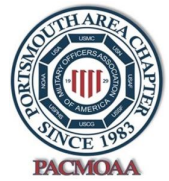




# The Salute Online



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 **PACMOOA** actively lobby legislatures for all US uniformed services members, we are nonpartisan and do not participate in political activities.

VOLUME XXXXIII Issue VI

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

JUNE-JULY2024

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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



### *PACMOOA Family:*

Our May meeting was fantastically informative challenging those attending who have VA disability rating to possibly review or potentially upgrade their entitlement with a veteran services officer. With May being Military Appreciation Month, it might trigger us to encourage those we have served with to review their benefits (the primary mission for MOAA).

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our annual scholarship dinner, at the Joint Tri-Chapter Brunch in Virginia Beach July 14th, and before our summer break to personally thank you for your support and service. Anchors aweigh...Bruce

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

## PACMOOA MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES 2024



**Portsmouth** - 140<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Day Parade – Despite rainy weather, three PACMOOA members rode in parade – **CAPT Bruce LaLonde** riding on the Safety Town Float and **CAPT Bob Brewer** and **LCDR Bob Wall** driving in the PACMOOA car. **COL Irv Lindley** is the chair of the Portsmouth Mayor's Military Affairs Committee and helped coordinate the parade. He spoke about the Mayors Committee and the parade on Channel 3 TV during the broadcast of the parade. **COL Hal Hostetler** was present playing with the Tidewater Concert Band.

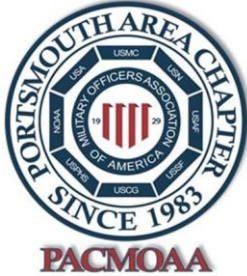


**Chesapeake** – The Mayor's Commission on Veterans Affairs presented 2024 Memorial Day Ceremony at Chesapeake City Hall. **CDR Linc Smith** is the Public Relations Chair for the Mayor's Commission and was the MC for the ceremony. **CAPT Rick Titi** attended the ceremony also.

**Right: PACMOOA PRESIDENT, CAPT Bruce LaLonde USN (Ret)** being introduced as Guest Speaker for Green Lakes Baptist Church's Memorial Day Remembrance Event.



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

PACMOAA  
LEADERSHIPSEE LEADERSHIP  
PULLDOWN

## CHAPTER NEWS

## JUNE

- 4-7 Battle of Midway 1942  
 06 [WWII D-Day](#) 1944  
 10 Women's Veterans Day  
 13 **PACMOAA Scholarship Dinner Meeting**  
 14 [US Army 248<sup>th</sup> Birthday](#) (1775)/ Flag Day  
 17 USN Hospital Corps Established  
 16 Father's Day  
 20 [Summer Solstice](#)  
 22 GI Bill Signed 1944  
 23 [USCG Auxiliary Birthday](#) (1939)  
 25 Start of Korean War 1950  
 27 [PTSD AWARENESS DAY](#)

## JULY

- 01 Women Army Corps (WAC) 1943  
 04 Independence Day  
 11 VCOC Third Quarter Meeting, Virtual  
 14 JOINT BREAKFAST/BRUNCH HRCMOAA Hosting Atlantic Shores  
 26 Americans with Disabilities Act 1980  
 27 End of Korean War 1953  
 30 Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service (WAVES) Est 1942  
 31 Eid al-Adha

## HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Martha Anderson Bill Coburn Joyce Johnson  
 Irv Lindley Kevin Terry

## JULY

Tom Cahill Sherry Ferki Andre Mayfield Paul Stott

## The June Dinner Meeting

will be held on **Thursday, June 13<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**Marinated Flank Steak**Blackened Mahi with Fresh Pico de Galo**Wild Rice**Steamed Broccoli with light Crème Sauce**Apple Cobbler**Cornbread & Butter*

**Cost is \$25** (includes gratuity & tax). Cash bar available. Please make your reservation no later than **Sunday, June 9<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



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

## SPEAKERS



**Retired Captain Sacha Fountain** brings a wealth of experience and dedication to her role as a Senior Aerospace Instructor (SASI) at Lakeland High School's Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC) program in Suffolk, Virginia. With a distinguished career in the United States Air Force, Captain Fountain now focuses on shaping and mentoring the leaders of tomorrow through the AFJROTC program. *She will discuss the activities and achievements of the cadets for the school year 2023-2024.*

### **MILITARY SERVICE**

(Ret) Captain Fountain entered the Air Force in April 2003 as an enlisted material management journeyman, working in numerous positions in logistics. She also fulfilled a special duty as an Airman Dormitory Leader. In 2012, she was accepted to the Nurse Enlisted Commissioning Program. As a nurse, her background includes numerous duties such as Labor & Delivery, Education & Training, Family Health, and Clinical Nurse Manager. Her assignments include installations in Florida, Virginia, and Japan with deployments to Iraq and Diego Garcia Indian Ocean.

