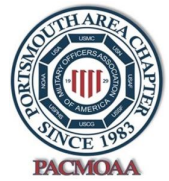




The Salute Online



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 XXXXIII Issue III

LEARN MORE AT PACMOAA.ORG

MARCH 2024

The Mission: PACMOAA supports the Military Community through legislative advocacy, mentoring youth, and community involvement.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



PACMOAA Family:

Now that I've returned from my week long stay in Tennessee, I'm anxious to sit down at our March dinner meeting to listen and hear from invited veteran service organizations.

Come prepared to ask questions and to enjoy another excellent meal at Roger Brown's...

Remember to support the efforts of Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless by bringing to our meeting

toiletry items, socks or laundry supplies.

Anchors Aweigh...Bruce

Bruce LaLonde CPA

CAPT USN (Ret) 757-241-3026

Right: COL Bill Smith, presents Darlene Washington, a certificate of appreciation. **Far right:**

Darlene Washington with CWO4 Van White.



Right: Bruce reliving his YOUTH!!!



Left (L-R): Cindy Brewer, Bob Wall, Hal Hostetler, Karl Wilson, and our server Marie

PACMOAA
LEADERSHIP

Please see Leadership Tab



CHAPTER NEWS

MARCH

WOMENS HISTORY MONTH

- 03 U.S. Naval Reserve Established 1915
- 04 Hug a GI Day - U.S. Navy Band Established 1925
- 05 U.S. Navy Seabees Birthday 1942
- 10 [Daylight Saving Time Begins](#) SPRING FORWARD
- 13 [K 9 Veterans Day](#)
- 14 PACMOAA Dinner Meeting. Speakers – DAV, VFW, American Legion
- 15 [American Legion Birthday \(1919\)](#)
- 17 [St. Patrick’s Day](#)
- 18 National Supreme Sacrifice Day
- 19 [Vernal Equinox](#) - First Day of Spring (See Page 11)
- 24 Palm Sunday
- 25 [Medal of Honor Day](#)
- 29 [National Vietnam War Veterans Day](#) Good Friday
- 31 Easter Sunday

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS

John Cordle
Michael Riley
Gordan Van Hook

The March Dinner Meeting

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

Small Salad

Corned Beef

Slow roasted Cabbage

Red Skin Potatoes

Baked Chicken

Green Beans and Carrots

Brownie

Cornbread And Honey butter

Need Tea, Water And Coffee Station

Cost is \$25 (includes gratuity & tax). Cash bar available. Please make your reservation no later than **Sunday, March 10th** with Sherry Ferki at 757-922-7030 or by email at navmedarmynurse@gmail.com

A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID



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GUEST SPEAKERS



Disabled American Veterans (DAV) - Cynthia M. Madison.

Ms. Madison, a service-connected disabled veteran, retired as a Sergeant First Class in 1996 from the U.S. Army after 20 years of service. Cynthia was the Personnel Sergeant now known as Human Resource. She had assignments to Fort Gordon, GA, Stuttgart Germany, Fort Ritchie, MD, SHAPE Belgium, Fort Benjamin Harrison, IN, and Camp Hovey, Korea where she was assigned to the 2nd Inf Division. Her final assignment was Syracuse, NY where she was assigned to a recruiting Battalion.

Ms. Madison was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal (6th Award) the National Defense Service Medal, the Non Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with numeral 3, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon (3rd Award) and the Marksman Service Badge.

Cynthia joined the Disabled American Veterans in 2002 and became active in her local chapter in Portsmouth, Virginia and the Department of Virginia. Currently she was the adjutant for Portsmouth Chapter 27. In 2011 Ms. Madison was elected as the Department Commander. She is the assistant adjutant for the Department of Virginia. Between 2011 and 2015 Ms. Madison was instrumental in chairing five DAV Walk for Veterans for the Department of Virginia which she helped raise over \$80,000. 2016 and 2017 Ms Madison chaired the National Series Newport News DAV 5K run, walk roll and motorcycle ride that honors our nation's heroes. The DAV 5K National Series Newport News held in honor of Veterans Day November 5, 2017, raised over \$121,260.41. She continues to honor our Veterans every year for Veterans Day in which our Thrift Stores does a Point of Sales Campaign. All money raised during this campaign goes back out into the community to assist our veterans during the time of need.

