



# 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. Although [MOAA](#) and [PACMOAA](#) actively lobby legislatures for all US uniformed services members, we are nonpartisan do not participate in political activities.

VOLUME XXXVIII ISSUE I

Learn more at [pacmoaa.org](http://pacmoaa.org)

January 2019



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I hope you all had a good Holiday season and that you were able to enjoy spending time with family and friends. The beautiful Christmas lights and holiday decorations are gone and now it is time to get back into our normal routine.

The annual Christmas Gala was a huge success with 35 members, spouses and guests attending. It was great to see Henry and Janet Boschen again as well as their daughter Patti Rose. Stephanie D'Andrea, Bob Steorts' niece who is serving at the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth while the USS Comfort is deployed, and Darlene Washington, Executive Director Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless, were also able to join us for the evening. It was a pleasure to see Joyce Johnson, a former Navy Nurse who has attended meetings several times in the past year or so with Angela and Karl Wilson. Joyce joined PACMOAA the evening of the Christmas Gala! Unfortunately, many of the members/spouses that usually attend were unable to because of medical issues or relocation. The ballroom was beautifully decorated and the service excellent! Delicious food, wonderful music provided by the Tidewater Concert Band, dancing and gift exchange all contributed to a relaxing and enjoyable evening. The concert band floorshow was superb and memorable with Hal singing several songs and reciting the "Night Before Christmas" with his usual flair, all leading to the appearance of Santa with his VMI bag! A floor show ready for Vegas.

PACMOAA members contributed to an over flowing box of gifts for Toys for Tots. Lt Col Pratt (the leader of the Marine Corps JROTC) had two of his US Marine Corps JROTC cadets (from Churchland High School) in uniform to collect the gifts. It was a pleasure to meet and talk with Lt Col Pratt, Cadet Brianna Rowson and Cadet Trevor Hamel while they were collecting the toys and as they joined us for dinner. Members also donated many supplies for the Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless - Darlene Washington was amazed at how much was contributed and very thankful for our generosity. Thanks to all of you for these most needed and appreciated donations. We will continue to collect monthly donations in support of Portsmouth homeless. Laundry detergent, toothbrushes, and small personal size toiletries are greatly needed.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Daniel N Hartwell  
Richard J Titi  
Jeffery C. Westling

There are many challenges facing PACMOAA, MOAA and military community in the coming year. CWO3 Karl Wilson, USA

*(Continued on page 3)*

[Click Here for  
DIRECTORY](#)

## Chapter Happenings January

01 NEW YEARS DAY	16 JLC DAY - RICHMOND GEN- ERAL ASSEMBLY
04 USPHS 2ND BIRTHDAY (1889)	21 M.L. KING JR. DAY
10 PACMOAA OFFICER INSTAL - LATION DINNER/MEETING	28 USCG 2ND BIRTHDAY.(1915)
15 FIRST QUARTER VCOC MEETING	

### JANUARY INSTALLATION DINNER

Our January dinner meeting will be held on Thursday the 10th at Hilton Garden Inn Harbour View. [MAP](#) Social hour begins at 1730 with dinner at 1800. The cost of the meal is \$30.00 including tax and gratuity.

#### DINNER MENU

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

Please make your reservation **no later than Sunday 6 January** with Sherry by phone or by email at [navmed1@cox.net](mailto:navmed1@cox.net) . PLEASE REMEMBER THAT A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID!

### SPEAKER



#### COL Daniel Warren, US Army (Ret)

BS, Roanoke College  
MD, Medical College of Virginia  
MPH (Master of Public Health), University of North Carolina  
MMAS (Master of Military Art & Science), US Army Command and General Staff College  
MA in Religious Studies, Catholic Distance University  
Certified by the American Board of Preventive Medicine

Served in various staff and command positions, including in Japan, Korea, and Saudi Arabia

Project Manager, Saudi National Guard Medical Modernization Project 1983- 1984

Retired 1986, as Director of Medical Education, Chief of the Medical Staff, and Deputy Commander, Medical Department Activity, Fort Benning, GA

Director, Peninsula Health District, Virginia Department of Health 1990 -2002

Community activities include the Military Officers Association and vari-



ous heritage organizations, including serving as Governor General of the Order of Founders and Patriots of America.