Prior to assuming her current position as a Senior Aerospace Instructor, she served as the 633rd Operational Medical Readiness Squadron, Clinical Nurse Manager, Joint Langley-Eustis, Virginia.

### **EDUCATION**

2008 Associates Degree, Logistics, Community College of Air Force, AL

2009 Associates Degree, Pre-Medical, Hillsborough Community College, FL

2010 Bachelor's Degree, Healthcare Studies, Ashford University, IA

2012 Bachelor's Degree, Nursing Science, University of South Florida, FL

2012 Nurse Enlisted Commissioning Program, Maxwell AFB, AL

2020 Master's Degree, Business Admin & Management, University of Maryland Global Campus, MD



**Left: CDR Linc Smith and CAPT Bruce LaLonde.**

**CDR Linc Smith, USNR (/Ret)**, Immediate Past President, VCOC will give a brief overview of *VCOC's Advocacy In Action 2024* Efforts. Linc has been active in a leadership position with VCOC for about 8 years, starting with Secretary, 1<sup>st</sup> VP and then President. He has worked with PACMOAA and our Advocacy in Action efforts since 2000.



**COL Monti Zimmerman, USAR (Ret)**, VCOC 3<sup>rd</sup> VP/Legislative Chair will give a brief overview of *VCOC/JLC efforts in 2024 Legislative Season including efforts to reinstate VA Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP)*. Monti has been actively involved with the Joint Leadership Council for 5-6 years and has been the VCOC Legislative Rep for 4 years.

Photo by CDR Ken App, USN (Ret)

Submitted by Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)

## MEMBERSHIP

### JUNE 2024

Unfortunately, there hasn't been any change in PACMOAA's membership numbers since last month. 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 29 May 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.

I have mentioned in the past that “**Every Member is a Recruiter**”. When Rick Titi was at the Chesapeake Memorial Day Ceremony, he met the speaker, who is a retired officer and didn't know anything about MOAA. Another PACMOAA member was present and gave the speaker his card. Keeping copies of the membership brochure and/or cards in your car would be a great way to be able to pass on info easily wherever you are!

The June Annual Scholarship Recognition Dinner is a great time to invite a guest/potential new member. They can see some of the important community service activities we participate in. Meeting the scholarship winners and hearing their stories as well as seeing the JROTC Color Guard is always inspiring.

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 [PACMOAAreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:PACMOAAreasurer@gmail.com) in the block where it says “name, @username, email, or mobile” and click “next”. Enter the amount to transmit and add “For PACMOAA Dues” in the note section and click “continue”. Review the information, including the bank account or credit card you want the funds to come from. Press “Send payment now” when everything looks correct.

**The membership/Renewal Application is on page 17.**

## **PERSONAL AFFAIRS/ SURVIVING SPOUSE**

### **OVERVIEW OF MUSNAVC MEETING**

**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 15 May 2024, it had 515 members in all 50 states representing 215 congressional districts. In 2018 when I first joined, the chapter had 62 members in 22 states that represented 48 congressional districts.

The speaker at the most recent monthly meeting on 15 May was Gail Joyce, **Surviving Spouse**, who is on the MOAA BOD and is the Chair of the MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisor Council. She presents programs at MOAA Training Meetings on the role of the Surviving Spouse Liaison and frequently addresses chapters throughout the country. She shared her experience when her very fit husband died, several years after her son died while serving overseas. Thus, she is a Gold Star Mom and Wife! Gail stressed that life is unexpected whether you are talking about death, illness, moves, etc. and we need to be prepared for the expected and unexpected events! We also need to learn to value what we have and “Every age needs to have a battle plan”!

Surviving Spouses make up 12 – 13% of the more than 360,000 MOAA members and are the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest group in MOAA. **Army** members make up the largest group!! Advocacy and Education are both very important for Surviving Spouses. They worked for over 20 years on the elimination of the “widow's tax” and were also active in the fight to help pass the PACT Act. Education is accomplished through the Surviving Spouse Corner on the MOAA website, the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter, and presentations like this.

