



# The Salute online



Monthly newsletter of the Portsmouth Area Chapter, an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America, serving Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Smithfield and Franklin, Virginia, since 1983. Dinner meetings are held the Second Thursday of each month except July and August.

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[thesalutel@gmail.com](mailto:thesalutel@gmail.com)

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

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## PAGE ONE

It's June again and a time when everyone celebrates Dads and Grads. As military families, we also observe with special appreciation: D-day, Flag Day and the birthday of the US Army, the oldest military branch of service by four months. MOAA has made some progress on the National level concerning erosion of pay and benefits. After viewing the videos on pages 8 and 9 by MOAA President Lt Gen Dana Atkins, the fact that only 8000 of total MOAA membership responded to a request to Take Action did not escape my attention. I am certain we can do better. Remember that use of the [Take Action Now](#) link to the MOAA Legislative Action Center on page one of our website is NOT limited to PACMOAA members. Spouses and children, who "also serve", should also respond as can concerned friends. Please be more active in the second half of the year by using and sharing our link with family and friends. Congress responds best to large numbers.



Left to Right are CDR Ken App USN (Ret), PACMOAA 1st VP for Programs, RADM Christopher W. Cole, USN (Ret), President Navy Safe Harbor Foundation, and COL Hal Hostetler USA (Ret), PACMOAA President.

Last month six PACMOAA members attended the VCOC and MOAA sponsored Annual Congressional Appreciation Luncheon.

The food was great and the information shared by the legislators was very enlightening.

Locally, we extend many thanks to RADM Christopher W. Cole, USN (Ret), President Navy Safe Harbor Foundation, for taking the time to speak at our May dinner about the foundation. Most attending were not familiar with the workings of the foundation and asked many questions. Remember our scholarship banquet is on Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup>. This special dinner co-sponsored by USAA is one of our two special dinners of the year. The scholarship recipients this year are Mackenzie Scalon and Jessica Blanchard. Special thanks to PACMOAA members who took time to present MOAA Medals to local JROTC Cadets.

It is a pleasure to report Bettye Hussey was appointed our new Surviving Spouse Liaison. Betty is also a newly elected Board Member this year.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**Martha L Anderson  
Rosalyn V Gardiner  
Charles E Kuehn  
Charles Whitehurst Sr.**



**Bettye Hussey**

Everyone have a safe relaxing summer. Don't forget our summer brunch, details to be announced soon. We will reconvene in September refreshed and ready to resume our efforts.

## NEVER STOP SERVING

## Chapter Happenings

PACMOAA  
Leadership  
[DIRECTORY](#)

<b>June 06 D-Day observed</b>	<b>June 14 Flag Day</b>
<b>June 09 PACMOAA Banquet</b>	<b>June 19 Father's Day</b>
<b>June 14 US Army Birthday</b>	<b>June 20 Summer solstice</b>

### JUNE DINNER

Our scholarship banquet will be held on **Thursday, 9 June** at the Hilton Garden Inn (HGI) Ballroom at 5921 Harbour View Boulevard in Northern Suffolk. [LINK TO HGI](#) for an excellent map, GPS information and HGI contacts. Social hour will begin at 1800 with dinner at 1900.

#### MENU

**Caesar Salad with Parmesan Cheese and Croutons**  
**Chicken Marsala**  
**Mashed Potatoes Broccoli Rolls**  
**Chef's Choice Dessert**  
**Coffee and Hot Water for Tea Station**  
**Water and Ice Tea**

Cost is **\$40.00** (includes tax and gratuity) Please make your reservation no later than **Sunday, 5 June** with Sherry Ferki. Come join us for good company, good food and a good time. **REMEMBER A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID.** Please request any special diet requirements when making your reservation.

### JUNE PROGRAM

Our Annual Scholarship banquet will open with the Smithfield Army JROTC Color Guard presenting the colors. After a delicious meal with the scholarship recipients and their families CAPT Gordan Van Hook, USN (Ret), a PACMOAA member will talk about his experience with the pirating of the Norfolk based Maersk Alabama.

Gordan Van Hook is currently the sole proprietor of his own consulting firm, Maritime Insights, LLC. In that capacity he serves as the country agent for his primary client, Odense Maritime Technology A/S (OMT). OMT is a spin off Danish company from the former AP Moeller-Maersk shipbuilder, Odense Steel Shipbuilding (OSS). In the past year, Gordan has been assisting OMT in developing their US business which includes shipyard optimization and naval architecture. OMT has been providing design services to the US Flagged subsidiary, Maersk Line, Limited (MLL) in their conversion of the M/V Cragside which will be chartered to the Military Sealift Command as a maritime support vessel (MSV).



