



# 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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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Unfortunately, our scheduled speaker for April, COL Bob Pomeroy, was unable to attend due to illness but he is doing much better now. Chaplain Hal Hostetler and Chaplain George Brisbin, President of the Portsmouth Seafarers Ministry stepped in and gave a great presentation on this ministry which serves seafarers from around the world.

Hal led the group in playing "hand bells" while wearing a hard hat and yellow safety vest, required when at the ENVIVA Terminal. He passed out several bells to each table and led the group in playing the bells when he signaled each table while singing Old Macdonald Had a Farm. We didn't sound great but it was fun and this is one of the techniques they use to make the sailors feel more comfortable.

George discussed the deployments as a central theme that can cause happiness and loneliness - they can be laughing in the group but still be lonely. The loneliness can occur on a 6 month deployment on a military ship, while in jail, or by seafarers on a 9 to 14-18 month deployment. International law says deployments should only be a year but not everyone abides by that law.

Common bonds the seafarers share are a love of the sea and nomadic lifestyle. Problems of seafarers include separation from family and friends, helplessness in assisting with home problems, and having to speak English. Since English is the common language of the sea - they have to speak English and pass an exam. Some of the sailors that Hal and George have met do not speak English well even though they "passed" the exam. Ships may have sailors from different countries and that leads to more loneliness and unhappiness. Diet, customs and cultures are different. The sailors face the prospect of piracy on the open seas and also a lack of understanding of their experiences from shore people.



Chaplain George Brisbin, President of the Portsmouth Seafarers Ministry and PACMOAA President, Sherry Ferki.

They went into depth about how they contact the ships and the process someone had to go through to be able to enter the terminal. Volunteers are always welcome and anyone interested should contact George Brisbin at 404-0666 or Hal Hostetler.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Oran W Chenault Jr.  
Richard Grigg  
Mary F. McLain

It was a very enjoyable evening with great fellowship, food and a most enlightening presentation. During the short business meeting, Steve Turner briefly discussed the MOAA Storming the Hill and the fact that the outlook for the military community is not great, especially with so few members in congress with military service. It is very important to continue to be vigilant and pay attention to what our local, state and federal representatives are doing and to give them our input/feedback!!

*(Continued on page 4) President's Desk*

## Chapter Happenings

May 11 PACMOAA Dinner	May 16 Congressional Luncheon
May 12 Military Spouse Appreciation Day	May 18 Board meeting
May 14 Mothers' Day	May 20 Armed Forces Day
	May 29 Memorial Day

### MAY DINNER

Our next dinner will be held on **Thursday, 11 May** at the Hilton Garden Inn Ballroom at 5921 Harbour View Boulevard in Northern Suffolk. [LINK TO HGI](#) for a map and venue contacts. Social hour will begin at 1800 with dinner at 1900.

### MENU

Iceberg lettuce salad with Ranch and Italian dressing  
 Chicken Cordon Bleu with Jasmine Rice  
 Peas with pearl onions and rolls  
 Chef's Choice Dessert  
 Water and Ice Tea at the table  
 Coffee and Hot Water for Tea Station

Cost is **\$30.00** (includes tax and gratuity) Please make your reservation no later than **Sunday, 7 May** with Sherry Ferki at \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Come join us for good company, good food and a good time.  
**REMEMBER A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID.**

### MAY SPEAKER



Continuing our series of history oriented speakers, we announce RADM Fred Metz, USN (Ret.) as our May Guest Speaker. RADM Metz, a Naval Aviator, retired after 36 years of service. A carrier pilot, he commanded aviation squadrons, carrier air-wing and several ships. He flew a variety of tactical aircraft including the A-6 Intruder during four carrier combat cruises in Viet Nam. Fred graduated from the Naval Post Graduate School and the Naval War College. His last assignment was on the Navy Staff (CNO) as the director of Aircraft Carrier programs.

His topic will be his perspective on the Bay of Pigs Invasion, as seen from the eyes of a 20 something LTJG pilot, coupled with 30 plus years active duty experience and recently released papers from the Kennedy timeframe.