It is important to prepare and have conversations with spouses, parents, and/or children now! Death can happen when young, old, at home, out of town, out of the country, alone or both spouses together. Planning ahead can help give survivors peace of mind. There is never a good time and making sure all the necessary information is easily available is essential. MOAA.org and the VA website both have documents and information to assist with compiling the necessary information. MOAA also has a new program – “Everplans - “a digital estate planning

tool designed to securely organize and store your vital information. Its smart sharing capabilities give you and your loved ones easy access when needed”. There is a helpful webinar on the MOAA website “Simplify and Organize Your Life with Everplans”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=raQyPR39YsU> and another webinar is scheduled on 6 June 2-3 pm. The VA now has an Office of Survivor Assistance at <https://www.va.gov/survivors/> or phone number per benefits 1-800-827-1000. Gail reminded attendees to visit the VA website often as the list of presumptive diagnoses related to the PACT Act changes frequently. She stressed that you should **NOT PAY** anyone to file for you as was mentioned by our May speaker, Paul Phelps, VSO. Gail reminded everyone that both spouses need to be on credit cards, utility bills, etc. Make sure both names are on car titles, but they need be listed as Bob or Sue rather than Bob & Sue.

One issue she mentioned that resonated with me was that when her husband died, their USAA account went away. Her husband had been a USAA member for 38 years and he was the primary account holder. This occurred 25 years ago, and I will follow up to see if that is still an issue.

Surviving spouses can join MOAA on their own. If their husband was a MOAA member and had a Life Membership, that is transferred to them upon the spouse’s death with all the same benefits. Gail also stressed the need to make sure the correct information is included on the death certificate. This came to light during COVID. Many hospitals only listed COVID as cause of death but the underlying/secondary medical conditions impacted most affected individuals. An underlying condition that the spouse received disability for would help the widow receive DIC (Survivors Dependency and Indemnity Compensation). One example of incorrect information she gave was a widow including her social security number instead of the deceased spouses and it was very difficult to get that changed. Gail quoted Dwight D. Eisenhower – “No battle was ever won without a plan”! We all need a plan in place.

After the presentation, MUSNCAVC involvement in Advocacy in Action 2024 was discussed briefly. This was the first-year virtual chapters could submit applications for LOE and Communication Awards and MUSNAVC was awarded a 5 Star Level for both! The Early Push section on the website was discussed and it was noted that MOAA is observing this section and is impressed by it. The same 5 bills are listed as in the March newsletter overview and are accessible at <https://www.musnavc.org/gallery>.

**NOTE:** I will bring copies of the Personal Affairs handbook to the June dinner meeting and will be happy to mail one if anyone needs one.



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

## MOAA & LEGISLATIVE

### PACMOAA Awarded THREE 5 STAR Awards

Two weeks ago PACMOAA was Awarded: the **14<sup>th</sup> consecutive MOAA 5 Star Levels of Excellence (LOE) Award; the MOAA 4<sup>th</sup> Consecutive 5 Star COL Marvin J. Harris Newsletter Award; and the 3<sup>rd</sup> 5 Star Website Award.**

Congratulations MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret) for her hard work and continued efforts on the LOE, and CDR Ken App for his work on our Salute Newsletter and Website.

### DoD Report Details ‘Pervasive’ Staffing Problems at Walter Reed

By: Karen Ruedisueli      May 29, 2024      <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/advocacy/dod-report-details-pervasive-staffing-problems-at-walter-reed/>

**Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) is staffed at only 79% of authorizations,** according to a [recent DoD report](#) to Congress.

“The report identifies a pervasive Military Department manning shortfall that undermines the mission of WRNMMC to be a combat casualty receiving center and sustain a viable graduate medical education program,” according to a letter from DoD leadership accompanying the report about the premier military hospital.

Nurses have the lowest fill rate at 68% with personnel shortages across military, civil service, and service contract positions. The report cites national medical staffing shortages in the post-pandemic period, along with increased salaries and improved benefits offered by civilian health care organizations that make it difficult for federal pay scales to compete with the private sector.

**[RELATED: [MOAA’s TRICARE Guide](#)]**

Past MOAA advocacy campaigns raised alarms regarding potential [civilian health care workforce instability](#) and [capacity constraints](#) related to the COVID-19 pandemic. We achieved a five-year halt to proposed medical billet cuts with a [provision in the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act \(NDAA\)](#) that also required DoD to conduct a report on medical workforce requirements including a risk analysis, an evaluation of plans to backfill with civilians, and mitigation plans for any identified risks.

MOAA supports the Retain Educated Workers and Registered Nurses Developing (REWARD) Experience Act, which would let hiring managers at military treatment facilities waive regulations that drive many nurses into the private sector as they achieve higher levels of licensure.

**[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Help DoD Retain Skilled Nurses](#)]**

Staffing shortfalls at WRNMMC could reverberate across the military health system (MHS) – Walter Reed is not only a premier military medical center for health care and research, but it also serves as a force-generating platform for the next generation of MHS clinicians, with 53 graduate medical education programs for the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

WRNMMC administrative and logistics areas are also understaffed, with a 73% overall fill rate and only 44% of the military personnel positions occupied. Admin shortfalls may undermine medical provider productivity when clinicians must take on tasks unrelated to providing care.