Within the National Organization, Cynthia Madison served on the Employment Committee, the Nominating Committee and the Credential Committee. During the period 2013-2014 Cynthia was appointed as National Chief of Staff and 2015-2016 she served as Aide to the National Commander. Currently Cynthia is the 3rd National Jr Vice Commander for the DAV.

Cynthia attended Averett University and received a Bachelor of Business Administration in 1999 and Troy University in which she received a master's degree in human resource management in 2007. She has one daughter Nicole who resides in Maryland.



Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Gary Adams

joined the US Navy in 2008. He went to boot camp at the age of 38 and did very well at standing still and shutting up. For many it was hard. Gary was a corrections officer at the time and following orders came natural to him. He went to Master-At-Arms A School and learned to be a Navy Police Officer and was Top Gun in his class. Later that year he volunteered for a detainee ops mission in Iraq. There he made the rank of Third-Class Petty Officer (E4) in just over a year and a half. Adams was selected as Blue Jacket Sailor of the Year in Iraq in 2009. He earned an Army Achievement Medal, a Navy and Marine Achievement Medal, and an Iraq Campaign Medal, among others. He joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars as soon as he returned home.

After Iraq Gary Adams went to the Navy Reserves and served from 2009 to 2016. He was attached to both the Washington Navy Yard and Northwest Annex in Chesapeake, VA. While a reservist he earned his Emergency

Vehicle Operators Trainers Certification, as well as his Small Arms Marksmanship Instructor Certification and kept his unit members mission ready. While in the Reserves he attended college on the Reserve Education Assistance Program and earned two degrees. His first degree was in Business Management and Leadership, and his second degree was in accounting. Adams says he uses these skills everyday in the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He became a life member of the VFW in 2013, but really became active when he took over as post quartermaster in the spring of 2015 because of an illness of the current officer who died shortly after. It turned out to be trial by fire he says. He had very little time with his mentor. In 2016 he took over as district Quartermaster for the same reason. Again, trial by fire. In the summer 2019 he took District Commander for one year but had to give it up the following year to become the State Surgeon in 2020. In June 2023 he became State Commander of the Department of Virginia.

He has been married to Tammy Adams for 33 years. They have two children, a daughter Katie 28 years old, and a son Jacob 25 years old. Tammy and Katie are both self-employed in health insurance. Jacob runs his own 120-acre Four-wheel drive off-road park in Troy, NC. They all live in Cana, VA near the town of Mt. Airy, NC famous for the hometown of Andy Griffith.



AMERICAN LEGION - Kirk Jefferies has been an American Legion member for 45 years, serving as 2nd District Commander in 2000-2001, Post 310 Commander for the last 12 years, a Commander member at State level in Baseball and JSSP. He helped to get Horton Veterans Memorial Cemetery off the ground and running. He is a member of the Lutheran Church in Portsmouth and served with the Coast Guard for 6 years (1 year in Vietnam).

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE MARCH 2024

About 60% of PACMOAA members have renewed this year. Many members took advantage of the 3-year payment plan when we started it in 2021 and they all need to renew now. If I haven't sent you a reminder yet, I will do so soon. If you aren't sure if you've paid your dues or not, please contact Hans or Sherry. A dues renewal form is attached at the end of the newsletter, (Salute Express and Salute Online Only).

“Meeting the membership challenge by helping chapters recruit more chapter members is a top priority of MOAA” per MOAA website. In many membership updates, I've noted that **Every Member is a Recruiter!** In addition to our PACMOAA membership brochure, I found another great tool to help. MOAA has an excellent recruiting video titled *Never Stop Serving: Join Your Local Chapter today!* It stresses leadership, impactful community service, grassroots advocacy and camaraderie are some of the opportunities available to chapter members. This MOAA Recruiting video is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cvpal93ZwpY>.

Inviting an eligible colleague, friend, or neighbor to a dinner meeting is a great way to introduce them to PACMOAA. I bring membership brochures to each meeting and can mail you some if that would be helpful. The dinner for a potential new member is half price.

