of experience. The other amazing characteristic of military spouses is that we support each other and share tools, benefits, and resources no matter how long we have known each other.

Here are four such resources to consider:

VA Aid and Attendance: Also known as housebound allowance, VA Aid and Attendance might be able to provide a monthly financial benefit to assist with personal care services. Financial and physical considerations need to be investigated. Local veteran services organizations are a great place to get neutral information and support.

Geriatric Care Managers: Hiring these professionals can be an unmatched option of support for seniors who do not have family members close. They are social workers for hire who can be on a retained contract or situational contract in case of emergency needs. Their experience can help you navigate insurance coverage, emergency services, or placement recommendations if you are looking into senior living locations.

Board-Certified Elder Law Attorney: Often attorneys will list that they offer estate and/or elder law specialties. This is an important area in that "what you don't know will hurt you." A board-certified elder law attorney has a higher level of training and expertise. Learn more through the [National Elder Law Foundation](http://NationalElderLawFoundation.org).

Senior Real Estate Specialist (SRES): This designation for Realtors means that they have done advanced education for working with home buyers over the age of 50. Often, they have a network of additional businesses and services that will assist in making the real estate transaction as smooth as possible. Learn more through the [SRES Council](http://SRESCouncil.org).

[Read past Surviving Spouse Corners.](#)

Surviving Spouse Corner: Get Involved in MOAA's Advocacy Efforts from <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2022-news-articles/surviving-spouse-corner-get-involved-in-moaas-advocacy-efforts/>

By: Dr. Vivianne Wersel July 05, 2022

This spring, MOAA members contacted all 535 members of Congress during the association's annual Advocacy in Action event, conducting more than 235 meetings and sending over 7,500 letters. Due to COVID-19

restrictions and the challenges of security on Capitol Hill, MOAA members met with their elected officials either in face-to-face or virtual meetings.

MOAA's three legislative priorities were supporting the Major Richard Star Act, supporting the Stop Copay Overpay Act; and ensuring a competitive military pay raise.

Why get involved with Advocacy in Action? Volunteers are well trained to understand the process of setting up meetings and communicating with elected officials as well as having a better understanding of legislation. In addition, participation cultivates relationships with staffers and members of Congress from your district and state. The experience you gain is beneficial to help support other legislation as a constituent or with a group to help improve survivor benefits.

Military survivors are the stakeholders to the legislation at large. Congress continuously adjusts military survivor benefits. It is important surviving spouse members exercise their rights to educate staffers and members of Congress and remain vigilant to protect and improve survivor benefits. MOAA headquarters' staff does an outstanding job educating members so they can participate in grassroots advocacy efforts.

Here are some ways to contribute and keep MOAA's priorities on Congress' radar:

- Send pre-written letters to Capitol Hill using MOAA's [Legislative Action Center](#).
- Call elected officials using MOAA's direct line to the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 1-866-272-6622.
- Engage with congressional members via social media, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
- Stay current with MOAA's legislative efforts and subscribe to *The MOAA Newsletter*. Check your MOAA's newsletter subscription preferences [at this link](#).
- Customize your letters and conversations with elected officials; embed a personal story.

Congress will act only if they are inspired by their voters. Join MOAA's effort to help improve benefits for military, veterans, retirees, family, and survivors.

MOAA & LEGISLATIVE

Co-Sponsor Milestone Puts Star Act on Key House Calendar

By: Mark Belinsky August 17, 2022

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2022-news-articles/advocacy/co-sponsor-milestone-puts-star-act-on-key-house-calendar/>

The Major Richard Star Act has reached a milestone goal of 290 co-sponsors in the House – the threshold for it to be placed on the chamber's consensus calendar. This significant accomplishment, along with ongoing efforts in the Senate, show clear progress in MOAA's focused efforts and teamwork with fellow service organizations through The Military Coalition, to expand concurrent receipt to more than 50,000 combat-injured veterans who lose a dollar of retirement pay for every dollar of VA benefits they receive.

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

The Way Ahead in the Senate

Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.), chair of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, will submit the Star Act as an amendment to the chamber's version of the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) when the Senate returns to session in September. The Star Act is his top priority for amendments to this year's NDAA.

Note from Sherry Ferki: As of 22 August 2022, 61 Senators are co-sponsors -Senator Kaine still is not a co-sponsor; 298 Representatives are co-sponsors - 8 of 11 Virginia Representatives are co-sponsors including Bobby Scott (District 3), Elaine Luria (District 2) and Donald McEachin (District 4).