Prior to working with OMT, Gordan worked for Maersk Line, Limited for six years as their Senior Director of Ship Management and Chartering and previously as Senior Director, Innovation and Concept Development. At MLL, Gordan worked on a number of maritime security and maritime domain aware-



ness projects which included several Afloat Forward Staging Base (AFSB) concepts based on container ship conversions, Global Fleet Stations, and various sealift and support vessel concepts. In 2009, Gordan headed the Maersk Crisis Action Team in Mombasa, Kenya during the Maersk Alabama hijacking incident.

Prior to his work with MLL, Gordan served in the United States Navy for 29 years as a surface warfare officer. In his last job with the Navy, he was the Executive Director of the CNO Executive Panel, a group of 35 leaders from government, industry and academia that provide independent advice to the CNO. At sea, Gordan served in destroyers and frigates. In 1988, he was Chief Engineer in USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS (FFG-58) when she struck a mine in the Persian Gulf and he was awarded the Bronze Star with V for his actions to save the ship. He commanded USS OBANNON (DD-987). He served as the Operations Officer for Fifth Fleet/COMUSNAVCENT to launch the initial strikes of Operation Enduring Freedom after 9/11. He also commanded Destroyer Squadron 23 and served as Sea Combat Commander for the Nimitz Carrier Strike Group. Ashore, Gordan served at NATO, OPNAV, and on the CNO Strategic Studies Group. He holds a BS from Texas A&M University, an MS from Naval Post Graduate School in Information Systems, and an MA from the Naval War College in National Security and Strategic Studies.

The evening will be highlighted with the presentation of this year's scholarships. It is always a pleasure to meet these outstanding young people and listen to their plans.



We again have the pleasure of thanking USAA for being a co-sponsor of this year's scholarship banquet celebrating the brilliant young people heading for military careers. It would not be as splendid without USAA help. I have been a USAA member for 50 years and appreciate this help as another USAA benefit.

## 2016 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Scholarship Committee again reviewed applications of several amazing applicants for one of two PACMOAA scholarships. Grade point averages ranged from 3.5 to 4.7. Only with great difficulty, were two awardees selected from this outstanding group of students. It is only through last minute generosity of several PACMOAA members we are

able to award the second scholarship this year.

Mackenzie Scalon is graduating from Great Bridge High School in Chesapeake with plans to attend the University of Virginia Air Force ROTC program focusing on a medical field career after graduation. Mackenzie has been very involved in varsity sports as Captain of the field hockey team and a member of the indoor track team. She stayed active in sports while in Rota Spain for a year (2014-2015) as Captain of the Varsity Cross Country Team and participated in Varsity Outdoor track. She also belonged to a NJROTC Color guard and was active in many school organizations such as Future Educators of America and International Club. Her academic performance in Rota was as amazing as her athletic abilities and was selected to attend the Department of Defense International Student Leadership Institute in 2015. Back in Great Bridge her interests included community Field Hockey which she coached. Mackenzie is a member of several organizations including the National Honor Society and German Club. She is also involved in many community activities: CHKD Junior Circle and Young Life Youth Group in addition to working at Dairy Queen.

Jessica Blanchard is graduating from Woodrow Wilson High School in Portsmouth as the Salutatorian and planning to attend Texas A & M. Her goal is to study civil engineering in the Air Force ROTC and U.S. Air Force commission as a civil engineer. Jessica is very active and rapidly rose from a Cadet Platoon Sergeant to Cadet Squad Leader in three semesters receiving numerous AJROTC awards and medals. She is deeply involved in school organizations holding leadership positions in Latin Club, Math Club, National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society. Jessica has many academic awards: Excellence in Latin, Excellence in Earth Science and Oceanography and as a graduate of the American Legion Auxiliary Virginia Girls State in 2015. In addition to excelling in her classes, Jessica is a tutor for the math department as well as being student assistant to the Latin teacher. Volunteer activities include New Hanover County Hospice volunteer and working with a Vacation Bible School.

Mackenzie and Jessica exemplify the characteristics that make great military officers. PACMOAA extends congratulations to both students and best wishes for successful careers as Military Officers!

