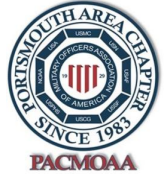




The Salute Online



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 XXXXII Issue IX

LEARN MORE AT PACMOAA.ORG

NOVEMBER 2023

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



PACMOAA family: The October dinner was highlighted by a very informative presentation by Steve Zollos of the Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia. His focused words reinforced our need to stay diligent about our own health and aware of the projected shortfalls and challenges being confronted by the health care industry.

Looking forward to our "annual business" meeting during our November 9th dinner meeting. The PACMOAA leadership has been steadfast in staying in touch with the local military commands, other MOAA entities and community activities which have interest to the membership. Please come to enjoy a great meal, comradery and our focus/plans for next year.

Happy Veterans day and Anchors aweigh. Bruce

Bruce LaLonde CPA
CAPT USN (Ret)
757-241-302



LEFT: PACMOAA's President, CAPT Bruce LaLonde USN (Ret) presents Steve Zollos, SSSEVA CEO, with our Certificate of Appreciation and the World Renowned PACMOAA Coffee Mug for his Presentation of SSSEVA

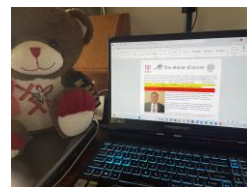


Above Right: CWO3 Karl and Angela Wilson accept the Leadership Bear from CAPT Bruce LaLonde.



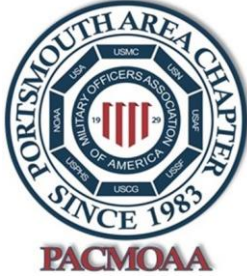
Right: The Leadership Bear helps CDR Ken App USN (Ret) set up for the October Meeting, and with the October Newsletter.

Left: COL Bill Smith USA (Ret) presents the Slate of Officers for the 2024 to 2026 PACMOAA Leadership Team



**PACMOAA
LEADERSHIP**

Please See the Leadership
Pull-down



CHAPTER NEWS

NOVEMBER

- 01 First Day of American Indian Heritage Month
- 05 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 07 ELECTION DAY
- 09 PACMOAA Dinner Business Meeting**
- 10 MARINE CORPS 248th Birthday 1775
- 11 Veterans Day
- 23 Coast Guard Women’s Reserve Established 1942
- 23 THANKSGIVING
- 24 Native American Heritage Day

HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Bob Brewer Peg Cicirelli
Larry Mellis Valerie Parker Paul Pratt
Conrad Strickland Dave Von Rump
Chuck Waggoner Bob Wall

The November Dinner Business Meeting

will be held on **Thursday, November 9th** at Roger Brown’s Banquet Room,
316 High Street, Portsmouth (757) 399-5377

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

Buffett Menu

Harvest Salad

BBQ Chicken

Catfish

Mac and Cheese

Broccoli and Carrots

Corn Bread

Brownie

Water, Tea, and Coffee

Cost is \$25 (includes gratuity & tax). Cash bar available. Please make your reservation no later than **Sunday, November 5th** with Sherry Ferki at 757-922-7030 or by email at navmedarmynurse@gmail.com

A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID



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

SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT PACMOAA

NOVEMBER BUSINESS MEETING & ELECTIONS**PACMOAA BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA
NOVEMBER 9, 2023**

- a. Pledge/Prayer
- b. Welcome
- c. Dinner (6:30-7:15 pm)
- d. Secretary
- e. Treasurer's Report
- f. Membership Report
 - Recruitment Activities
 - Personal Affairs
 - Surviving Spouse Liaison
- g. Legislative Report
 - 2023 VCOC legislative achievements
 - JLC Objectives for 2024
- h. Programs Report
- i. VCOC Report
- j. Communications Report
- k. Scholarship/JROTC Report
- l. Nominating Committee/Election Report (**If you didn't vote by mail or email yet, please bring your ballot with you**) (**Bios are on pp. 17-20 Ballot is on page 21**).
- m. LOE- Any contacts with elected representatives (in-person or virtually) and/or community involvement (like AiA, Memorial Day parade, Veterans Day event attendance, Portsmouth Mayors Military Affairs Committee)
- n. Old Business
 - PACMOAA 40th Anniversary Celebration
 - Community Activities PowerPoint
- o. New Business
 - Awards
 - Chapter – Harris Communication Award & Levels Of Excellence
 - Individual – Leadership Award for CDR App & President's Award for MAJ Ferki
 - New LOE Timeline
 - Any VCOC or MOAA training any members attended this year
- p. PACMOAA Goals and Objectives
 - Membership
 - Legislative Advocacy
 - Community Involvement
- q. Other
- r. Adjourn

MEMBERSHIP

PACMOAA had 65 paid members as of 22 October 2023, that includes our 6 new members this year and 5 life members. New Surviving Spouses account for 3 of our new members! We still have 52 regular members and 13 Surviving Spouses that have paid their dues this year. There are several potential members that may attend the November business meeting!

Recruiting activities this year have included checking the MOAA Near Real Time list each month – it lists MOAA members in our area that have agreed to receive 2 or 3 emails a year from our chapter, members that have moved and are in the PACMOAA area, and new MOAA members. I send an email and/or mail a welcome letter

(if no email is listed) with info per the next dinner meeting as well as including either the MOAA Information Sheet or our Recruitment Brochure. I target potential members in their late 30's to 70's. This year, I have received one email thanking me for the information I sent but no further response to my correspondence, a couple of email responses expressing some initial interest but they're either out to sea or conflicts in their schedule, but the rest of the emails and letters do not stimulate any response at all!!



CDR Ken App and I participated in the **Joint Base Langley/Eustis (JBLE) Retiree Appreciation Day** on 14 October. Some of the other organizations that participated included a Social Security Representative, MHS Genesis Representatives, VFW, DAV, and VA Department of Veterans Services. Not many people stopped by our display table, but it was a great networking opportunity and we spoke with the post CO, COL Frankie Cochiosue. He graciously said he would be happy to put us in contact with the post Transition program for soldiers either retiring or getting out of the service. This is a potential source of new members the BOD has discussed for several years.

I need help with recruiting. Remember, you can invite a potential new member to dinner and their dinner will only cost half price. This is a great way to introduce them to our organization and the camaraderie when attending a meeting. I also stress to potential new members that many of our members cannot attend meetings, but their membership helps PACMOAA when dealing with the General Assembly and MOAA when dealing with Congress. MOAA's Legislative Advocacy is focused on maintaining or improving military benefits that include all Uniformed Services, National Guard and Reservists, family members and Surviving Spouses.

Any assistance or suggestions you can provide would be most appreciated. **We all need to be recruiters!!**

I will be happy to send you a copy of our recruitment brochure and will bring some to each meeting.

Submitted by Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)

2nd VP/Membership Chair

PACMOAA can pay dues, dinners, etc., 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 PACMOAAreasurer@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.

