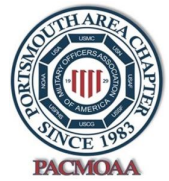




# The Salute Online



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 VII

LEARN MORE AT [PACMOAA.ORG](http://PACMOAA.ORG)

August/September 2024

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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



### *PACMOAA Family:*

PACMOAA Family: With the start of schools, it's time for PACMOAA to get together again to talk about our loved ones and how we spent our summer vacations...I'm excited to have a member of the leadership team from national MOAA Virtually at our meeting in October to discuss issues relevant to Spouses and Surviving Spouses.

Please join the PACMOAA family for our September dinner, hear about Lafayette--renew friendships and share stories about your latest happenings...Anchors aweigh...Bruce

**Bruce LaLonde CPA**  
CAPT USN (Ret) 757-241-3026



**Right:** COL Irv Lindley receiving the Leadership Bear from President Bruce LaLonde.

**Left:** After the July Board of Directors Meeting at CAPT Bruce LaLonde's home, we gathered in Bruce's SIGNATURE WALL ROOM and signed all our names.



**Right:** Your Board of Directors after the July Board Meeting



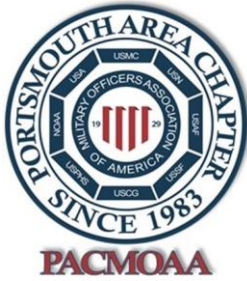
**Far Left:** PACMOAA President, CAPT Bruce LaLonde was the Guest Speaker at the Miss Teen Virginia Pageant.

**Left:** Bruce also attended the Portsmouth Coast Guard Change of Command

**VETERAN CRISIS HOTLINE Dial 988 then press 1**

**PACMOAA  
LEADERSHIP**

See Leadership Pulldown



**CHAPTER NEWS**

**AUGUST**

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

**SEPTEMBER**

- 02 VJ Day 1945
- 12 PACMOAA Dinner Meeting
- 11 Patriot Day
- 11 Grandparents Day
- 17 Constitution and Citizenship Day
- 20 POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 18 US AIRFORCE Birthday (1947)
- 21-22 NAS OCEANA AIR SHOW
- 22 Autumnal Equinox First Day of Fall
- 26 Gold Star Mother's Day
- 16 Rosh Hashanah
- 25 Yom Kippur

**HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

**Dolly Cherrington   Herb DeGroft   Twila Nelson   Karl Wilson**

**SEPTEMBER**

**Ken App   Scott Dickinson   Paul Lucas   Blaine Pearsall  
Hans Sachse   Linc Smith   Bill Smith   Margaret Wilshusen**

**The September Dinner Meeting**

will be held on **Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>** 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*

*Flank Steak*

*Catfish (1/2 Baked 1/2 Fried)*

*Broccoli Medley*

*Chocolate Cake*

*Corn Muffins & Butter*

**Cost is \$25** (includes gratuity & tax). Cash bar available. Please make your reservation no later than **Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>** with Sherry Ferki at 757-922-7030 or by email at [navmedarmynurse@gmail.com](mailto:navmedarmynurse@gmail.com).

**A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID**

**Right: scan the QR Code to find out more about PACMOAA**



**PACMOAA TODAY.**  
PACMOAA, a five star  
level of exce...  
[www.pacmoaa.org](http://www.pacmoaa.org)

**SPEAKER**

**LTC Frank Womble** USA (Ret) is a native of Northampton County, North Carolina, and the son of two World War II veterans. He attended North Carolina State University in Raleigh on a four-year Army ROTC scholarship and was a Distinguished Military Graduate from that program, where he received a commission as a field artillery second lieutenant in 1977. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from NC State and a Master of Science degree in Logistics Management from the Florida Institute of Technology.

Frank worked in the defense sector for 37 years. He served on active duty in the Army for 25 years in tactical field artillery and base operations assignments before retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. He was then employed as a contractor for 12 years supporting the U.S. Joint Forces Command and the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command.

Frank and his wife Gloria have lived in Suffolk for the last 22 years. Gloria is a member of Constantia Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. Frank is on the Board of Governors of the American Friends of Lafayette, where they are both life members. Frank is also a life member of MOAA. They are currently planning the Lafayette bicentennial commemoration events for Suffolk and Somerton, Virginia in February 2025.

Frank's presentation is titled "Lafayette Returns". It focuses on Lafayette's two visits to Hampton Roads in October 1824 and February 1825, and the American Friends of Lafayette's plans to commemorate the bicentennial of those visits in 2024 and 2025. He will also address Lafayette's enduring legacy and explain why he is still important to us today. A unique 18-month Lafayette Bicentennial Tour Souvenir Calendar will be available at the meeting for \$20.00. All proceeds go to the American Friends of Lafayette to help fund the bicentennial events.