The Defense Health Agency, in coordination with the military departments’ medical services, is developing a Human Capital Distribution Plan (HCDP) to understand, account for, and analyze the duty requirements at the medical and dental treatment facility level to ensure availability of military medical personnel to support readiness and the delivery of care.

The HCDP will optimize military and civilian personnel assignments and contract requirements. It is intended to provide MHS leaders and DoD with a holistic approach to assessing, validating, and distributing the right person, at the right location, at the right time, with the right cost in support of readiness and beneficiaries.

**[RELATED: [TRICARE Appointments Will Be Honored Despite Year-End Turnover](#)]**

MOAA supports DoD’s revised strategy to [stabilize the military health system](#) and improve MTF staffing so MHS can fulfill both readiness and beneficiary care missions. We appreciate the strategy that seeks to reattract versus recapture beneficiaries to the direct care system of military hospitals and clinics, but we remain concerned access-to-care issues will persist despite efforts to address MTF staffing issues.

MOAA continues to advocate for resources that help beneficiaries navigate the MHS, options for self-directed care outside MTFs, and transparency regarding access-to-care problems with the goal of improvements through accountability, including:

- Expanded TRICARE Qualifying Life Events (QLEs), including a QLE for pregnancy, that would allow beneficiaries to switch TRICARE plans to access care where it is available.

- A beneficiary access assistance system that would allow patients to submit and track the status of a barrier to access, with requirements to aggregate data at the MTF level for reporting to DHA so systemic access problems can be identified and addressed.

Please watch [MOAA's Advocacy News page](#) for updates on these efforts as the FY 2025 NDAA process moves forward.

## Comprehensive Veterans' Package Stalls in House

By: René Campos May 28, 2024 <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/advocacy/comprehensive-veterans-package-stalls-in-house/>

**MOAA and other veterans' organizations** have called on House and Senate leaders to move [a comprehensive, bipartisan bill](#) designed to help veterans and caregivers across generations through both chambers before members leave for the July 4 holiday.

Advocates were disappointed to learn the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act ([H.R. 8371](#)) did not advance to the House floor before Memorial Day. MOAA and our advocacy partners have been working on this bill's passage over many months alongside House and Senate members and staffs on the Veterans' Affairs Committees. Hearings, committee briefings, roundtables, and informal discussions have resulted in a compromise package addressing several of MOAA's [highest legislative priorities](#) for those we represent and serve.

**[ACT NOW: [Urge Your Elected Officials to Support Comprehensive VA Health Care](#)]**

In response to the House's inaction, more than two dozen groups (including MOAA) sent a letter to House and Senate leaders, including the respective leaders of the Veterans' Affairs Committees, urging them to "put aside politics, work together in good faith to find a path forward through the House and the Senate, and enact this critical legislation before the Fourth of July."

**[[READ THE LETTER](#)]**

The Senate will be out of session June 22-July 7, while the House will be out June 29-July 7.

Once lawmakers return from their Memorial Day break, they face a growing number of bills and priorities competing for their attention before the Sept. 30 end of the fiscal year. As critical deadlines approach, growing political pressures can impede the legislative process and stall important bills.

### **A Bill for the Entire Veteran Community**

The bipartisan package offers [a wide range of improvements](#) to help veterans, caregivers, families, and survivors, including improved access to mental health and long-term care for the veterans who need it. MOAA, like other groups, has been patient and collaborative as proposals were reviewed and negotiated to fit into a legislative package that would benefit the entire veteran community.

MOAA recognizes the difficulty inherent in finding bipartisan, bicameral agreement. The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act reflects congressional intent to represent, in the broadest way possible, the interest of the entire veteran community. That's why MOAA and our partners are pressing lawmakers to pass this vital legislation as soon as possible ... and why your voice is needed now more than ever.

***While the path forward is uncertain, inaction is unacceptable.*** Congress must do its job by passing this important legislation and remain focused on getting the package signed into law before the July 4 holiday. Doing so would prove to the veteran community that these lawmakers care and recognize their service and sacrifice.

[Click here to contact your legislators](#) and ask them to pass the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act.

## Tips for Lifelong Caregiving

MOAA has partnered with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation to provide an online resource outlining legal and financial support available to multiple generations of caregivers.

[Learn More](#)

## Children's Hospitals Take Fight Over Military Payments to Congress

May 21, 2024 <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/spouse-and-family/childrens-hospitals-take-fight-over-military-payments-to-congress/>

*This article by Leo Shane III originally appeared on [Military Times](#), the nation's largest independent newsroom dedicated to covering the military and veteran community.*

Some civilian children's hospital programs could face severe cutbacks if lawmakers don't reverse a [Defense Department](#) rule on health care reimbursements that's upending their financial plans, officials from the medical centers warn.