## 2016 MOAA MEDAL RECIPIENTS

School	Director	Date	Cadet
<b>CHESAPEAKE</b>			
Deep Creek HS	MAJ Pearman	May	<b>Justin Porter</b>
Great Bridge HS	MAJ Kevin Gore	May	<b>Griffith Alford</b>
Indian River HS	Lt Col Thomas Martin	May	<b>Robert Milvo</b>
Oscar Smith HS	Col Bacon	May	<b>Javelle Crite</b>
Western Branch HS	Col Mike Kloski	May	<b>Janee Robinson</b>
Grassfield HS	Lt Col Gordon Strong	May	<b>Michael Dorey</b>
<b>PORTSMOUTH</b>			
Churchland HS	Lt Col Paul Pratt	June	<b>Cadet 1 Sgt Avery Harrell</b>
I.C. Norcom HS	CWO2 Joseph Redwood	May	<b>Cadet Tania Jennings</b>
Woodrow Wilson HS	LTC Chailendreaia Dickins	May	<b>Cadet SFC Jessica Blanchard</b>
<b>SUFFOLK</b>			
Lakeland HS	Maj Dale Blake	May	<b>Kaveli Griffin</b>
Nansemond River	Lt Col David Hedger	May	<b>1 LT Nia Chung</b>
<b>SMITHFIELD HS</b>	LTC Badoiam 1SGT Marvin Hunter	May	<b>Cadet CPL Matthew Lemon</b>



MOAA Junior ROTC Medals are used to recognize an outstanding cadet or midshipman in his or her next-to-last year in the program who has demonstrated exceptional potential for military leadership (exceptional academic achievement in the case of the Marine Corps JROTC program.) The medal cannot be used for any other purpose. All military services offi-

cially have approved the medal for presentation.

*The Salute* congratulates these young people for demonstrating outstanding leadership and academic achievement. We also thank PACMOAA members MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret.), COL Harold Hostetler USA (Ret.), CAPT Richard J Titi, USN (Ret), and CDR Kenneth App, USN (Ret.) for taking the time to represent PACMOAA and MOAA by personally presenting students their medals. The medal represents positive military recognition among their peers and the community.



CDR Kenneth App, USN (Ret.) and PACMOAA 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president presented the MOAA Medal at Nansemond River HS on May 4th, 2016. In the group photo after the ceremony, he is the distinguished gentleman 5th in from the left. Awardee, Cadet 1 LT Nia Chung, is to the far right next to the Command Sergeant. A DAR medal was also awarded that morning to a different cadet.



Left to right are PACMOAA presenter CAPT Richard J Titi, USN (Ret), USAF Maj Dale Blake JROTC Program Director, and awardee Cadet Kaveli Griffin at Lakeland High School in Suffolk.

### [WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR AREA?](#)

The Salute has added this link to find events of interest in Hampton Roads and Virginia. The link is set for the current issue, but once in the website you can control of many search filters for events and dates. Try it; I think you will find it useful, especially if you are new to the area.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by Bob Steerts, Chaplain

### A MONUMENTAL TASK

*The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were Treated and Appreciated by their nation.*

George Washington

Everyone has had a dream. Some people dream of fame, some of political or military success. Some achieve their desire; some do not.

More than twenty years ago, I had a dream that most people viewed as unattainable. It was to create a national memorial honoring Vietnam veterans. A memorial that would bear the names of the fifty-eight thousand Americans who died in the war - not to politicize about rightness or wrongness - but to honor service rendered by the veterans.

It would not be a government-sponsored edifice. It would be the "people's memorial", built only if individual Americans contributed the

necessary funds.

In 1979, I was told that the dream and the plan were too radical to succeed. Yet in November 1982 - just three years later - the national Vietnam Veterans memorial was dedicated on the Mall in Washington, D.C. in the shadow of the Lincoln Memorial. Vietnam veterans, at long last, were recognized by a nation once too bitterly divided over the war to thank those who served.

Having been an infantryman in Vietnam, I know firsthand about how Vietnam veterans felt. Many returned ostracized for serving in that controversial war. Many returned physically disabled, condemned to spend lives in wheelchairs. Others with emotional problems or concerns about Agent Orange returned to an indifferent and seemingly uncaring nation. Others never returned at all.

Vietnam veterans had not been treated well. It would certainly take more than a memorial to change this, but it could be a beginning.

