

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 EXTRA VII

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pacmoaa.org

July 2016

PAGE ONE

July is here with everyone planning summer activities. We wish everyone safe and exciting adventures during the break. I would be remiss if I did not remind you to include the brunch with other local MOAA chapters on Sunday the 17th of July in your plans. The annual brunch is truly a special event that you will remember. Reservations are required. Be sure to see page (2) for details.



For those who were not able to attend our June Scholarship Banquet, meet Jessica Blanchard (left) from Woodrow Wilson High School and Mackenzie Scalon (right) from Great Bridge High School both 2016 PACMOAA Scholarship recipients. Jessica is heading to Texas A & M. Her goals are to study civil engineering in the Air Force ROTC program and a U.S. Air Force commission. Mackenzie is on her way to the University of Virginia Air Force ROTC program focusing on a medical field career after graduation. Best of luck and success to both.

Sherry Ferki labors all year to fulfill our commitment to provide community youth incentive to consider military careers. The scholarship board maintains an excellent record on candidate selection. As proof of their success please read the report on recipient Ryan Fraser on page 4. Your generous donations are greatly appreciated and effective. We are a small chapter, but cast a long shadow. Keep up the good work. Your generosity and commitment are not forgotten.



We thank the Smithfield High School Army JROTC Color guard for participation at our June Scholarship Dinner (Page 3). We must not forget to thank CAPT Gordan Van Hook, USN (Ret) for his excellent presentation on the Norfolk based Maersk Alabama hijacking incident. Last but not least, it is a pleasure to again express our gratitude to the United States Automobile Association for co-sponsoring our dinner. The evening would not have been as memorable without USAA assistance.

In the face of intermittent rain, the 132nd Portsmouth Memorial Day parade did take place with the intrepid MOAA regulars from PACMOAA braving the weather to show our colors. It is always fun to participate in this annual event (page 5).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Kevin Terry
Thomas R Cahill
Robert L. Collette
Sherry D Ferki
Robert L Lane

Andre H Mayfield
Peggy E Moran
Robert G Ponton
Matthew J Streeter
Alice D Taves
Henry F Berck Jr.
Henry C Boschen Jr.

Dolores Cherrington
Herbert W De Groft
Harry P Miller
Gordon M Nelson
Robert A Steorts
Kenneth Turner
Gordan E. Van Hook

Click Here for

[DIRECTORY](#)

Chapter Happenings

July 04 Independence Day	Aug 14 VJ Day
July 17 Annual Summer Brunch	Sep 08 PACMOAA Dinner
Aug 04 US Coast Guard Birthday	Oct 13 PACMOAA Dinner
Aug 07 Purple Heart Day	Nov 10 Annual Business Meeting
Aug 05 Summer Olympics Open	Dec 08 Annual Christmas Gala

2016 ANNUAL JOINT MOAA CHAPTER BRUNCH

The Portsmouth Chapter, Hampton Roads Chapter, and the Virginia Peninsula Chapter of MOAA are hosting a brunch mixer on Sunday, 17 July from 1100 to 1400 at the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center located at 2800 Shore Drive in Virginia Beach. This all you can eat brunch will be \$27.00 per person plus tax and gratuity and billed individually by the hotel staff. Cash bar is available. There will be live piano dining music. We recommend members not miss this culinary event. Come and enjoy the venue, music, fine food and camaraderie among chapter members. You may bring any family members or guests that would make the event more enjoyable. Meet members from the other local chapters! This event has been an annual event for over 15 years. It was first held at the Fort Monroe Officers Club then the Chamberlain and finally now at the Conference Center and has always been a great experience for all!

Plenty of outside parking is available on both sides of the hotel with a closer entrance to the TradeWinds restaurant on the upper parking level. An elevator at the rear of the indoor parking garage (Bayside) will take you directly to the front

entrance of the restaurant. More brunch information can be found at this [LINK](#).

Reservations are required. Please email or call Sherry Ferki NLT 1200 Tuesday, 12 July. Hope to see you there! Call Sherry if you would like a ride; The PACmobile is going.

HARD COPY MENU

She Crab Soup
Raw Bar Featuring Steamed Shrimp & Oysters
Salmon & Whitefish Platters
Fresh Fruit & Cheese Display
Donut Machine & Toppings
Fresh Yellowfin Tuna Searing Station with Exciting Spices & Sauces
Omelet Station – Made to Order
Waffle Station with Strawberry & Blueberry Toppings
Roast Beef & Ham Carving Station
Sushi Action Station
Eggs Benedict and Cheese Blitzes
Dessert Display and Chocolate Fountain- - Coffee, Tea and Decaf

Below is the original brunch venue at the Fort Monroe Officer's Club.





Above is the Chamberlin brunch venue.



Above (LtoR) are Dollise Howard-Whitehurst, Alice Taves, and Charles Whitehurst Sr. at the 2013 Conference Center Brunch.



Above is the Smithfield High School Army JROTC Color Guard at our June dinner.