The issue is expected to be among dozens of topics debated as part of the [annual defense authorization bill](#) in coming weeks, but is one of only a handful of provisions of the sweeping defense policy bill that could have broad repercussions both inside and outside the military community.

**[TAKE ACTION: [Support Military Family Access to Children's Hospitals](#)]**

In a letter to House and Senate Armed Services Committee leaders on May 13, members of the [Children's Hospital Association](#) warned the issue is already leading to "drastic rate reductions ... which may impact access to care in some of the major defense communities across the country."

Just a few days earlier, members of [The Military Coalition](#) — 35 organizations advocating on military and veterans issues — warned lawmakers that the reimbursement problems "have the potential to risk the health of military kids, harm quality of life for those serving our nation, and ultimately undermine mission readiness."

The concerns stem from a Defense Department rule change in fall 2023 which changed payment rates for Tricare patients at non-military children's hospitals and cancer treatment centers.

**[RELATED FROM MOAA: [New TRICARE Rule May 'Risk the Health of Military Kids'](#)]**

Since October 2023, the Defense Health Agency has tied its reimbursements to Medicare rates, a move that brings the facilities in line with federal payouts to other private-sector hospitals.

Agency officials in fall 2023 acknowledged that at least 14 children's hospitals providing care to children near military bases and facilities would be negatively affected by the change, but projected the military will save up to \$45 million annually in taxpayer funds.

Greg Raymond, president of Children's Hospital Colorado Southern Region, said his facilities serve five military bases, and medical services to military children make up roughly 20% of their workload. Officials there have expanded programs in recent years to match the current and anticipated growth in military families in the area.

"But now we're seeing a decrease of 40% in reimbursements, even though we're providing the exact same level of services we provided prior to this rule being implemented in October," he said.

"That's going to force our team to make decisions around what programs to continue, what programs to consolidate or what programs to cut. And that will impact all kids, not just military kids."

**[FROM KDRO-TV: [MOAA Expert Weighs in on TRICARE Reimbursement Rate Cuts](#)]**

Raymond argues that treating children's hospitals the same as facilities focused on adult or elderly care is unfair because of the additional complications of caring for kids. His hospital has extra staffing requirements for monitoring youth, extra costs related to assisting entire families, and specialized programs aimed at easing the fears of young patients.



In April, a federal judge in Colorado turned down a legal challenge from the hospital challenging the rule change, saying it was within the Defense Department's authority to adjust their reimbursement rates.

The issue has caught the attention of several members of Congress, and already has prompted a requirement in the House Armed Services Committee's authorization bill draft to study the issue and its potential impact on local community health care options.

Supporters worry a future study may not be fast enough to provide relief for the affected medical centers. Children's Hospital Association officials said at least nine children's hospitals located near military installations in states like California and Virginia are facing revenue decreases of 30% or greater because of the Defense Health Agency decision.

**[RELATED: [TRICARE Program Change Designed to Improve Care for New Moms, Moms-to-Be](#)]**

Raymond said his staff will have to start discussing program and staffing reductions by the end of the year if a move isn't made to fill the multimillion-dollar void created by the rule change.

"We won't limit services just for one cohort and patients versus another based on whether they have TRICARE or they have Medicaid or they have a commercial insurance product," Raymond said. "But this is going to lead to cuts that will impact all the kids in our community."

Lawmakers on the House Armed Services Committee are expected to revise their draft of the authorization bill during a marathon mark-up session on May 22. Senate Armed Services Committee officials will follow suit in early June, with designs on having a final product approved by both chambers of Congress sometime this fall.

## **MOAA SOUTHEAST REGION CHAPTER LEADERS WORKSHOP GREENVILLE SC, MAY 17-18, 2024**

**By COL Irv Lindley USA (Ret), PACMOAA Leadership Representative**

I was pleased to have the opportunity to represent PACMOAA at the Chapter Leaders Workshop in Greenville, SC. It was held at the Hyatt Regency in Greenville Friday afternoon, May 17 including dinner that evening with Guest Speaker, COL David A. Uthlaut, USA CDR, 165<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, Fort Jackson SC, and Saturday morning, May 18<sup>th</sup>, concluding at 3 pm.

