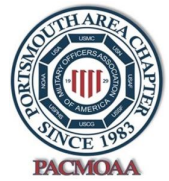




# The Salute Online



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 V

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

MAY 2024

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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



### *PACMOAA Family:*

Thank you for your patience and understanding for my last-minute cancellation for the missing April dinner--the loss of my last Uncle while sad, allowed me to reconnect with my New York family who I care for overwhelmingly.

Additionally, my most recent travels allowed me to compete in the Richmond UKROPs 10K (6.2) miles running race. With over 20,000 runners I was proud to finish in the top half--not bad for an "old man".

Excitedly, I'm looking forward to both our May 9th PACMOAA dinner guest, Veterans Service Officer, Paul Phelps and our upcoming June 13th Scholarship dinner... Anchors aweigh...Bruce

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



**Left: Suffolk Mayor Mike Duman** during his presentation at the April PACMOAA Dinner Meeting

**Right: PACMOAA 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret), Presenting a PACMOAA Certificate of Appreciation to Suffolk Mayor Mike Duman, a US Army VET.**



**PACMOAA  
LEADERSHIP**

Please See Leadership Pulldown



**CHAPTER NEWS**

**MAY**

National Military Appreciation Month

Presentation of MOAA Medals to JROTC Cadets this month. TBD

01 Silver Star Service Banner Day/ Loyalty Day

05 Cinco de Mayo

08 V-E DAY 1945

11-19 Armed Forces Week Second Sat. Thru 3rd Sun. in May (not official)

10 MILITARY SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY Friday before Mother's Day

12 MOTHER'S DAY Second Sunday

09 PACMOAA Dinner Meeting -TBD

13 Navy Nurse Corps Established 1908

15 Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) Established 1942

18 ARMED FORCES DAY Third Saturday in May

22 National Maritime Day

22 NOAA CORPS Birthday (1970)

27 Memorial Day 141<sup>st</sup> Portsmouth Memorial Day Parade

**HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS**

**Dan Akeredolu Janet Boschen**

**Oran Chenault Sarah Grigg**

**Peggy Moran**

**The May Dinner Meeting**

will be held on **Thursday, May 9<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***

*Cesar Salad*

*BBQ Ribs with Sweet Chili BBQ Sauce*

*Catfish Bites over Rice*

*Collard Greens*

*Sweet Potato Casserole*

*Banana Pudding*

*Cornbread & Butter*

*Water, Tea, & Coffee*

**Cost is \$25** (includes gratuity & tax). Cash bar available. Please make your reservation no later than **Sunday, May 5<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**



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

**Scan the QR Code above to find out more about PACMOAA**

## GUEST SPEAKER



**ETC Paul A Phelps, USN (Ret)** served in the Navy for 24 years, retiring in July 1999 as a Chief Electronics Technician. He joined the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) in 1991 and served in various positions of Chesapeake Branch 40, including 7 years as Branch President. He has been very active in the East Coast Region of the FRA, serving on numerous committees and was the Regional President in 2017-2018. Past Regional President East Coast (PRPEC) Phelps also has been very active in his community of Chesapeake, VA as he helped start the Locks Landing Civic League to help make the homeowners aware of upcoming events/policies within their city. He was a member of the Chesapeake Mayor's Commission on Veterans Affairs for 10 years, including serving as the Chairman his last year.

Paul became a small business owner in 2003 as a partner and then eventually the sole owner in 2011 of an on-site Information Technology company. He recently sold his company to his Senior Technician as his wife Margaret, and he recently retired on December 31, 2023.

Now that he is fully retired, he wanted to do something with his time to continue to help his fellow veterans and loved ones. He had been certified as a Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Service Officer (VSO) in 2019 and had done numerous VA Claims over the last 5 years. He decided he would dedicate three days a week, 2 appointments a day to perform on-site visits with the Veterans and their loved ones to assist in filing their claims.

Paul is very interested in assisting anyone needing help in filing their claim to increase their current compensation or a new claim as well. He also can help a widow or widower file for Widows Death Indemnity Compensation (DIC), even if their veterans passed away many years ago.

