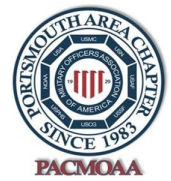




# The Salute Online



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 XLV Issue I

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

JANUARY 2026

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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



PACMOAA Family:

PACMOAA family-What a way to end the year,,Our December meeting was fantastically festive, full of fellowship and highlighted by Christmas music provided by the Tidewater Concert Band.

Moving forward, the leadership team is working overtime to populate our 2026 dinner meetings with meaningful and informative speakers--already we have scheduled the Executive Director of the Fisher House, the Commanding Officer of the Old Dominion University Navy ROTC Unit, the Commanding Officer of the Portsmouth Naval Regional Medical Center and for January the New President of the MOAA Virginia Council of Chapters, CAPT Mary Lou Wessel, USN (Ret).

Thank you for being a part of our growing and truly caring PACMOAA family...Anchors aweigh.

Bruce

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



**Right: The 2026 Leadership Team,** (L-R) MAJ Sherry Ferki, CAPT Jim Hoffower, CDR Ken App, PACMOAA President, CAPT Bruce LaLonde, Mrs. Mary Snyder, COL Irv Lindley, CDR Mike Riley, CDR Hans Sachse, and CDR Scott Dickinson. **Mary Snyder** received the Service Bear for the month.  
**Below:** CAPT Bruce LaLonde with Teresa Wilfong and Lois Yandle.



**Below:** Listening to the Tidewater Concert Band.



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

**PACMOAA  
LEADERSHIP**  
For Leadership, please see  
Leadership Pulldown

## CHAPTER NEWS

### JANUARY

- 01 New Years Day
- 04 [USPHS 137<sup>th</sup> Birthday](#) [Commissioned Corps \(1889\)](#)
- 08 **PACMOAA Officer Installation**, Speaker VCOC President, CAPT Mary Lou Wassel, USN (Ret)
- 13 First Quarter VCOC Meeting, Virtual, 1500-1700
- 15 PACMOAA 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Board Meeting Virtual 1500
- 16 Persian Gulf War Begins 1991
- 19 M.L. King Jr. Day
- 28 [USCG 111<sup>th</sup> Birthday \(1915\)](#)
- 29 Vietnam Cease Fire (1973)

### HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY'S

**Alice Fticar     Barb Iiams     Rick Titi**  
**Jeff Westling     Van White     Frank Womble**

### January Officer Installation Dinner Meeting

will be held on **Thursday, January 8<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*

*Caesar Salad*

*Lemon Pepper Chicken*

*Grilled Salmon*

*Jasmine Rice*

*Sauteed Vegetables*

*Corn Bread & Honey Butter*

*Apple Cobbler*

*Tea, Sweet Tea, Coffee, Lemonade and Water*

**Cost is \$25** (includes gratuity & tax). Cash bar available. Please make your reservation no later than **Sunday, January 4<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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[www.pacmoaa.org](http://www.pacmoaa.org)



## GUEST SPEAKER & INSTALLATION OFFICER



### CAPT Mary Lou Wassel

USN (Ret) Incoming VCOC-MOAA, President

Originally from Ohio, Mary Lou, joined the Navy at age 19, accepting a Nurse Corps Candidate Scholarship to pay for college. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree at Mount Saint Joseph University in Cincinnati, OH, and later used her GI Bill to earn a Master of Education Degree from George Mason University in Fairfax, VA.

During her 28-year Naval career, she served in a variety of assignments, including Command, finally retiring as a Captain (O-6). She was able to retire early from her civilian job 14 years later and has been actively working in support of the military community ever since.

As a Board member of the Richmond Area Chapter of MOAA for the past 12 years, she served as Legislative and Membership Chairs, President, Past-President, and Vice-President. She previously served on the Virginia Council of Chapters Board as Secretary (2016-17) and First Vice President (2018-19).

Mary Lou and her husband, Ray, reside in Providence Forge, VA, and have two daughters and four grandchildren.