**MOAA CAPT Frank Michael USN (Ret)**, Senior Director, Council & Chapter Affairs, was the panel moderator.

**There were 148 attendees.**

### **The MOAA Senior Leader panel included:**

Maj Gen Joe Lynch, USAF (Ret) General Counsel and Board Secretary  
CAPT Jim Carmen, USN (Ret) Vice President, Council/Chapter and Member support  
Elizabeth Limarzi, Director Membership & Marketing  
Jennifer Goodale, Director, Military Family and Survivor Policy Government Relations  
Amanda Centers, Vice President, Development  
Gail Joyce, MOAA BOD; Chair, Surviving Spouse Advisory Council  
Amber Monks, Digital Content and Social Media Manager  
Sara Ferris, Vice President and Chief Information Officer,

### **CDR Linc Smith, USN (Ret) ; CW04 Jay Garbus, USA (Ret) Award Presentation**

**Saturday's Breakout Panel Discussion topics included:** Membership Events and Protocol; Chapter Management (Presidents/Membership/Chairs); Surviving Spouse Liaison training; and Copyright infringement. I participated in the Surviving Spouse Liaison Training which was very informative and provided useful information for PACMOAA.

### **Among overall topics discussed, following are suggested ideas to consider:**

Liaison for Surviving Spouses

Legislate – (Current MOAA membership 360,000)  
 Encourage More JROTC Chapter's to join  
 Grants & Scholarships  
 Increase Chapter Newsletter circulation  
 Legal Tax, community Grant formation  
 Getting the word out; MOAA benefits  
 Helping Combat Service members (i.e. Housing allowances, Tri-care for Life)  
 Utilize MOAA Leaders Workbook 2023-2024

### MOAA - NEVER STOP SERVING

## VCOC AND JLC

### VCOC Update

#### From Monti Zimmerman's Presentation at MOAA State Legislative Forum Virtual Meeting 21 May 2024

#### JLC Wins 2024

Second reading of Constitutional Amendment granting property tax relief for surviving spouses of those who died on active duty not caused by enemy. Will be a general ballot initiative in November 2024

#### Budget Challenge 2024

- Budget submitted to Governor removing significant survivors and dependents of 90% and 100% VA disabled veterans' tuition waivers (VA Military Survivors and Dependents Program – VMSDEP).
- Governor line-item vetoed reductions and requested \$10 million be added to the program. This looked like a major win.
- Legislature added the cuts back into the budget when met 13 and 15 May.
- Governor was required to accept or veto entire budget by May 17<sup>th</sup>. Budget was accepted.
- Monti noted that this is a CAPSTONE of benefits in Virginia. If we can't save this, no benefits are safe!!

**NOTE:** Monti has been in frequent contact with legislators and surviving spouses working on getting this appealed. Edie Smith, Surviving Spouse that spoke with us in April 2022, is working with a new Facebook group (VMSDEP Friends and Supporters) that has 1600 surviving spouses/supports to help with this effort. There was also a story about this issue on Wavy TV 10 on 22 May. **UPDATE:** On 24 May, Gov Youngkin announced the formation of "Preserving Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program Task Force" with the first meeting scheduled 10 June at VA War memorial from 2-5 pm. Monti Zimmerman is part of the task force!

#### JLC 2025 Initiatives

- 1) Protect Veterans from Claim Sharks and Unaccredited Legal Firms
- 2) Virginia National Guard Tuition Assistance Waiver
- 3) Enhanced Virginia National Guard Emergency Response Medical Protections
- 4) Address the survivors' and dependents' tuition waiver???

#### Separate MOAA & ROA Initiative

Modify the state income tax state income tax deduction for military retirees to include "uniformed service" PHS & NOAA retirees – appeal in MOAA magazine worked!

