



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.

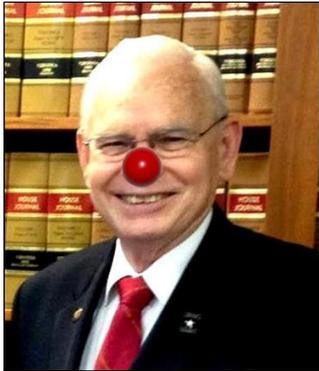
VOLUME XXXV ISSUE V

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4 May 2016

FROM THE PACMOAA PRESIDENT



It's hard to believe that we are on top of Mother's Day already. I hope all our moms are being blessed to the fullest. That day will be passed by the time we meet again, Thursday the twelfth. Expect a most interesting evening concerning the Navy Safe Harbor Foundation. Come and bring a friend.

In April we had a most informative presentation on genealogical studies presented by Mrs. Pat Burke. Her husband, Bill, also gave a brief overview of the problems and facts of hearing loss. We had a great time of food and fellowship as well. Pat received a bird house created by Charles

Kuehn, a PACMOAA member.

I thank you for continuing to fire-off those important e-mails, cards, letters, etc. on behalf of all those on the line, their families, and veterans. Every voice is needed.

In our latest "Military Officer" Magazine don't miss the "BUR" (Bottom Up Review) mentioned by our new president, LTGEN Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret). He sounds like a straight arrow "no nonsense" leader. I suspect that we can expect a few changes.

Maj. Sherry Ferki and I attended the "People For Portsmouth" Political Action Committee meeting Friday evening 29 April. It was a public meeting in which we attended "in uniform" and officially neutral. We heard four of six declared candidates running for mayor of Portsmouth; an interesting evening.



Left to right are Hal Hostetler, Pat Burke and Bill Burke. Pat is holding a bird house by Charles E Kuehn presented to her at our April dinner.

Finally, I attended the monthly meeting of the Portsmouth Mayor's Military Affairs Committee on Thursday morning, 28 April. We discussed the annual Memorial Day Parade and I saw confirmed our two vehicle entry in the parade; Bob Wall and Bruce Ferki will be driving. Let's fill the vehicles. Everyone else be aware that there is always reserved veterans' seating directly across from the reviewing stand and Tidewater Concert Band. The latter will play a pre-parade concert minutes before the lead element arrives. Come enjoy the music and the parade.

Do not forget Red Nose Day.

Thanks, and "never stop serving"
COL Hal Hostetler, USA (Ret)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**HERBERT CHARITY
ORAN CHENAULT JR.
RICHARD GRIGG
MARY F MCLAIN**

Chapter Happenings

Click Here for

[DIRECTORY](#)

May 05 Cinco de Mayo

May 08 Mother's Day

May 12 PACMOAA Dinner

May 18 Congressional Lunch

May 21 Armed Forces Day

May 30 Memorial Day

MAY DINNER

Our dinner will be held on **Thursday, 12 May** 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

Iceberg Tossed Salad with Ranch or Italian Dressing
Chicken Florentine – Spinach, Tomatoes and White Wine Sauce
Garlic Mashed Potatoes Snap Green Beans Rolls
Chef's Choice Dessert
Coffee and Hot Water for Tea Station
Water and Ice Tea

Cost is **\$30.00** (includes tax and gratuity) Please make your reservation no later than **Sunday, 8 May** 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.

MAY GUEST SPEAKER



RADM Christopher Cole, USN (Ret), President and Executive Director Navy Safe Harbor Foundation. This should be an excellent program. Do not miss this one.

The Navy Safe Harbor Foundation aims to ensure every service member is given an opportunity for full recovery after a serious injury by coordinating the non-medical care of seriously wounded, ill and injured Sailors and Coast Guardsmen, and provides resources and support to their families.

Enrollment in the Navy Wounded Warrior – Safe Harbor is available to service members wounded in combat, as well as to those diagnosed with a serious illness or injured in shipboard, training and liberty accidents.