## MEMBERSHIP

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE AND RENEWAL REMINDER JANUARY 2026

You can pay your dues in-person, by mail, or online. Dues should be mailed to PACMOAA, P.O. Box 5353, Portsmouth, VA 23703. Thank you to the many members that made a multiyear payment for dues!! Members that paid for 2 or 3 years in 2024 or earlier may need to renew this year. Remember, multiyear payments give you a discount. See attached dues renewal form at the end of the newsletter for details. **Only 1/3 of our members need to pay dues in 2026** and I will notify you via email or phone if you owe dues for this year. Thank you all for utilizing the multiyear form of payment, you have made my job collecting dues much easier!! If you're not sure if you owe dues, check with Hans Sachse or Sherry.

Your PACMOAA dues money enables PACMOAA to pay for things like the newsletter; speaker expenses; VCOC dues and expenses; admin expenses like name tags, printing, postage; and entertainment like the Tidewater Concert Band that performed at our Christmas Concert.

MOAA dues are paid separate from PACMOAA dues, and a significant portion of that money contributes to legislative advocacy. "MOAA advocates with Congress, DoD, the VA, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and other departments to **preserve and protect earned benefits for our uniformed services, veterans, their families, and surviving spouses through advocacy, leadership, education, and service**, fulfilling MOAA's promise to "Never Stop Serving." From <https://www.moaa.org/content/about-moaa/mission>.

MOAA has encouraged basic membership especially for new officers over the past 10 years or so as a way to show them the benefits of belonging. Unfortunately, basic membership does not help pay for the legislative advocacy MOAA does in Washington or any of the other expenses for maintaining the resources and benefits of the organization. Currently, about 20% of PACMOAA members are MOAA basic members. At the December MOAA Monthly Virtual Chapter Roundtable, it was stressed that chapters need to work on elevating their basic members to premium or life membership. With many of our members belonging to multiple service-related organizations it is difficult to keep track of your status with each one so I will remind members if they are basic members as well as providing information on how to change their membership status.

**Maintaining and/or increasing membership is essential** for a chapter to survive and thrive. The PACMOAA Goals in order are Membership, Legislative, and Community Activities. Without adequate membership, legislative advocacy and community involvement are severely impacted!

PACMOAA ended 2025 with 74 members – 59 regular and 15 Surviving Spouses, up from 67 in Dec 2024. New members increased also from 8 in 2024 to 9 in 2025! **Thank you all for helping with recruiting this year** and please continue to invite eligible colleagues, friends, or neighbors to a dinner meeting. This is a great way to introduce them to PACMOAA. Potential members can attend a dinner meeting for ½ the usual price. Please consider inviting potential members to our January meeting with our speaker from the Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC)!! Remind them that MOAA keeps them updated on national issues, **PACMOAA provides updates on state and local issues, including pharmacy issues!**



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

**2025 Scholarship winners, Dane Cunningham and Charli Albers, pictured to the left.**

### Reminder per Guidelines for Paying PACMOAA Dues/dinner/scholarship donation, 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 (or whatever category is appropriate)” 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. Hans Sachse is the PACMOAA Treasurer.

Submitted by : Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret) PACMOAA 2<sup>nd</sup> VP/Membership Chair  
[navmedarmynurse@gmail.com](mailto:navmedarmynurse@gmail.com) or 757-630-5608

## PERSONAL AFFAIRS/ SURVIVING SPOUSE

### PERSONAL AFFAIRS JANUARY 2026 PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Many of us know friends and/or family who are living with Parkinsons or died from complications associated with Parkinsons. As I've mentioned several times before, at least 5 of our longtime members have died in the past 3 years from complications associated with this disease. Kathryn Wiesmann, MPH, Chapter Coordinator for the *American Parkinsons Disease Association (APDA)* in Virginia spoke at the Lake Prince Woods Retired Nurses Group meeting recently. I knew there was an increased incidence in veterans especially from the Vietnam War due to Agent Orange, but herbicides and pesticides used in farming as well as head injuries are additional risk factors! Southern and rural areas have higher rates of Parkinsons as do older men.

I did not realize there are 3 different Parkinsons Foundations.