WELCOME ABOARD

The Salute extends a hardy welcome to:

CAPT Kevin Terry, USN (Ret) and his wife Miriam.

LTC Richard "Dick" Yesensky, USA (Ret) and his wife Dianna.

We also welcome back MAJ James Yandel, USA (Ret) and his wife Lois.



The Salute expresses appreciation and thanks to PACMOAA member CAPT Gordan Van Hook, USN (Ret) for his excellent presentation at our June Dinner. CAPT Van Hook talked about his experience in 2009 as head of the Maersk Crisis Action Team in Mombasa, Kenya during the Maersk Alabama hijacking. This was of particular interest as the Maersk Alabama was Norfolk based at the time. He referred to the movie about the incident as reasonably representative of actual events and worth viewing. His presentation explained the complexity of global container operations and clarified details not reported at the time of the Pirating. As he concluded his wife, Jacqueline, could not resist having him add a humorous event occurring immediately upon his return. Everyone was captivated.

FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE MAJOR CHARLES B. WHITEHURST, SR.

PACMOAA lost a long time member and Past President when MAJ Charles B. Whitehurst, Sr. USMC (Ret) died on 4 June 2016. Charles was not a Charter Member of PACMOAA but was President from 1988 - 1989, Treasurer for several terms as well as serving in other leadership team positions.



From his obituary:

Oftentimes, simultaneously during his military service and community betterment, Charles gave exemplary service within the civilian community on boards and commissions on the local, state, and national levels; was elected as the Portsmouth City Treasurer (two-four year terms), became a member of the Portsmouth City Council and its Vice Mayor retiring in 2012.

Charles fought a courageous battle - transitioning as how he lived, with dignity, strength, and honor.

PACMOAA and the city of Portsmouth lost a dedicated friend and advocate when Charles died. Four PACMOAA members attended "a Celebration of Life" for Charles on 9 June 2016. The city of Portsmouth turned out in mass along with many public officials to honor Charles and the Mayor of Portsmouth presented a plaque to his family in recognition of his many years of dedicated service to Portsmouth and its citizens.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Mrs. Dolise Howard-Whitehurst and the rest of Charles' family. He will be missed but his memory will live on in our hearts and in the wearing of "Charles' ties"!

MESSAGE TO PACMOAA FROM A PROUD MOM

June 17, 2016

"Hello!

I am sitting in the airport, leaving our son who is heading to his new assignment at Ft Hood. Having some time to kill, I am purging some (very!) old email.

Don't know if you are still involved with the program, but Ryan was a proud recipient of [a PACMOAA Scholarship], way back in 2011. He successfully graduated from JMU last spring, and was commissioned a 2LT.

I am attaching a photo from the BOLC graduation yesterday. We could not be more proud, and thank y'all once again for your generosity and faith in youth, like Ryan :) Thank you!"



Ryan received one of three PACMOAA Scholarships awarded in 2011 following graduation from Great Bridge HS. He maintained a high GPA while taking many honors courses, Advanced Placement, and Dual Enrollment classes. He demonstrated leadership as Corresponding Secretary of the SCA and President and treasurer of the Future Business Leaders of America. He participated in Varsity athletics and was a team captain. Community activities included Operation Smile volunteer. He also found time to work part-time for a local photography operation for three years.

132nd PORTSMOUTH MEMORIAL DAY

Yes, the 132nd Portsmouth Memorial Day parade did take place on 30 May as planned. The usual PACMOAA members did brave the



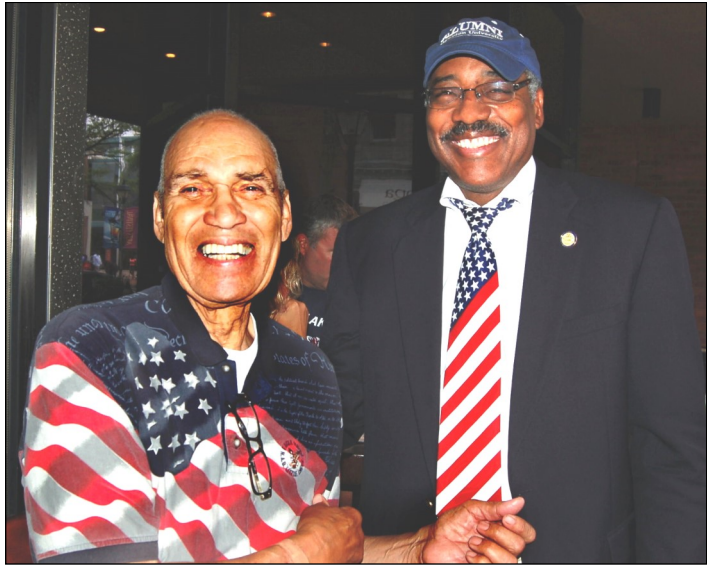
Left to right are Twila Nelson, Nell Wall, Bob Wall and Shirley Barker and the Wall BMW.