Rear Admiral Cole graduated from the University of North Carolina in



1971, was commissioned an Ensign and reported to flight training. He was designated a Naval Aviator in 1972.

Sea assignments include Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Fifteen (HS-15), with the Canadian Navy as an exchange pilot, Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Five (HS 5), and USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) as Navigator.

Duties ashore include instructor pilot with Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron One (HS 1), the Naval War College, the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations, and the Strategic Studies Group for the Secretary of Defense.

He commanded Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Four (HS 4), Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron One (HS 1), USS El Paso (LKA 117), and USS Kearsarge (LHD 3).

Selected for Flag rank in 1997, he served as the Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea in Seoul, Republic of Korea; Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic in Norfolk, Virginia; and Director, Ashore Readiness Division (N46) in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington, D.C.

Rear Admiral Cole's personal decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (4), the Meritorious Service Medal (4), and the Navy Commendation Medal.

He retired from active service in January 2004. In addition to his work as the President and Executive Director of the Navy Safe Harbor Foundation, he is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the DC Bowl Committee and serves on the Board of Directors of the Professional Housing Management Association.

UPCOMING EVENTS

12 MAY PACMOAA DINNER MEETING
Rear Admiral Christopher Cole USN (Ret.), President and Executive Director will talk about the Navy Safe Harbor Foundation.

JROTC AWARD CEREMONIES - The 14 High Schools covered by PACMOAA will be visited by Leadership members throughout May and June to present MOAA medals and

certificates to the cadets selected by high school JROTC leadership.

18 MAY CONGRESSIONAL LUNCHEON

On May 18th all eighteen Virginia MOAA chapters and the State Council representing over 4000 active and retired military officers in Virginia hold its Annual Congressional Appreciation Luncheon in the Capitol Hill Club in Washington D.C. Besides exchanging information on items of current interest, the primary purpose of this event is to honor the thirteen members of the Virginia Congressional delegation for their efforts and continued loyal support of the U.S. Military Community and the Armed Forces: active duty-reserves-National Guard- retirees-veterans- surviving spouses-family members. Application at end of newsletter. Seating is limited so make your reservation as soon as possible! Contact Karl Wilson, PACMOAA Legislative rep at 673-2744. The reservation deadline is 10 May. The PACmobile is open to riders; email or call 642-0046.

26 MAY PACMOAA BOARD MEETING

30 MAY 133rd Portsmouth's Memorial Day Parade - PACMOAA will have two cars in the parade this year. WE STILL NEED PARTICIPANTS!!! Contact Sherry Ferki at 686-4650.

9 JUNE DINNER MEETING will include:

Presentation of the 2016 PACMOAA JROTC Scholarship winners. Scholarship application process and winner selection is currently in progress.

CAPT Gordan Van Hook, USN (Ret), PACMOAA member, talking about Maersk Alabama.

The Smithfield Army JROTC Color Guard presenting the colors.

USAA will co-sponsor this event.

JULY ANNUAL SUMMER BRUNCH with Hampton Roads and Peninsula Chapters will the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center. Date is TBA.

PACMOAA IS INVOLVED AT GRASSROOTS LEVEL

MOAA is now focusing on chapters and grassroots involvement as always. You should all be familiar with the motto "Never Stop Serving". That motto applies to all levels: community like the neighborhood watch groups or People for Portsmouth group that Col Lindley mentioned during the February program, with VCOC or on a national level. Col Hal Hostetler has been attending the monthly meetings of the Portsmouth Mayors Committee on Military Affairs and his ongoing input helped facilitate a Veterans Day Memorial Service for Portsmouth in 2015. Both COL Hostetler and MAJ Ferki attended the People for Portsmouth Committee forum on Mayoral Candidates for Portsmouth on 28 April. Hundreds of members of the community attended, black and white, young and "older." This very well organized program had the 4 candidates in attendance, including former City Manager John Rowe, introduce themselves, answer a series of questions and then give closing comments. The panel with 3 members included Ida Kay, a longtime Portsmouth resident that has been writing for local papers about Portsmouth for 37 years. Some of the questions were based on a survey answered by interested concerned Portsmouth residents. This was truly a grassroots effort and the concern of the citizens



Left to right are Sherry Ferki, John Rowe and Hal Hostetler.

about the lack of civility came through loud and clear. We all can make a difference in our communities, in whatever way we can. It may not be by attending Forums or meetings but just by supporting those that can be more active.

Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)

FOCUS ON MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Our Paid membership has decreased from 99 to 65 paid members as of 29 April.

We can not have a strong impact on legislators unless they know we represent a significant constituency. To correct this we need to concentrate on recruiting new members and activating past members. We must also ensure that every member of our immediate family respond to MOAA's requests for contacting legislators concerning current legislations. Remember MOAA's automated prepared email and letter website is available to all relatives, friends and neighbors.

Our annual regular membership is \$25.00/year and \$20.00/year for Surviving Spouses. You can pay your dues at our next PACMOAA meeting or mail it to: PACMOAA, P.O. Box 5353, Portsmouth, VA 23703. Please include a membership renewal form to update our records. **Remember the effectiveness VCOC has in the state legislature is directly related to chapter membership!**

SCHOLARSHIP FUND UPDATE

The number of scholarships to be awarded each year depends on donations received from PACMOAA members. Currently, PACMOAA members have donated an outstanding \$2700. Members at the April dinner meeting donated \$190. Our goal is two scholarships for \$1500 each, if possible. That means PACMOAA members need to raise about \$200.00 more. Please consider adding something to your May dinner check or sending a donation to PACMOAA as soon as possible. Thanks to all our donors for their ongoing support for this most worthwhile endeavor. We are almost there! !

CONGRESSIONAL APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

CAPITOL HILL CLUB, WASHINGTON D.C.

18 MAY 2016

ATTENDEE NAME AND RANK: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS AND PHONE #: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CHAPTER AFFILIATION: _____

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: _____

NOTE: Mail this completed reservation form, along with a \$20 check (\$25 for non-Chapter MOAA members and guests) payable to "VCOC-MOAA". **RESERVATION MUST BE RECEIVED NLT 10 May, 2016. Make your reservation early as seating is limited.**

Mail to the VCOC Treasurer at:

LTC Jim Stephan USAF (ret)

Refund requests (to Jim Stephan) will be honored through Wednesday the 4th of May at which time your reservation becomes **non-refundable**.

If you are unsure of your congressional district go to:

<http://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/>OR call *The Salute* at Make ride reservations at the same number.

We will be making every effort to seat you with your Congressman

PACMOAA MEMBERSHIP FORM 2016

FULL NAME: _____ NICKNAME: _____

GRADE/RANK: _____ SERVICE: _____ BIRTH DATE: _____

STATUS: Active Retired Former Surviving Spouse

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

Civilian Occupation: _____ MOAA Membership No. _____

MOAA Membership No.: _____ (From MOAA card or Military Off.
Mailing Label)

Spouse's Name: _____ Spouse's Nickname: _____

Are you willing to serve as board member or on a committee?

 Yes No

PLEASE CIRCLE CORRECT AMOUNT: ANNUAL DUES ENCLOSED IS
\$25.00 FOR REGULAR MEMBER OR \$20.00 FOR AUXILIARY MEMBER.
Make checks payable to PACMOAA and send mail to:

PACMOAA, PO Box 5353, Portsmouth, VA 23703

DATE: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

NOTE: For members joining after 1 July, \$12.50 for regular members
and \$10.00 for auxiliary members. If you are shy about giving your birth
date, just give *The Salute* the month. Thanks.

NEWS FROM MOAA



Representative Bobby Scott with VCOC President and PACMOAA member Steve Turner as he stormed the Hill on 13 April 2016.

Storming the Hill 2016

MOAA stormed Capitol Hill April 13 to meet with legislators from every state to discuss two issues affecting military families that lawmakers can make an impact on this year.

The first issue deals with proposed TRICARE fee hikes and program changes in the FY 2017 defense budget that do little more than transfer costs onto beneficiaries without making plans to improve the military health care system. We must ensure that any reforms will improve the quality of care for military families.