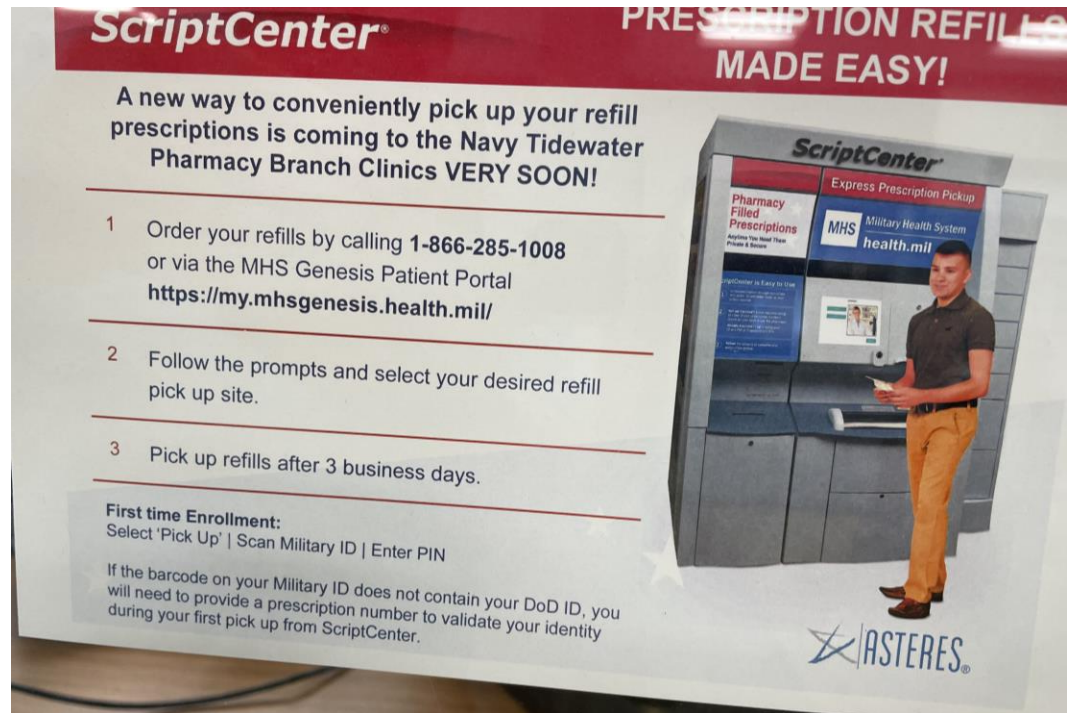
Submitted by: Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)

**The next VCOC Meeting will be Virtual and is scheduled for July 11, 2024**

**COMMUNITY**

**Right:** This is a NEW way to pickup your Rx. Starting about June 10<sup>th</sup> you will be able to skip the line for NON-Refrigerated items.

If you are getting refrigerated Prescriptions, such as insulin, then you will still pick up those meds at the manned windows.