The effort was not an easy one. I remember how my heart sank when, on July 4, 1979, Roger Mudd announced on the *CBS Evening News* that only \$144.50 had been raised for the planned national Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The story, however, attracted the attention of the right people. One was Jack Wheeler, a West point graduate with an M.B.A. from Harvard and a Yale Law degree. Coincidentally, he had just completed a memorial effort at West Point. He assembled a group of extraordinary Vietnam veterans in Washington, D.C., and within a few months our organization, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial fund, was moving at full steam.

One goal was crucial to success - approval to build on two acres near the Lincoln Memorial. We moved into the political arena and soon found that the United States congress could be a rather difficult group to deal with. After eight months of exasperating effort, President Jimmy Carter signed the legislation into law

at a ceremony in the White House Garden on a hot July day in 1980.

Next, we considered the design. The Memorial Fund held a competition and set four criteria: the design had to (1) be reflective and contemplative in character, (2) harmonize with its surroundings, (3) display the names of all who died or remain missing in Vietnam, and (4) make no political statement about the war. Of the 1,421 entries, one submitted by Maya Ying Lin, an architecture student at Yale, was the unanimous choice. Her design was a chevron-shaped, polished black granite wall to be build below the earth's surface. The winning design of the largest architectural competition in the U.S. history was unconventional but beautiful because of its size, simplicity and the prominent display of the names of our war dead.

With the design chosen, the next hurdle was to find money to fund the project. The prospects of raising the massive \$7 million needed for the construction were not good. Previous efforts had not shown Vietnam to be a popular cause. Saving wildlife, conquering disease and funding political races were proven money raisers, but not Vietnam.

Yet the project gained momentum. Two large donations brought in \$1.5 million. All at once, tens of thousands of individuals began contributing. The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars sponsored fund-raising events. Individual Americans organized bake sales and yard sales.

Then controversy struck. The memorial's unique design became an object of angry debate. Suddenly we felt as if we were fighting the Vietnam War over again. In January 1982, twenty-seven members of congress asked President Reagan to stop the memorial from being constructed.

Thanks to Senator John Warner of Virginia, a compromise reached, incorporating a flag and a statue in the design. Political opposition sub-

## NEWS FROM VCOC

### 2016 CONGRESSIONAL APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

At O dark thirty on May 18<sup>th</sup> PACMOAA President COL Hal Hostetler and LTC Shirley Barker departed Portsmouth in a driving rain with *The Salute* photographer at the helm of the PACmobile. They were heading to the Capitol Hill Club in Washington, D.C. as representatives of PACMOAA to the 31st annual Virginia Congressional Appreciation Luncheon hosted by VCOC and MOAA. Three other PACMOAA members representing VCOC that traveled separately are COL Steven Turner, USAF (Ret), VCOC president, LCDR Dolores A Cherrington USN (Ret.), VCOC 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president and LTC James Stephan USAF (Ret.), VCOC treasurer. There they joined with members of the Virginia congressional delegation who discussed key state and national defense-related legislative issues with leaders representing 16 MOAA chapters from the Commonwealth and 100 plus other attendees.

The legislators addressing the assembly (listed by district) included Representatives Rob Wittman, R-1st District; Scott Rigell, R-2nd District; Randy Forbes, R-4th District; Robert Hurt, R-5th District; Bob Goodlatte, R-6th District; David Brat, R-7th District; Don Beyer, D-8th District; Morgan Griffith, R-9th District; Barbara Comstock, R-10th District; and Gerry Connolly, D-11th District.

Retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, president and CEO of MOAA, also took the opportunity to thank Congress for championing veterans issues saying, "They do their very best to find the middle ground that our nation can support." He went on to summarize some of the challenges Congress faces, which put personnel accounts at risk. Citing a recent Congressional Budget Office report, Atkins described almost \$270 billion worth of pressure mounting on the defense budget caused by the

Budget Control Act and cost overruns associated with military operations and maintenance accounts and procurement and acquisition.

VCOC President Steve Turner presented Congressman Hurt with the VCOC Annual Legislative Award for his faithful support and loyal service regarding veterans and military compensation and benefits legislation. In 2015, Hurt introduced the Veterans Administration Legislative and Objective Review (VALOR) Act, which requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to undergo a biannual, independent audit by a non-governmental entity.



Left to right are Representative Robert Hurt with VCOC Annual Legislative Award, COL Vic Pena from the Central Virginia Chapter, and COL Steve Turner.