PERSONAL AFFAIRS

On Wednesday 25 October 2023, the Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC) held its Biennial Memorial Ceremony. This event allows chapters to remember/recognize the members that died over the past 2 years. Service to VCOC was also noted but due to time constraints, all their contributions to the chapter could not be cited. VCOC Chaplain Ken Ruppar conducted the ceremony. **CDR Ken App represented PACMOAA and read the names of the following members/spouses:**

PACMOAA DEATHS OCTOBER 2021- OCTOBER 2023

12 March 2022	CAPT Harry Miller, USN (Ret) CHARTER MEMBER/VCOC Secretary
15 July 2022	CWO4 Richard Grigg, USN (Ret)
24 July 2022	COL Robert (Bob) Pomeroy, USAF (Ret)
4 September 2022	CDR John (Jack) Lyons, USN (Ret) CHARTER MEMBER/VCOC Leg. Rep.
22 September 2022	COL Kenneth (Steve) Turner, USAF (Ret) – VCOC Rep/VCOC President
16 April 2023	CAPT J.P. Barreca, USN (Ret)

Please Memorize the VETERAN CRISIS HOTLINE **Dial 988 then press 1**

5 May 2023 Lt Col Bob Steorts, USAF (Ret)- VCOC President
 19 May 2023 LTC Shirley Barker, USA (Ret) – VCOC Legislative Rep/Assist Leg. Rep.
 23 July 2023 COL Gordon Nelson, USA (Ret)

Longtime member not PACMOAA members at time of death but remembered in PACMOAA newsletter.

5 Nov 2022 June Leckrone, Surviving Spouse

Spouse of Longtime PACMOAA member:

18 Mar 2023 Nell Wall, wife of LCDR Bob Wall, USNR (Ret)

After reading the names, a rose was symbolically moved from 1 vase to another one.

Overview of MOAA MEDICARE/TRICARE/FEDVIP Webinar

The webinar on 26 October 2023 began with a discussion of MOAA's charities including their scholarship program. The MOAA scholarship program is only open to military dependents unlike PACMOAA's scholarship which is open to any eligible high school senior going into an ROTC program in college!

Most of the program was about **Medicare** which is already in open season (**15 Oct-7 Dec 2023**). There was some discussion about Medicare Advantage programs and that you need to compare the costs and benefits carefully before signing up for one of their programs.

The **TRICARE** and **FEDVIP** open season dates are the same – **13 Nov to 11 Dec 2023** and changes become effective 1 Jan 2024. A Qualifying Life Event (QLE) differs between TRICARE and FEDVIP. Military retirement if a QLE for TRICARE but not for FEDVIP. It is important to compare the differences in the TRICARE options after retirement – TRICARE Select or Prime. Select offers greater flexibility but there are less out of pocket expenses with Prime. There are now 2 TRICARE areas. We are in the TRICARE East Region which is managed by Humana Military. WPS-Military and Veterans Health can be reached at 1-866-773-0405. A hard copy of the TRICARE for Life Handbook can be ordered at 1-866-773-0404.

You can access **TRICARE For Life** information at <https://www.tricare.mil/Plans/HealthPlans/TFL> and find a matrix showing what Medicare and TRICARE pay for as well as your possible out of pocket costs. There is also a TRICARE for Life Cost Matrix 2023 for Medicare part A which includes hospitalization costs up to 150 days with separate charts for Medical and Surgical versus Mental Health hospitalizations. That matrix/chart can be viewed at https://tricare.mil/Publications/Costs/tricare_for_life_costs. The *TRICARE costs for 2024 had not been posted as of 26 Oct.*

FEDVIP offers both dental and vision plans. There are 12 regional and/or national plans for dental and 5 for vision. **You need to make sure your dentist accepts the plan you prefer.** The standard plans have less expensive premiums than the high plans but your visit costs may be higher. *2024 rates are already posted and vary depending on your zip code.*

This webinar is available on the MOAA website at <https://www.moaa.org/content/benefits-and-discounts/transition-and-careers/transition-center-webinars/charitable-giving-webinar-archive2/>

Only Premium and Life members can access webinars.

Reminder: Open Season for Medicare is 15 October- 7 December 2023.

Open Season for TRICARE & FEDVIP is 13 November – 11 December 2023.

Submitted by: MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret)
 Surviving Spouse Liaison

How to Get or Renew Military ID Card and When Needed per Military One source and MOAA Updated 28 October 2023

How to Get or Renew a Military ID Card: for Spouses, Dependents, Veterans and Retirees

Sections from website below :<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/military-basics/new-to-the-military/military-id-and-cac-cards-for-military-community/>

Where do I get a military ID card? <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/military-basics/new-to-the-military/military-id-and-cac-cards-for-military-community/#accordiongroup-Where-to-get-military-ID-card-panel>

You may obtain a military ID through [ID Card Office Online](#) or in person at any Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification System site. RAPIDS offices are located on military bases, at National Guard armories and at reserve training locations. These may be called the Pass and ID office, Military Personnel Flight, DEERS office, Personnel Support Detachment, ID Card Section, S1, One Stop, or a variety of other names, depending on the installation or branch of service. [Use this RAPIDS Site Locator](#) to find a location near you to make an appointment.

Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY) Pass and ID Office 757-396-5796

Office Hours

Monday: 6:30 AM - 2:40 PM

Tuesday: 6:30 AM - 2:40 PM

Wednesday: 6:30 AM - 2:40 PM

Thursday: 6:30 AM - 2:40 PM

Friday: 6:30 AM - 2:40 PM

Walk-In Hours

Sunday:

Monday: 6:30 AM - 2:40 PM

Tuesday: 6:30 AM - 2:40 PM

Wednesday: 6:30 AM - 2:40 PM

Thursday: 6:30 AM - 2:40 PM

No appointments in Oct or Nov but most of Dec has appointments available as of 28 Oct 2023.

Coast Guard Base Portsmouth Customer Service 757-686-4002

Monday: 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Thursday: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Friday: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

No walk-ins per website. No appointments through the end of Dec as of 28 Oct 2023

Naval Medical Center Portsmouth ID lab 757-953-7874

Office Hours

Monday: 7:30 AM - 3:40 PM

Tuesday: 7:30 AM - 3:40 PM

Wednesday: 7:30 AM - 3:40 PM

Thursday: 7:30 AM - 3:40 PM

Friday: 7:30 AM - 3:40 PM

Walk-In Hours

Monday: 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Tuesday: 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Wednesday: 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Thursday: 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Friday: 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Some appointments are available at the end of November and every day in Dec as of 28 Oct 2023.

How you renew or change your ID is similar to how you first got it, but with two changes:

1. Your current Uniformed Services ID Card counts as one of your two forms of identification.
2. You can apply to renew or replace your military ID [using the ID Card Office Online](#).

To change your ID card, your profile in DEERS will need to be up to date. You can [check or change your DEERS information online at MilConnect](#). You may also call the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office to

update DEERS information, 800-538-9522 Monday through Friday, 6 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Pacific Time, except federal holidays.

[What documents do spouses and dependents need to renew their military ID?](#)

You may need a birth certificate, marriage certificate, divorce decree, or other official document to make updates to your DEERS records.

Check out this [pre-arrival checklist](#) to learn more about renewing your military ID.

https://www.cac.mil/Portals/53/Documents/required_docs.pdf

Visit the [DOD ID Card Reference Center](#) for more information about obtaining, using and maintaining your military ID card. If you have questions about military life, [let Military OneSource help you find the answers](#).

NOTE: When my husband had to get his ID card renewed before it expired in Feb 2023, I had to check several times to find a time we could go as I had to go with him per NMCP ID card receptionist at 1 of the 3 local bases. New dates were added as the open slots were filled quickly. We were in and out of the NMCP ID card section within 45 minutes. I also found out that once a spouse turns 65, with the new system, their ID card has an indefinite expiration date.