In April of 1961 Lt Metz, a pilot in VA 34, flying A4D's aboard the USS Essex, was involved in the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba. The Navy A-4 story HAS NOT BEEN TOLD. During the four days of the ill-fated invasion, would the support of the 12 A-4's made a difference? This pilot was there. Hear his view and opinion!



## PACMOAA SPRING AND SUMMER EVENTS

**6 MAY** The 2017 Northeast Council and Chapter Leadership Workshop in Atlantic City.

**11 MAY** PACMOAA May Dinner meeting. RADM Fred Metz is our Guest Speaker. His topic will be his perspective on the Bay of Pigs Invasion.

**JROTC AWARD CEREMONIES** - During May and June 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.

### 16 MAY CONGRESSIONAL LUNCHEON

On May 16th Eighteen Virginia 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 on all aspects of the U.S. Military

### 18 MAY PACMOAA BOARD MEETING

**29 MAY 133<sup>rd</sup> PORTSMOUTH'S MEMORIAL DAY PARADE** - PACMOAA will have 2 cars in the parade this year. WE STILL NEED PARTICIPANTS!!! Contact Sherry Ferki at 686-4650.

**8 JUNE DINNER MEETING** will include presentation of the 2016 PACMOAA JROTC Scholarship winners.

Speaker TBA

**JULY ANNUAL SUMMER BRUNCH** with Hampton Roads and Peninsula Chapters at



the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center. Date to be announced.

### 1 AUGUST JOINT RECRUITING EVENT

Patriots Colony in Williamsburg is sponsoring a joint recruiting event with the Peninsula Chapter (VIPMOAA), the Hampton Roads Chapter (HRMOAA) and PACMOAA. They will obtain the mailing list from MOAA and send invitations to all the eligible individuals in the Hampton Roads area. There will be a speaker from MOAA and heavy appetizers. This event has been for VIPMOAA for several years and it has been very successful. LCDR Dolly Cherrington USN (Ret) 2nd VP and Membership Chair and MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret), President, will represent PACMOAA at this event.

To help entice people to attend, we want to offer raffle items. All 3 chapters are reaching out to members to see if anyone can offer any raffle items. One suggestion was a weekend in Massanutten. Please contact Sherry (686-4650 or [navmed1@cox.net](mailto:navmed1@cox.net)) if you have any item that you can donate. Even if we only get a few new members from this event, there is no expense to PACMOAA or the new member as Patriots Colony will pay the "new members" dues for their first year of chapter membership.

*(Continued from page 1) Presidents Desk*

I hope to see many of you at the two remaining dinner meetings before our summer break. We will have our annual brunch in July and then the next dinner meeting will be in September. Take care and please remember our military forces around the world.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS IMPROVING

### BUT MEMBERSHIP IS STILL VERY LOW!

Thanks to the hard work of our Membership Chair, Dolly Cherrington, fifteen more members have paid their dues since the April newsletter went to press. Thank you all for renewing your membership and continuing to support PACMOAA! A combination of calling, emailing and mailing out 19 letters to unpaid members by Dolly was very effective. Including our 3 new members, we have 70 paid members now. There are still ten 2016 members that have not renewed and we will continue to reach out to them. *According to MOAA, chapters with 75 or fewer members are dying chapters.*

If any of you know individuals that are eligible for membership, please invite them to a dinner meeting. PACMOAA usually invites new members at chapter expense to their first dinner meeting after joining. Perhaps PACMOAA could pay for a potential new member instead. Increasing our membership and getting more members involved in chapter activities is essential to our survival as a chapter!

If you still need to pay your dues for 2017:

Regular members \$25.00/year

Surviving Spouse members \$20.00/year

You can pay your dues at the next PACMOAA meeting or mail it to:

PACMOAA,  
P.O. Box 5353,  
Portsmouth, VA 23703

Your dues money enables PACMOAA to pay for the newsletter, website, VCOC dues, name-tags, printing, postage, and entertainment like

guest speakers and the Tidewater Concert Band.