COL Turner also presented the Annual Minuteman Award to Col. Brian Anderson, USAF (Ret), deputy director, Council and Chapter Affairs, for outstanding support and loyal service to VCOC members during the past year.

The PACmobile returned safely to Hampton Roads at 1830 after a brief stop for petrol, snacks, coffee and a good stretch.

## NEWS FROM MOAA

### SURVIVING SPOUSE NEWS

By Anne Hartline, MOAA SSAC

Many dishonest people work diligently every day to gather information illegally to steal identities and money. To help protect yourself from fraud, be aware: Do not open suspicious emails, carefully read emails from agencies and businesses that appear to be legitimate, and cautiously answer telephone calls from unknown individuals. In addition, do not deposit checks that come in the mail from unfamiliar sources. USAA, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and banks are three of the most commonly targeted sources for scams. Some clever thieves now can show USAA, IRS, and the names of banks on the telephone caller ID and send emails that look authentic. In 2014, USAA shut down 6,724 fraudulent websites. According to the Federal Trade Commission, from 2013 to 2014, IRS scams increased by 20 percent, with more than 54,000 Americans being targeted in 2014. In addition, almost daily, media reports scams involving banks and bogus checks.

USAA advises that legitimate communications from their company always will have a "USAA Security Zone" stamp. Look for your name and the last four digits of your member number. Like all security cautions from any source that might be compromised, USAA directs that you should not reply to any email with personal information, such as passwords, Social Security numbers, credit card numbers, or bank account numbers. If you receive suspicious communications from USAA, contact them at (877) 762-7256 or forward suspicious email communications to [abuse@usaa.com](mailto:abuse@usaa.com).

Fraudulent IRS agents can be quite intimidating. They call and state back taxes are owed and say the only way to avoid jail is to pay back taxes and fines immediately. Then they offer various methods of transferring the money. Sometimes the con artists take a positive

approach, telling people they have a refund due and then asking for personal information. If you receive a suspicious IRS call, assume it is a scam. The IRS *does not call* people about back taxes or refunds; you will receive notice via a mailed letter. The IRS also does not solicit information by email, text, or social media. If you are contacted by phone, report the incident to the U.S. Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at (800) 366-4484. If you are contacted by email, forward the message directly to the IRS at [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov).

Wells Fargo has excellent information on their website regarding bank fraud and scams, including tips on how to protect yourself, such as:

- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Do your homework before cashing checks received in the mail from unknown sources. Call the bank, and independently research an individual, company, or check to verify legitimacy.
- If you receive an email asking for money, forward it to your local police department.
- Shred documents containing personal or financial information before discarding. Many fraud and identity theft incidents happen as a result of mail and garbage theft.
- Promptly retrieve incoming mail, and place outgoing mail with financial information in a U.S. Postal Service mailbox, instead of your home mailbox.
- Consider paperless options for your bills and financial information.

Remember, be alert and question any suspicious communication to help protect yourself from fraud and scams.



MOAA President & CEO Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins (ret.)

## TRICARE RX COSTS JUMP

The following chart shows how much various copays will changed on Feb 1 under the TRICARE pharmacy program, as required by the FY2016 Defense Authorization Act.

### 2016 TRICARE Rx Rates

	2015 rates	2016 rates
Retail (30 day supply)		
Generic	\$8	<b>\$10</b>
Brand name	\$20	<b>\$24</b>
Non-formulary	\$47	<b>\$50</b>
Mail-Order (90 day supply)		
Generic	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Brand name	\$16	<b>\$20</b>
Non-formulary	\$46	<b>\$49</b>
MTF	\$0	<b>\$0</b>



TRICARE is taking center stage this year, with Congress [promising reform](#).

MOAA will continue to focus on ensuring any TRICARE reform sustains top-quality care. Any fee-adjustment formula must recognize that military beneficiaries prepay very large premiums for their lifetime coverage through decades of service and sacrifice.

TRICARE Young Adult (TYA) - the Military Health System's benefit plan which covers adult children between the ages of 21 and 26 - increased premiums as of January 1.

The following chart shows the new rates, and the (hefty) percentage increase.