Submitted by Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)

When Do I Need a New ID Card? <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/health-care-and-earned-benefits/when-do-i-need-a-new-id-card/> By: Kevin

Lilley February 07, 2023 (The deadline is 2026)

SURVIVING SPOUSE

Washington State MOAA Leader Is Passionate About Helping Surviving Spouses

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/member-spotlight/washington-state-moaa-leader-is-passionate-about-helping-surviving-spouses/>

October 25, 2023 *By Judy Christie*

When Cheryl Toland's husband of nearly 47 years died of Agent Orange-related heart problems in 2018, she did not even know what a "surviving spouse liaison" was.

But the MOAA chapter where CW4 Robert Toland, USA (Ret), had been a member stepped up to help — and changed her life.

"I became a surviving spouse at only 68," she said. "I was afraid my life didn't have much of a direction, but my MOAA Mount Rainier Chapter helped bring me out of that fear."

[GET INVOLVED: Find a MOAA Chapter | MOAA Virtual Chapters]

Now age 74, she is not only the surviving spouse liaison for the [Mount Rainier \(Wash.\) Chapter](#) but also vice president for surviving spouse affairs for [MOAA's Washington State Council of Chapters](#). Honoring her relentless work to help others, Toland has been named council-level recipient of MOAA's 2023 Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award.

Among those who praise her dedication is Col. David R. Casteel, USAF (Ret), president of the Washington State Council of Chapters, who said Toland is determined to keep MOAA members informed.

"I wish I could clone her passion and zeal to educate and advocate and infuse it into each chapter," Casteel said. "She has made a difference in our council and our chapters, but she knows more needs — and can be — done and is always looking for ways to do so."

Toland, a Life Member of MOAA, said her commitment springs from joyful days as the "proud wife of a warrant officer." She encourages everyone to pay attention to survivor benefits, no matter age or status. "You will need to know it someday," she said.

[RELATED: [Finding Your Path After Losing Your Spouse](#)]

In any given week, she might speak to a neighboring MOAA chapter about what members need to know before becoming a surviving spouse, contact a widow or widower to offer guidance, update a presentation for a Mount Rainier Chapter meeting, or write her monthly column for the newsletter. She diligently researches legislation that affects active duty and retired members of the military and their spouses and frequently says, “You need to contact your congressman on this.”

She also is a member of [MOAA’s Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter](#), helps surviving spouses in the U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association chapter at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, is a facilitator of a GriefShare program at her church, and is involved with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, the Elizabeth Dole Foundation, the VA Caregivers Assistance Program, and Gold Star Wives. A retired hairdresser of 54 years, she squeezes in time to give free haircuts and perms at an assisted-living facility and goes for daily walks with her son who lives nearby.



Her experiences as a surviving spouse have led to hard-earned advice for surviving spouses. “I think it was one of the ways after Bob died that I survived,” she said. “Part of healing is helping others through the things you have experienced. We are told in scriptures to serve others as we have been served. ... Don’t become stagnant. Don’t get stuck in your grief. The more you help others, the more it helps you heal.”

[MORE SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER ARTICLES](#)

Submitted by Sherry D. Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)
PACMOAA and VCOC Surviving Spouse Liaison

MOAA & LEGISLATIVE**NDAA Update: Return to Joint Committee Setup Is Good News for MOAA Priorities**

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/advocacy/ndaa-update-return-to-joint-committee-setup-is-good-news-for-moaa-priorities/>

By: Mark Belinsky Oct 16, 2023

From TRICARE changes to critical housing reforms, find out how you can help push key parts of this bill across the finish line. The appointment of a joint conference committee to iron out differences in must-pass defense legislation will give MOAA members a chance to reach out to their lawmakers and make their voice heard on critical issues like TRICARE reforms, military housing benefits, and other important quality-of-life concerns.

Congress didn’t form a full-on conference committee for the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) last year, meaning decisions on the final bill were made behind the scenes, with limited chances for advocates to reach out to individual lawmakers and their staffs.

But the House of Representatives has named members ([majority](#) | [minority](#)) of the NDAA conference this year, and while the Senate has not formally done so, work is in progress on this annual legislation within the [Senate Armed Services Committee](#) (SASC). The bill takes on an added sense of urgency with significant armed conflict in the Middle East and Eastern Europe, especially as operational tempo has [increased to the same levels](#) as the “surge” in Iraq and Afghanistan.

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Avoid a Government Shutdown and Finish the Appropriations Process](#)]**Having Your Say**

The conference committee gives MOAA and MOAA members a chance to make our case to committee members and other representatives on critical issues via our [Legislative Action Center](#). We need your voice as a constituent to amplify our efforts; let your lawmakers know the importance of these issues to their constituents. If your House member or your senators are not involved in the NDAA, ask them to reach out to fellow members in support of programs addressing quality of life (QoL) concerns faced for our troops during our [current recruiting crisis](#).

[TAKE ACTION: [Contact Your Legislators and Urge Them to Improve the Quality of Life for Our Troops](#)]

Congress will require discipline to focus on DoD personnel challenges this year – perhaps more than ever, as tone-deaf signals on the needs of those who serve have begun to emerge. These signals may convince lawmakers that the House NDAA proposal to [boost pay for enlisted troops is not needed](#), and that systemic military housing/barracks [mold problems](#) found by the Government Accountability Office and addressed in part by Senate NDAA provisions are not necessary ... and could be solved if servicemembers just [clean harder](#).

“Funding for DoD is like pistons in an engine,” one senior DoD official said. “When one of the pistons – modernization, operations or personnel – moves up, the others move down.”

Addressing Housing

This annual legislation spans the entirety of DoD programs and priorities, but key among the work this year are plans to improve military housing of all types across all services.

[TAKE ACTION: [Urge Your Legislators to Pay Full Housing Costs for Servicemembers](#)]

Along with plans to address barracks issues raised in high-profile reports and hearings, MOAA backs House NDAA language that would raise the Basic Housing Allowance to 96% of local rental and utility costs – one percentage point above the current level and progressing toward MOAA’s goal of restoring 100% BAH for servicemembers giving 100% to our nation.

We have supported this change via the BAH Restoration Act (H.R. 2537 and S. 1823) and will work toward its inclusion in the final NDAA legislation alongside other plans to address housing problems, such as:

- A report on military housing waitlists during PCS moves.
- A study on availability of housing and best practices for expanding affordable housing.
- A pilot program on replacement of substandard enlisted barracks.
- A maintenance work order management process for military unaccompanied housing.
- An expansion of the Uniform Code Of Basic Standards for Military Housing to include military unaccompanied housing.
- Implementation of comptroller general recommendations relating to strengthening oversight of privatized military housing.
- Establishing a DoD Military Housing Readiness Council.
- A report on how military construction affects quality of life.

[RELATED: [Star Act Not Part of NDAA Despite Vast Support for Combat-Injured Veterans](#)]**More NDAA Needs**

The housing issue is not the only one of MOAA’s priorities which could be advanced via the NDAA. Members can reach out at the links below to ensure related language is included in the must-pass bill, and that their members show their support for the all-volunteer force on these issues by co-sponsoring related legislation.