Website for The American Friends of Lafayette <https://friendsoflafayette.wildapricot.org/>

**MEMBERSHIP****SEPTEMBER 2024****WELCOME ABOARD**

CDR Lynn Primeaux, USN (Ret) and his wife, Esmeralda, from Yorktown  
Dianna Yesensky, Surviving Spouse from Suffolk

PACMOAA currently has 65 paid members, 51 regular members and 14 surviving spouses. That includes two new members and sadly one death, both occurred in June. I am still trying to contact 3 of our members from last year that have not renewed yet. If you aren't sure if you've paid your dues or not, please contact Hans or Sherry. A dues renewal/membership application form is attached at the end of the newsletter.

At the MOAA Monthly Chapter Roundtable session in June on Generational Recruiting, the focus was on personalizing your recruiting efforts and relevancy. A 25-year-old is not interested in TRICARE for Life issues like a baby boomer is. They discussed generations from the Jr Officer (20-30 ) to the Fully Retired (70+) in 10 year increments with suggested messages and what MOAA provides that would be most important to them. This breakdown is available in the 2024 MOAA Leaders Resource Manual at: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/moaa-publications/council-and-chapter-leaders-workbook/>. All Premium and Life members have access to this resource. I've mentioned numerous times that we all need to "**Be a Recruiter**" for PACMOAA to thrive

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and to do so, recognizing the varied interests of different generations would be helpful. If members need help with recruiting, please contact me.

At the MOAA Council and Chapter Affairs Virtual Workshop for Experienced Leaders on 14 August, emphasis was placed on the need for more paid members. MOAA is continuing to get new members and that is great in terms of getting information out to a larger group of people, but a fair number are joining as basic members which is free. That gives them online access for general info and legislative updates but not for many of the other services MOAA provides. One of the services that many members are not aware of is that if the MOAA member has a Premium or Life membership, it transfers to their spouse upon their death. This provides ongoing support and resources for the Surviving Spouse! For the Premium member, membership transfers for the remaining paid timeframe, which may be up to 3 years. For Life members, their Surviving Spouse will have Life membership also.

Many members think MOAA dues primarily pays for the monthly magazine but that is a small part of MOAA's costs. MOAA has 11 lobbyists that are continually working for our benefits in addition to their marketing expenses, admin fees, etc. Almost 20% of PACMOAA members are basic members. If all chapters and unaffiliate members have the same number of free members, that significantly impacts the MOAA revenue stream. Several times a year, MOAA has specials for members that want to move up to Premium or Life membership.

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

**REMINDER:** Many members include donations for our **SCHOLARSHIP FUND** with their dues and/or dinner payments 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/Meals/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 [PACMOAATreasurer@gmail.com](mailto: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**

### **IN MEMORIUM**

LTC Richard "Dick" Yesensky, USA (Ret) joined PACMOAA in 2016. Due to health issues, he and his wife Dianna had not been able to attend meetings in some time.

Richard John Yesensky, 75, passed away June 6, 2024. He was born in Monterey, CA, the son of the late Albert Samuel Yesensky and Ruth Jaeger Yesensky. Dick retired as a Lieutenant Colonel from the U.S. Army. He began his training as an Airborne Ranger. During his time of service, he was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to the Strategic Defense Initiative (commonly known as Star Wars). Following his retirement, he worked as a nuclear engineer for several contractors for the U.S. government. He also taught physics and math at Greenbrier Christian Academy and was chosen by his students as Best Teacher in 2006. Dick was a member of Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church. His desire to serve his community led him to develop a program through HUD to help the homeless in Northern Va. When he moved to the Hampton Roads area he began serving with Good Samaritans Ministries. He also actively participated in the Job's For Life program assisting men and women with learning job skills.

Dick is survived by his wife of 49 ½ years, Dianna Horn Yesensky; daughter and son-in-law, Amanda Lane Yesensky Chang (Peter); grandchildren, Gwendolyn-Rae Chang and Josiah Chang; brother and sister-in-law, Douglas A. Yesensky (Marilyn); and numerous nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life Service with full military honors was held Saturday, June 15, 2024 at 2 p.m. at Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church, 3488 Godwin Blvd., Suffolk, VA 23434 with Rev. Ross Turner officiating. Friends joined the family for a time of visitation Friday night from 7-8 p.m. at Parr Funeral Home & Crematory, 3515 Robs Dr., Suffolk, VA 23434. Burial was private at a later date at Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery. **In lieu of flowers**, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association at alz.org. Condolences may be registered online at [www.parrfuneralhome.com](http://www.parrfuneralhome.com)."