REMINDER: Many members include donations for our **SCHOLARSHIP FUND** with their dues payment and this can be done in-person, via mail, or online. The students are very appreciative of any assistance they can obtain to help with their college expenses!!

Reminder per Guidelines for Paying PACMOAA Dues Online

Members need to create and/or login to their PayPal account. From the Account Overview page, click the Send button. If prompted for whether the money will be sent to a business or friend, enter “friend”. Type PACMOAATreasurer@gmail.com in the block where it says “name, @username, email, or mobile” and click “next”. Enter the amount to transmit and add “For PACMOAA Dues” in the note section and click “continue”.

Review the information, including the bank account or credit card you want the funds to come from. Press “Send payment now” when everything looks correct.

PERSONAL AFFAIRS/ SURVIVING SPOUSE

Surviving Spouse Corner: Know Your Benefits

By: Pat Green January 30, 2024

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/member-spotlight/surviving-spouse-corner-know-your-benefits/>

Many states have made legislative decisions that show appreciation for the sacrifices of servicemembers and veterans and their survivors. Benefits differ in each state, though. To know what the benefits are in your state, you need to do homework. Your research could result in monetary savings and opportunities.

Below are some resources and places to start.

- **Veterans Service Office:** There might be printed materials that enumerate county and state benefits for surviving spouses.
- **MOAA Council and Chapter Legislative Chairs:** Ask about benefits they are aware of that apply to surviving spouses.
- **County Property Appraiser:** Ask about a homestead exemption, a widow (widower) exemption, or an over age 65 exemption on your property tax or school tax. If income caps apply, what are your state’s limits and guidelines? In Florida, for example, there is a homestead, widow, and age exemption and property taxes on homesteaded homes. In addition, the property tax for homesteaded homes of disabled veterans is reduced by the same percentage of the disabilities affecting the veteran as certified by the VA. In Florida, that benefit passes to the un-remarried surviving spouse and is transportable to a downsized home.
- **State Legislator:** If you have income tax in your state, some or all of your military retirement pay, or Surviving Benefit Plan may be deducted from your reported income. Ask about any other benefits from the state.
- **Mayor’s Office:** Call and ask about the benefits the city offers.

[RELATED: [MOAA's Military State Report Card and Tax Guide](#)]

Aside from taxes, some additional areas to explore are scholarship opportunities for surviving spouses and dependent children; state, county, or city policies giving employment and/or promotion preference to a surviving spouse; portability of a professional license or forgiveness of fees; and discounts on passes to parks and museums.

Send Us Your Feedback

We’d love to hear from you. Please let us know if this article was helpful by sending an email to sscomm@moaa.org.

NOTE: Local Veterans Service Officers will be May speaker.

Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC) Legislative Rep is COL Monti Zimmerman who has been very active in pushing a Constitutional Amendment through the General Assembly which is detailed in the JLC report.

VETERANS AND PARKINSON’S

As the Personal Affairs Chair, over the past few years, I have noticed that at least 5 of our members/spouses have had some variation of Parkinson’s. The Parkinson’s Foundation has a wealth of information and resources for veterans and their families.

“More than 110,000 veterans with Parkinson’s disease (PD) receive care through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The Parkinson’s Foundation and the [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs \(VA\)](#) have

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partnered to improve the health, well-being, and quality of life for veterans living with Parkinson's.

Most people with Parkinson's develop symptoms at 50 years of age or older. One million people in the U.S. live with Parkinson's today. This number will rise as our population ages, as will the number of veterans diagnosed with the disease. While living with Parkinson's can be challenging, an early diagnosis and beginning [treatment](#) can help people live well with Parkinson's.

While the exact cause of Parkinson's is unknown, research suggests that its cause can be linked to [genetic](#) and [environmental factors](#). In addition, for some veterans, developing Parkinson's disease can be associated with exposure to [Agent Orange or other herbicides](#) during military service. Veterans with PD who were exposed to certain herbicides during their service may be eligible for disability compensation and health care.

For everyone with Parkinson's, an accurate diagnosis is critical because treatments and resources are available to help people with Parkinson's live better lives. Many U.S. military veterans with Parkinson's have access to [specialized medical care](#) and financial assistance through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Veterans and their families can call 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411), a single access point to all VA contact centers. The number is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to serve Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors." from [Veterans & Parkinson's | Parkinson's Foundation](#).