If you are not sure if you have paid yet, check with Dolly Cherrington or Hans Sachse. Remember the effectiveness VCOC has in the state legislature relates to chapter membership! Thank you. []

## 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 Vanes. 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's 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 Veterans Soul Memorial Day is this month. Always remember. Never forget.

## REPORT ON NAVY LEAGUE'S CONGRESSIONAL LUNCHEON

by CAPT Richard Titi Jr. USN (Ret)

I attended the Navy League's Congressional luncheon in Virginia Beach Friday, 21 April 2017. Attendance exceeded 300. U.S. Congressional Representatives were introduced by Navy League Hampton Roads CEO, Mary Baldwin. U.S. Representatives included: 1<sup>st</sup> District Robb Wittman, 2nd District Scott Taylor, and 3rd District Bobby Scott. The 4th Congressional District Rep, Don McEachin, was not in attendance due to hospitalization. The Reps' education, military service, and any prior state and US Congressional service were included in Ms. Baldwin's reading of their biographies. Other visiting dignitaries introduced were First Deputy Commander Fleet Forces Command, VADM Breckenridge and Fleet Master Chief Kingsbury as well as Commander Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, Commandant 5<sup>th</sup> U. S. Coast Guard District, Pre-Comm Unit USS Delaware's CO and crew. A number of defense contractor local leaders were present. We were treated to a short advertisement on the Navy League's recent and future works: Maritime Policy Report, CORE Spouses program, Wings over America coming 9 June, and 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of Norfolk Naval Station on June 28. We then rose to pledge the flag and a very nice invocation was rendered by VADM Breckenridge, the same prayer he said as he entered the Naval Academy in 1978!

After lunch, the Congressmen gave short introductory remarks.

Congressman Taylor – Get rid of sequestration. Increase veterans' quality and access to medical care.

Congressman Scott – Serves on the Committee for Education in the Workforce. The Virginia Delegation has very good working relationship started decades ago by Senator John Warner. The budget's seven-month Continuing Resolution (CR) is equal to no budget. I know it is hard to do your jobs, because you can't commit the government to contracts and action plans past 28 April. I am working to keep Norfolk the deepest port on the east coast.

Congressman Wittman – Wants no further CRs. Get it done! The Navy needs 355 ships. We need to use the area's industrial base. Our enemies are Terrorism, NK, Iran, Russia, China. Need to look at defense in terms of what we can control, time and cost. We can't afford 20 years to get defense projects done! The enemy has a checklist starting with what they can do. Our initial project checklist starts with a bunch of regulatory "No's". On cost, we have no excess resources, get innovative; all of us must synch up with industry to get this done. Ships have to get to the yards for work on time and get out on time and on budget. Our shipyards and employees are a national treasure.

After their opening remarks, the audience was allowed to ask them a few questions, and they answered in varying order:

**Q1. Do you support Obamacare or want to see it revised?**

Wittman – Have not seen the newest version. For me to like the revision it has make me feel like it will be better.

Scott – We forget what good Obamacare has done. 20M more people now have coverage. Not all problems have been cured. Needs a review but not half way redone. Must include low cost, high quality, and retain high number of people insured. The Republicans' best ideas are already in Obamacare.

Taylor – Republicans were elected by national edict to fix the ACA. All need to work hard to do so. The battle is with ideas, not just

representing your party.

**Q2. How can we as constituents help you in congress?**

Taylor – We need to return to order.

Scott – Clinton plan would have paid off national debt by 2008. When you put a dollar sign on a line item program, it must be voted on. No one wants to cut a program.

Wittman – Congress should not be allowed to go on any vacations until all 12 appropriation bills have been passed. They /We should not be paid until the budget work is done.

**Q3. Social Security trust fund stability? Do we need to raise the retirement age?**

Wittman – Yes, life expectancy now is 79 years. When started in 1930's at least 5 workers paid into SS for each one receiving benefits, now 3 to 1, and soon it will drop to 2 payees per recipient.