Paul will present an overview of the services he can provide to assist veterans and surviving spouses as well as answer questions. He can schedule appointments after his presentation or can be reached at a later date at 757-901-2375, or via email at [frabran40vso@gmail.com](mailto:frabran40vso@gmail.com) to schedule your personal appointment.

Submitted by Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)

## MEMBERSHIP

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE May 2024

About 90% of PACMOAA members have renewed this year. This includes 1 new member and 5 life members. Only 6 people have not renewed as of 23 April 2024. 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. Sadly, as noted in the Personal Affairs section, we recently lost a long-time member, Martha Anderson.

MOAA is trying to appeal more to the 40 – 60-year-old age group. As mentioned before, legislative advocacy for our **BENEFITS** should be the emphasis of our recruitment strategy. **Ask the question,** *“Do you want to have benefits when you retire or to keep your benefits if you are already retired?”* This should certainly resonate with this age group. Remember, if you invite a potential member as your guest, their dinner ½ price.

Many of the younger potential PACMOAA members do not want a social club but to belong to organizations that give back to the community. Thus, focusing on 1) legislative advocacy for military benefits that include all Uniformed Services, National Guard and Reservists, family members and Surviving Spouses and 2) Community Service should be our enticement to interest fellow officers and Surviving Spouses to join PACMOAA and MOAA. *Every member of PACMOAA needs to be a recruiter for us to thrive!*

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

**Every member is a recruiter!!**

**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. (Application on page 15)

## **PERSONAL AFFAIRS/ SURVIVING SPOUSE**

### **Surviving Spouse Corner: Are Your Personal Documents Ready for an Emergency?**

By: Renée Brunelle Matthews March 05, 2024

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/member-spotlight/surviving-spouse-corner-are-your-personal-documents-ready-for-an-emergency/>

Emergencies can strike unexpectedly, leaving individuals and families grappling with chaos and uncertainty. Whether it's a natural disaster like a hurricane or earthquake, a house fire, or a medical crisis, being prepared can make all the difference in navigating through the turmoil. One often-overlooked aspect of preparedness is having essential documents readily accessible for yourself or a trusted person.

It might sound simple, but having your important documents organized and easily accessible can significantly expedite critical decision-making during emergencies. Imagine being evacuated from your home due to an impending hurricane (yes, that has happened to me), and in the rush to leave, you forget to grab essential documents like identification, insurance policies, or medical records. Having these documents readily available in a designated "important documents kit" ensures you have the necessary information on hand to prove your identity, access medical care, or file insurance claims promptly.

Also, having your documents prepared in advance can alleviate stress and anxiety during already tense situations. Emergencies are inherently chaotic, and the last thing you want to worry about is rummaging through drawers or files, searching for vital paperwork. By proactively organizing your documents and keeping them in a secure location, you can focus on prioritizing safety and addressing immediate needs rather than scrambling to gather paperwork under duress.

Another compelling reason to have your important documents ready for an emergency is to safeguard against loss or damage. Disasters such as floods, fires, or earthquakes can destroy physical documents stored in homes or offices. While some documents can be replaced, others, like birth certificates, passports, or irreplaceable family heirlooms, might be lost forever.

Digitally storing copies of essential documents in secure cloud storage like [Everplans](#) or on encrypted USB drives provides an extra layer of protection against physical damage or loss, ensuring critical information remains accessible even if the originals are destroyed.

#### **Your Life. Organized with Everplans.**

No more sticky notes, dusty binders, and outdated files! MOAA membership offers exclusive discounts on Everplans Premium, starting at 30% off for BASIC members.

[Join Learn More](#)

Furthermore, having your important documents organized facilitates seamless communication and coordination with emergency responders and relief agencies. Whether you're seeking medical assistance, applying for government aid, or navigating insurance claims, having all necessary documentation readily available expedites the process and ensures you receive the support and resources you need in a timely manner.