The Parkinson's Foundation has a helpline at 1-800-4PD-INFO (473-4636).



Veteran's and Parkinson's Fact Sheet 2022 [Veterans-PD-Fact-Sheet.pdf \(parkinson.org\)](#)

Note: If someone would like some of these resources but doesn't have computer access, contact Sherry Ferki and she will assist you in obtaining information.

Submitted by Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)
Personal Affairs Chair and VCOC Surviving Spouse Liaison

MOAA & LEGISLATIVE

Good, Bad, and Ugly: 3 Paths for the Ongoing Budget Crisis

By: Cory Titus February 27, 2024 <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/advocacy/good,-bad,-and-ugly-3-paths-for-the-ongoing-budget-crisis/>
(Updated March 1)

Although Congress passed [yet another continuing resolution](#) (CR) late Feb. 29, the clock still is ticking on a potential government shutdown.

After the latest CR, Congress now needs to pass 12 funding bills – six by March 8 (including funding for the VA and military construction) and the rest by March 22 – to keep the government open. Aside from temporary CRs, Congress has three primary options:

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

1. Full Funding

The preferred option – passing all the spending bills, either individually or as part of an omnibus package – would fund the government through the end of the year. All the attention is on the House of Representatives, including Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) and the razor-thin Republican majority.

Passing these bills likely will require some Democratic support, which complicates the situation. Johnson made it ["unequivocally"](#) clear that he wants to avoid a shutdown, and the bipartisan path risks [angering members](#) of

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his own conference. An agreement has been reached on some of the bills including military construction and VA appropriations, according to [a Feb. 28 joint statement by House and Senate leaders](#); DoD funding negotiations continue.

2. Yearlong CR

The second option is to pass a full-year continuing resolution, which would push DoD into uncharted territory. As Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin highlighted [in his Nov. 29 letter](#) to the lead Senate appropriator, Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), DoD has never operated under a full-year CR.

This arrangement “would misalign billions of dollars, subject Service members and their families to unnecessary stress, damage our readiness, and impede our ability to react to emergent events,” Austin wrote in the letter.

In addition to losing ground against the pacing challenges of China, this path would force DoD to deal with a multibillion cut to military personnel accounts.

[FROM 2023: [Understanding the Unseen Costs of a Continuing Resolution](#)]

3. Federal Shutdown

The last, worst option brings not just uncertainty for DoD budget-planners, but potential financial disaster for those in uniform: Unlike past shutdowns and shutdown threats, Congress has not passed any legislation protecting servicemember pay should the government run out of money.

Without that agreement, all uniformed servicemembers would be subject to the challenges members of the Coast Guard, as well as those in the commissioned corps of the U.S. Public Health Service and NOAA, [faced in 2019](#), when pay protections were limited to DoD branches.

While Congress should have serious policy debates about spending levels, shutting down the government does not advance such discussions. A shutdown is ultimately wasteful and prevents DoD from moving funds to important things like construction projects that support quality of life infrastructure for our servicemembers and their families.

[Write your lawmakers today to make your voice heard](#) – Congress needs to pass the funding bills our community relies upon.

TRICARE For Life, Star Act, Housing Help Will Anchor MOAA’s Spring Advocacy Push

February 07, 2024 By MOAA Staff

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/advocacy/tricare-for-life,-star-act,-housing-help-will-anchor-moaas-spring-advocacy-push/>

The three issue areas comprising this year’s Advocacy in Action (AiA) campaign show the range of MOAA’s legislative priorities – not just for officers, not just for retirees, and not wavering on our commitment to long-term advocacy goals.

Here’s a quick look at each of the issues, which were approved by MOAA’s board of directors Jan. 19. Want to get involved? [Click here for details](#).

Concurrent Receipt

What’s at Stake: The Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282/S. 344) would end an unjust offset for combat-injured veterans who lose a dollar of service-earned retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation. The bill has a supermajority of bipartisan support – more than 325 House co-sponsors and more than 70 in the Senate – thanks in part to past grassroots efforts from MOAA and partners in [The Military Coalition](#).