[TRICARE Pharmacy Cuts](#): Require a report on access of TRICARE beneficiaries to network retail pharmacies, especially as the network [shrank by nearly 25%](#) in the last 12 months.

[Dental Care for Reservists](#): Establish zero out-of-pocket cost dental care for reserve component servicemembers.

[Military Spouse Support](#): Require a report on portability of professional licenses of servicemembers and spouses, and expand eligibility for reimbursement of qualified licensure, certification, and business relocation costs incurred by military spouses.

'180-Day Rule': Repeal the mandatory six month cooling-off period for servicemembers to apply for DoD civilian positions and support DoD civilian talent management.

Arlington Eligibility: Require a joint DoD/VA report on the “next Arlington National Cemetery” that will afford military honors as it approaches capacity (in 40 years). This provision signals a significant change compared to previous proposals to reduce eligibility; your continued [support to grow co-sponsors for H.R. 1413](#) is still needed to shape this and future NDAA legislation.

Maximize Your Impact

Thank you to all of you who have already supported these legislative efforts. If you've yet to take action, or if you're looking to reengage with your lawmakers, consider these tips:

- When using our [Legislative Action Center](#), please customize the message with your personal story to add impact.
- Share the link to your message with your network; you do not need to be a MOAA member to use the action center.
- Amplify your message via MOAA's toll-free hotline – 866-272-MOAA (6622) – which will let you contact your lawmakers directly. Ask to speak with their military legislative assistant or legislative director, and schedule a follow-up call if they are not available. These congressional staffers work hard for elected officials and need to hear your voice as a constituent.

Follow the latest on the NDAA and other key MOAA legislative priorities at [MOAA's Advocacy News page](#).

DoD-State Liaison Group Announces Top Priorities for Military Families in 2024 <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/advocacy/dod-state-liaison-group-shares-top-policy-priorities-for-2024/>

By: Jen Goodale October 10, 2023

Continued focus on improving employment opportunities for military spouses and ensuring access to quality child care are among the 2024 policy priorities for the [Defense-State Liaison Office](#) (DSLO), a DoD agency which works with state lawmakers to improve policies impacting military family well-being.

Since 2008, DSLO has helped state policymakers enact more than 1,150 bills covering a variety of issues impacting military families. Each year, the agency publishes a list of legislative priorities.

The 10 key issue areas for 2024:

- Military access to quality family child care (FCC)
- Military employment and economic opportunities
- Defining armed forces in state policy
- Military community representation on state boards and councils
- State support for military families with special education needs
- Open enrollment flexibility
- Child abuse identification and reporting
- Military family anti-discrimination status
- State response to military interpersonal violence
- Concurrent juvenile jurisdiction

Find out what progress your state has made on the above issues by visiting [MOAA's Military State Report Card and Tax Guide](#), which features a clickable map.

Military Children

Several of DSLO's 2024 priorities focus on protecting and improving quality of life for military children. Conducting a PCS move presents many challenges – finding a new child care provider, enrolling military students in a new school, and, if needed, ensuring those students have continued support for their special education needs.

FCCs are a great resource for military families and a potential career path for military spouses. Unfortunately, the red tape required to establish and transfer an FCC across state lines continues to negatively impact this program that could offer solutions to the unique child care needs of servicemembers.

DSLO urges states to recognize military family child care certifications, in lieu of requiring state licensing. A dozen states had “advanced priorities” in this area as of Oct. 3, [according to DSLO](#), including Alaska and Oklahoma – states that led the way when this was introduced as a DSLO initiative in 2023.

Military families are disadvantaged when it comes to school enrollment options due to short-fuse orders and lack of available, affordable housing. States can provide families with improved schooling options by modifying open enrollment policies with a military clause, placement stability provision, or military priority category. Not only does this impact education options, but it also negatively affects student athletes.

As Partners in PROMISE has identified previously, military families with special education needs experience recurring educational disruptions and challenges related to PCS moves. DSLO urges states to assist by streamlining processes to ensure timely establishment of comparable services upon relocation to help reduce burdens and provide continuity of support.

[RELATED: [Child Care Fees Plunge for Many Military Families Under New DoD Rate Setup](#)]

Military Spouse Employment and Economic Opportunities

Prior to the enactment of the Military Spouse Licensing Relief Act, DSLO played an instrumental part in the development of interstate licensing compacts and the expedited enrollment for military spouses passed in more than 35 states. The Licensing Relief Act was signed into law as a provision within the Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act and should reduce barriers for military spouses working in licensed or credentialed fields to find employment when PCSing across state lines. DSLO will strive to ensure licensing agencies make their application processes accessible and known to military spouses.

One of the newly added priorities, military community representation on state boards and councils, will help members of the military community get involved at state and local levels. Adding a military perspective to these panels is necessary to ensuring mission and family readiness, economic security, and quality of life for military families are part of the conversation.

MOAA members can support DSLO’s efforts by joining their [local chapter](#) and urging increased grassroots support for these important quality-of-life issues for the currently serving military community. You can also reach out to your [DSLO regional liaison](#) to find additional ways engage with state policy.

NOTE: The focus of the **MOAA State Legislative Forum** meeting held on 17 October was the Defense States Liaison Office’s 2024 Key Issues. The DSLO Director Geraldine Valentino-Smith noted that most of the legislation is related to Occupational Licensing Interstate Compacts; for example, related to teachers, school psychologists, and dietitians. It was noted that compacts help portability for civilians and military spouses as well as allowing tracking of problems. During the Q&A session, someone asked about DSLO working on health issues and they are working with DHA. More detailed info about the 10 keys issues for 2024 is available at <https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil/#priorities-report>

Army Leaders, DoD Health Officials Address Concerns Over TRICARE Cuts

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/advocacy/army-leaders-dod-health-officials-address-concerns-over-tricare-cuts/>

By: Karen Ruedisueli October 17, 2023

MOAA’s Government Relations team expressed concern to senior Army leaders during a recent Washington, D.C., forum regarding cuts to TRICARE and the military health system, including potential negative impacts on readiness and recruiting.

The leaders took part in an Oct. 11 [Army Senior Leaders’ Town Hall](#) during the annual meeting of the Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA). The town hall featuring Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Randy George, and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Weimer, came at the conclusion of the event’s

Family Forums and allowed the top officials to offer perspectives and field audience questions on a topics such as housing, child care, spouse employment and health care.

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Preserve the TRICARE Pharmacy Network](#)]

The importance of health care to military families was underscored by results from instant digital polls held during the event. When asked, “Where do you think the Army should prioritize its quality of life efforts in future years?” the No. 1 response from attendees was health care.

In response to MOAA’s concerns about TRICARE cuts, the Defense Health Agency (DHA) acknowledged congressionally-directed reforms have resulted in significant changes to TRICARE and the direct care system of military hospitals and clinics. DHA is working to hire more military treatment facility (MTF) providers and address post-COVID appointment shortages in the TRICARE network.

Filling TRICARE Gaps

Army senior leaders reported that while they need to remain vigilant and work to shore up the military health system, their data shows TRICARE is still very competitive with private sector health care coverage.

While civilians may have much higher out-of-pocket costs for their health care, gaps between commercial plans and TRICARE continue to exist and are growing – [provider/appointment availability](#), the [TRICARE Young Adult](#) coverage gap, and lack of coverage for [chiropractic care](#), to name just a few.