What documents should you include in your important documents kit? While the specific documents might vary depending on individual circumstances, some essential items to consider include:

- Personal identification (driver's license, passport, Social Security card)
- Medical records (health insurance cards, medication lists, immunization records)
- Financial documents (bank account information, insurance policies, wills, deeds)
- Emergency contacts (family members, doctors, insurance agents)
- Important legal documents (DD Form 214, birth certificates, marriage certificates, power of attorney)
- Property records (homeowner's insurance, mortgage documents, property deeds)
- Copies of valuable photos or sentimental items

Every day you see stories about natural disasters, car accidents, medical emergencies, and unforeseen events that change someone's life forever. The peace of mind that comes from knowing you're well-prepared is invaluable. Take the time today to gather your important documents and create an important document kit — it could make all the difference tomorrow.

### 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](#)

## IN MEMORIAM



Longtime PACMOAA member, Martha L. Anderson, age 91, went to be with the Lord on March 2, 2024. She was predeceased by her husband, CWO2 Charles H. Anderson; her mother, Martha Dew; three brothers, Milton Dew, Paul Dew, and John Dew; two sisters, Mildred DeGeest and Joyce Lull.

She is survived by her son, Charles H. Anderson, Jr. and his wife Skye and his children, Brooke, Chuck and Tommy. Also, by her daughter, Gail A. Boothe and her husband, David, and their children, Christie Gantner and Jason Eure.

She has 5 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Martha leaves a legacy of love, joy and most of all her Christian Faith that sustains us.

She is survived by her son, Charles H. Anderson, Jr. and his wife Skye and his children, Brooke, Chuck and Tommy. Also, by her daughter, Gail A. Boothe and her husband, David, and their children, Christie Gantner and Jason Eure.

She has 5 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Martha leaves a legacy of love, joy and most of all her Christian Faith that sustains us.

A memorial service was held at 10am Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at her church Alexander Baptist Church, 4316 Pamela Court, Chesapeake, VA 23321. Loving Funeral Home handed the arrangements and online condolences may be made at [www.LovingFuneralHome.com](http://www.LovingFuneralHome.com).



Adapted from obituary at <https://www.pilotonline.com/obituaries/martha-l-anderson-portsmouth/>.

Submitted by Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)

PACMOAA Personal Affairs Chair, Surviving Spouse Liaison, & VCOC Surviving Spouse Liaison

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

**MOAA & LEGISLATIVE****Advocacy in Action: MOAA Members Rally on Capitol Hill**

By: Kevin Lilley      April 17, 2024      <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/recommended-reads/advocacy-in-action-moaa-members-rally-on-capitol-hill/>

Advocates from across the nation brought MOAA's message to Capitol Hill on Wednesday on behalf of not just their fellow MOAA members, but the entire uniformed services community.

That message included an ongoing effort to [support combat-injured veterans](#), helping young servicemembers and their families [cover housing costs](#), and protecting the [earned TRICARE For Life benefit](#). These issues made up Advocacy in Action (AiA), MOAA's annual spring campaign, and were delivered to the doorsteps of hundreds of legislators by their constituents, with support from MOAA National staff.

"Days like today show the strength of MOAA -- what this organization can do." Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly said after the event. "Our members bring a powerful message, and it's an honor to work alongside them on days like this, and on their behalf not just today, but the other 364 days of the year."

The day's final event featured remarks from Rep. Chrissy Houlahan (D-Pa.), the ranking member on the House Armed Services Committee's Quality of Life Panel. The panel's report, released just days before AiA, included several of MOAA's legislative priorities in support of military families, including the AiA push to restore the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) to 100% of rental and utility costs.

[\[MORE ON THE QUALITY OF LIFE PANEL REPORT | READ THE REPORT\]](#)

Your presence really underscores the importance of the work that you do here -- advocating for the issues that matter the most, specifically for our military community," Houlahan, a former Air Force officer, told the group.

**'Leave It Better Than When We Started'**

Brooke Johnson, a member of MOAA's Currently Serving Spouse Advisory Council who took part in her first AiA event, said she's moved eight times during her husband's 16 years of service in the Air Force, often struggling to find suitable housing for a family of three.