MOAA’s Mission: We need to keep up this momentum and secure the bill’s inclusion in the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). It’s time for lawmakers to push this long-delayed step toward concurrent receipt for all past the finish line.

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[TAKE ACTION ONLINE: [Ask Your Legislators to Support Combat-Injured Veterans](#)]

Full Housing Allowance

What's at Stake: The BAH Restoration Act (H.R. 2537/S. 1823) reverses DoD policy capping the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) at 95% of local rental and utilities costs – a policy that's placing a financial burden on servicemembers and families in the middle of a nationwide rental shortage *and* ongoing recruiting challenges. Restoring this benefit – it was cut by Congress incrementally beginning in 2015 – would make a difference in the quality of life for all who serve, but especially among junior enlisted members and their families, who rely on this allowance as a large percentage of their compensation.

MOAA's Mission: Language requiring an incremental increase reached the late stages of the FY 2024 NDAA process but ultimately was not included in the final bill. We must send a message to lawmakers that close isn't good enough – servicemembers deserve a full housing allowance, and more progress must be made this legislative session.

[TAKE ACTION ONLINE: [Ask Your Legislators to Support Full BAH for Servicemembers](#)]

TRICARE For Life

What's at Stake: Protecting TRICARE For Life (TFL) remains a key issue for all MOAA members – those already covered by TFL and Medicare, along with those who'll use the benefit when they turn 65. MOAA remains concerned about a [Congressional Budget Office \(CBO\) report](#) suggesting two measures which would severely weaken the benefit – enrollment fees topping \$1,100 per family, and cost-sharing requirements including an \$850 deductible and up to \$4,675 in potential yearly medical bills.

MOAA's Mission: Legislators seeking solutions to budget gaps must hear a clear message: Maintaining TFL is not just a national obligation to those who spent decades in uniform, it's also critical to ensuring key influencers in the recruiting process aren't discouraged from recommending uniformed service to future generations. While TFL fees or cost shares aren't part of any current legislation, we must counter CBO's misguided options with our grassroots advocacy efforts. The next CBO release is slated for December of this year, following the elections; MOAA will update our members as soon as we get the report.

Take Action Online: MOAA's last online advocacy effort addressing potential TFL fees resulted in nearly 49,000 messages to lawmakers. Register for [MOAA's Legislative Action Center](#) today so you can be part of upcoming campaigns.

Get Involved

Engaging with your lawmakers online using the links above is a great way to support our AiA efforts. But if you're ready to do more, here's how:

- **Connect With Your Chapter:** Active members in one of MOAA's nearly 400 nationwide affiliates are ahead of the game – we rely on our chapters for support on these grassroots issues, with council and chapter leaders serving as key parts of our AiA efforts. Now is the perfect time to reengage with your chapter if you've missed some meetings lately, or to [find your closest chapter](#) if you've never reached out.
- **Watch for Details:** If you're not subscribed to the weekly version of *The MOAA Newsletter*, [update your preferences today](#) to receive the latest advocacy news on AiA topics and other priorities, including new messaging to pass along to your legislators and their staffs.
- **Spread the Word:** MOAA membership isn't required to use our Legislative Action Center – share the links above with your friends and your professional network, and let them know their engagement can help push these critical issues to the forefront of their legislators' agenda.

Thank you for your membership, engagement, and friendship along the way. This is our biggest annual effort to remind Congress that we are still out here and will keep our commitment to never stop serving.

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When MOAA Speaks, Congress Listens

Learn more about MOAA's key advocacy issues and contact your elected officials using our messaging platform.

[TAKE ACTION](#)

Overview Of MUSNAVC Meeting And Legislation Early Push

The MOAA Uniformed Services Nurse Advocate Virtual Chapter (MUSNAVC) represents Army, Navy, Air Force, and USPHS nurses that are active duty, reservists, or retired and focuses on **advocacy of Health Care Issues!** As of 21 February 2024, it had over 500 members in all 50 states representing 214 congressional districts! In 2018 when I first joined, the chapter had 62 members in 22 states that represented 48 congressional districts.

I became active in 2020 when MOAA's Advocacy in Action focus was to get Congress to re-evaluate the military health system reform. The Take Action request -Ask your members of Congress to join the fight to halt billet reductions and end military treatment facility downsizing amid COVID-19 uncertainty.