[TAKE ACTION: [Tell Congress You Oppose TRICARE/TRICARE for Life Fee Increases](#)]

Congress and DoD leaders also must consider the importance of fulfilling obligations to those who have served. TRICARE was a key component of the compensation and benefits package that sustained the all-volunteer force during two decades of war – yet, just as the post-9/11 generation transitions to military retirement, the TRICARE benefit they count on is being whittled away through fee increases, shrinking provider networks, and failure to keep up with evolving technologies, treatment protocols, and benchmarks set by commercial plans.

MOAA understands the Defense Health Program budget is under immense pressure, but Congress and DoD must ensure military health care is funded to maintain readiness *and* fulfill commitments to servicemembers and retirees, as well as their families and survivors. The small percentage of citizens who are responsible for 100% of our national defense have earned and deserve a high-quality health care benefit.

Fulfilling commitments to servicemembers and retirees is not just a national obligation – it’s essential to recruiting the all-volunteer force. Slashing benefits after they have been earned poses a risk to recruiting as key influencers from the post-9/11 and previous generations become disillusioned and less likely to recommend military service.



MOAA will continue to take these messages to DoD leadership and Congress as we move forward with our work to preserve the military health care benefit.

Submitted by Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)

VCOC

Fourth Quarter Meeting Oct 25, 2023 Biennial Luncheon & Remembrance Ceremony was hosted by Falcon’s Landing MOAA Chapter in Northern VA, In Person and Virtual at 0930 on October 25, 2023. ***CDR APP attended in person with PACMOAA President, CAPT Bruce LaLonde USN (Ret), VCOC Surviving Spouse Liaison, MAJ Sherry Ferki USA (Ret), and Mary Snyder SS, new Assistant PACMOAA VCOC Legislative Representative, attending virtually. MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret) received the MOAA President’s Award, CDR Kenneth App USN (Ret)***

Please Memorize the VETERAN CRISIS HOTLINE **Dial 988 then press 1**

received the **MOAA Leadership Award**, and PACMOAA received its **13th Consecutive FIVE STAR Levels of Excellence Award**, through MAJ Sherry Ferki's tireless efforts. As noted in **Membership on page 4**, CDR Ken App read the names of all of our Members Lost since October 2021.

Additionally, New **VCOC Officers** were invested by **MOAA LTG Brian "BK" Kelly, USAF (Ret)**, including our own **MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret)** as **VCOC Treasurer**.

Submitted by: CDR Ken App, PACMOAA VCOC Representative.

Virginia Update – We Need Your Help MOAA's Legislative Action Center

- H.R. 1282/S.344 Star Act – 10 Reps. 2 Senators
 - H.R.1413 Expand ANC – only 2 VA cosponsors
 - H.R.1277/S.596 Military Spouse Hiring- 5 Reps 1 Sen
 - H.R.2537/S.1823 Restore BAH – only 3 VA Reps
 - H.R.3232/S.1588 Respect for Grieving Families - no VA cosponsors (yet)
 - H.R.1083/S.414 Caring for Survivors act (DIC increase) – no VA cosponsors (yet)
- Go to moaa.quorum.us to join and amplify your message to Congress
- You can login on your smart phone



The table to the right shows The Virginia Representatives and Senators who have signed on as cosponsors.

Call or send a note to your Federal Legislators TODAY!!!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM VCOC 4TH QUARTER MEETING

25 October 2023

VCOC 3rd Vice President **Monti Zimmerman, COL, USA (Ret)** gave an update on legislative activities in 2023.

• **Federal legislative Update** – All members should utilize the MOAA Legislative Action Center and Sign in at <https://moaa.quorum.us/>

- State legislative Update
 - **JLC 2023-01 Expand Tax Relief for Surviving Spouses of Military Service Members to include "Died in the Line-of-Duty"**. This passed and was the 1st reading of the constitutional amendment. The same bill has to pass next year in order to be on the 2024 ballot. Unfortunately, when this proposed constitutional amendment was written, it didn't change the language of the initial bill from voluntary to mandatory application. That will have to be addressed at a later date but a constitutional amendment will get more notice of this issue throughout the state!
 - This summer when the budget was passed, it had a provision that **ALL** retirees would receive the phased in military retirement income tax relief by removing the age restriction from the bill passed in 2022. As of 1 January 2024, all military retirees will receive up to a \$30,000 decrease in their state taxable income related to their retired pay.
 - A NOAA and ROA (Reserve Organization of America) initiative is being sponsored by Jeremy Pike and Bryce Reeves to add uniformed services to the tax exemption. This will add NOAA and the US Public Health Service.
 - **JLC 2024 Initiatives**
 - **Tax Exemption for Surviving Spouses to also include Died on Active Duty** (2nd reading of Constitutional Amendment as discussed above).
 - **Virginia National Guard Tuition Assistance Waiver**
 - **Virginia National Guard Enhanced Emergency Response Medical Protection**
 - Position papers available for each initiative at <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/dvs/joint-leadership-council-veterans-service-organizations-2>

Comments from MAJ Ferki – Over the past 3 years, the Virginia National Guard members have been deployed numerous times throughout VA for natural disasters, assistance with COVID care of the civilian community, to DC, and to Texas. They serve both the state of Virginia and the federal government but don't have the same benefits that active-duty members have.

Lt Gen Kelly, USAF (Ret), MOAA President and Executive Officer was the guest speaker and he discussed MOAA's legislative efforts. He noted that MOAA did not get involved with the dysfunction in D.C. but there will be serious budget issues/discussions. MOAA will probably need to fight the following issues:

Please Memorize the **VETERAN CRISIS HOTLINE Dial 988 then press 1**

- Getting COLA minus a certain amount
- Health care costs – It is too costly now with co-pays and TRICARE fees. Health care adjustments are alright if not greater than COLA increase.
- Means testing for retired pay and disability pay. MOAA feels means testing would be more appropriate for social security and welfare.
- All volunteer force - This year, Army recruitment down 20%, AF and Navy down 10%. Only Marines and Space Force met their goals. There has been some discussion that going back to the draft would be less expensive as Congress could decrease benefits but MOAA feels this is a flawed premise.
- Submitted by Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret) and Mary Snyder, Assistant VCOC Legislative Rep

PROGRAMS

Nov 9, 2023 Annual Business Meeting – PACMOAA Election of New Officers for the Leadership Team
December 14, 2023 PACMOAA Annual Christmas Gala

Community Affairs

Email update from Morgan Magrisi , PACMOAA 2020 Scholarship Winner 6/2/23

MAJ Ferki,

I'm glad you reached out! I'm currently at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island in Washington State, I apologize for the lateness.



I just finished up my third year at VMI and am on to begin my senior year. I am now an Applied Mathematics major and am doing very well in my major. I once again made Dean's List with a 3.5 average GPA this previous year. This is the second year I have gotten Dean's List at VMI. (Picture to the left "As Company XO") (Editors Note XO = Executive Officer, 2nd in Command)

During the last year, I was selected to be the F-Troop Company Operations Sergeant which is one of the busier jobs in the Corps of Cadets. I am an instructor for the '23+3 Ratline as well as the company guard sergeant. I instructed Rats (New Cadets) on how to wear, put away, and use uniforms as well as instruct room orderliness within the company. As a company NCO, I also was in charge of the Company's guard rotation in which one 24-hour period roughly every 10 days, we would assume role as the Company on duty of protecting the Institute. This includes posting Sentinels every hour throughout the 24-hour period and carrying out daily duties. Because I was in charge of this team, I was exposed to a lot of leadership opportunities and experiences that many do not get to have.