"We've never gotten to live on base," said Johnson, whose family is in the majority of the military that relies on BAH when navigating the off-base housing market. According to a recent Blue Star Families survey, more than 70% of such families pay at least \$200 more a month toward housing costs than they receive in their monthly housing allowance.

This can force some tough decisions.

"It can mean a longer commute. It can mean safety concerns. It can mean school concerns," said Johnson, a teacher and mother of three.

She said she hoped her AiA work would "leave it better than we started" for military spouses and families -- sentiments echoed by Matrice Williamson, also making her first AiA trip. A mother of a veteran and a U.S. Naval Academy student and the wife of a career Marine officer, Williamson has made 16 moves during her husband's three decades in uniform.

The AiA experience on Capitol Hill will help her "be in the know" when discussing service and recruiting concerns with parents and other influencers, Williamson said, allowing her to "be the mom who can give encouragement to the parents to encourage their son or their daughter to serve."

**Capital Camaraderie**

The hundreds of Capitol Hill office visits served as the highlight of a week that included a meeting of MOAA's board of directors, an April 16 recognition ceremony honoring [2024 award recipients](#), and an April 18 seminar for MOAA council presidents.

However, the conclusion of the annual advocacy visits does not mean the work on these priorities will slow.

"AiA isn't a capstone event -- it's another step in a MOAA advocacy process that's [lasted 95 years](#)," said Col. Dan Merry, USAF (Ret), MOAA's director of Government Relations. "We need our members to remain active, not just by sending their own messages to lawmakers, but by [sharing the action center link](#) and spreading the word through their communities and their professional networks. These legislators need to hear from their constituents, especially in an election year."

### When MOAA Speaks, Congress Listens

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

### [TAKE ACTION](#)

## The Next Steps in MOAA's Fight to Support Combat-Injured Veterans

By: Mark Belinsky April 22, 2024

The Major Richard Star Act featured prominently in our Advocacy in Action efforts. Where do we go from here?

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/advocacy/the-next-steps-in-moaas-fight-to-support-combat-injured-veterans/?ite=4432&ito=2538&itq=c394b4f8-4f3a-4e3e-8b5a-976784737278&itx%5Bidio%5D=7677215>

## PACMOAA INVOLVEMENT WITH ADVOCACY IN ACTION (AiA) 2024

17 APRIL 2024



MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret) met with J.R. Walker III, Senior Policy Advisor for Congressman Griffith, Virginia's 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, on 17 April 2024 as part of VCOC's AiA 2024 Team. He was not familiar with MOAA, so I discussed the relationship between chapters, councils, and MOAA. I stressed MOAA's advocacy for all veterans! I reviewed the 3 AiA 2024 issues –

The Richard Star Act, The BAH Restoration Act, and Protecting TRICARE for Life with examples of the impact of each one. J.R. noted many contacts from constituents per increases in TRICARE co-pays a year or so ago. I discussed that MOAA is always working on many issues in addition to the 3 discussed earlier and I will let him know if MOAA is working on increased TRICARE co-pays. No other questions or concerns were voiced. J.R. had reviewed the 3 position papers before our meeting and seemed very interested throughout our meeting, asking appropriate questions to clarify and/or obtain more information. He noted that Congressman Griffith was very supportive of veterans' issues and often takes his lead from Congressman Whitman per veterans issues. This was a very good session and it lasted about 25 minutes.

**Note:** The 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District is the poorest in the state and only about 3.6% of residents are veterans.

The PACMOAA 2024 AiA Team will meet with Rep Bobby Scott and Rep Jen Kiggans in May or June to follow up on visits from VCOC Team on 17 April 2024.

Submitted by MAJ Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)  
VCOC Treasurer and Surviving Spouse Liaison

## VCOC AND JLC

### ABBREVIATED VCOC MINUTES FROM 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER MEETING

Please Memorize the VETERAN CRISIS HOTLINE [Dial 988 then press 1](#)

10 APRIL 2024

The virtual meeting commenced at 3:02 pm with 9 chapters present and a quorum was achieved.