**Adapted from obituary** at <https://www.parrfuneralhome.com/obituary/richard-dick-yesensky>

Our thoughts and prayers are with Dianna and her family. The family would prefer no contact at this time.

## Surviving Spouse Corner: Engaging Surviving Spouses for Membership Growth

By: Dr. Vivianne Wersel

June 05, 2024

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/member-spotlight/surviving-spouse-corner-engaging-surviving-spouses-for-membership-growth/>

Unfortunately, MOAA chapters lose members due to death. It is essential to recognize that for Life members of MOAA, their membership transfers to their spouse upon their death. But surviving spouses of military officers can also join MOAA on their own. The advantages of surviving spouses joining MOAA include:

- A MOAA surviving spouse membership unlocks unique benefits. These include a robust support network tailored to their needs, dedicated advocacy on issues directly impacting surviving spouses, and a wealth of resources designed to guide them through life's challenges after loss. Encouraging a surviving spouse to join MOAA is an excellent source for maintaining and growing chapter membership.

[RELATED: [Surviving Spouse Resources From MOAA](#)]

- As MOAA members, surviving spouses are welcomed into a community of peers who understand their unique journey. They receive updates on benefits and programs, participate in interpersonal and group activities, and find support and commitment. Joining MOAA bridges the knowledge gap that often follows the loss of a military spouse, ensuring all aspects are addressed. It is important to note that many surviving spouses might not know they can join MOAA, even if their military spouses were not members.
- MOAA surviving spouses gain access to various communication and support channels tailored to their membership level. These include telephone, email, magazines, websites, social media, virtual meetings, and webinars. This comprehensive range of options ensures they can always contact MOAA for assistance regardless of location or specific needs.
- Research published in [Jeffrey Saltzman's blog](#) indicates age does not influence why one should join an organization. People join because they seek similarity, regardless of generation gaps. The [MOAA Surviving Spouses and Friends Facebook group](#) is an example. The group includes military survivors from different war eras, all joined for a common goal. As a MOAA member, surviving spouses can relate to like members with similar backgrounds and be associated with the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. The [MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter](#) caters to surviving spouses with monthly Zoom meetings and, every other month, a guest presenter. Email [MSSVC02@gmail.com](mailto:MSSVC02@gmail.com) to request membership or for more information.
- Surviving spouses can also join their local geographic chapter of MOAA, connecting them with other MOAA members and their spouses.

[RELATED: [More About MOAA Chapters](#)]

MOAA has over 360,000 members, with surviving spouses comprising 13% of MOAA's total membership. Membership is open to active duty, former, retired, and National Guard and Reserve commissioned and warrant officers of the uniformed services and their surviving spouses. Membership benefits vary depending on the level of membership. Learn more [at this link](#).

Joining MOAA provides surviving spouses with advocacy, community, resources, and practical support, helping them navigate the complexities of life after loss. Speak with a surviving spouse in your network about [joining MOAA today](#), then encourage them to join the MOAA Surviving Spouses Virtual Chapter.

### 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](mailto:sscomm@moaa.org).

[MORE SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER ARTICLES](#)

## Surviving Spouse Corner: Who Is Best to Serve as an Executor?

By: Suzanne Walker July 30, 2024

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/member-spotlight/surviving-spouse-corner-the-executor-%E2%80%94-who-is-best-to-serve-in-this-role/>

One of the many important decisions when making an estate plan is whom to trust to be the executor (of the will) of the deceased's estate. Usually, the executor is named in the last will and testament and is likely the surviving spouse, adult child, a trusted family member, or a trusted friend. Sometimes the executor is an attorney, bank officer, or other impartial agent.

[RELATED: [Join our Webinar "Preparing a Spouse or Family Member for Survivorship"](#)]

The person named for this important role should be asked if they are willing to assume responsibility and if they understand what the duty entails and what they will be responsible for when the time comes. The duty of executor can be a very complicated and time-consuming role, and no one should be "surprised" to learn they are the executor of an estate. The executor has a legal duty to act primarily for the benefit of another with duties involving good faith, trust, special confidence, and candor.

[RELATED: [MOAA Members Can Save With Everplans](#)]

Many times, married couples just assume their spouse will be the executor of the estate, and that spouse might have no idea of the complexities and requirements, which can vary from state to state. A person who manages money or property for the deceased must exercise a standard of care as imposed by law or contract with specific responsibilities.

The administration of an estate generally requires a fair amount of time and energy. Often compensation is allowed, and a court or commissioner of accounts must approve the compensation, which is often a percentage of the assets handled.