Right before Thanksgiving Furlough last year, our class, VMI Class of 2024, participated in Ring Figure which is where we as a class receive our class rings. The ceremony lasts about 2 days and includes two dinners, a formal ceremony, ring blessing, and a formal dance. I brought my sister as my date who gave my class ring to me during the ceremony. VMI is somewhat famous for having large rings that are noticeable and help identify VMI Alum.

Towards the middle of the academic year, we conducted interviews within our class for rank selections next year. I was selected as the Company XO which deals heavily with the Ratline and assists the CO with the upperclassmen. I am very excited to be the XO and work with the CO for my last year at VMI. I will also have a Rat to mentor throughout the year and will take on the responsibility of teaching them how VMI works. This is a very unique experience at VMI that other colleges do not have. It is a very coveted role because we enter VMI as someone's Rat and wait to have one of our own.

Because next year is my last year at VMI, I will be graduating with the Class of 2024 and will receive a commission into the US Navy as an Ensign. Although I do not know what community I will be assigned to, I want to go into Naval Aviation as a pilot and hopefully fly fighters. My Uncle and Grandfather were both pilots, one in the USMC and the other in the USN flying fighter aircraft who both flew 25+ years. Because I want

Please Memorize the VETERAN CRISIS HOTLINE Dial 988 then press 1



aviation, I received orders to a squadron at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island in Washington. I am assigned to VP-46, a P-8 Poseidon Squadron, which is the second oldest squadron in the Navy. I am here for 23 days and will get to fly in P-8's, do flight simulators, learn Naval Aviation, and possibly fly in EA-18 Growlers. This is the first time I have been to the west coast in many years and it is really nice near Seattle.

I am very grateful for receiving your scholarship as it has helped me succeed at VMI as a Cadet and Midshipman. I am getting to experience many things that a majority of college students will never know and get to learn so much more. As my college experience comes to an end, I am very happy I chose VMI and got to experience a different side of college life. Thank you all for supporting me at VMI and thank you for supporting the PACMOAA Scholarship which helps me attend college. (Picture above "During Hell Week... a bonding exercise ...on House Mountain at its 2,784 peak").

I will be able to send pictures in the next few days, I am having trouble finding and sending them via email. **Note:** It took several emails back and forth to obtain pictures and explanation of pictures)

Very Respectfully,
 Cadet Morgan Magrisi
 F-Troop XO AY '23-24
 VMI Class of 2024

WREATHS FOR ALBERT G HORTON, JR. CEMETERY

Many of our deceased members are buried at The Albert G. Horton Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery. As mentioned in our 40th Anniversary Celebration Slide show, PACMOAA members, including LtCol Bob Steorts, USAF, (Ret), were involved in advocating for this cemetery to be built and in participating in the Dedication Ceremony!

The link below is an article from Channel 13 Military News on 17 October noting that they are short on funds for wreaths this year and how the number of wreaths needed each year is growing. The Horton Wreath Society is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit charitable organization and 97% of all donations go toward the purchase of wreaths per their website. I remember reading an article in the Suffolk News-Herald a year ago that they broke from the Wreaths Across America group for several reasons including they were not guaranteed that local donations would go for wreaths at the Horton cemetery.

Members of The Military Women of Tidewater (MWT), Unit 152, a group Peg Cicirelli and I belong to, are active participants in raising funds to purchase wreaths and participating in coordinating the ceremony. MWT sent me the information about the shortage of funds this year.

If you wish to donate, mail to:

Horton Wreath Society
 PO Box 6246
 Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0246

For questions, contact Mike Yarbrough, President Horton Wreath Society, Inc. (757) 537-0128

<https://www.13newsnow.com/article/news/national/military-news/annual-quest-to-honor-veterans-with-wreaths-local-nonprofit-coming-up-short-fundraising-drive/291-3fdb4a5c-cb7d-484c-8777-8167c78e9cce>

NOTE: Registered Red Flag families (families that have a loved one interred at Horton Cemetery) can place a wreath at the loved one's marker. Once the family wreaths are placed, the general public will be invited to help lay the remaining wreaths. Light refreshments, coffee and hot cocoa will be available for the duration of the actual Wreath Laying. Red Flag families will be able to lay their wreaths starting on Friday, December 15, 2023, (9:00 AM to 4:00 PM) and Saturday, immediately following the ceremony, which occurs at 10:30 AM.

LOCAL VETERANS DAY EVENTS 2023

Chesapeake

"The Mayor's Commission on Veterans Affairs proudly honors the brave men and women of our nation's armed forces.



The ceremony will be held at 1100, 11 November in front of Chesapeake City Hall, at the Chesapeake Veterans Memorial, 306 Cedar Rd, Chesapeake, VA, 23322. The ceremony will last from 1000 – 1300. Phone: 757-382-61-51.”

<https://www.visitchesapeake.com/event/2023-veterans-day-ceremony/10091/>

Portsmouth

11 November 2023 at 1100 at the flagpole at High Street landing

Speaker: CAPT James “Jip” Mosman, USN, 111th NNSY Commander

Suffolk

Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery

Veterans Day Events

“The cemetery will hold an open house event in honor of Veterans Day (November 11). Employees will be available from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to answer questions about pre-applications, benefits of burial in one of Virginia’s state-operated veterans cemeteries, and cemetery operation procedures. Employees will also be available to assist visitors with locating grave sites.

The cemetery will be in full dress with the Avenue of Flags flying and individual flags on each grave site.”

<https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/cemeteries/suffolk-cemetery>

Submitted by Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month “The Great War “ended: which we now celebrate as Veterans Day. Although mankind had hoped WW1 would end all wars, we are continuing to send troop to defend freedom around the world. Therefore, let us take time on this November 11th to pray this simple prayer, that I found for all who have and are serving our great Country.

“Heavenly Father, we take time, not just from tradition, but from a grateful heart remembering all those who have served our nation. We pay tribute to all our veterans, we are thankful for the freedoms we have today because of their service. Bring eternal peace to their hearts and satisfaction in you. In Jesus Name, Amen”



Submitted by
CAPT Bob Brewer,
USN (Ret)
Chaplin

CDR Ken App, USN (Ret)
Salute Editor
1969 UVA Graduate



THAT’S A WRAP FOR NOVEMBER 2023

Editors Note: The **PACMOAA Leadership Bear** and **The UVA Cavalier** root for UVA in a win over William and Mary on October 7th ! **Go Hoos!**



PACMOAA LEADERSHIP POSITIONS OPEN JANUARY 2024 to JANUARY 2026

1ST VICE PRESIDENT/PROGRAMS



COL HAL HOSTETLER USA (Ret)