Your PACT Act Resource List

By: Kevin Lilley August 17, 2022

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2022-news-articles/your-pact-act-resource-list/>

[The Aug. 10 signing](#) of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promises to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022 ended a long legislative fight for earned benefits, but signaled the beginning of another, sometimes-complex process – ensuring those benefits get to the millions of veterans who've earned them.

Many veterans and families may be unsure whether the act covers their particular service or health situation. The following resources may help answer that question; check back at this link for updates as more materials become available.

The Basics VA.gov/PACT should serve as your first stop for detailed information on the law's benefits.

More Resources Still have questions? Check out these materials from the VA and other reliable outlets.

- A VA fact sheet ([PDF download](#)) on survivor benefits connected to the PACT Act.
- [Full text](#) of the PACT Act (S. 3373).
- A [MOAA Q-and-A](#) detailing the basic benefits of the act and its path through Congress.
- Benefits breakdowns from MOAA's content partners at [Military Times](#) and [Military.com](#).
- More from the VA about [airborne hazards and burn pit exposure](#), including a full list of presumptive conditions.

A Note on Scams As with any increase in available benefits, expect a similar increase in fraud attempts – individuals offering false promises of VA compensation in exchange for personal identification, or encouraging veterans to file inaccurate claims, or charging fees for services or records requests that should be free of charge.

MOAA has been active in educating its members on these and similar scam attempts; check out our [three-part series on financial scams](#), as well as tips to avoid veteran-related scams that cost the military community [more than \\$100 million last year](#).

This NDAA Provision Would Halt Planned Military Medical Staffing Cuts

By: Karen Ruedisueli, MOAA's Director of Government Relations for Health Affairs and also co-chair of The Military Coalition's (TMC) Health Care Committee

NOTE: This was the Advocacy in Action priority in 2020 and MOAA has continued to advocate for this issue!!

The House version of the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) includes a provision halting medical billet cuts for three years, but MOAA needs your help ensuring the final bill includes this critical protection to your access to care.

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Senators to Support Halting Cuts to Military Medicine](#)]

The House NDAA also includes increased DoD reporting and congressional oversight regarding military medicine, particularly related to military medical operational readiness. Medical billet cuts have been a top [advocacy priority](#) for MOAA since they were first [revealed](#) in the FY 2020 administration budget request; for the last three NDAA cycles, we have worked tirelessly to achieve multiple delays in implementation together with enhanced DoD reporting and congressional oversight.

The bill also addresses concerns about the effects of the cuts on readiness – concerns reinvigorated in May when Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley, USA, [told a House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee hearing](#) that billet reductions could pose a risk to battlefield medicine.

MOAA amplified that message, together with concerns about beneficiary access to care, in meetings with House and Senate Armed Services Committee staff and member offices throughout the spring and summer.

[RELATED: [What Will Military Health Closures and Realignment Mean for Your Care?](#)]

MOAA members further underscored these messages by highlighting civilian medical system capacity constraints and dire predictions about the health care workforce during Advocacy in Action 2022, our signature spring advocacy event.

We were pleased the House Armed Services Committee responded with three provisions in its mark of the FY 2023 NDAA designed to enhance congressional oversight of military medical downsizing and military treatment facility (MTF) restructuring:

- **Section 721** includes a congressional notification requirement to modify the scope of services provided at MTFs, together with a 180-day delay following notification.
- **Section 745** extends the time allowed for the Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on medical billet cuts required by the [FY 2022 NDAA](#).
- Most significantly, **Section 780** halts medical billet cuts for three years and requires extensive DoD reporting on military medical manning related to operational requirements, including the National Defense Strategy, the National Military Strategy, campaign plans of the combatant commands, theater strategies, and global patient movement.

Please join MOAA by [urging your senators to support Section 780](#) as the FY 2023 NDAA moves toward conference, where differences between the House and Senate versions will be resolved.

NOTE: At the 16 August 2022 meeting of the MOAA Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter (MUSNAVC), Karen Ruedisueli presented Military Health Care Update. She reviewed the process/timing of FY2023 NDAA. As included in this article, the House passed their version which included the halt to medical billet cuts. The Senate meets in September to review the proposed version from their Armed Services Committee which does not include halting medical billet cuts. That is why MOAA is asking us to contact our Senators ASAP. Historically, the Senate has not been very supportive in halting the medical billet cuts.