The second issue addresses the \$15,000 a year "widows tax" imposed on military survivors whose sponsor purchased coverage under the Survivor Benefit Plan and died from service-related causes. We think it's wrong to place further burden on these survivors who already have paid the ultimate price. We need to repeal this unfair law or, at the very least, extend an offset due to expire next year that provides a partial remedy.

This year, we ask our supporters to help us multiply the impact of our message by [Sending a MOAA-suggested message](#) to your legislators.

We appreciate your support, and thank you for making a difference for military families!

THUNDERCLAP

A VIRTUAL STORMING OF THE HILL

From MOAA's SPOUSE E-NEWS

Just because you can't be with us [Storming The Hill] in DC, doesn't mean you can't be part of Storming. Help us create a Thunderclap!

MOAA was getting ready to "Storm the Hill" to ensure the legislators in Washington DC understand exactly what military families, retirees, and survivors are up against. We know it's not possible for everyone to participate in our efforts here in the nation's capital, but don't let that quiet your voice...stay engaged virtually.

This year we're launching a Thunderclap Campaign in conjunction with our Storming the Hill activities to multiply our message.

Don't know what a Thunderclap Campaign is? First, click [here](#) to get all your questions answered. Then, join MOAA's Thunderclap and help us make a difference for military families. This year, we'll be tackling two important issues: proposed [TRICARE fee hikes](#) and the "[Widows Tax](#)" — an unfair law that punishes those who have sacrificed the most.

Participation is easy. If you have an account on Facebook or Twitter, visit [MOAA's Thunderclap](#) page and click the "support with" buttons to share our message on your social media accounts. By signing up, on April 13, the same day we meet with congressional leaders, Thunderclap will automatically post MOAA's message on your and all of our supporters' behalf at the same time, extending our reach virtually and amplifying our message to Congress.

Help us drown out the "here's what I had for breakfast" and "cutest kitten ever" posts with issues that matter to military families via [MOAA's Thunderclap!](#)

Yours in Service,
Brooke & Jennifer

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

By Kathy Prout, MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee advisor

The Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) was established in October 2008 as a first step toward eliminating the Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (SBP/DIC) offset. SBP is an annuity purchased upon retirement to ensure the spouse will continue to receive income (up to 55 percent of the retiree's elected amount of coverage) in the event the retiree pre-deceases his or her spouse. SBP also is awarded automatically to:

- surviving spouses of retirement-eligible servicemembers (i.e. with 20-plus years of service) who died on active duty before Sept. 11, 2001; and
- surviving spouses of all servicemembers (regardless of length of service) who died on active duty after Sept. 11, 2001.

If the servicemember's death was caused by a service-connected illness, then the surviving spouse also is eligible for DIC from the VA in the amount of \$1,254 per month. DIC is deducted from SBP dollar-for-dollar, up to the full amount of SBP. Congress agreed this offset was wrong but was unable to come up with the funding to fully eliminate the offset. They instead created SSIA. It was a 10-year allowance, which started at \$50 a month, is currently \$275 a month, and will increase to \$310 by 2017. The problem is current statutory authority to pay SSIA is set to expire Oct. 1, 2017.

It is important for SSIA to be extended and increased in this year's (would it be this year's or the 2017) Defense Authorization Bill if the funds to eliminate the SBP/DIC offset are not found. Otherwise, 63,000 surviving spouses affected by the SBP/DIC offset will see a \$3,720 reduction in compensation in 2017.

Two bills, H.R. 4519 and H.R. 4493, were introduced by Rep. Alan Grayson (D-Fla.) in the House of Representatives to increase and ex-

tend SSIA as follows:

- H.R. 4519 would increase SSIA over five years: \$400 in 2018; \$475 in 2019; \$600 in 2020; \$700 in 2021; and \$800 in 2022.

H.R. 4493 would increase SSIA to \$400 a month for one year in 2018. This bill is a back-up bill to H.R. 4519 in case funding for the five-year bill cannot be found. SSIA then would end in 2019 and again have to be addressed if the offset was not eliminated.