The speaker at the most recent monthly meeting in February was Dr. Mona Treyball, a retired Air Force nurse and Professor of Clinical Teaching Specialty Director of Veteran and Military Health Care Program at the University of Colorado College of Nursing. Dr. Treyball feels strongly that we need to look at the military/veteran health as a specific population. That being said, she stressed the differences in the veterans from different wars in terms of the environment they were in and common medical conditions they experienced. Veterans from all wars experienced PTSD.

The classes are all online except for clinical experiences and the program just graduated the first DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice) students in December 2023. There is also a graduate certificate open to all people not just RNs. Several MUSNAVC members asked about taking an individual course and that is possible.

Following the presentation, the **MUSNAVC Legislation Early Push** section was reviewed on the website at [Legis Early Push | musnavc](#). Health care issues not currently covered by MOAA Legislative Active Campaigns but supported by the MOAA Healthcare Committee and the Military Coalition are addressed here. "The selected legislation is currently before Congress; have bipartisan support; are healthcare related; and considered attainable of passage" per MUSNAVC website. The link for each bill shows background information, the actual bill text, and lists house & senate sponsors as well as gives suggested messages for both.

National Plan to End Parkinson's Act **S. 1064**

VA Options for Long Term Care **H.R. 1815/ S. 495**

Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act **H.R. 1045**

VA Same Day Scheduling Act of 2023 **H.R. 41**

Made in America Act **H.R. 2707**

NOTE: Just like with the **MOAA Take Action** page, **everyone can use this site**. You do not have to be a nurse or member of MUSNAVC.

Submitted by Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)
MUSNAVC Member

IS YOUR MOAA MEMBERSHIP PROFILE UP TO DATE?

MOAA is trying to make sure its database is current. Has your status (AD, Retired, Former) changed? Have you moved? Are your email address and phone number current? In order to update online, you need to log into the MOAA website first and then click on Profile Info. You can also call MOAA at 1-800-234-MOAA (6622).

MOAA is transitioning to a new membership database, the Committee Module, and wants to make sure members are kept updated on changes going on at MOAA and advocacy issues. The Military Officer magazine that comes out monthly contains a lot of valuable information but is not as current as the weekly MOAA Newsletter or emails updating members about changes in a timely manner.

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VCOC & JLC

JLC BILLS at CROSSOVER in the GENERAL ASSEMBLY as of 4 pm 23 Feb 2024

House Bill No.	Committee	JLC	Companion Bill
HB 558 Hernandez Constitutional Amendment; property tax exemption for certain surviving spouses (voter referendum)	House: Passed (98/0) Senate: Reported from Privileges and Elections (14/0) & rereferred to Finance & Appropriations	JLC 2024-01	HJ 45, SB4, SJ3
HB 736 Sewell Veterans' Services Protection Act; prohibited practices; penalty	House: Passed (98/0) Senate: Reported from Privileges & Elections (14/0) & rereferred to Finance & Appropriations	JLC 2024-02	
HB 366 Reid Va. National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program: provisions relating to eligibility for grants	House: Passed (99/0) Senate: Reported from Education and Health (13/0) & rereferred to Finance and Appropriations	JLC 2024-03	
HB 1513 Fowler Active-duty status for any service member injured while in the line of duty	House: Passed (99/ 0) Senate: Referred to Committee on Finance & Appropriations	JLC 2024-04	
HJ 45 Tran Constitutional amendment (2 nd reference); real property tax exemption; surviving spouses	House: Adopted (99/ 0) Senate: Reported from Privileges & Elections (14/0) & rereferred to Finance & Appropriations	JLC 2024-01	HB 558, SB4, SJ3
Senate Bill No.	Committee	JLC	Companion Bill
SB 4 Constitutional Amendment; property tax exemption for certain surviving spouses (voter referendum)	Senate: Passed (38/0) House: Passed (100/0)	JLC 2024-01	HB558, HJ45, SJ3
SJ 3 McPike Constitutional amendment; property tax exemption for certain surviving spouses (2 nd reference)	Senate: Agree to by Senate (40/0) Housse: Agree to by House (99/0)	JLC 2024-01	HB558, HJ45, SB4

NOTE: Separate MOAA & ROA Initiative - Modify the state income tax deduction for military retirees to include “uniformed service” PHS & NOAA retirees - set aside to be studied for next year.