***(Continued from page 1) Presidents Desk***

(Ret.) has been very diligent about getting info out concerning pending legislation in Congress and for Virginia with the assistance of COL Hal Hostetler, USA (Ret). Please read the MOAA updates and emails Karl and/or Hal send out and respond to them if you can. We all know the challenges facing our country but the solution should not be primarily taken from the military community. We need to let our elected representatives know our positions on every legislative issue. This continues to be an extremely important issue that needs to be dealt with in a timely manner. The annual "VCOC Storming the Hill" in Richmond will not be conducted as in previous years due to hotel challenges and the lack of any meeting space at the Pocahontas Building. I want to thank the Leadership Team members whose terms have expired. Lt Col Bob Steorts, USAF (Ret) and Lt Col Jim Stephan, USAF (Ret) ended their terms as Board of Directors members and their time and participation are greatly appreciated.

COL Gordon Nelson, USA (Ret.) has done a wonderful job as newsletter editor and webmaster for many years but would like someone to assist with or take over one position. He really makes our newsletter and web site look very professional and both are full of important and relevant information. These resources are especially important for our members that are unable to attend meetings.

I am looking forward to another productive year for our chapter. Please let me or any of our Leadership Team members know if you have any suggestions to improve PACMOAA. We may be the Elected Leadership Team but

our mission is to represent the membership. That is difficult to do without input so please let us know your ideas!



## CHAPTER NEWS

### CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

My childhood years of varied sports, including chasing a homemade wooden puck on roller skates up and down Cantrell Street in south Philadelphia, had given me strong legs and a healthy body that were prepared to endure and respond quickly.

When I was wounded seriously in action, I didn't accept my condition of paralysis as permanent - although it did make life more complicated. But I wondered how to explain this condition to people back home, especially Mom and Dad, who only knew me as a happy-go-lucky, smiling kid who was nonstop on my pins. What about telling Grace, brother John and his wife Jeanne, and a lot of friends and relatives back in the States? And was there any solution to the problem of depending on others to do everything? Thoughts like these were another set of challenges to add to my new physical weaknesses.

Charlie was one of the first to ease the situation. He has a friendly smile on his face all day long, and frequently came across the aisle

to talk with me. Charlie was the source of most information and always knew what was going on in the ward.

Charlie was the first who told me about the patient who was five or six beds from me. By twisting and turning my head and trunk, I could see the mass on bandages that Charlie said was Captain McCarthy. They kept McCarthy close to the nurses' station, where he could get special attention when it was needed.

Charlie explained that the captain was a tank commander who had survived a fiery explosion when his tank was hit by the enemy. The captain climbed out of the tank with two broken legs and literally ran, on fire, thirty yards from the burning vehicle. His body and head were severely burned.

Something about that still, white -bandaged form made me count my blessings despite my lifeless legs. Charlie seemed to know everything about everyone in the ward.

But even Charlie was surprised to see an unfamiliar, pretty and smiling young nurse enter the ward early one morning. The lady smiled as she proceeded along the center aisle, unruffled by the patient's whistles and greetings. I pushed myself up on my elbows as high as I could and stretched my neck to see what the commotion was all about. By the time I could see the nurse, she had steered right toward my bed.

She carried what looked like an elongated birdcage with no bottom and an electric bulb inside its top. The nurse lieutenant introduced herself as Penny, a physical therapist, and placed a carefully folded sheet at the foot of my bed.

It didn't take Charlie long to find his way to my bed. After all, what are ward buddies for? He greeted the attractive nurse, then told her I was not the one who needed therapy but he, Charlie, was in dire need. "Anyway," he said, "I outrank him!"