If monies to eliminate the SBP/DIC offset cannot be found, it is imperative SSIA not only be extended but also increased. Pursuing SSIA increases does not remove the goal to eliminate the SBP/DIC offset completely. SSIA's principal purpose is twofold: 1) to provide at least partial, immediate reimbursement to SBP/DIC survivors until full repeal of the offset can be achieved, and 2) provide an additional option to attain repeal of the offset through a phased-in approach, with steady increases to the annual SSIA amounts.

Please support the elimination of the SBP/DIC offset by asking your congressional representatives to cosponsor [H.R. 1594](#) in the House and [S. 979](#) in the Senate. Also, seek support for H.R. 4519. Use the toll-free Capitol Hill line (866) 272-MOAA (6622) to call your congressional representatives today.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by Bob Steorts, Chaplain

The Visit

The nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten

Calvin Coolidge

My dad, Angelo, was in the hospital in Tacoma, Washington. A former Marine and veteran of the Korean War, he was having his third knee-replacement surgery.

A long and very painful operation was going to be made even worse because Dad was going through it alone. There was no one to hold his

hand, no familiar soft voices to reassure him. His wife was ill and unable to accompany him or even visit during his weeklong stay. My sisters and brother lived in California, and I lived even farther away, in Indiana. There wasn't even anyone to drive him to the hospital, so he had to arrive that morning by cab. The thought of my dad lying there alone was more than I could stand. But what could I do from here?

I picked up the phone and called information for the Puyallup, Washington, Marine Corps recruiting station, where I joined the Marines ten years before. I thought that if I could talk to a Marine and explain the situation, maybe one of them would visit my dad.

I called the number. A man answered the phone and in a very confident voice said, "United States Marines, Sergeant Van-es. May I help you?"

Feeling just as certain, I replied, "Sergeant Van-es, you may find this request a little strange, but this is why I am calling..." I proceeded to tell him who I was and that my father was also a former Marine and 100 percent disabled from the Korean War. I explained that he was in the hospital, alone, without anyone to visit him and asked if Sergeant Van-es would please go and see him.

Without hesitation, he answered, "Absolutely."

Then I asked, "If I send flowers to the recruiting station, would you deliver them to my dad when you go to the hospital?"

"Ma'am, I will be happy to take the flowers to your dad. I'll give you my address. You send them, and I will make sure that he receives them," he replied.

The next morning, I sent flowers to Sergeant Van-es' office just like we had planned. I went to work, and that evening, I returned home and phoned my dad to inquire about his surprise visitor.

If you had ever talked with a small child after that child had just seen Santa Claus, you will understand the glee I heard in my dad's voice.

"I was just waking up when I thought I saw two Marines in their dress blue uniforms standing at the foot of my bed", he told me excitedly. "I thought I had died and gone to heaven. But they were really there!"

I began to laugh, partly at his excitement, but also because he didn't even mention his operation. He felt so honored: Two Marines he had never met took time out to visit an old Marine like him. He told me again and again how sharp they looked and how all the nurses thought he was so important. "But how did you ever get them to do that?" he asked me.

"It was easy. We are all Marines, Dad, past and present; it's the bond."

After hanging up with my dad, I called Sergeant Van-es to thank him for visiting my dad. And to thank him for the extra things he did to make it special: wearing his dress blue uniform, bringing another Marine along - he even took a digital camera with him. He had pictures taken of the two Marines with my dad, right beside his bed. That evening, he emailed them to me so I could see for myself that my dad was not alone and that he was going to be okay.

As for the flowers, they hardly mattered, but I was glad for the opportunity to express my feelings. The card read: "Daddy, I didn't want just anyone bringing you flowers... so I sent the World's Finest. Semper Fi."

From Chicken Soup for the Veteran's Soul

May we always remember those who gave of themselves so that we may be free.