Some other duties of an executor include:

- Understand the rules of probate (the official proving and recording of the will as the authentic and valid last will and testament of the deceased).
- Know which asset types that do and do not pass through probate.
- Keep assets under control as a fiduciary, separate from individual, personal and business assets.
- Prepare a complete inventory of all assets in the estate (stocks, bonds, brokerage accounts, bank accounts, life insurance policies, real property, automobiles, and any other assets). Having a complete and accurate inventory of the assets enables the executor to properly manage the estate and satisfy all of the terms of the will.
- Open a separate fiduciary (estate) bank account at a bank that can provide you with the original canceled checks or statements with images of all canceled checks.
- Take possession of the assets of the deceased and inquire about safe deposit boxes and accounts they may have maintained.

- Make an online search for any unclaimed property in the name of the deceased.
- Close bank accounts and transfer funds in a separate account (create an estate account with a separate tax identification number).
- Follow the disbursements to heirs as instructed in the will.
- Document all transactions and prepare to file income tax.

For more information on all the documents an estate plan might include, [download MOAA's Estate Planning Guide](#).



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

## MOAA & LEGISLATIVE

### MOAA STATE LEGISLATIVE FORUM

16 JULY 2024

The MOAA State Legislative Forum meets virtually quarterly and is open to all members of MOAA. There are usually several speakers that give legislative updates including problems and victories and at least one additional speaker. It is interesting to hear the issues other states are dealing with and learning about their approach to those issues.

The agenda for this session included legislative updates from the Chicago/North Shore Chapter and from Virginia as well as an overview of NOAA. Surprisingly, Illinois is the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> most veteran friendly state. For example, retired military do not pay any state taxes on their retired pay and the Illinois Veterans' Grant Program pays tuition and mandatory fees at Illinois state supported colleges/universities/community colleges. Dean Farr discussed some key points of their legislative efforts: letters to the leaders of the respective Veteran Affairs committees at the beginning and end of each session and MOAA coffee mugs are given to those same individuals at the Veterans Day visit at the statehouse.

COL Monti Zimmerman, USA (Ret) gave an update on the VA 2024 state budget threat similar to the presentation he gave PACMOAA at our 13 June PACMOAA meeting. This will be detailed separately under VMSDEP Update.

The NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) presentation by CAPT Westendorp, Director NOAA Corps Commissioned Personnel Center was very interesting. NOAA has about 13,000 employees with approximately 338 officers, and no enlisted members. Their headquarters is currently in Norfolk on the waterfront but is relocating to Newport, RI. They have 15 ships and 10 aircraft, including "hurricane hunters". I will be happy to share his PowerPoint presentation with anyone interested.

**Note:** During the 2024 VA General Assembly session, Col Zimmerman worked on having NOAA and the Public Health Service (PHS) added to the military retirees that receive deductions on taxes on their military retiree pay. Thus, modifying the state income tax deduction for military retirees to include "uniformed service" rather than "armed forces". Unfortunately this did not occur in 2024.

Submitted by Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)

### MOAA - NEVER STOP SERVING

## MOAA SUMMER ADVOCACY IN ACTION

The summer advocacy program is officially from 5 August to 6 September 2024. Even though the summer is over, these issues are still very important and need your support. All members should sign up with the MOAA

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Legislative Action Center at [MOAA | Summer Advocacy in Action: Contact Your Lawmakers During August Recess \(quorum.us\)](#). At the MOAA Council and Chapter Leaders Virtual Workshop on 14 August, it was noted that only 25, 868 out of 360,000 MOAA members are registered!! Calling or visiting your Congressional Representative may be even more effective.

## **REACH OUT TO YOUR LAWMAKERS A TODAY AND SUPPORT MOAA'S SUMMER CAMPAIGN**

By: April Vogel August 07, 2024 [MOAA - Advocacy in Action Summer Campaign](#)

In this pivotal year for our nation's servicemembers and veterans, MOAA remains at the forefront in the fight for key legislative changes. Our spring campaign event, Advocacy in Action, saw hundreds of supporters from across the nation [gather on Capitol Hill](#) to spotlight critical issues affecting the uniformed services and veteran communities.

MOAA is grateful to those who have engaged in our advocacy efforts through MOAA's [Legislative Action Center](#). To sustain this momentum, we are urging you and our more than 360,000 members to connect with your elected officials during the congressional summer recess. Legislators will be in their home states for the next month, providing a unique opportunity for personal outreach.

### **Provide Fair Compensation for Junior Enlisted Servicemembers**

Younger members of the all-volunteer force must receive fair compensation for their service and sacrifice -- failure to provide this compensation will create ongoing recruiting and retention challenges. It's time for a once-in-a-generation pay boost beyond the annual raise for all in uniform: Ask your lawmakers to address this issue in the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

### **Bring the Housing Allowance Back to 100%**

It's time to raise the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) back to 100% of these costs, helping servicemembers and families deal with rising inflation, spiking home costs in some areas of the country, and other budget pressures. Ask your lawmakers to support a provision in the House version of the NDAA that would restore the allowance for the coming fiscal year - a strong start toward MOAA's goal of full repeal of the BAH reduction. **NOTE:** As of 17 August, only 82 members co-sponsored House Bill 2537, none locally. There was only 1 co-sponsor of Senate Bill 1823 from Arkansas!