Penny laughed this off and, turning to me, said she would come in every day at about the

same hour to spend time helping me "get those legs working again." This was the first time anyone had suggested such a possibility. While I had no idea what physical therapy was, I was delighted, especially with the thought of this new friend coming to see me at her own invitation. I especially relished the idea of Charlie standing by, green with envy, watching her in action.

The first "treatment" began immediately. Nurse Penny uncovered my legs and placed the birdcage contraption over them. She covered it with the sheet and plugged it in., lighting the bulb. It wasn't long before I felt the warmth. Penny told me she'd be back in twenty minutes. Once again, she flashed her pretty, therapeutic smile, and left. What a moral builder - and I was responsible for it. Things were looking up!

Penny's visits and birdcage applications were always followed by hand massaging that began with my feet, followed by my legs. This kind of treatment both overwhelmed and embarrassed me at first. I was always the center of attention in the ward as long as Penny was there.

Next Nurse Penny touched each toe, or pointed to it, as she coaxed me to work hard at thinking about moving it. "Think Scotty!...Move!" she'd urge. Eventually, she was joined by the rest of the ward, Charlie's raspy voice generally in the lead. The battle cry was "Wiggle your toes, Scotty!"

It seemed like the whole ward, myself included, was fully devoted to talking my toes into moving. This was a battle not unlike combat, where mind and will joined together against the enemy - a motionless pair of toes.

Penny was there the first day I wiggled my left big toe! She watched eagerly as the toe slowly bent downward under its own power, then moved up. As word spread around the ward about the victory, Charlie led those nearby in a big cheer.

I have no doubt that Penny's coaching and unfailing cheerfulness were a big part of my re-

covery. Her presence in the ward did wonders for us all. I learned before leaving England that Penny's sweetheart was a young pilot "missing in action," but if she was down, she never let it show.

Once the challenge of the big toe had been met, it was followed by major improvements in moving my left foot and leg. The right foot proved more difficult; my right toes were obstinate ( and still are, fifty-five years later).

Even so, after a month of help with learning to walk again, I was able to shed my crutches. But I have never shed my memory of the lovely nurse whose dedication to her work inspired my recovery and turned a group of wounded soldiers into an unlikely cheering section. I still have to smile when I picture them all, shouting loud enough to shake the walls, "Wiggle your toes, Scotty!"

From Chicken Soup for the Veteran's Soul.

This is a wonderful reminder about how important it is to appreciate all our blessings. It also shows how powerful a positive attitude and friendly smile are in improving difficult situations. Have a blessed New Year.

Bob Steorts, Chaplain

## NEWS FROM VCOC

### VCOC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A new year brings a new set of challenges and uncertainties. It is imperative that we continue to advocate for our issues of a strong national defense and support for our military, both active duty and retired. It seems as if we have been advocating issues such as repeal of the "widow's tax" forever, but some progress has been made which would not have occurred without the efforts of the Military Officers Association of America and its 300,000 members. The members of the Virginia Council of Chapters, as individuals, through Chapter advocacy, and as legislative committees, still enjoy a high degree of respect and effectiveness at the

state level. The annual MOAA "Storming the Hill" in April keeps our Representatives and Senators aware of our issues, and our Congressional Luncheon each year is well attended. While we have been unable for several years to conduct our Virginia "Storming", I hope we can return to doing so when the General Assembly building renovation is completed. In the meantime, keep up those close relationships you have established with our Virginia legislators. Our efforts are needed more than ever – let's continue the good work which we have achieved.

A very happy and healthy New Year to our chapters, their leaders, and all MOAA members!

Daniel Warren

Colonel, US Army, Retired

The Virginia General Assembly convenes on January 9th for the 2019 Session. The 2019 Joint Leadership Council (JLC) Policy Initiatives for the collective military and veteran community include the following in priority order:

JLC 2019-01 Increased State Active Duty (SAD) Pay.