**2024 JROTC Contacts/Award Ceremonies**

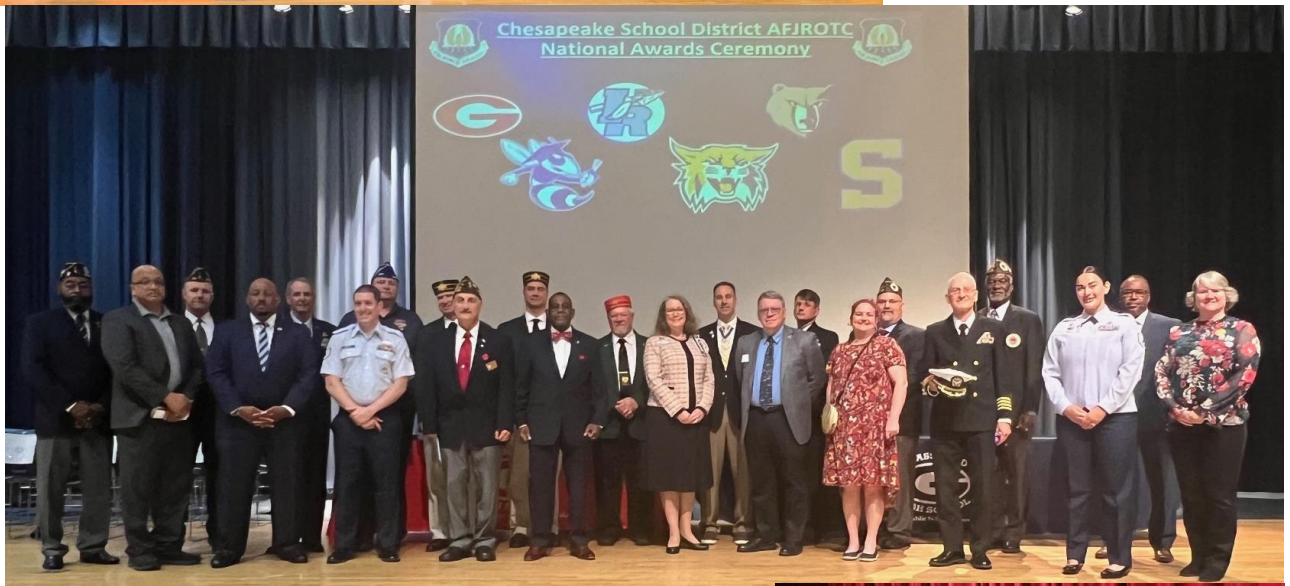
Updated 5/6/2024

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>CAPT Valerie Parker</b> Cadet Alexandria Lepelletier
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> Cadet De'Vonte Peterson
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>NO award ceremony this year</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	<b>23 May 2024</b> <b>1345 Library</b>	<b>COL Irv Lindley</b> Cadet 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. James Daniel McAuthur
Nansemond River HS <b>AFJROTC</b> <a href="mailto:davidhedger@spsk12.net">davidhedger@spsk12.net</a> <a href="mailto:sheldonpowdar@spsk12.net">sheldonpowdar@spsk12.net</a>	LtCol David Hedger <b>SGT Sheldon Powdar</b> (moved from Lakeland HS)	757-923-4101	<b>8 May 2024</b> <b>7 pm – 8:30 pm</b>	<b>CAPT Bruce LaLonde</b> Cadet/Maj Jazmine Trujillo
Kings Fork HS <a href="mailto:lynnprimeaux@spsk12.net">lynnprimeaux@spsk12.net</a>	<b>NJROTC instructor started 2 Jan 2024.</b> <b>Setting up program</b> CDR Lynn Primeaux	757-923-5240 <b>Scholarship info to</b> <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</b> <b>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	No response to several phone calls and emails as of 4/19/24	



**LEFT:** CAPT Rick Titi USN (Ret), presented 6 cadets with MOAA JROTC Leadership Certificates and MOAA Medals at the Chesapeake Public Schools AFJROTC Awards Night.



**Above:** Group shot of all presenters at the CPS Chesapeake Public Schools JROTC Awards night May7, 2024

**Right:** PACMOAA PRESIDENT, CAPT Bruce LaLonde USN (Ret), presenting the MOAA JROTC Leadership Award to Cadet/Maj Jazmine Trujillo, Nansemond River HS on May 8<sup>th</sup>, and to Cadet De'Vonte Peterson, from IC Norcom HS, (Lower right)



**Left & Below:** picture of CAPT Valerie Parker, USN (Ret) presenting the MOAA JROTC Leadership Award to Cadet Alexandria Lepelletier, Churchland HS, May 14, 2024.



**Not Pictured:** COL Irv Lindley USA (Ret), presented the MOAA JROTC Leadership Award to Cadet 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. James Daniel McAuthor on May 23, 2024

## PACMOAA Scholarship Committee Update June 2024

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 facilitate the review process. After 2 years of only having 2 applicants apply, eight seniors applied this year from schools in Portsmouth, Suffolk, Chesapeake and Smithfield. Most of the applicants were in JROTC and very involved in school and community activities as well as in sports.



Left: 2021 Scholarship Winner Jade Lewis with her parents, June speaker Councilman Don Carey, and her AFJROTC Instructor, Lt Col Wendler from Great Bridge HS.

Thanks to the generous contribution of our members, PACMOAA will be able to award two \$2000 scholarships this year! Usually, they are for \$1500. **The students are very competitive and the committee is still deliberating on the winners. Please join us at the 13 June Annual Dinner Recognizing the Scholarship winners and their families.**

**NOTE:** The Lakeland HS AFJROTC Color Guard will be joining us.

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

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

## PROGRAMS

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!!!***



### 2024 Tri-Chapter Brunch



The Portsmouth Area Chapter (PAC), Peninsula Chapter (VIP), and the Hampton Roads Chapter (HRC) of MOAA are hosting a brunch buffet in the Magnolia Room at Atlantic Shores Retirement Community, Virginia Beach, from **1000 – 1300 on Sunday, July 14, 2024.**

Atlantic Shores' address is 1200 Atlantic Shores Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23454

#### Brunch Buffet includes:

Scrambled Eggs

Savory Breakfast Casserole

Bacon and Sausage

Hash Browns

Omelet Station

Waffle Station with Whipped Cream, Cherry Pie Filling, Syrup, Butter

Fresh Fruit Platter (Strawberries, Grapes, Cantaloupe, Honeydew, Pineapple)

Blueberry muffins

Caesar Salad

Chicken Salad Croissants

Pasta Salad

Coffee, Tea, Orange Juice, Apple Juice

Cash Bar will be available for additional beverages.

#### **Casual Attire**

Brunch is \$30.00 per person which includes tax and gratuity.

Payment at the door with cash or check made out to HRCMOAA.

**Reservations are required NLT noon on Tuesday, July 9, 2024**

via email to [HRCMOAA@gmail.com](mailto:HRCMOAA@gmail.com) or via phone to Loren Heckelman at 757-646-6448.

HRCMOAA must pay for the number of people registered.

**A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID!**

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

On June 6<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the landing of Allied Troops on the beaches of Normandy which marked the beginning of the end of World War II and the hope for freedom for Europe. To coumarate this, I quote the famous words of the Supreme Allied commander given to the troops prior to their departure.

*“Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle hardened. He will fight savagely. I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full victory!*

*Good Luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking”*

*General Dwight D. Eisenhower*



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



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

**THAT'S A WRAP FOR JUNE-JULY 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>	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: \_\_\_\_\_