Submitted by: Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)

Retired Army Nurse and member of MUSNAVC

MOAA State Legislative Forum

19 July 2022

This group meets quarterly as a way for participants to receive updates from MOAA and the DSLOs (DoD State Liaison Offices that work with states to remove unnecessary barriers and significantly improve the quality of life for military families through engagement with state policy makers, nonprofit associations, and other state leaders) and to share on their state legislative initiatives. NOTE: COL Monti Zimmerman, USA (Ret), VCOC 3rd VP/Legislative Chair has presented to this group several times on VCOC/JLC initiatives.

The topics of discussion included:

- State taxing the retirement pay of uniformed members of the USPHS/NOAA -Col (Ret) Jeri Graham discussed this for NC. It was noted that when bills are passed to cover Armed Forces, that does not include USPHS & NOAA. The term Uniformed Services includes all branches including USPHS & NOAA. Col Graham stated that many “military” bills needed to have verbiage changed. There was some discussion that some VSOs don’t like NOAA & USPHS as they are all officer corps.
- COVID Deaths, Veterans Deaths and DIC – CDR (Ret) Steve Singleton & MAJ (Ret) Bill Summers reviewed SBP & DIC and discussed how Tennessee copied Kentucky law per making sure death certificates of veterans filled out correctly so spouse could still receive DIC. Spouses need DD214 & compensation letter in case vet dies.
- Professional Licensure Transfer for Military Spouses was discussed by Dr Virginia Wersel – Interstate Compact (IC). An IC is between 2 or more states to facilitate interstate practices of occupations. Many of us encountered this problem when we retired. I took nursing boards in Maryland and when I retired in Virginia, it took considerable time and money to obtain my nursing license in Virginia. When I started teaching with College of the Albemarle, I had to go through the process again to be licensed in NC even though all the students clinical experience was in Virginia with me. For the nursing licensure compact, there are 39 states that have a compact agreement with each other.

Submitted by Sherry D Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)

VCOC

VCOC 3rd QUARTER MEETING Notes abbreviated

Tuesday, 12 July 2022, Virginia War Memorial, Richmond, and Zoom Meeting

- Meeting was called to order at 1037 by Linc Smith, CDR, USN (Ret). Linc welcomed all to the meeting.
- Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation were offered.
- John Down conducted the Roll Call. **Seven chapters were represented of the total of sixteen active chapters; some chapters had multiple representatives but only one voting member per chapter. A quorum was thus not achieved. Therefore, the Council conducted the meeting for information purposes only.**
- Linc Smith introduced Craig Crenshaw, retired USMC Major General and currently Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs. (See comments on page 12)
- **Linc thanked the Portsmouth Area Chapter (PACMOAA)**, the Potomac Chapter, and the Central Virginia Chapter for the opportunity to visit them recently.
- In summary of Council “Advocacy in Action” legislative events, Linc noted that between 21 January and 8 July we had five teams who contacted both our Senators and many of our representatives to Congress. He thanked all the participants for their outstanding efforts. **PACMOAA was one of these teams.**
- Linc mentioned the upcoming award presentations to **Rep. Elaine Luria, 2nd District, as VCOC Federal Legislator of the Year & Del. Kathy Tran as State Legislator of the Year.** We plan to present both awards to these recipients at our Fourth Quarter VCOC Meeting in October. **MOAA recently recognized Rep. Luria with a separate award for her outstanding support at the federal level.**
- Finally, Linc noted some chapter events coming up such as the Richmond Area Chapter (RACMOAA) attendance at a Flying Squirrels baseball game and the **Tidewater area chapters (PACMOAA, HRCMOAA, & VIPMOAA) having an annual Joint Brunch Event.**