Hal was born in South Dakota but grew up in Portsmouth. He graduated from Cradock High, Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, VMI, and holds Master and Doctorate degrees from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. Hal's Military background include Active, Guard, and Reserve Army Duty having served with the 82nd Airborne, 4th Infantry in Vietnam, the 101st Airborne at Fort Campbell, and The Army School of the Americas, Panama. He was tactics instructor with the KY Army National Guard OCS for 3 years at Fort Knox, and served Army Reserve tours with SOUTHCOM Panama, and 5th Corps Germany before retiring COL INF in 1998. Hal is a graduate of Army Airborne and Ranger schools, as well as Command and General Staff College, and the Army FAO course. His military life has been interspersed with service to God as a church minister and missionary having served as a lay leader, ordained minister, and Missionary in Latin America and the Caribbean. Hal has been with PACMOAA since his return to the U.S. in 2004 and has served as Secretary multiple times, member of Board of Directors, Legislative Representative and Assistant Legislative Representative, Assistant VCOC Representative, 1st Vice President (current position), and President. He has also served as the Nominating Committee Chair for 4 years. Hal is currently active in Calvary Baptist Church as a Bible teacher, and in the music ministry as well as a member of the Tidewater Concert Band, normally performing twenty to thirty times per year. The Tidewater Concert Band has performed at PACMOAA's Annual Christmas Gala for many years. Hal plays in the band, sings one or two songs, and recites a stirring rendition of *The Night Before Christmas!*

2nd VICE PRESIDENT/MEMBERSHIP



MAJ SHERRY D. FERKI USA (Ret)

Sherry is from Norfolk and graduated from Norview High School. She graduated from an Army Nursing Scholarship program (WRAIN) with a BSN from the University of Maryland and with a MSN from Catholic University of America. Sherry retired after 20 years' service as an Army Nurse in a variety of positions, the last 12 as a pediatric nurse.

After retirement, she started working for EDMARC Hospice for Children for 12 years. Sherry also started teaching pediatric nursing in 1994 and has taught with the nursing programs at Norfolk State University, Louise Obici School of Nursing, the College of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City, Old Dominion University and Hampton University (the Virginia Beach Campus). She recently retired from working with ODU nursing students at CHKD. She has been very active in the local Virginia Nurses Assoc (VNA) serving in a variety of positions over the past 30 years including president and treasurer as well as program chair.

Sherry joined PACTROA in 2000, was elected as 1st Vice President a year later and served as PACTROA / PACMOAA President from Jan 2003 to Dec 2006. Then she served as Immediate Past President and 1st Vice President. When Dave Davis, the new President, relocated due to a new job in May 2010, Sherry assumed the Presidency and was elected for an additional two terms for a total of over 9 years as President. After one term as Secretary, she was elected President again in Nov 2016 and served two more terms. Sherry has also been the Chair of the PACMOAA Scholarship Committee (CoChair for the past 6 years) and coordinated the annual JROTC MOAA medal / certificate awards for the past 22 years. Over the past 5 years, she has been the Chair of the Personal Affairs Committee and is the Acting Surviving Spouse Liaison. Sherry worked closely with Gordon Nelson for over 12 years on the newsletter and was the Interim Editor for about 1 ½ years. She assisted previous longtime Membership Chair, Dolly Cherrington, for 4 years with the online membership system with MOAA as well as serving as Membership chair for the past 2 years. Sherry was presented with a MOAA Leadership Award

by ADM Doran in October 2015 and by Lt Gen Atkins in October 2021. She also received the MOAA President's Award in Oct 2023. Sherry is a Lifetime member of MOAA, and she and her husband Bruce moved to Lake Prince Woods (LPW) in Suffolk last year. She has presented several programs to the monthly meetings of the LPW Veterans Group about the importance of belonging to a VSO like MOAA in addition to frequent updates on important MOAA and VCOG legislative issues.

TREASURER



CDR HANS SACHSE, USN (Ret.)

A native of East Lansing, Michigan, CDR Sachse graduated from undergraduate and graduate school at Michigan State University. Hans subsequently graduated from medical school at the University of Michigan. After initial residency training in general surgery at the University of Missouri-Columbia, he entered the U.S. Navy on the Berry Plan. He served in amphibious forces, first as Medical Officer on the USS DURHAM (LKA-114), participating in Vietnam refugee operations and the evacuation of Saigon. He then served as Medical Officer on the USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11), which was the prime recovery ship for the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project, and then as a medical officer at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. He furthered his interest in aviation as a student Naval Flight Surgeon in Pensacola, FL, earning designation as a Naval Flight Surgeon in May 1979. Tours as the fighter flight surgeon on the CARRIER AIR WING TWO (CWV-2) and then as Senior Medical Officer on the USS RANGER (CV-61)

followed. He then returned to hospital-based medicine as a resident in radiology at Naval Hospital, San Diego, leading to Board Certification in Diagnostic Radiology in 1990. Tours as a radiologist followed at the U. S. Naval Hospital, Naples, Italy, as Chief of Radiology and Director of Ancillary Services and then Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, where he was Head of Diagnostic Radiology. He retired from active service in 1997 and has been in private practice ever since. Hans is also involved in teaching radiology residents as an Assistant Professor at Eastern Virginia Medical School. Hans has served as PACMOAA treasurer for the past 12 years and is currently serving in that role.

SECRETARY



CAPT Valerie F. Parker, Supply Corps, USN (RET)

Military background:

I served 32 years in the US Navy and US Navy Reserve, retiring in December 2018. I enlisted in 1982 as a Seaman Recruit (E-1) while in high school, on the delayed enlistment program. This clearly was the best career decision I ever made! After completing my four-year active obligation, I was honorably discharged and immediately pursued a commission in the Navy Reserve. I graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from National University, San Deigo, California in 1987, and was commissioned shortly thereafter. I had so many assignments throughout my career, but a few highlights include mobilization in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to Djibouti, Africa for 15 months serving as Deputy J4 (Logistics), Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa; activation for 27 months serving as Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Officer; and serving as Commanding Officer/Officer-in-Charge of four reserve units at various stages in my career. My civic engagements include PACMOAA; a recent appointment to Portsmouth Clean Community Commission; and I am a founding member and leader of Green Lakes Concerned Citizens - a network developed to bring neighbors together to address common issues such as safety, beautification, flooding, lake water quality, and more.

Personal information:

I was born and lived in Albert Lea, Minnesota until joining the Navy, but now reside in Portsmouth, Virginia with my three beloved dogs/companions. I have two grown daughters in their early thirties, who are thriving in their career fields and are starting families of their own. As a Department of the Navy civilian, I am the Reserve Program Director for Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center in Norfolk, where I've been employed since 2011.

BOARD of DIRECTORS 2 YEAR 2024-2026**CDR Scott Dickenson, USN (Ret)**

CDR Dickinson is originally from Lexington, KY. He graduated from the Illinois Institute of Technology in December 1993 and received his commission in the US Navy through the Naval ROTC program. He served 21 years on active duty with sea tours on USS Tennessee SSBN 734 and USS Tucson SSN 770. His shore tours included US Strategic Command (J52 Planner), Commander Sub-marine Force Pacific Fleet (Deputy N8), US Fleet Forces Command (Deputy N1R), Joint Forces Staff College (Instructor), OPNAV Staff (N803 Staff Office).

On transitioning from active duty, Scott and his wife, Heather, settled in Chesapeake, VA where he entered civil service. He is currently serving at US

Fleet Forces Command as the contracts manager for the N7 Fleet and Joint Training Division.

Scott holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Nebraska and is a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College and the Joint Forces Staff College.