- *The Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research* at <https://www.michaeljfox.org/> focuses on research and also has educational webinars and material available.
- *Parkinson Foundation* at [info@parkinson.org](mailto:info@parkinson.org) conducts larger studies, provides numerous resources online and webinars. The Mid-Atlantic Office is located in Richmond at 410-849-6114 <https://www.parkinson.org/MidAtlantic>. They also list some specialists in the Hampton Roads and Richmond area.
- *American Parkinsons Disease Association* at [www.apdaparkinson.org/virginia](http://www.apdaparkinson.org/virginia), 757-495-3062. The 2 state representatives live in the Hampton Roads area and are readily available for assistance. This group provides grassroots support and assists with local activities.

Some of the resources and events APDA Virginia provides/supports include:

- *ADPA Virginia You Tube channel* that contains recordings of past programs and special lectures from the chapter. <https://www.youtube.com/@APDAvirginia>.
- *Upcoming Events* like Deep Brain Simulation Education Day at EVMS in February and Suffolk Optimism Walk Kick Off Fundraiser Party at Nansemond Brewing Company in April 2026.
- *Support Groups in Virginia* for people with Parkinson's, caregivers, and provider information - [Click Here](#) \*If you know of a group that you do not see listed here, please let us know! There are several virtual support groups as well as in person meetings in Newport News, Williamsburg, Smithfield, Franklin, and Virginia Beach. They are trying to start a group in Suffolk but need a leader.
- Movement Specialists and PD Neurologists in Hampton Roads
- [Sign Up Here to receive regular updates from APDA Virginia](#) on breaking news, research, updates, and upcoming events.
- If you would like to order any publications on Parkinson's disease and/or the Parkinson's Veterans Handbook, [you can download them to view online here](#), or to have a hard copy mailed to you, please call 757-495-3062. Publications are available in English, Spanish, and Simplified Chinese.



I will bring educational material from APDA to our meetings and will be happy to provide more information about the presentation if anyone is interested. I can be reached via [navmedarmynurse@gmail.com](mailto:navmedarmynurse@gmail.com) or at 757-922-7030.

Submitted by Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)  
PACMOAA 2nd VP/Membership Chair  
Personal Affairs Chair and Surviving Spouse Liaison

## MOAA & LEGISLATIVE

### Better Access to Your Health Care Benefit: A Look at the Military CARE Act

By: Kevin Lilley December 23, 2025 <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/health-care-and-earned-benefits/better-access-to-your-health-care-benefit-a-look-at-the-military-care-act/>

A bipartisan House bill introduced Dec. 17 would require the Pentagon to establish a digital system designed to improve access to care at military treatment facilities (MTFs) by providing greater data and transparency on beneficiary access challenges – a key MOAA legislative priority.

The [Military Care Access, Reporting, and Evaluation \(CARE\) Act](#) (H.R. 6796) mandates a system that:

- Allows all TRICARE beneficiaries to submit and track a complaint about MTF barriers to accessing care.
- Sends access complaints to the proper patient advocate.
- Aggregates those complaints for use by the Defense Health Agency (DHA) to help officials address widespread problems.

#### [TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your House Member to Support the Military CARE Act](#)]

“Without reliable data and transparency, access-to-care problems in the military health system remain unseen and unresolved,” MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), said [in a press release](#) announcing the bill’s introduction. “The Military CARE Act ensures beneficiary experiences are captured, tracked, and reported – giving leaders and Congress the visibility needed to identify systemic issues and drive meaningful, lasting improvements for military families.”

The bill, sponsored by Reps. Steven Horsford (D-Nev.), Jen Kiggans (R-Va.), Chrissy Houlahan (D-Pa.), and Don Bacon (R-Neb.), also requires reports on the most common access-to-care complaint filed at each MTF, along with deeper looks into specialty and pediatric care. It also mandates each facility provide “a summary of steps taken ... to reduce access to care complaints by covered beneficiaries.”

The Military CARE Act is the result of grassroots efforts – MOAA took this issue to Capitol Hill as part of the [2025 Advocacy in Action event](#). MOAA members from across the nation converged on Washington, D.C., in April to meet with lawmakers and advance our legislative agenda, including improving access to health care for military families.