**President's Report:** Col Diana Kupchella, USAF (Ret) welcomed everyone. **Vacant positions - First VP, Secretary, and Chaplain.** Diana is juggling doing the updates to the website which is the 1<sup>st</sup> VPs job but that is still a vacant position. Ruth McWilliams agreed to take the third quarter meeting minutes on 11 July 2024. Diana is going on a cruise next week that is raising money for the Military Women's Memorial so she will not be able to attend Advocacy in Action on Capitol Hill next week. Monti Zimmerman and Linc Smith will attend in her place. Diana applied for MOAA Community Outreach Sponsorship (\$800.00) to help pay for Network Solutions expenses (about \$1000.00 per year) to maintain and update website and provide security protection.

**Treasurer's Report:** MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret) reviewed the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial Report and noted income slightly above budget and expenses under budget. Expenses less with all meetings virtual this year. Chapter dues update – received dues from every chapter except Northern Neck and communicating with them now. They have a new leadership team in place and are reorganizing. Reviewing liability insurance coverage.

### Standing Committee Reports

- **Communication and Public Affairs (Usually 1<sup>st</sup> VP)** – Col Diana Kupchella noted Network Solutions support discussed earlier. She still has the updates members have been sending her and will have Network Solutions update the website with them after she returns from her cruise. After some discussion, it was decided that info should be submitted to her by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month to update website.
- **Membership and Chapter Affairs** – CDR John Prevar, USN (Ret) noted the membership numbers shown on the report are as of 31 Dec per dues they paid except from Northern Neck. Membership numbers decreased from last year and may decrease again when received from Northern Neck Chapter. Sherry had highlighted in the report that 3 chapters had not submitted a quarterly report in 3 years! Reviewed proposed new biannual report format and several suggestions made and updated form will be distributed to chapters before next report is due. **New Biannual Reports will now be due by 6 July and 6 January and should be sent to John Prevar and Sherry Ferki.**
- **Legislative Chair** - COL Monti Zimmerman, USA (Ret)

### State legislative Advocacy: Joint Leadership Council (JLC) Update

1. **JLC 2024-01** *Tax Exemption for Surviving Spouses of Military Service Members to include Died on Active Duty.* Can access position paper at <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/dvs/joint-leadership-council-veterans-service-organizations-2>. Passed and will be on Nov ballot as Constitutional Amendment. Impacts around 4 widowers and 100 widows. Constitutional amendment will change it to become mandatory across the state versus the voluntary status currently! Monti has been working on this issue for 8 years. Ruth asked for information on the Constitutional Amendment and Monti clarified the issue: Purpose to give Surviving Spouse of service member that was killed on active duty versus killed in action the same benefits.
  2. Monti worked with Reserve Officers Assoc (ROA) to get Public Health Service (PHS) & NOAA added to the armed services that receive deduction from their state taxes passed in 2022. Not successful this year but he did develop a squad of volunteers from PHS & NOAA who will carry on the fight next year.
  3. State budget very interesting. Legislation may be passed but may need to be included in budget. 17 April last day to sign legislation. Some backroom negotiations occurred and included cut to education benefits for 90% & 100% disabled veterans. Program called VA Military Survivors and Dependents Program (VMSDEP). Monti forwarded info link to Diana, Sherry & VFW and generated enough support for Gov to veto the line item that significantly cut this program! **UPDATE:** The proposed budget was scrapped. Budget negotiators aim to submit a new budget in a special legislative session May 13, returning two days later to vote on it.
- **MOAA Advocacy in Action** – Monti Lead, Linc assisting with Senators and 1 Rep, Sherry meeting with 2 Rep, & John Down meeting with 1 Rep. 3 issues – The Richard Satr Act (biggest issue per Monti), Fully



Funding BAH, and Protecting TRICARE for Life. Several members had questions per the Richard Star Act so Monti briefly reviewed it.