[**READ MORE:** [Join MOAA's Fight for a Full Military Housing Allowance](#)]

### **Support Combat-Injured Veterans**

The Major Richard Star Act, a bipartisan bill supported by more than two-thirds of lawmakers in both the House and Senate, would end an unfair offset faced by tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans who lose a dollar of earned DoD retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation they receive. Despite vast support for the legislation, it was not included in either the House or Senate NDAA draft; MOAA asks you to [continue to press your lawmakers](#) to pass this bill. **NOTE:** As of 17 August, there were 326 co-sponsors House Bill 1282. Both Bobby Scott and Jen Kiggans are so-sponsors. There were 73 Senators co-sponsoring Senate Bill 344 including both VA Senators.

[[TAKE ACTION TODAY](#)]

## **VCOC AND JLC**

### **UPDATE ON VMSDEP ISSUE SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER**

Thank you all for your legislative advocacy over the past few months! As a reminder, the VMSDEP (Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents program) veteran's tuition waiver is utilized by surviving spouses and children of qualified veterans or service members rated as at least 90% disabled as a direct result of involvement in military combat. Many of you probably saw this reported on frequently in the newspaper and on TV.

The JLC (Joint Leadership Council), especially COL Monti Zimmerman, USA (Ret) JLC Vice Chair & VCOC Legislative Rep; Friends of VMSDEP; and other advocacy groups throughout the state worked together and

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**finally** were successful in obtaining a repeal of the changes implemented with the 13 May budget passage. When the House and Senate met on 18 July and passed identical bills, they did repeal the changes to the VMSDEP program and appropriated extra funding of \$90 million for the program over the next 2 years. We saw this year how easily the General Assembly slid a change in benefits under the radar in the budget bill versus having it discussed in the regular session. One pertinent quote on the Friends of VMSDEP Facebook page was that “the TWO KEY WORDS” and themes going forward are **transparency** and **accountability**.

There are 2 groups set up to assess the program in depth and make suggestions for changes to help make it sustainable. The Governor’s Preserving VMSDEP Task Force met on 10 June and should have another meeting in September. It includes the Dept. of Veterans Services and many representatives of the military community as well as SCHEV. Monti Zimmerman is on the Task Force.

At the 18 June Special Session of the Senate, no bills were presented to be voted on but Sen Lucas announced the appointment of a Special Select Workgroup. The workgroup consists of 5 Senators from the Finance and Appropriations Committee who will consider the findings of the JLARC (Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee). The JLARC was tasked with providing an expedited review of the data to assist the Special Select Workgroup with a **deadline of 1 Nov**. JLARC sent out a survey that asks participants to decide which policies are best and which group is most deserving. Access the study questions at [https://jlarc.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6gMQh5SUDEmp7Nk?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR0IAanzrnPJ9i4tGXuHlaRgGvcieD6DwPtufCcF1fc0GeHJIDTwBp6FUmiY\\_aem\\_gJx0szNTfJUOoXbtErQNMQ](https://jlarc.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6gMQh5SUDEmp7Nk?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR0IAanzrnPJ9i4tGXuHlaRgGvcieD6DwPtufCcF1fc0GeHJIDTwBp6FUmiY_aem_gJx0szNTfJUOoXbtErQNMQ).

I will keep you updated on changes going forward and continue to send out alerts as appropriate. Thank you again for all your assistance over the summer.

Submitted by: Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)  
PACMOAA 2<sup>nd</sup> VP/Surviving Spouse Liaison  
PACMOAA & VCOC Surviving spouse Liaison

## VCOC Update

### VCOC 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Meeting

The July 11, 2024 VCOC Virtual Meeting was called to Order at 1500. A Roll call was held with 9 of 15 Chapters represented, thereby achieving a Quorum. CDR Ken App attended as our Chapter Representative. Also in attendance was our Chapter President, CAPT Bruce LaLonde, Mary Snyder-Legislative Rep, and MAJ Sherry Ferki, VCOC Treasurer and Surviving Spouse Liaison.

VCOC President, COL Diana Kupchella noted that there was no 1<sup>st</sup> VP and as such there would be no VCOC Newsletter and the VCOC Website was being maintained by Network Solutions at a cost of approximately \$800 per year. Someone with an IT background is going to look into this arrangement to see if it can be improved. CDR Ken App volunteered to maintain the VCOC Directory, as the VCOC Secretary position was also vacant. Secretary Duties will be done on a volunteer basis meeting to meeting. Ruth McWilliams acted as Secretary for this meeting and Sherry Ferki volunteered for the next meeting.