Scott is a lifetime member of MOAA and a member of PACMOAA since December 2015. He joined the Scholarship Committee in 2016, streamlined the scholarship application process with an online application in 2017, and has served as Co-Chair of the Scholarship Committee since then. Scott also served one term on the Board of Directors from January 2018 to December 2019

**COL William "Bill" Coburn, USAF (Ret)**

William E. "Bill" Coburn, Colonel, U.S. Air Force (Retired) is a career airman, commercial pilot, legislative aide, and aerospace/defense consultant in Hampton Roads, Virginia. Bill is also a certified financial coach, an experienced investor, and FAA Advanced Ground Instructor working with military families, veterans, and students. Bill serves as a legislative and political aide to Delegate Emily Brewer and as a consultant and advisor with the Virginia aviation and military communities, including the Military Aviation Museum in Virginia Beach.

Bill served as a legislative aide working key military, veterans, aviation/aerospace, and public policy issues with Delegate Brewer and the Virginia Legislature. Bill also served as a consultant/advisor providing planning support to senior leadership and program management in military and civilian aerospace operations and innovation, including aerospace intelligence, and command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence systems (C4ISR). Bill is a participant and advisor to U.S. Air Force Innovation Summits at Air Combat Command, Unmanned Aerial Systems Training Program Development, Aerospace Workforce Development, and the Virginia Aviation Board, Virginia Department of Aviation. Bill also serves as one of the early members, advisors, and flight line volunteers with the Military Aviation Museum, one of the world's largest flying museums of historic warbird aircraft.

Bill was appointed to the Virginia Aviation Board by Governor Robert McDonnell serving from 2013-2017, representing southeast Virginia. Bill assisted in advising and directing operations for Virginia's Aviation Program, including policy making, program and resource management (\$30 million+); working with the FAA, NASA, Unmanned Aerial Systems, military liaison, and consulting with up to 66 public use airports & communities. Previously, Bill served as Operations Team Lead and Senior Systems Engineer for Air Operations Center Modernization at Northrop Grumman Information Systems and as Intelligence Director for Select Innovation Inc., a U.S. Air Force and Northrop Grumman subcontractor for C4ISR and targeting systems innovation and experimentation.

As a career airman and intelligence officer, Bill served for over 30 years as an officer and senior leader in the U.S. Air Force. Bill's service includes numerous air, joint, and special operations assignments, including duty with fighters and reconnaissance aircraft. Bill qualified as an air battle manager and space operations officer and

served with the Intelligence Community and the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Program Analysis and Evaluation Staff. Bill worked intelligence operations for the Gulf Wars and was a military responder to the 9/11 terrorist attacks and for the Global War on Terrorism. Bill won multiple awards for intelligence and operations support, including a special Defense Meritorious Service Medal for combat intelligence operations from Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, also the Humanitarian Service Medal for an emergency deployment for Katrina disaster assistance.

Bill is a graduate of American University with a B.A. in International Relations and Economics. Bill also attended the University of Virginia, Masters in Public Administration and McIntire Business Institute; Johns Hopkins University, M.A. International Economics concentration; the National Defense Intelligence College; and the U. S. Army War College, Masters in Strategic Studies. Bill is married to the former Elizabeth Lambright of Norfolk and helped raise a beautiful niece and nephew.

Bill resides in Isle of Wight County, Hampton Roads, Virginia.



COL Irv Lindley, USA (Ret)

- Native of Springfield PA
- Graduate of Gettysburg College, (Commission 2nd LT ROTC)
- COL (Retired) U.S. Army\Army Reserve (32 Years). Last assignment, Deputy Commander, 353rd Civil Affairs Command. Provided support to U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) for Operations: PROVIDE COMPORT/Desert Storm (Iraq), Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR (Bosnia-Herzegovina and Operation UPHOLD/RESTORE Democracy (Haiti).
- **2004-2007** - US Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM) Suffolk, VA

Concept Developer, Analyst, Writer, Integrator and Planner for Joint Operating Concept (JOC) Team. Participated as a member of the

USJFCOM, J9, JOC and Experimentation Team to develop **The Stabilization, Security, Transition and Reconstruction Operations, (SSTRO)** Joint Operating Concept paper signed by the Secretary of Defense

- **2008– 2012** - Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT), **Multinational Coordinator, and Project Integrator.** Liaison Officer between JFCOM/JIWC and SACT concerning urban related and countering hybrid threat programs, training initiatives, conferences, and experiments. US Representative to the NATO Urban Operations working group as Subject Matter Expert on Irregular Warfare, developing Mission Specific Training Guidance for NATO member nations.
- **Military Education**
 - **Armor Officer Basic & Advanced Course**
 - **Civil Affairs Advanced Course**
 - **NATO CIMIC SCHOOL – Oberammergau Germany**
 - **Command & General Staff College**
 - **U.S. Army War College**
- **Accomplishments**
 - **Military Officers Association of America, Life member**
 - **Past President, NY/Statue of Liberty Chapter, AUSA**
 - **Chairman, Civil Affairs Association**
 - **Chairman, Portsmouth Mayor’s Military Affairs Committee since 2012.**
 - **Legion of Merit**
 - **Retired 2013-** Married, two daughters, two grandsons.

PACMOAA 9 November 2023 election Ballot

Download your ballot. Select **enable edit** mode. Mark your ballot by typing an “X” in the box next to your choices. To vote for the entire slate ‘as is’ use **only the voting line item**. To vote for a Write-in Nominee: mark the box as above then type the name of your nominee in next box to the right. **Please get permission from nominee before submitting name.** Change Ballot entries by placing cursor in the box then use delete or backspace keys.

Be sure to save completed ballot. Use “REPLY” email with saved ballot attached. **DO NOT USE “REPLY TO ALL.”** You may also email your completed ballot to thesalute1@gmail.com to arrive NLT 7 November 2023. If you do not use **reply mail** make sure to return your ballot using your email address on file with PACMOAA (The email at which you receive your copy of *The Salute express.*) **You may also print and mark ballot and bring it to the November 9th Dinner Meeting,** or mail it to: **PACMOAA, PO Box 5353, Portsmouth, VA 23703.** Mail it early so it gets to PACMOAA by **NOV 7, 2023.**

If you experience serious difficulties, download or request another blank ballot and try again, contact Ken App at 757-630-0886 or thesalute1@gmail.com, if you have questions or continue having trouble. After membership verification at PACMOAA and attached ballot saved, no additional ballots from that email address will be processed. You will receive confirmation of ballot receipt.

Mark your ballot by typing an X in the selection box

TO VOTE FOR THE ENTIRE SLATE OF CANDIDATES LISTED BELOW, PLACE X HERE.>

Positions Open

1st VP Program Chair
(vote for one only)

COL Hal Hostetler, USA (Ret)

Write in Nominee

2nd VP Membership Chair
(vote for one only)

MAJ Sherry D. Ferki, USA (Ret)

Write in Nominee

Secretary (vote for one only)
Write in Nominee

CAPT Valerie Parker, USN (Ret)

Treasurer
(vote for one only)

CDR Hans Sachse, USN (Ret)

Write in Nominee

Board of Directors positions (Vote for 2 Only)

1. **CDR Scott Dickinson, USN (Ret)**

2. **Col William Coburn, USAF (Ret)**

3. **COL Irv Lindley, USA (Ret)**

Write in Nominee

Write in Nominee

Write in Nominee