### Surviving Spouse – MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret) noted:

- The Surviving Spouse Corner on VCOC website updated frequently with articles of interest to Surviving Spouses.
- Encourage Chapter newsletter editors to include Surviving Spouse Corner from MOAA website in newsletter but without pictures.
- Suggestion from Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter Briefing for chapters to have a yearly program about Surviving spouses.
- **Please send Diana or Sherry name and contact info per current Surviving Spouse Liaison so list can be updated.**

### Old Business – New Biannual Report already discussed.

- Who is updating Directory? Diana currently is updating. Discussion per accessibility. Used to be accessible by password only to members. Now only accessible with specific link. Should be more available to members. Will be on the agenda to discuss at next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Submitted by Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret), Acting VCOC Secretary

## COMMUNITY



### SOME 2024 MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS IN PACMOAA AREA

#### PORTSMOUTH Annual Memorial Day Parade 27 May 2024

What is known to be one of the longest running Memorial Day parades in the country, the City of Portsmouth's Memorial Day Parade began in 1884. Since that time, Portsmouth has recognized and honored the sacrifices of the brave men and women in the United States Armed Forces each year during the parade. Enjoy floats, marching bands, military units, and lots of excitement. The parade begins at 10 a.m. and travels on High Street from Peninsula Avenue (at I.C. Norcom High School) to Crawford Street.

<https://portsvaevents.com/event/annual-memorial-day-parade/2024-05-27/>

Picture above from 2003 with Sherry Ferki, Dolly Cherrington, and Bruce Ferki. PACTROA/PACMOAA has participated in this annual parade for many years.

### CHESAPEAKE

<https://allevents.in/chesapeake/memorial-day-flag-laying-event/200026385445237>

### SUFFOLK

#### Memorial Day Events:

### The Honor Project

**Who & What:** Every year, Travis Manion Foundation (TMF) mobilizes volunteers across the country to pay



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

respect to fallen heroes on and around Memorial Day. TMF will hold events at more than 25 cemeteries, where volunteers will place hand-crafted commemorative tokens at the resting places of fallen heroes and pause to reflect on their service and sacrifice.

**When & Where:** May 18, 25, 26, and 27, 2024 at [participating cemeteries](#) (local times listed below).

**Note:** Event at Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery on Sunday 26 May at 0900 and Hampton National Cemetery on Monday 27 May at 0900.

**Register:** Get involved by [registering to participate](#) at one of the listed volunteer opportunities. Volunteer registration for TMF events will close on May 17, 2024.

**Share:** Participants are encouraged to post photos or tributes to the Veterans they are honoring on VA's [Veterans Legacy Memorial](#) (VLM). Volunteers, family and friends can share these directly from the VLM Memorial pages by email or on social media with family and friends at: [www.va.gov/Remember](http://www.va.gov/Remember)

**Submit your Fallen Hero to be Visited by Volunteers:** If your family member or battle buddy is resting at a participating cemetery, submit their name and a TMF volunteer serving at our Memorial Day event will visit them, lay a hand-crafted commemorative token, and pause for a moment of reflection.

As with every effort we make to honor the fallen, this comes at no cost to you. Simply enter their name and information at the form linked below and our TMF volunteers will pay tribute to them. Volunteers will text or email you a photo directly once they have placed their token.

» [Submit your Fallen Hero](#)\* All information on Honor Project from National Cemetery Administration at <https://www.cem.va.gov/Memorial-Day/The-Honor-Project/#Participating-Cemeteries>

## Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery Memorial Day Events

To commemorate Memorial Day, flags will be placed on all grave sites and the Avenue of Flags will be erected along the circle drive.

The administration office will be open from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. to assist veterans and their families with grave site location, general information, and filling out the cemetery pre-application form link below

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

## UPDATE FROM 2021 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



Picture to left: **Barrett Ferguson** & his parents at June 2021 meeting.  
From email sent 2 April 2024

Good Evening Ms. Ferki,

I am doing well, and I hope you are too. Some of my classes are quite challenging this semester, but besides that, things are good!

I've had the opportunity to step into a couple of leadership positions this semester in NROTC and the Corps of Cadets, which have been great learning experiences. I've been looking at the jobs available to me in the Navy, and I'm hoping to become a P-8 Poseidon pilot after graduation. I'm hoping to be attached to an air wing for my training this semester so I can see what it's all about.