JLC 2019-02 Income Tax Subtraction for Certain Low-Income 100% Disabled Veterans.

JLC 2019-03 Electronic Return of State Election Ballots by Deployed Virginia Military Personnel.

JLC 2019-04 Personal Property Tax Relief for Certain Disabled Veterans.

JLC 2019-05 Free State Tuition for Virginia National Guardsmen.

JLC 2019-06 Removing Combat Requirement for VMSDEP.

JLC 2019-07 Phased in System for Partial State Tax Exemption for Military Retirement Income.

The initiatives will again be reviewed and discussed at the upcoming 2019 Q1 Meeting on 15 January at the American Legion Department of Virginia office. Chapters should





Perennial dance team of Bob and Nell Wall









strongly encourage all MOAA members to contact their individual elected representatives and request their support of our collective veteran issues. If not in person, consider contacting your representatives by phone or email. Be sure to also bring or email copies of the Position Papers for each of the seven initiatives (available using this link). The General Assembly Military & Veteran Caucus meeting, co-chaired by Senator Reeves and Delegate Freitas, is held in a committee room at the Pocahontas Building every Wednesday at 0800 during Session. Pertinent issues for the military and veteran community are highlighted by qualified experts. Be sure to allow adequate time to clear building security in advance and check at front desk for location. The ongoing 4-year renovation of the original General Assembly and the move to Pocahontas Building has resulted in reduced space for conducting an annual MOAA Storming Day as done in previous years. This year VCOC representatives have been invited to join in several events on the JLC Day at the General Assembly on January 16. The day begins with the Military and Veteran Caucus mentioned above at 0800, followed by individually scheduled meetings with delegates, senators and legislative aids from 0900 to 1115. Visits to either the House or Senate Galleries follow before lunch. A tentative list of speakers has been arranged for JLC representatives and alternates, and VCOC - MOAA will be represented by Frank Wickersham and Rich Anderson. To participate in JLC Day on January 16, please contact Frank Wickersham ..... before close of business on Friday, January 4th .

## NEWS FROM MOAA

On the national level, MOAA will hold their Annual "Storming" in April on a date to be announced in Washington, D.C. Dates are also being discussed for the Annual Congressional Appreciation Luncheon and will be shared when available.

The following articles are from the *MOAA Newsletter*. They have been heavily edited for brevity but the **link** in the title will send you to the web article edited.

### **6-WAYS PRESIDENT TRUMP CAN SUPPORT VETS AND TROOPS AT THIS YEAR**

By: MOAA Staff

*(Updated Jan. 29)*

President Donald Trump has accepted House Speaker Rep. Nancy Pelosi's invitation to deliver the State of the Union on Feb. 5. Below are six issues MOAA hopes President Trump will put forward during the address.

**1. Protect pay for all uniformed service-members and retirees.** While the government may be fully funded when the speech is delivered, there's far from any guarantee that a long-term solution will be in place. As of now, [Coast Guard, NOAA, and USPHS members](#) haven't been getting paid, and while retirees from these services have been protected to this point, some could begin missing checks in the coming days. If the speech comes during a temporary government opening, a move [that has been proposed by some legislators](#) in the past, the President must offer plans to protect these servicemembers from any future closures.

MOAA, a nonpartisan association, will not take a stand on the plans in play, but we remain adamant our nation's leaders owe these servicemembers a solution. If full government funding is not in the immediate future, legislation such as the [Pay Our Coast Guard Act](#) should be passed, not only for Coast Guard members, but similarly in support of commissioned officers in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps and the U.S. Public Health Service.

**2. Pass fiscal year 2020 federal appropriations on time.** The simple solution to stop-



ping shutdowns is to take deliberate actions to prevent them. An early appropriations cycle - one without sequestration, without budget cuts to DoD or VA activities, and without cuts to military and veteran benefits as a way to pay for larger economic problems - is a must-have to fix a broken budget system.