RED NOSE DAY

Red Nose Day, a high profile telethon event held in the UK by **Comic Relief**, has become global and finally arrives in the [colonies](#) (US). **Comic Relief** is an operating British charity, founded in 1985 by the comedy scriptwriter Richard Curtis and comedian Lenny Henry in response to famine in Ethiopia, hence the pun in **Comic Relief**. Curtis and Henry are

still active participants of the Red Nose Day Telethon which continues to raise funds for numerous charities that help children in need and tackle world-wide poverty. The charity states that its aim is to "bring about positive and lasting change in the lives of poor and disadvantaged people, which we believe requires investing in work that addresses people's immediate needs as well as tackling the root causes of poverty and injustice".

One of the fundamental principles behind working at Comic Relief is the "Golden Pound Principle" where every single donated pound (£) is spent on the charitable projects. All operating costs, such as staff salaries, are covered by corporate sponsors, or interest earned on money waiting to be distributed. Our chance to donate is during the 26 May telethon. Red Noses are available from Walgreens Drug and photoshop.

FINALLY A TRIBUTE TO OUR EVER CLEVER LOVING MOTHERS

I was raised near a town that was half Italian (Sicilian) and half Swedish with most of our parents being first or second generation immigrants. The two mothers most perplexing to the children and grandchildren were my mother and grandma Giordano, who always seemed to be aware of bad conduct on our part. Trying to fib out of trouble was always futile and fatal. The following Aesopian sketch from Jim Yandel brought back many memories.

Mama Giordano comes to visit her son Anthony for dinner. Anthony lives with a young roommate, Maria. During the course of the meal, Mama couldn't help but notice Maria's natural beauty. Over the course of the evening, while watching the two interact, Mama started to wonder if there was more to Anthony and Maria than roommates. Noticing Mama's dreaded maternal observation he recognized from his youth, Anthony volunteered, "I know what you must be thinking, but I assure you, Maria and I are just roommates."

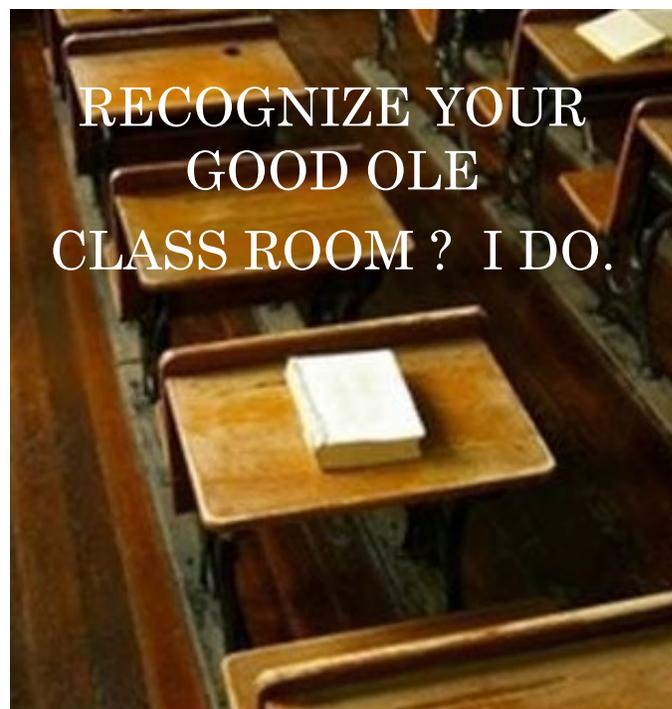
About a week later, Maria came to Anthony saying, "Ever since your mother came to dinner, I've been unable to find the silver sugar bowl. You don't suppose she took it, do you?" He replied "I seriously doubt it, but I'll email her, just to be sure." So he sat down and wrote this email:

Dear Mama,

I'm not saying that you "did" take the sugar bowl from my house and I'm not saying that you "did not" take it. But the fact remains that it has been missing ever since you were here for dinner.

Your Loving Son, Tony

A few days later, Anthony received the following email from his mother:



Dear Tony,

I'm not saying that you "do" sleep with Maria, and I'm not saying that you "do not" sleep with her. But the fact remains that if she was sleeping in her own bed, she would have found the sugar bowl by now.

Your Loving Mother

THAT'S A WRAP FOR MAY