I've attached a picture from a mission trip I went on with my church over spring break to Honduras and another picture from this year's ring dance.

**Note:** Barrett is attending VA Tech.



## 2024 JROTC Contacts/Award Ceremonies

Updated 4/16/2024

School	Director	Phone No.	Date/Time	Cadet Presenter
<b>CHESAPEAKE</b>				
	<i>All AFJROTC</i>		<b>7 May 2024</b>	<b>CAPT Rick Titi</b>
Deep Creek HS <a href="mailto:darrell.pearman@cpschools.com">darrell.pearman@cpschools.com</a>	MAJ Darrell Pearman CMSgt Pabon	558-5302 HS 558-5304 JROTC		Amar Ruiz
Grassfield HS <a href="mailto:dirk.sandstrom@cpschools.com">dirk.sandstrom@cpschools.com</a>	Lt Col Dirk Sandstrom CMst Smiley	558-4749 HS 558-4516 JROTC	Presenters asked to arrive between	Baliam Toro
Great Bridge HS Christian Wendler <a href="mailto:christian.wendler@cpschools.com">christian.wendler@cpschools.com</a>	Lt Col Christian Wendler SMSgt Smith	558-5191 HS 546-3651 JROTC	5:30 & 6 PM to help get awards organized	Christopher Zombar
Indian River HS Lynn Holmbeck <a href="mailto:lynn.holmbeck@cpschools.com">lynn.holmbeck@cpschools.com</a>	Lt Col Lynn Holmbeck CNSgt Patrie	578-7000 HS 452-6125 JROTC		Annabeth Kouns
Oscar Smith HS <a href="mailto:thomas.barrett@cpschools.com">thomas.barrett@cpschools.com</a>	LtCol Tom Barrett ? MSgt Cain	548-0696 HS 548-0498 JROTC		Gian Noche
Western Branch HS <a href="mailto:bryan.spalla@cpschools.com">bryan.spalla@cpschools.com</a>	<b>COL Bryan Spalla</b> SMSgt Terrell Rogers	638-7900 HS		Isis Baldwin
<b>PORTSMOUTH</b>				
Churchland HS <b>MCJROTC</b> <a href="mailto:paul.pratt@portsk12.com">paul.pratt@portsk12.com</a>	LtCol Paul Pratt	686-2500 HS	<b>14 May 2024</b> 0900 in HS Auditorium	<b>Cadet Alexandria Lepelletier</b>
I.C. Norcom HS <b>NJROTC</b> <a href="mailto:joseph.redwood@portsk12.com">joseph.redwood@portsk12.com</a>	CWO2 Joseph Redwood 754-1439 Chief Covington	393-5442 HS 397-4096 JROTC	<b>15 May</b> Ceremony in auditorium 1800-2000, refreshments in cafeteria 2000-2100	<b>CAPT Bruce LaLonde</b>  <b>Cadet De'Vonte Peterson</b>
Manor HS (Woodrow Wilson HS) <b>AJROTC</b> <a href="mailto:wallace.white@portsk12.com">wallace.white@portsk12.com</a>	MAJ Wallace White SSG Orlanda Gordon MSG (R) Stanley Hill	757-465-2907 HS  757-465-2947 JROTC		<b>?CAPT LaLonde</b>
<b>SUFFOLK</b>				
Lakeland HS <b>AFJROTC</b> <a href="mailto:sachafountain@spsk12.net">sachafountain@spsk12.net</a> <a href="mailto:robertgluck@spsk12.net">robertgluck@spsk12.net</a>	<b>MAJ or Capt. Sacha Fountain, USAF (Ret)</b> <b>SGT Robert Gluck</b>	925-5790 HS	4/16 Cpt out today. SGT Gluck – checking on confirmation per color guard and award ceremony. <b>23 May 2024</b> <b>1345 Library</b>	<b>MAJ Sherry Ferki</b> Cadet 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. James Daniel McAuthor
Nansemond River HS <b>AFJROTC</b>	LtCol David Hedger	757-923-4101	<b>8 May 2024</b> <b>7 pm – 8:30 pm</b>	<b>CAPT Bruce LaLonde</b>