Legislative Committee Report

- Monti Zimmerman provided an overview of on-going legislative efforts at the state level.
 - o The Commonwealth’s budget has been signed.
 - o Work continues to move the property tax exemption toward a constitutional amendment which will eventually have to be voted on. Noted in Attachment 2 to this informational meeting minutes.
 - o The JLC is collaborating with the National Guard Association to increase the Virginia State Tax deduction from \$3k to \$6 and to remove the O-3 cap.
 - o The National Guard Association wants to have Virginia grant free access to all state parks for its members. There is an issue with this, and that is the Virginia user fee. Virginia receives a “kicker” from the federal government for entrance fees paid. If Guard members do not pay a fee, the state loses that “kicker” accordingly. An alternative may be reduced fees for Guard members in lieu of no fee.
 - o **The Navy League is working to eliminate the surviving spouse burial fee of \$400.**
 - o An Air Force attorney on his two-weeks active duty with the Reserves has a father who is 100% disabled and who is seeking property tax relief; he ran into problems. There are three options for dealing with this, and they are contradictory. The JLC is asking the Reserve Officers Association (ROA) to sponsor a 2023 initiative for this and to get a co-sponsor, possibly MOAA.
 - o The American Legion reports that the tax relief being sought for military retirees is not enough. They have a lengthy position paper on this which they sent to the JLC on June 17th
- Linc Smith provided an update on national legislative advocacy status: As part of continuing “Advocacy in Action” for 2022, Linc praised the Southwest Chapter for their July 8th meeting with Rep. Morgan Griffith to

advocate for the top three MOAA goals/legislative objectives. Specifically, they asked that he co-sponsor the Major Richard Star Act, which is Amendment 98 in the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), and the Honor the Pact Act.

8. Surviving Spouses (Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA, Ret.)

- o **Sherry** commented that communications with surviving spouses can be difficult, especially if they do not have email. She asked that any chapter having suggestions for contacting their surviving spouses to pass it to her.
- o She recommended that chapters download the MOAA “Surviving Spouses Corner” information and incorporate it into their chapter newsletters to help keep surviving spouses informed.

9. Old Business

- o **Since we did not have a quorum, we could not hold a vote on the VCOC Bylaws amendments. That vote will be scheduled for a later date.**
- o At the April meeting, the boxes of Council documents were given to volunteers to review the contents and recommend disposition of same. **We had one report, and that was from Ken App representing PACMOAA.** Ken noted that he had files from 1994-1996 that he believes should be destroyed. He also found flag streamers and awards that he will bring to the next in person Council meeting.

10. New Business

- o **Lacking a quorum, we could not hold a vote to confirm Maria Kelly as Treasurer succeeding Jim Stephan.**
- o The Fourth Quarter VCOC meeting is **presently scheduled for Thursday, October 6th** at the Virginia War Memorial. We plan to present the federal and state legislator of the year awards at that meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:46 hours.

VCOC met again Virtually on August 2, 2022, where a Quorum was met and voted on the new Treasurer, Maria Kelly, approved the minutes of the 2nd Quarter VCOC Meeting, and approved the Bylaws Amendments. **Both Ken App and Sherry Ferki attended this short VCOC Virtual Meeting.**

Summary of MG Craig Crenshaw USMC (Ret) Remarks

1. General Crenshaw supplied a brief overview of the activities of the Virginia Department of Veterans and Defense Affairs. He mentioned how they are working to support our military and veterans’ communities in a way that “moves the needle.”
2. He mentioned their charter, saying that he firmly believes that Virginia is the right place for our military and veterans to “thrive and serve.”
3. He mentioned that we want to be “best in class” for whatever we do.
4. General Crenshaw mentioned some of the issues that are of interest to those who remain in Virginia. *(Forty thousand military leave active duty each year, but only ten thousand (25%) remain in Virginia.) The taxation of military retirement benefits is one such issue. Beginning this year, and in \$10K increments per year, military retirement will be exempt from state income taxes, up to \$40K for those above 55.* He mentioned real property taxes for surviving spouses, and Monti Zimmerman updated that status for those spouses whose military member died on active duty but was not killed in action. **Monti noted the work being done to get a constitutional amendment passed to make the change effective state-wide. Currently 182 spouses are affected. Fairfax County is balking at this. It takes up to three years to finally get this through.**
5. Next, General Crenshaw commented on our National Guard force in terms of education, tuition assistance, etc. Kevin Hoffman and the National Guard Association are working on a white paper to address National Guard issues, and MOAA is working with that organization on that, per Monti Zimmerman.

6. Lastly, the **Department Secretary highlighted that a Veterans Innovation Center is being stood up, as sponsored by Boeing and Virginia Tech.** This center will provide a digital hub for veterans transition services like what is underway in Texas and South Carolina. This is to be a single point of reference for all veterans for available programs, education, jobs, etc. General Crenshaw mentioned that he is closely tied in with MOAA and the Joint Leadership Council (JLC)



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

COMMUNITY

PLEASE CONSIDER BRINGING DONATIONS TO PORTSMOUTH VOLUNTEERS FOR THE HOMELESS (PVH) TO PACMOAA MEETINGS

PVH COVID-19 Operations Update: | Still Serving! Excerpts from PVH Executive Director, Darlene Washington
25 August 2022

To date, it's been **1,018 uninterrupted nights** of our PVH COVID-19 homeless sheltering response!