### Why This System Matters

Military families face multiple hurdles navigating a complex health care benefit – everything from frequent PCS moves to an [unstable military health system](#). Many reach a new duty station only to be greeted by MTF appointment shortages and referral delays ... and patient-advocacy resources at these facilities vary widely across the force.

The establishment of a systemwide digital platform would help all beneficiaries know where to go with their complaints, ensure their issues are forwarded to individuals who can help them secure their earned health care benefit, and compile data to help DHA leaders and Congress address problems – whether it's a single MTF facing a series of challenges or a forcewide issue faced by beneficiaries in multiple locations.

[RELATED: [MOAA's TRICARE Guide](#)]

Congress mandated a similar system in 2019 to address military family housing concerns amid increased reports of hazardous living conditions. The [DoD Housing Feedback System](#) offers a centralized database for tenant complaints, landlord responses, and actionable data that can shed light on widespread problems.

“This bipartisan bill gives military families a real voice, gives providers the tools to respond quickly, and gives Congress the oversight needed to ensure servicemembers and their loved ones are never left behind,” Horsford said in the press release. “When we support our families, we strengthen the entire force.”

Existing systems, such as the [Interactive Customer Evaluation \(ICE\)](#) application, may field some TRICARE access-related complaints, but they are used infrequently, lack consistency in how submissions are handled, and have few reporting mandates. The establishment of a complete, transparent reporting platform will offer beneficiaries the tool they need to ensure their service-earned benefit is fully provided.

Our military families deserve timely care and a clear path to raise concerns when the system falls short,” Bacon said in the release. “The Military CARE Act gives servicemembers and their families a direct line to report care access issues and track their resolution, while ensuring Congress has the data needed to identify and fix systemic problems across the military health system.”

Alongside MOAA, the bill is supported by military and veterans organizations such as AMVETS, the National Military Family Association, the TRICARE for Kids Coalition, and Vietnam Veterans of America. You can add your voice to the cause by [reaching out to your House member today](#) via our Legislative Action Center and asking them to back the Military CARE Act.

## Long-Sought Fix for Combat-Wounded Veterans Takes New Path in Congress

By: Jen Goodale December 22, 2025 <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/advocacy/long-sought-fix-for-combat-wounded-veterans-takes-new-path-in-congress/>

The Major Richard Star Act, a bipartisan effort to fix a long-standing injustice in the military retirement and disability compensation system, has taken a significant procedural step in Congress as lawmakers look to move the issue forward before the end of the year.

The MOAA-supported bill ([H.R. 2102](#) | [S. 1032](#)) eliminates a dollar-for-dollar offset faced by servicemembers whose combat-related injuries force them to medically retire before the 20-year mark. Ending this “[wounded veteran tax](#)” would allow eligible veterans to receive both full retirement pay and full disability compensation.

In a strategic shift to advance the legislation in this session of Congress, Sens. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) have filed the text of the bill as an amendment to House-passed appropriations legislation ([H.R. 4016](#)).



[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Star Act Amendment \(Senate Amendment 4056\) to H.R. 4016](#)]

That House bill contains five of the [12 annual funding bills](#) often viewed as must-pass legislation for federal operations, including money for:

- Defense
- Commerce, Justice and Science
- Interior
- Labor/Health and Human Services
- Transportation/Housing and Urban Development

By offering the Major Richard Star Act as an amendment to this package, sponsors hope to give members of both chambers an opportunity to vote on the issue in the context of essential federal spending legislation.

### Why This Matters Now

Attaching the legislation to must-pass funding bills represents a key shift in advocacy strategy as the first session of 119th Congress winds down. Because the standalone bills have faced procedural hurdles over the past seven years, leveraging the appropriations process may provide the best remaining opportunity to secure floor consideration and a recorded vote in the coming weeks.

MOAA continues to highlight that this reform carries modest budgetary impact relative to its importance to veterans' families and supporters, and stresses that military retirement pay and disability compensation are distinct entitlements earned through service and sacrifice.