Scott – Yes, sequentially now, but the two should be done simultaneously. We can change the CPI which will save \$12B/10 years. Increase death tax exemption from \$7M to \$10M will cost us \$135B over same period. To stop the SS Tax once an individual reaches \$100K is wrong. We should be taxed on it for everything we make. Bill Gates should be paying more SS tax. We need to raise the cap. This is not a crisis, but we need to increase revenue, not cut benefits.

Taylor – The younger generation is going to have to lead and fix this change. May have to start means testing, increase retirement age, and put a Congressional lock box on our money so Congress can't touch the fund.

**Q4. What to do about our industrial base preservation? We seem to be falling away from an industrial base to a country that is a service-based.**

Taylor – Need to take our innovation from military to the commercial base. Take war-gained ideas to industry for tweaking. Government has over-regulated innovation.

Scott – Industrial base is a national as-

set. Need high tech and robotics to maintain it. I am working on a bill to help high school students with vocational education.

Wittman - Need to tell parents with 4th and 5th graders now, that a vocational high school education is a good thing. Many future jobs will require not a college degree but a vocational skill. More families need to value a technical track for educating their children.

**Q5. Sea level rising is an area problem. What is your opinion on it, how to fund, and keep Naval base readiness?**

Wittman – Humans are about adaptability. We need to help bases with transportation ingress and egress, raise bridges, use mother nature's grasses and plant buffer zones.

Scott – A one foot sea level rise is already being built into many plans. All local bases will be underwater. Bases with underwater futures are prime losers for next round of BRACs. VA got a HUD grant of \$125 M for this issue. Norfolk is #2 behind NOLA in sea level rise. We must work proactively.

Taylor – Issue exists; take away politics from it. Look at it offensively and defensively. Capture lessons learned from other countries like Denmark. Use their best practices. We must deal with it.

More questions were waiting but moderator cut them off "due to schedule.[]"

## SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

By Gail Joyce, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee chair

What does Memorial Day mean to you? For many, it's the unofficial beginning of summer; a day for family gatherings, baseball games, and barbecues. But for others — especially those who have served in the military and their families — it's a time to pause and remember why we celebrate this very special day.

Across the nation, MOAA members will support efforts marking this day of remembrance by laying wreaths, giving speeches, playing

taps, marching in parades, participating in flag ceremonies, and conducting memorial services to pay tribute to our nation's men and women who fell in the line of duty. But I, like many, don't need Memorial Day to serve as a reminder of the price we pay when we put our young people in harm's way. My son, James Casey Joyce, a U.S. Army Ranger, died Oct. 3, 1993, in Mogadishu, Somalia, in the worst firefight since Vietnam. That day, 18 young men lost their lives; six were from Casey's unit, the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, from Fort Benning, Ga. Casey was 24 and my youngest. For me, Memorial Day is my opportunity to remind everyone in every way I can — speaking at events, writing about my son, giving interviews, and working on the Field of Flags in Granbury, Texas — about the five Rangers (Jim Cavaco, Richard Kowalewski, Dominique Pilla, Lorenzo Ruiz, and Jamie Smith) who died in combat along with Casey, and all those who have died in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan (6,828 at last count).

All across the U.S. on Memorial Day, our grateful nation comes together to honor these men and women. More than 1 million have fallen in combat during the 241-year history of our nation. We should all pause to remember them and honor their selfless sacrifice.

In Granbury, we remember and honor our military through A Field of Flags. On Highway 377, 1,000 flags will be waving in the breeze, each representing an individual, unit, or branch of service. This Memorial Day, spend some special time with your loved ones, but take time to reflect on our freedoms that our husbands, wives, sons, and daughters have died to protect. **NEVER STOP SERVING[]**

I very quietly confided to my best friend that I was having an affair.

She turned to me and asked, "Are you having it catered?"

And that, my friend, is a sad definition of old.

## THAT'S A WRAP FOR MAY