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

<a href="mailto:davidhedger@spsk12.net">davidhedger@spsk12.net</a> <a href="mailto:sheldonpowdar@spsk12.net">sheldonpowdar@spsk12.net</a>	<b>SGT Sheldon Powdar</b> (moved from Lakeland HS)			
Kings Fork HS <a href="mailto:lynnprimeaux@spsk12.net">lynnprimeaux@spsk12.net</a>	<b>NJROTC instructor started 2 Jan 2024. Setting up program</b> CDR Lynn Primeaux Sent info & spoke w/him 3/12/24	757-923-5240 Scholarship info to <a href="mailto:brucebaxter@spsk12.net">brucebaxter@spsk12.net</a>		
Smithfield HS <b>AJROTC</b> <a href="mailto:pbadoian@iwcs.k12.va.us">pbadoian@iwcs.k12.va.us</a>	LTC Pete Badoian 1SGT Marvin Hunter	357-0056	<b>23 May 2024 1315 in SHS auditorium</b>	<b>MAJ Sherry Ferki</b>  C/SFC Olivia Kramer
Franklin HS <a href="mailto:drobinson@fcpsva.org">drobinson@fcpsva.org</a> or <a href="mailto:lwright@fcpsva.org">lwright@fcpsva.org</a>	LTC Linwood Wright 1SGT Robinson	562-5187 school		

Submitted by MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret)

## Artful Living a Lake Prince Woods

An award-winning senior living community in Suffolk offering a continuum of services:

- Residential Living
- Transitional Rehabilitation
- Memory Support
- Home health and Hospice
- Assisted Living

### Lake Prince Woods

 EveryAge Senior Living™

Call us today!

757-923-5500

[LakePrinceWoods.org](http://LakePrinceWoods.org)



**Thank you Lake Prince Woods for being a PACMOAA Sponsor**

PACMOAA Members listening to Mayor Mike Duman at the April 11, 2024 Dinner Meeting.



**Clockwise from upper Left, CW around tables:**  
**Table 1)** Gordon Iiams, Barb Iiams, Karl Wilson, Joyce Johnson (partially hidden), Cindy Brewer, & Bob Brewer; **Table 2)** Brenda Hostetler, Lois Yandle, Lois’s son Frank Yandle, Roger Hirsch, Bob Wall, & Hal Hostetler; **Table 3)** Frank LaBrecque, Jeanne LaBrecque, Denise Ross, Mary Snyder, & David Von Rump. Bill Coburn in lower right; **Table 4)** Irv and Dottie Lindley (Dottie partially hidden), Michael Riley, & Gladys Steorts.

**PROGRAMS**

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 – Atlantic Shores Retirement Community Save the Date!**

Sep 12, 2024-Oct 10, 2024 PACMOAA Dinner Meetings – TBD

Nov 14,2024 – PACMOAA Annual Business Meeting

Dec 12, 2024 – Annual Christmas Gala

***Please try and make the July Joint Brunch at Atlantic Shores Retirement Community!***

***Please Put it on Your Calendar NOW!!!***

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

For the month of May, I offer a selection from YANKS a book of verses Published in France by THE STARS AND STRIPES, the Official Newspaper of the American Expeditionary Forces in 1918. One of these selections titled "The Man" authored by a soldier identified only by his initials seems appropriate for reminding us of Memorial Day.

**THE MAN**

Here today in the sunshine I saw a soldier go  
Out of Life's heated battle into the evening glow.  
He was just a common soldier, one of a might Clan  
But every watcher bared his head in honor to the Man.  
We stood there at attention, and the flag-draped coffin came,  
And we snapped up to salute him, though never knew his name.  
He was just a common soldier, but we couldn't  
salute as well  
The best old major general on this bright side o'hell!

H.T.S.



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

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

**THAT'S A WRAP FOR MAY 2024**

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

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: \_\_\_\_\_