Our Winter Night Shelter services have evolved and transformed into year-round sheltering and extended Service Center operations with the help of state and city grants and corporate, church and individual donations.

As Coronavirus continues to morph, its threat to public health still exists and that threat is multiplied for our brothers and sisters experiencing homelessness. We remain acutely aware of the continuing unmet needs of our homeless citizens.

Thanks to Sheriff Michael Moore and his Team, we have been able to continue our efforts to shelter our most vulnerable during this public health disaster event. Partnering with the Sheriff's Office, we also were able to make vaccinations more accessible to our population, including our paid and volunteer staff.

When people know they have a place to lay their heads, (housing first approach) they can focus on rebuilding their lives. Working with other partners, several clients have been housed during this time, some have gained employment and others have been able to secure their benefits and maintain medical appointments. Some achieved sobriety having completed residential substance use treatment and others are working on gaining balance in their lives via mental health support and medication.

We could not do this work without our volunteers or without your generous donations, caring support and prayers.... Thank you to ALL our other partners who are helping us meet our operational needs to continue serving!

The needs of our brothers and sisters who are homeless have not ended. We are encouraged as future solutions are being explored!

So as we enter into day 1,019, we will continue to shelter as circumstances permit. With our capacity reduced by 50%, our entry process is a little different and designed to provide shelter to the most vulnerable individuals who are homeless while continuing to implement the most effective public health protections possible for a congregate environment.

Together we are continuing to make a difference for our City as Team PVH!

We're always available if you have questions or want to learn more about how things are going.

Yours in service...Thank you!

Our on-going PVH Service Center and Shelter material donation needs are listed below.

- Client snacks – chicken/tuna salad packets; chips, etc. (no granola bars or hard items due to dental issues)
- Fresh fruit (oranges, peaches, plums, bananas)
- Disposable Gloves (non-latex), Toilet paper
- Room Deodorizers (spray/solid), Bleach (chlorine)

- XL Ziploc bags (10-gallon size), Kitchen Trash bags, Trash Can Liners
- Paper towels
- Personal items
 - Men's & Women's Shower Shoes and Body Wash (full size)
 - Body Lotion
 - Sunscreen
 - Reader Glasses (various strengths) and Word Search Books

Note: PVH is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 corporation governed by a twenty-one (21) member independent Board of Directors. Before COVID, PVH provided nightly shelter for homeless persons from mid-November through May each year and provided a twelve (12) month Outreach Service Center where clients could shower, do laundry, receive their mail and use the telephone.

PACMOAA had donated items to this most worthwhile organization since their Executive Director spoke at our meeting in October 2011. PACMOAA donations have fallen off this year, but the need is ongoing! Every little bit helps!

MEMBER in the SPOTLIGHT

LTC SHIRLEY BARKER, USAR (RET)



LTC Shirley Barker was born in Greensboro, NC and her family moved to Cradock when she was in the 2nd grade. She attended elementary and high school at Cradock and then attended Meredith College in NC for 2 years. Shirley majored in music for 1 one of those years and then decided to go to nursing school at Norfolk General Hospital. She received her BSN from Baylor and enlisted in the Army several years later. Stateside duty stations included Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Washington as well as Ft Campbell and Ft Knox in Kentucky. Overseas assignments included a station hospital in Verdun France, a small Tri-services hospital in Ethiopia, and a military hospital in Japan (when the services were downsizing after Vietnam). Shirley noted that while in Ethiopia, Haile Selassie came to functions at the Officers Club, which was where the nurses ate. While serving as an Army nurse, she worked in a variety of positions, including pediatrics, OB, and as a supervisor. After serving about 14 years on active duty, Shirley went in the reserves and was assigned to the 56th

Station Hospital in Richmond. Reserve assignments included: Ft Lee and Ft Eustis, Virginia; Ft Drum in New York, and Albuquerque, New Mexico. One reserve assignment included attending Army courses, some at the Armory in Richmond in addition to writing a paper at the end of the courses on "Cold Weather Injuries" to complete the Command and Staff Course. Civilian jobs while serving in the reserves included 2 years at the VA and Sheltering Arms (set up to help working citizens that could not pay for health care that ceased to exist when Medicare came in to effect).