**3. Repeal the 'widows tax.'** With 271 co-sponsors from the House and 51 from the Senate on bills supporting this repeal in the previous Congress, gaining early support from the president will be seen as a welcome sign of support early in this Congressional session. Military survivors whose sponsors die of service-connected issues are eligible for two federal benefits: a sponsor-purchased Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) from DoD and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from the VA. But current law requires money paid from SBP to be reduced dollar-for-dollar by the amount paid by the VA's DIC. MOAA strongly believes the widows tax should be eliminated. These programs are paid for two separate reasons: SBP is a servicemember-purchased plan to ensure a continued financial benefit for a servicemember's survivor. DIC is a monetary benefit paid to eligible survivors whose sponsors die from a service-connected injury.

**ACT NOW:** [Send your own message to Congress to end the widows tax.](#)

**4. Authorize a full military pay raise.** The forecasted pay raise, which is based on the Employment Cost Index (ECI), is **3.1 percent**. The ECI is the legislated benchmark from which the military pay raise is to be based. Approving the ECI-based pay raise this year will continue to recognize our national commitment to ensuring military pay raises keep up with increases to salaries and wages of workers from private industry.

**5. Stabilize TRICARE.** The Congressional Budget Office's recent report sounds familiar, but still alarming, warning about the potential of [raising or creating new TRICARE fees](#) to fight the federal deficit. These efforts need

to be neutralized immediately with strong words from the President and others in Washington. Moving forward, TRICARE legislation should include movement to reverse or significantly decrease the 2018 TRICARE Prime co-payment increases for grandfathered/Group-A beneficiaries, as well as a modified fee structure that would cut out-of-pocket costs for beneficiaries seeking physical therapy, mental health care, or other types of care that require regular specialty appointments.

### **DON'T LET TRICARE FOR LIFE BECOME A TARGET**

#### **VISIT MOAA'S LEGISLATIVE TAKE ACTION CENTER**

**6. Pass meaningful toxic exposure legislation.** Last year, veterans advocates and supporters in Congress came so close to critical legislation that would acknowledge the Agent Orange exposure of so many Vietnam-era ["Blue Water Navy veterans"](#) and provide them the health care benefits they deserve. But the measure failed in the Senate, and advocates like MOAA are entering the fray once again. Two bills have already been introduced in the House.

Blue Water Navy veterans, for the most part, have not spent time on combat's shore, but nevertheless, are suffering today due to their exposure to the toxic agent while underway. There are approximately 90,000 of these veterans alive today, but they are passing away at a rate of about 2,700 per year. Timing is critical, and the President's endorsement for this cause could be the catalyst for stepped-up action by the Congress.

### **FIGHT FOR BLUE WATER NAVY VIETNAM VETS ENTERS 22ND YEAR**

By: Lt. Col. Aniela Szymanski, USMCR

Last year, Congress got as close as ever to passing legislation that would grant the presumption of exposure to tens of thousands of Blue Water Navy veterans who served off-shore during Vietnam. Unfortunately, in the

last days of the Congressional session, two senators [objected to the funding mechanism](#) to give these men and women health care and disability benefits. MOAA and other veteran service organizations made every effort to break the stalemate, even [writing to the president](#). Those efforts were ultimately unsuccessful. We are redoubling efforts and plan to end this 22-year fight to give these men and women the benefits they deserve.

Back in 1997, the Department of Veterans Affairs' general counsel narrowed the VA's interpretation of "service in Vietnam," excluding Blue Water Navy veterans from presumed exposure to Agent Orange. The term "Blue water Navy veterans" has been used to describe sailors who served on ships within the territorial waters of Vietnam, legally defined as 12 nautical miles from the shore, but who never set foot on the ground.

### **[Final Opt-in Rates for Blended Retirement Yield More Surprises](#)**

by Tom Philpott

The Department of Defense has released final numbers on military folks, by branch of service, who switched into the new Blended Retirement System (BRS) during a year-long opt-in period that ran through Dec. 31, 2018.