Discussions were held on Liability Insurance, the new Semi-Annual Reports, and Legislator of the Year Awards. The meeting adjourned at 1635.

## Legislative Report

COL Monti Zimmerman, USAR (Ret), VCOC Legislative Chair noted he had spent over 400 hours in legislative advocacy since March.

- State Legislative Advocacy: Joint Leadership Council (JLC) Update: In November, there will be a **ballot initiative** for the Surviving Widows/Widowers to have property tax relief across the Commonwealth.  
**NOTE:** I can send a copy of the issue paper on this issue if anyone would like to see it.

- In depth discussion of Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP) and gutting of the program with May budget passage. Monti mentioned that this is the oldest veterans benefit in VA, dating back to 1930! The House and Senate are due to meet on 18 July to vote on repealing the changes made but unsure if they will defer this for 2 years. **Note:** The current status of this issue has been included in the last two newsletters.
- 2025 JC Initiatives
  - Stop Claims sharks (was a JLC Initiative for 2024 also)
  - Virginia National Guard Tuition (was an initiative for 2024 also))
  - Suffolk State Veterans Cemetery Expansion
- In April, Linc Smith and Monti Zimmerman represented VCOC in person at Federal level with Advocacy in Action 2024. Monti, Linc and Sherry (virtually) met with Representative, covering the MOAA issues – Restoration of BAH, Richard Star Act, and Protecting TRICARE for Life. Diana was not able to attend.

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

VCOC Treasurer and Surviving Spouse Liaison

## COMMUNITY

### PACMOAA 2024 Scholarship Winners

Thank you to the Scholarship Committee members this year: Co-Chairs Scott Dickinson and Sherry Ferki and Lynn Terry. The online application and grading forms that Scott set up in 2017 really facilitated the review process. After two years of having only one completed application submitted for the scholarships, 8 students applied this year! Applicants came from Suffolk, Chesapeake, Portsmouth and Smithfield. Four were very competitive and well-rounded; closely matched in academics, involvement in extracurricular activities, leadership positions, and community service! All received numerous honors and awards, and two students were very involved in JROTC. It is amazing how students can maintain excellent grades while participating in many extracurricular activities such as sports, clubs, band, and community activities as well as providing leadership in some of these endeavors.



**Picture at Left:** From left to right Jaden Barnes, CAPT Bruce LaLonde, and Zack Wagner.

Jaden Barnes from Lakeland High School and Zach Wagner from Grassfield High School were the top two candidates. Both are amazing young men. Jaden is going to Florida A & M with a major in cybersecurity and long-term goal of being a Marine Corps pilot. Zach is going to Princeton with a major in economics and minor in biology (pre-medical school track). His long-term goal is to be a medical professional in the Army. Both graciously asked that other students be given the scholarships as they both had recently been notified that they would have all their expenses paid through other

scholarships. In the 22 years I have been on the Scholarship Committee, no one has ever told me that before!!

**The 2024 scholarship recipients are Mason Ternes from Nansemond River High School and Naza Agbasi from Smithfield High School.** Both are outstanding students that maintained superior grades while taking many advanced classes, participating in sports and belonging to several honor societies.



**Mason Ternes** (Picture left) plans to attend the University of FL and major in mechanical and aerospace engineering. He had a 4.5 average and took mainly Honors and AP courses. Mason was involved in multiple sports – swimming, soccer, volleyball, and football as well as working full time as a lifeguard for 3 summers. He was also involved in several honor societies – National Honor Society and National Beta Club and served in many leadership positions- Captain of varsity swimming and soccer, President of the National Beta Club. Mason accumulated many volunteer hours with the National Honor Society, National Beta Club, and with Roc Solid Foundation. In addition to being the valedictorian of his class,

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he was selected to represent his high school at Boys State as a Virginia Delegate, to attend the US Naval Academy Summer Seminar for 6 days in 2023, and as an AP Scholarship with Honor Award (attained high scores on 5 AP exams).



**Naza Agbasi** (at left in picture with President CAPT Bruce LaLonde) plans to attend ODU and major in chemistry. She has a 4.2 average and took many honors and DE (several dual enrollment in high school and college) courses. Naza was involved in several sports – field hockey, track and field, and basketball and honor societies – National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society. Some leadership positions included Treasurer of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society and Sgt at Arms for the Junior Class. She was selected to attend the JCLC summer camp at Va Tech two years in a row and attended the US Naval Academy Summer Seminar. During her 4 years in JROTC, Naza led at every level from Squad Leaders to Battalion XO, participated in the drill team for 3 years and received numerous medals including superior cadet. Her volunteer activities included many hours with JROTC performing activities like fundraisers, Red Cross blood drives and food box distribution. Naza also volunteered with her church and other activities like the NATO Festival.