[MOAA ISSUE PAPER: [The Major Richard Star Act](#)]

### How MOAA Members Can Help

MOAA's advocacy remains focused on passing the Major Richard Star Act. We need your help to urge members of Congress to support inclusion of the bill's language as an amendment to the appropriations legislation, and to oppose procedural barriers that could derail progress. Grassroots engagement remains critical to maintaining momentum.

[Send a message to your lawmakers today](#), and keep track of this and other MOAA legislative priorities at [our advocacy news page](#).

## OTHER ARTICLES OF INTEREST

**Recruiting Off to "Strong Start" for Fiscal 2026, Pentagon Says** 23 Dec 2025 "The good news continues after every active duty force met its fiscal 2025 goal." <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/recommended-reads/recruiting-off-to-strong-start-for-fiscal-2026,-pentagon-says/>

**Military Pay Outlook: Why Smaller Increases Are Likely in Coming Years** 23 Dec 2025 "A key indicator released this month continues a downward trend." <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/finance/military-pay-outlook-why-smaller-increases-are-likely-in-coming-years/>

**Know a Veteran Facing Financial Trouble? These Resources May Help** 23 Dec 2025 "Learn more about the National Veterans Financial Resource Center." <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/finance/know-a-veteran-facing-financial-trouble-these-resources-may-help/>

**MOAA Response to VHA Restructuring Plan** 18 Dec 2025 "MOAA has been, and remains, supportive of identifying efficiencies and saving taxpayer money, as long as those savings do not come at the expense of our veterans." <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/advocacy/vha-restructure-statement-2025/>

**Here's When You Can Access Your Tax Statements** 17 Dec 2025 "Some retirees and annuitants already

can view materials via their myPay account. Servicemember documents will be available soon.”  
<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/finance/heres-when-you-can-access-your-2025-tax-statements/>

**Congress to Require Greater of Military Health Restructuring** 15 Dec 2025 “The must-pass defense policy bill adds years to a MOAA-supported ban on proposed cuts to medical personnel.”  
<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/health-care-and-earned-benefits/congress-to-require-greater-oversight-of-military-health-restructuring/>



Above Articles Submitted by:  
Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)  
PACMOAA 2nd VP/Membership Chair  
Asst Legislative Rep  
Cell 757-630-5608

## VCOC AND JLC

The Next VCOC Meeting will be Virtual on 13 January 2026 All Membership is invited to attend. If desired, please let Ken App know you would like to attend so he can provide you the Zoom Link for attendance.



Submitted By:  
Ken App  
CDR USN (Ret) PACMOAA VCOC Representative  
757-630-0886

## VCOC LEGISLATIVE REPORT & JLC UPDATE

### VIRGINIA MILITARY SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS EDUCATION PROGRAM (VMSDEP) UPDATE

As of 25 Dec 2025

Kayla Owens, the Co-Founder of the Friends of VMSDEP (your “official” grassroots advocacy organization per their Facebook page) was appointed to the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) in July 2025. Since the 2026 General Assembly Session will vote on a new budget, funding for VMSDEP will again be a target. The VMSDEP Working Group was established at the 10 Nov meeting of BVS and held meetings three times before the 17 Dec BVS meeting.

Recognizing drafting legislation requires one consistent, authoritative data set used by everyone (the General Assembly, institutions of higher education, and state agencies) the working committee wrote a draft white paper “to brief the incoming administration, transition team, and members of the General Assembly on VMSDEP’s history, what went wrong in 2024, and what needs to be fixed going forward”. They also recommended sending coordinated data request letters to the Dept of Veterans Services (DVS), SCHEV, and Virginia’s public colleges and universities requesting VMSDEP data and building an official record.

Both actions passed the BVS and then JLC. As a result of that vote, VMSDEP rose to the top of the JLC 2026 Initiatives per the 20 Dec 2025 posting of Kayla Owens! As of 25 December, the JLC Initiatives have not changed.  
<https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/about-us/boards-foundations/joint-leadership-council-of-veterans-service-organizations>.