The lower-than-expected results defied forecasting tools relied on by the department, and earlier by the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, to project budget savings from the new plan.

Also, opt-in rate comparisons across service branches show the singular effectiveness of the Marine Corps' approach to deepening member interest in the BRS, given that it relies more on youth and vigor, and therefore fewer careerists.

A total of 84,324 active duty Marines, 59.4 percent of its eligible population, opted into the BRS. That was double the rate of nearly every other service. Opt-in numbers for the others were: Army 89,729 (25.5 percent); Air Force 66,301 (29.1 percent); Navy 77,351 (32.6 percent); and Coast Guard 5,115 (21 percent). The disparity held across reserve components.

A total of 13,395 Marine Corps reservists, 39.8 percent of those eligible, opted into the new plan. That was more than three times the opt-in rate of the others: Army Reserve 17,505 (10.9 percent); Army National Guard 27,595 (9.2 percent); Air Force Reserve 6,335 (11.2 percent); Air National Guard 10,130 (11.3 percent); Navy Reserve 4,596 (11 percent); Coast Guard Reserve, 579 (9.2 percent).

Why the sharp disparity? One reason is the Marine Corps alone mandated that every member eligible for the BRS affirmatively make a retirement plan election: either to stay under the legacy High-3 plan or to switch to BRS with its new features.

Members in other branches faced a simpler choice, the one mandated by law: to opt into the BRS or not. Members who declined to make a decision would remain under the legacy plan.

### **[DISCOUNTED TAX PREPARATION FOR MILITARY](#)**

*This article by Heather Sweeney originally appeared on Military.com, the premier resource for the military and veteran community. For more about the finance-related benefits of being a MOAA member, click [here](#).*

Tax season is here again. While filing for tax returns can be tricky for the average family, it can get even more complicated for military families. Thankfully, military personnel and their families have access to a variety of tax preparation and filing services for free or discounted prices. Whether you choose to file taxes yourself online or you prefer some outside assistance from a trained professional, there are a several free and discounted options to choose from:

#### **Military Installation Tax Centers**

Most large military installations offer service members and their families free income tax filing assistance via the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program sponsored by the IRS. VITA sites have volunteers trained by the IRS to provide assistance with some of the more complicated military-specific tax issues,



such as combat zone tax benefits. Visit Military.com's [Base Guide](#) to contact your local installation for more information about location of tax centers, hours of operation, scheduling appointments, and necessary documentation.

### **Off-Base Services**

Liberty Tax Service offers Military.com members a new customer discount of \$50 off income tax preparation. [Click here](#) to print out the coupon and take it to participating Liberty offices with a valid military ID.

### **Online Tax Preparation**

[Military OneSource](#) provides free tax preparation and e-filing software, easy access to tax consultants and free in-person tax preparation through approved Volunteer Income Tax Assistance offices. MilTax, Military OneSource's free tax services, provides easy-to-use software designed specifically for the military community that can be used from mid-January to mid-October.

[IRS Free File Software](#) allows you to prepare and file your federal individual income tax return for free using tax-preparation-and-filing software. If your income is below \$66,000, you can file your taxes with free software and find free state return options. Use Free File Fillable Forms if your income is greater than \$66,000. Free File software opens in January 2019.

[TaxSlayer](#) has a military offer that allows active duty military to e-file a free federal return. (State return is additional.)

[TurboTax](#) offers discounts on its software for active duty military.

### **Tax Code Changes You Should Know: 7 Eliminated Deductions**

By: Col. Curtis Sheldon, USAF (Ret)

1. Tax preparation fees or tax advice are no longer deductible. However, if your tax bill is itemized and you have tax preparation fees that are business-related, such as those for your rental property or completing Schedule C, you can deduct those business-related tax preparation fees.