Shirley moved back to Portsmouth in the 70's to care for aging parents. She has sung with the Beasley Singing Bees for more than 10 years and taught a special needs Sunday School class for a while until the pandemic started. Hobbies include bowling and playing the piano.

Since joining PACTROA/PACMOAA in 1993, Shirley has been an active participant in the chapter. She has served in Leadership Team positions continuously for over 20 years! Before becoming President, Shirley served as VCOC Legislative Rep, President (1999-2001), Leg Rep (2001 – 2007), assistant Leg Rep (2007 – 2014), and Hospitality Co-Chair since Dec 2013. In addition to attending most dinner meetings, for many years Shirley attended the annual VCOC Leg Day in Richmond, Quarterly VCOC meetings, the Congressional Luncheon in Northern VA as well as being in the Portsmouth Memorial Day Parade.



Picture to the left: PACMOAA group going to the Congressional Luncheon in 2010. From left to right: Shirley, Alice Taves, Hal Hostetler, Hazel Wilhelm, Brenda Hostetler, and Nell Wall.

Picture Left shows 1 of 2 PACMOAA vehicles in 2016 annual Portsmouth Memorial Day parade. From left to right: Twila Nelson, Nell and Bob Wall, and Shirley. Shirley is leaning on Bob Wall's convertible which he has driven in the parade every year since 2016, except for pandemic.

Shirley recently relocated to Newport News. She

would be happy to see or hear from any of you.



Her address is:
 50 Wellesley Dr,
 Room 421 in
 Newport News,
 VA 23606, and
 her phone number
 is 757-596-2124.



Submitted by Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Retired Army Nurse)

PROGRAMS



September – COL KOVALENKONATO, Supreme Allied Command Transformation
 October – CAPT Wolfson NNSY Commander
 November – PACMOAA Business Meeting
 December – Christmas Gala with the Tidewater Concert Band
 Submitted by:
 COL Hal Hostetler, USA (Ret)

REMINDER: HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE

Hurricane season began on 1 August and ends on 30 November! Be sure to review your hurricane preparations and update your kit. Check on your evacuation route also! Many resources to help you do this are available. Several are listed below.

TRICARE Toolkit: Natural Disasters and TRICARE Coverage

By: Paul Frost From MOAA MILITARY OFFICER August 2022 <https://www.moaa.org/content/topic-and-landing-pages/moaas-tricare-toolkit/tricare-toolkit-tricare-natural-disasters/>

Hurricane Preparedness per Red Cross

<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/hurricane.html>

Hurricane Preparedness from Dominion Energy Updated: 8/8/2022<https://www.dominionenergy.com/our-stories/hurricane-preparedness>

Submitted by Sherry Ferki on 22 Aug 2022

NAVY PLATE UPDATE

From CAPT Roger Hirsch : DMV started mailing out the new Navy license plates last Friday Aug 19th, so they will be on the road as of this week. That's the ones that were preordered over the past five years. DMV anticipates the Navy plates will be available for purchase in branches state-wide and on the DMV website (<https://www.dmv.virginia.gov>) by Sept 8th. As a reminder, this is a revenue share plate, with \$15 (tax deductible) of the annual \$25 fee going to Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society to support Virginia military families. My personal thanks the PACMOAA members who preordered plates and helped make this happen.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

[A selection from the Editorial Staff off Crosswalk.com]

A PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY

America is hurting. Pandemics, racial inequalities, job loss, and political division have caused great suffering. We are called to be salt and light on the earth. As Christians we can begin healing our land through prayer and action. Let us come together not just by words but a faith that produces works. The love and grace of God can begin turning the tide of America.

We look to You and to You only Lord. Help us make wise decisions that move our country in the right direction. Help us to do our part in praying and in staying with what we know is right according to the truth of Your Word. Teach us to make our actions count and our words matter, and line them both up to Your sense of rightness, not ours. Guide us with Your eye: grip us with Your strong arm; teach us what we need to know to make our lives – and our nation – count for You.



Submitted by
CAPT Bob Brewer,
USN (Ret)
Chaplin

THAT'S A WRAP FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2022!

CDR Ken App USN (Ret) PACMOAA
3rd VP for Communications