This overview of the 2024 General Assembly attempted changes to the VMSDEP Program were included in the VMSDEP White Paper under *History and Eligibility Evolution of VMSDEP: 2024 – Budget language enacted*



during the regular legislative session temporarily altered program structure and benefit coordination. Following identified implementation challenges and unintended consequences, the Governor convened a VMSDEP Task Force to assess impacts and recommend solutions. In July 2024, during a special session, the

General Assembly fully repealed the enacted changes, restored VMSDEP to its prior statutory framework, and appropriated approximately \$120 million in state funding over the 2024–2026 biennium to offset losses reported by public institutions of higher education.

**NOTE:** No permanent funding mechanism was established as part of this action.

<https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/922/639015560125800000>

As we head into January, be aware that the General Assembly legislative session begins on **January 14** for a long, 60-day session and the first bills were filed in mid-November!

The **next BVS VMSDEP Working Group meeting will be held on January 9 at 9:00 a.m.**, with a **virtual attendance option** available. Additional details will be shared closer to the meeting.

We will keep members updated as soon as possible about any votes that you need to give feedback to your legislators related to VMSDEP. Making sure your senator and delegate know your stance on VMSDEP before it becomes a hot topic might be helpful. I will be happy to share the white paper on VMSDEP with anyone interested in it.

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

PACMOAA 2<sup>nd</sup> VP/Membership Chair and Assistant Legislative Rep

## CHRISTMAS GALA



**ABOVE: Members attending the Christmas GALA!** LTC Billy Jones, COL Irv Lindley, CDR Duane Close, Mrs. Lois Yandle, CWO4 Chuck Waggoner, MAJ Shalisa Davis, Mrs. Gladys Steorts, CDR Ken App, LCDR Paul Stott, CAPT Jim Follower, Mrs. Dena Cain, CDR Mike Riley CAPT Bruce LaLonde, PACMOAA President, MAJ Sherry Ferki, LtCol Paul Pratt, Mrs. Mary Snyder, CDR Scott Dickinson, CDR Hans Sachse, Mrs. Heather Dickinson, and Mrs. Eldeana Jones.



**Left:** CAPT Bruce LaLonde with LtCol Paul Pratt at the Toys for Tots Donation location. PACMOAA also collected Donations for Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless (PVH).



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- Home health and Hospice
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**Thank You Lake Prince Woods for Being a PACMOAA Sponsor**

Note: Hal >>>



## The Tidewater Concert Band

Below: CDR Ken & Donna App



**Above:** Check-in with Mary Snyder & Gladys Steorts



**Right:** LCDR Paul Stott & Dena Cain

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

## PROGRAMS

Please mark your calendars NOW for the Dinner Meetings listed below.

**08 January 2026**      **New PACMOAA Officer Installation by NEW VCOC President CAPT Mary Lou Wassell, USN (Ret)**

**12 February 2026**      **TBA**

**12 March 2026**      **TBA**

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

As we start the new year let me offer an inspirational poem by John Mark Green.

### BELL OF THE NEW YEAR

*Another year has come and gone  
Time does not wait, it travels on.  
This chapter closed, we turn the page.  
Remembering all we've lost and gained.*

*Let's raise our hearts, and turn to face  
The dawning light of this new day.  
May courage be the song we sing  
As hopeful beliefs of the new year ring.*



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



**Left:** COL IRV & Dottie Lindley, CDR Mike Riley,  
LCDR Bob Walls



**Left:** Mary Snyder, MAJ  
Sherry Ferki, Jill  
Thompson, Fisher House  
Director, CDR Scott &  
Heather Dickinson

**CDR Ken App**  
**USN (Ret)**  
**Salute Editor**  
**Editor's Avatar >**



**Right:** CDR Duane &  
Aline Close



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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



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

### PACMOAA MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM 2026

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 help 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	3 Year
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

**NOTE:** For members joining after July 1<sup>st</sup>, \$12.50 for Regular Members or \$10 for Surviving Spouse

**Or pay via PayPal:** 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/dinner/etc." 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.

**NOTE:** CDR Hans Sachse, USN (Ret) is the PACMOAA Treasurer.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_