PACMOAA again offers our congratulations and best wishes for successful college experiences and military careers to these most accomplished students.

### ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION DINNER 2024!!

PACMOAA was able to utilize the \$300.00 MOAA Community Outreach Sponsorship to help recognize the scholarship winners, their parents and the JROTC Color Guard from Lakeland High School. Again, many thanks to MOAA for their continued generous support through this sponsorship. USAA previously offered this sponsorship. This was the 8<sup>th</sup> time PACMOAA was awarded this grant!

It was great to see so many PACMOAA members and guests for this special night recognizing the achievements of 4 graduating seniors. Zach Wagner and his parents, Todd and Vicky; Jaden Barnes and his JROTC instructor, Capt. Sacha Fountain, USAF (Ret); and Naza Agbasi and her parents, Grace and Benjamin, were able to join us as was her JROTC instructor, LTC Pete Badoian, USA (Ret) and his daughter, Darby. This was the 3rd time in the past 4 years that a student from Smithfield JROTC was selected as a PACMOAA Scholarship recipient! Unfortunately, Mason Ternes was not able to join us as he was attending his orientation at Univ of FL!



It was a pleasure to talk with such accomplished students, their parents and/or instructors. It was also interesting to have 3 JROTC Instructors attend: LTC Pete Badoian, USA (Ret) from Smithfield High School; new member, CDR Lynn Primeaux, USN (Ret) from Kings Fork High School; and Capt. Sacha Fountain, USAF (Ret) from Lakeland High School.

**Picture at Left: L-R:** Cpt Fountain, CDR Primeaux, LTC Badoian

The Lakeland High School AFJROTC under the leadership of Capt. Fountain presented colors before the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer. After dinner, Jaden and Zach were introduced to the group, presented PACMOAA Certificates of Appreciation, and then they thanked the members for recognizing their achievements. Naza was introduced and spoke for a few minutes about her goals, thanked the group, and was presented with a Scholarship Certificate. Capt. Fountain then gave an excellent overview of the Lakeland AFJROTC program and their achievements over the past year. Two short legislative virtual briefings followed her presentation: CDR Linc Smith, USN (Ret), VCOC Immediate Past President, gave an overview of VCOC's 2024 Advocacy in Action efforts and COL Monti Zimmerman, USA (Ret), VCOC 3<sup>rd</sup> VP/Legislative Chair gave an overview of VCOC/JLC efforts in the 2024 Legislative Session including efforts to reinstate VMSDEP.



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Submitted by Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)  
Scholarship Committee Co-Chair

**Below:** L-R, CAPT Bruce LaLonde, Color Guard Cadet, Jaden Barnes, CPT Fountain, MAJ Sherry Ferki, and CDR Scott Dickenson



**Below:** L-R, CAPT Bruce LaLonde, Mr. Agbasi, MAJ Sherry Ferki, Naza Agbasi, Mrs. Agbasi, LTC Badoian, and CDR Scott Dickinson



**Left:** L-R, CAPT Bruce LaLonde, Mrs. Wagner, MAJ Sherry Ferki, Zack Wagner, Mr. Wagner, and CDR Scott Dickinson.

### ANNUAL JOINT BRUNCH 14 JULY 2024



What a great way to spend part of a Sunday at Atlantic Shores in the Magnolia Room. The Hampton Roads Chapter hosted our brunch there for first the time and it was a wonderful venue with delicious food, excellent service, great camaraderie, and visiting members from other chapters as well. About forty-five members, spouses, and guests participated in our annual brunch – 4 from VIPMOAA (including their President, Ron Corson), 25 from HRCMOAA (including their President, Loren Heckelman), and 16 from PACMOAA (including President Bruce LaLonde)

**LEFT:** L-R, CAPT LaLonde, CAPT Heckelman, COL Corson

This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in the 24 years I've been a PACTROA/PACMOAA members that all 3 chapter's presidents attended! Many thanks to Loren Heckelman and the Hampton Roads Chapter for coordinating this delightful event!