2. Investment Fees and Expenses. As with tax preparation, investment fees and expenses are no longer deductible. Of note, though, commissions paid when purchasing securities still add to the basis of the security and reduce your profit when the security is sold. So in effect, they are deductible.
3. Military Uniform Items. Only certain uniform items, such as rank, corps devices, and swords, were deductible. They no longer are.
4. Unreimbursed Travel Expenses. Reservists and guard members who travel more than 100 miles for drill or other reserve-related travel and have unreimbursed expenses continue to be able to account for them as an adjustment to income and they are deductible. Active duty servicemembers report unreimbursed travel expenses, if any, as a miscellaneous itemized deduction, and therefore they are not deductible.
5. Job-Hunting Expenses. When you separate from military service, you'll probably have job-hunting expenses. Job-hunting expenses such as printing, postage, résumé preparation fees, and travel no longer are deductible.
6. Work-Related Education. Education expenses to maintain or improve your skills are no longer deductible. Often, retiring military officers would get a certification that relates to their present work and take a deduction for those expenses. As mentioned, you can't do that anymore.
7. Other Work-Related Items. Other deductions that no longer will be available include home office expenses if you are an employee, professional fees, and depreciation on computers or cellphones used for your employer's benefit.

### **Necessary Documents**

Filing your taxes requires a lot of documents and personal information so make sure to collect everything you'll need before you get started. The following is a list of some of those

necessary records, but if you're getting outside help, it's best to call ahead to make sure you're not forgetting anything.

1. Photo ID/Military ID
2. Social security cards for you and each family member claimed on the return
3. Wage and earning statement(s), such as Forms W-2, W-2G, and 1099-R
4. Child care costs
5. Investment income forms
6. Receipts for charitable donations
7. Receipts for deductible expenses
8. Your bank routing numbers and account numbers for direct deposit
9. Last year's returns

### **MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT FOR HEROISM UNDER FIRE DIES AT 89**

By: Amanda Dolasinski

Lt.Col. Charles Kettles, USA (Ret), who received the [Medal of Honor](#) after returning his helicopter four times to a Vietnam battlefield under intense enemy fire to evacuate more than 40 American troops, died on Monday. He was 89.



July 18, 2016. (White House photo by Chuck Kennedy)

Kettles, a MOAA member for 20 years, was an Iroquois helicopter pilot for the 176th Assault Helicopter Company in Vietnam when he learned an airborne infantry unit had suffered casualties during a firefight with the enemy. Kettles, a major at the time, volunteered to lead a flight of six helicopters to carry reinforcements to the embattled force near Duc

Pho, Vietnam, and evacuate wounded troops.

In July 2016, then-President Barack Obama [presented Kettles with the Medal of Honor](#) during a ceremony at the White House.

"Forty-four men came home because Chuck Kettles believed that we leave no man behind," Obama said during the ceremony. "That's America at our best."

[Bills Seek Medal of Honor for 102 Year Old World War II Hero](#). More than seven decades after World War II veteran James "Maggie" Megellas single-handedly wiped out a German tank with grenades during the Battle of the Bulge, efforts are being renewed to present him with the Medal of Honor. Legislation introduced early in the new session in both houses of Congress would authorize President Donald Trump to present the nation's highest military honor to Megellas, a 102-year-old Life Member of MOAA and retired Army lieutenant colonel. Already known as the most decorated officer in the history of the [82nd Airborne Division](#), Megellas has received the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Stars, two Bronze Stars, and two Purple Hearts. The Medal of Honor was recommended for Megellas in 1945, shortly after his actions during the Battle of the Bulge, but documentation from the battle was not considered, leaving the honor in limbo.



82nd Airborne Division paratroopers help World War II veteran James "Maggie" Megellas into an assault boat, in Nijmegen, Netherlands, as part of a re-enactment of the crossing of the Waal River during World War II. (photo by Staff Sgt. Mary S. Katzenberger, USA on September 2014)

## **THAT'S A WRAP FOR JANUARY**