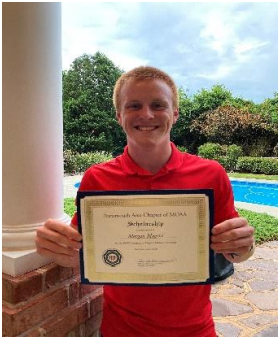
COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES SPRING/SUMMER 2024

Scholarship applications will be sent out in March to over 30 local high schools as well as 14 JROTC units in the PACMOAA area. The application deadline is about mid-May.

The Scholarship Committee will review all submitted applications and notify the awardee/awardees as soon as possible. PACMOAA usually awards two \$1500 scholarships which are awarded in 2 increments. The first half is sent to their college/university for the first semester and the second half is sent for the second semester, usually the fall and spring semester freshman year. This money is awarded based on continued enrollment in an ROTC type program.

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The Annual Scholarship Recognition Dinner will be held on 13 June. The scholarship awardees and their parents are invited as PACMOAA guests as are a local JROTC Color Guard group.

Left: 2020 Scholarship recipient Morgan Magrisi. A virtual meeting was held, due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Morgan and his parents were recognized there. He will graduate from VMI this year!

Since 2015, PACMOAA has applied for and been awarded a sponsorship grant, first from USAA and now from MOAA (**Community Outreach Sponsorship**) for \$300.00 to help with community activities like our Scholarship Recognition Dinner Meeting.

140th Anniversary of Portsmouth's Annual Memorial Day Parade will be held on 27 May. PACMOAA has had 1 or 2 cars participate for many years.

Left: 2016 Memorial Day Parade with Twila Nelson, Nell and Bob Wall, & Shirley Barker.

Through the **MOAA JROTC Award Program**, MOAA medals and certificates are presented to an outstanding cadet who has demonstrated exceptional potential for military leadership (exceptional academic achievement in the case of Marine Corps JROTC program). **JROTC Award Ceremonies** are held throughout May and occasionally in early June.

PACMOAA current and past Leadership Team members present the awards. PACMOAA covers 14 JROTC programs and members participated in 8 award ceremonies in 2023. The six AFJROTC units in Chesapeake always hold a joint ceremony.



Left: MAJ Ferki presenting award at AJROTC Ceremony at Smithfield HS to CSM Alexander Rameriz on 25 May 2023.

The Annual Joint Brunch with the Hampton Roads (HRCMOAA) and Virginia Peninsula MOAA (VIPMOAA) chapters has been held at Roger Browns in Portsmouth the past 3 years in mid-July. Thirty to fifty



members have attended the past 3 years and in 2023, presidents from all 3 chapters attended for the first time in my memory!

Left: Group picture of Joint Brunch on 18 July 2021.

Submitted by MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret)

March equinox 2024: All you need to know about it

Posted by

Deborah Byrd

February 1, 2024

Happy equinox, y'all!

What is it? The March equinox marks the sun's crossing above the Earth's equator, moving from south to north.

When is the next one? It'll happen at **3:06 UTC** on March 20, 2024

Note: The March equinox – aka the *vernal equinox* – marks the beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere

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

and autumn in the Southern Hemisphere. No matter where you are on Earth, the equinox brings us a number of seasonal effects, noticeable to nature lovers around the globe.

Equal day and night on the equinox?

At the equinox, Earth’s two hemispheres are receiving the sun’s rays equally. Night and day are often said to be equal in length. In fact, the word *equinox* comes from the Latin *aequus* (equal) and *nox* (night). For our ancestors, whose timekeeping was less precise than ours, day and night likely did seem equal. But today we know it’s not exactly so.

Fastest sunsets at the equinoxes

The fastest sunsets and sunrises of the year happen at the equinoxes. We’re talking here about the length of time it takes for the whole sun to sink below the horizon.