Submitted by Sherry D Ferki, MAJ., USA (Ret) PACMOAA 2<sup>nd</sup> VP/Membership Chair

**Below:** HRCMOAA members with CAPT LaLonde



**Left:** L-R, CWO4 Karl and Angela Wilson with LT Joyce Johnson

**Below:** L-R, VIPMOAA Table, Unknown, COL Ron Corson, Mrs. Marvella and COL Jim Pauls, And three other HRC Members



**Above:** L-R, HRCMOAA Member, Mary Snyder and Gladys Steorts

**Below:** L-R, Brenda and COL Hal Hostetler and 2 HRCMOAA Members, Evelyn and Jim Edge.



**Above:** LCDR Dolly Cherrington with CDR Hans Sachse

**Right:** L-R, LCDR Dolly Cherrington, CDR Hans Sachse, MAJ Sherry Ferki, and CDR Ken App



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## PROGRAMS

Sep 12, 2024 PACMOAA Dinner Meeting - American Friends of Lafayette, LTC Frank Womble USA (Ret)

Oct 10, 2024 PACMOAA Dinner Meeting – Gail Joyce, Surviving Spouse, MOAA Board of Directors, Virtual Presentation, discussing Spouse and Surviving Spouse Issues

Nov 14, 2024 – PACMOAA Dinner and Annual Business Meeting

Dec 12, 2024 – Annual Christmas Gala

**PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM - POSITIONS OPEN FOR THE NOVEMBER 2024 BALLOT**

Members elected this fall will serve from January 2025 to January 2027.

**Please consider** becoming a member of the Leadership Team as an elected officer or appointed. **PACMOAA needs as many different perspectives as possible** to help us represent all our members and their interests!

The Board of Directors is composed of the elective officers: president; 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3rd vice presidents; secretary; and treasurer; the immediate past president; and four elective directors who will serve for a period of two years.

**Notes: Good computer skills are essential to facilitate speedy communication among the Board members.**

“Throughout the By-Laws, he is used generically to represent “he or she” on intro page to bylaws.

Positions to be filled this November with job description from the Bylaws noted with quotation marks include:

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**President:** "The president shall be the chief elective officer of PACMOAA, shall preside at meetings of PACMOAA, and of the Board of Directors, and shall be a member ex-officio, with the right to vote, of all committees except the nominating committee. He shall also, at the annual meeting and at such other times as he may deem proper, communicate to PACMOAA or to the Board of Directors information or proposals which in his opinion would help in achieving the purposes of PACMOAA. Further, he shall perform such other duties as are necessarily incident to the office of the president."

**1st Vice President:** Is Program Chair, a member of the BOD, and fills in for the President in his absence. Needs to serve 1 year of a 2-year term.

**3rd Vice President:** Is a member of Board of Directors and Public Affairs/Communication Committee Chair." Responsible for Publishing the Salute Newsletter, maintaining the Website, Membership Directory, and Recruiting Brochure. In the event of the temporary disability or absence of the president, first and second vice president, the third vice president shall perform the duties of the president. The vice presidents shall perform such other duties as the president may assign.

**Secretary:** Is a member of the BOD, provides timely notification of meetings, writes and maintains minutes of all BOD meetings and the Annual November Business Meeting, prepares correspondence as needed. "He shall safeguard all important records and documents and valuable equipment belonging to PACMOAA. Further, he shall perform such other duties as are commensurate with his office or as may be assigned to him by the Board of Directors or the president."

**2 Board Members:** "The Board of Directors shall have supervision, control and direction of the affairs of PACMOAA, shall determine its policies or changes therein within the limits of the Bylaws, shall actively prosecute its purposes, and shall exercise direction in the disbursement of funds. It may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its business as may be deemed advisable and may, in the execution of the powers granted, appoint such agents as it may consider necessary". Also participate in quarterly board meetings and other duties as designated.

Please let us know if you have any questions and/or you are interested in becoming more active and / or running for office. Contact Bill Smith, MAJ, USA (Ret) Nominating Committee Chair, Immediate Past President at (252) 333-0871 or [wmsmith6487@gmail.com](mailto:wmsmith6487@gmail.com)

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

September reminds us of the seasonal changes and the oncoming Fall with attention to more serious tasks in daily life as we see children returning to school, others rushing back from vacation to work and other busy daily tasks. A more noble promise for the Autumn season was found in a short verse by Georgene Freedman *from the Salesian collection of Poems of Joy*.

**Autumn's Promise**

Falling leaves of terra-cotta scatter  
in the breeze...  
Amber hues and tawny shadows covering  
the trees...  
Billowing puffs of azure float across  
the sky...  
In shapes of cotton sculptures ever-  
changing to the eye.  
Squirrels bury their stolen acorn  
treasures...  
While birds hurry toward the sun's  
warm pleasures.  
Autumn holds the promise of 'His'  
return to earth...  
The season of harvest that renews itself  
in springtime with rebirth!



Submitted by  
**CAPT Bob Brewer,**  
**USN (Ret)**  
**Chaplin**



**CDR Ken App, USN (Ret)**  
**Salute Editor**

**THAT'S A WRAP FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2024**  
**"See You in September"**



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](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_