	2015 Annual Premium	2016 Annual Premium	Annual Change (\$)	Annual Change (%)
TRICARE Prime	\$2,496	\$3,672	+\$1,176	<b>+47%</b>
TRICARE Standard	\$2,172	\$2,736	+\$564	<b>+26%</b>

The TYA program is required to charge its young adult beneficiaries premiums that cover the full government cost of coverage. Unlike most other insurance plans in the country, TYA is legally not able to spread its costs over the larger pool of insured beneficiaries.

This year's premiums represent - for the first time - the actual cost of providing care to the TYA population. The result for military families, many with more than one child who needs coverage, is that they are paying much more than their civilian counterparts.

MOAA will be seeking ways to ease this increasingly unfair cost burden.

[View a message from MOAA President.](#)

## Action Alert

Act Now to Block Harmful DoD Budget Proposals. DoD's FY17 defense budget proposes a number of significant changes to military pay and benefits. If enacted as a whole, these proposals will curtail the military pay raise and raise retired families' health costs. If you do not use the internet please use the message below to urge your legislators by phone or mail to avoid imposing disproportional financial sacrifices on those who serve and have served.

"I write urging you to protect military beneficiaries against disproportionate financial sacrifice.

I support reform of the military health care system to ensure it delivers timely, high-quality care. Unfortunately, the FY17 defense budget focuses heavily on shifting more costs to beneficiaries and is light on specifics for addressing well-documented access and other problems. Collectively, the proposals could raise many retired families' annual health costs 50%-100%.

I'm also concerned the budget proposes capping military pay raises below the average American's for the fourth year in a row. Service senior enlisted leaders recently told Congress this is starting to cause morale problems.

Please do all that you can to ensure Congress fairly treats current and retired service families who already have sacrificed so much for our country and deserve the highest quality in health care."

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ACTION ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE !**

(Continued from page 6) **A MONUMENTAL TASK**

sided. The groundbreaking took place on March 26, 1982, and less than eight months later; America gave Vietnam veterans the homecoming they deserved.

Thousands of Vietnam veterans crowded the nation's capital for the "National Salute to Vietnam Veterans", week of reunions and reconciliations climaxing with the dedication of the memorial on November 13, 1982. Two years later, *Three Servicemen*, Frederick E. Hart's heroic-size statue, was dedicated on the memorial site, and a flagpole added nearby. Finally, on Veteran's Day 1984, President Ronald Reagan accepted the memorial as a gift to the nation from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

The Wall, which will forever honor the more than 2 million Vietnam veterans who served and sacrificed for their country, has become one of the most visited national shrines. It is a thing of beauty that one can only truly appreciate by experiencing its strength and power and by viewing one's own reflection in the names of those who fell in Vietnam.

I knew many of those who died in my infantry unit. I have found their names among the many thousands inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans memorial. They will never see their memorial, but they will never be forgotten.

The dream is now a reality.

Jan Craig Scruggs

From *Chicken Soup for the Veteran's soul*

## REFLECTIONS FOR FATHER'S DAY

A man in Phoenix calls his son in New York the day before Thanksgiving and says, "I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you that I am divorcing your mother; forty-five years of misery is enough.

"Pop, what are you talking about?" the son screams.

The father says, "We can't stand the sight of each other any longer. We're sick of each other

and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Chicago and tell her."

Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone. "Like heck they're getting divorced," she shouts, "I'll take care of this."

She calls Phoenix immediately, and screams at her father, "You are NOT getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?!" and hangs up.

The old man hangs up his phone, turns to his wife and says, "OKAY! They're coming for Thanksgiving and paying their own way."

"Fathers are the great gift-givers of the world!"— Mrs. John Bruce Dodd, founder of Father's Day

"One father is worth more than a hundred schoolmasters." George Herbert

## Thanks for the Soda, Pop!

Before I took the old family car to college, my father loaded the trunk with soft-drink bottles filled with oil, coolant and transmission fluid. Sure enough, my car overheated. Scolding myself for not listening to my father's instructions, I looked at the engine and saw how well he knew me. The oil cap was labeled Dr Pepper, the transmission stick, Coke, and the empty coolant tank, Diet Pepsi. I finished the trip safely. — Submitted by C G Alexander

## Pop Vs. Pup

While flying from Denver to Kansas City, Kansas, my mother was sitting across the aisle from a woman and her eight-year-old son. Mom couldn't help laughing as they neared their destination and she heard the mother say to the boy, "Now remember. Run to Dad first, THEN the dog." Submitted by Karla J. Kasper

## THAT'S A WRAP FOR JUNE