[Read more: Fastest sunsets happen near equinoxes](#)



[View at EarthSky Community Photos.](#) | [Iaroslav Kourzenkov](#) of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, captured this image of the sunset on the equinox on March 20, 2023. Thank you, Iaroslav!

Sun rises due east and sets due west?

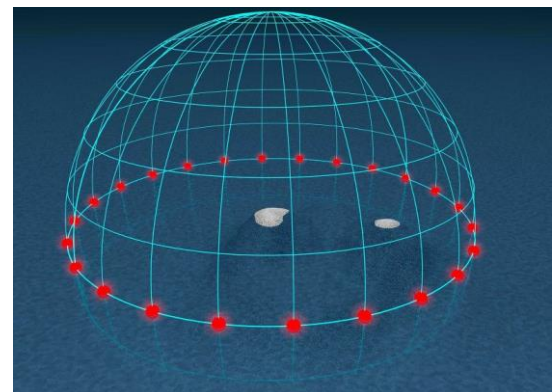
Here’s another equinox phenomenon. You might hear that the sun rises due east and sets due west at the equinox. Is that true? Yes it is. In fact, it’s the case no matter where you live on Earth, with the exception of the North and South Pole. At the equinoxes, the sun appears overhead at noon as seen from Earth’s equator, as the illustration below shows.

This illustration shows the sun’s location on the celestial equator, every hour, on the day of the equinox.

No matter where you are on Earth – except at the Earth’s North and South Poles – you have a due east and due west point on your horizon. That point marks the intersection of your horizon with the [celestial equator](#): the imaginary line above the true equator of the Earth.

The sun is on the celestial equator, and the celestial equator intersects all of our horizons at points due east and due west. Voila! The sun rises due east and sets due west.

[Read more: Sun rises due east and sets due west](#)



Pictures of the February Dinner Meeting



Left (Clockwise from left): Mrs. Lois Yandle, Laurie Gregory (Lois’s daughter), Darlene Washinton, and Gladys Steorts

Below: Cindy and CAPT Bob Brewer





Left: CDR Hans Sachse, Navy Dr. Denise Ross, and MAJ Sherry Ferki.

Right: COL Irv and Dottie Lindley, CDR Michael Riley, and CAPT Valerie Parker



Below Left: Karen and COL Bill Smith with CDR David Von Rump

Below Right: Lt Col Paul Pratt, and Carol and CPT John Rowe



Right: Gladys Steorts, and CWO4 Van White

PROGRAMS

March 2024 Scholarship applications to go out to about 33 local high schools and JROTC units

March 14, 2024 – PACMOAA Dinner Meeting: Panel of Several Veteran’s Service Organizations (VSOs)

April 11, 2024 – PACMOAA Dinner Meeting - Suffolk Mayor, Mike Duman

May 9, 2024 – PACMOAA Dinner Meeting Veterans Service Officer Paul Phelps

June 13, 2024 – Annual Scholarship Dinner Meeting Speaker TBD

July 14, 2024 Annual Joint Brunch Location TBD **But Save the Date!**

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

With our current news, political battles, recent violence and fighting in our world, it is easy to become discouraged and lose faith. I have found a great message of hope in a poem by Doris A Orth from The Salesian Collections titled "Reach Out" which I offer your reading this month.

Reach Out

In everyone's life there comes a time
when our faith is put to the test,
and we feel that we're losing touch with God,
though we're doing our very best.

It may seem that the world is against us,
and there's no one around to care,
but if we just "reach out" we'll find
that God is always there.

If we let Him know that we need Him
and our faith is very strong—
He'll wipe away the cares of the day,
and fill our hearts with song.

For He is the light in the darkness,
our pillar to lean upon,
and He'll give us the strength and courage
we'll need to carry on.



Submitted by
CAPT Bob Brewer,
USN (Ret)
Chaplin



CDR Ken App, USN (Ret)
Salute Editor

THAT'S A WRAP FOR MARCH 2024

SPRING FORWARD!

Please fill out the form below if any contact information has changed and submit to Sherry Ferki or Ken App.

PACMOAA MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM 2024

FULL NAME: _____ NICKNAME: _____

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

STATUS: Active Retired Former Surviving Spouse

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

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

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

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

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

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

Or pay via PayPal:

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

DATE: _____ SIGNATURE: _____