Sherry and Bruce Ferki (front seat) were followed immediately by Ray and Peg Cicirelli.

weather to show our colors. It is always great fun to participate in this annual event, particularly for those choosing to lunch at Roger Brown's following the parade. You are never sure who you might meet such as Roger Brown

or Virginia State Delegate Mathew James.



All are welcome to participate next year.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by Bob Steorts, Chaplain

As we celebrate the July 4th holiday, let us always remember those who gave their lives for our country and our freedoms.

We just returned from two weeks in Eastern Europe: Hungary, Austria, Germany, and the Czech Republic. We saw lots of these countries, their people, and many things that they all had endured over a fifty-year period of occupation by first Germany (five years) and Communism (45 years). We in the United States have never had an outside power in our country, controlling our everyday life.

We should be very thankful and thank God for all the freedoms we have, and remember those who saw to it that we remain free!

NEWS FROM MOAA

May 6, 2016

For 55 years, the annual defense authorization bill has been passed by Congress and signed into law. The bill is a massive, 700-plus page document outlining a number of things from force levels for each service to how much you'll



pay for health care. But as it goes through the amendment process, legislators tuck dozens of diverse requirements into the bill.

Here are ten things you need to know about amendments added to the defense bill during the House Armed Services Committee's deliberation process:

1. Troubled by the Pentagon's acknowledgement that its proposed TRICARE network would only cover 85 percent of the beneficiary population committee chair Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-Tex.) and Military Personnel Subcommittee chair Joe Heck (R-Nev.) put a provision in the bill to increase the coverage to 90 percent. But the Congressional Budget Office advised this change would exceed budget limits. So the chairmen's proposed increase had to be withdrawn.

2. Rep. Seth Moulton (D-Mass.) included an amendment requiring the Secretary of Defense to help identify which members of the military are at high risk of suicide to aid in intervention efforts.

3. Rep. Marc Veasey (D-Texas) asked for a report on providing acupuncture and chiropractic care for TRICARE retirees. This has been a longstanding MOAA legislative goal.

4. Rep. Randy Forbes (R-Va.) called for the creation of a pilot program for TRICARE beneficiaries to get prescription maintenance medications at retail pharmacies. Drug manufacturers would pay rebates to DoD for medications, ensuring the government pays the lowest available price.

Currently, beneficiaries must use mail-order or visit a MTF to receive non-generic maintenance medications.

While this provision would give beneficiaries another option for service, there is nothing in the amendment requiring DoD or pharmacies to pass on savings to beneficiaries.

5. Rep. Brad Ashford (D-Neb.) would direct DoD to provide Congress a report on the feasibility of authorizing commissary and exchange access for disabled veterans who received the

Purple Heart.

6. Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.) introduced - then subsequently voted against - his own amendment requiring women, as well as men, to register for the draft. The unusual move was done as a part of a broader questioning of DoD's decision to open all combat positions to female servicemembers. The amendment did pass.

Earlier this year MOAA conducted an [informational survey](#) on the issue and found that, while many survey respondents were uncomfortable with female servicemembers serving in combat positions, most said - if the country was already heading in that direction - it would be consistent to have women sign up for the draft.

7. Rep. Susan Davis (D-Calif.) secured an amendment providing 14 days of parental leave for a servicemember whose civilian spouse gives birth.

8. Reps. Niki Tsongas (D-Mass.) and Mike Turner (R-Ohio) both introduced amendments to improve training for military sexual trauma.

9. Rep. Rich Nugent's (R-Fla.) amendment specifies National Guard dual status technicians (whose Guard positions also entail full-time federal civilian jobs) from being furloughed in the event of a government shutdown.

10. Rep. Tim Walz's (D-Minn.) amendment would require additional time before DoD could implement proposed efficiency initiatives (e.g., variable pricing and store brands) for the commissary system, out of concern for potential unintended consequences. The amendment failed on a voice vote after Military Personnel Subcommittee chair Heck articulated the various safeguards already included in the bill.

The Senate Armed Services Committee takes up its version of the annual defense bill next week, and the full House is expected to take action later this month (which is why we [need your action now](#).)

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

By Gail Joyce and Patricia Bergquist, MOAA
Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee (SSAC)

On April 13, members of the Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee were among the more than 160 participants of MOAA's annual Storming the Hill lobbying event in Washington, D.C. The teams of Hill-stormers provided their legislators with detailed fact sheets and brochures and asked them to: 1) oppose disproportional TRICARE fee hikes and 2) act this year on the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset affecting 63,000 surviving military spouses. (Read more about the issues and view the fact sheets and brochures at www.moaa.org/storming.)

Once again, the FY 2017 DoD budget proposes changes to health care for both active duty servicemembers and military retirees that would rebrand current TRICARE health care plans into two renamed plans and feature numerous fee increases for beneficiaries.

Hill-stormers delivered the message that TRICARE access, referrals, and continuity of care, along with other problems, need to be addressed for active duty servicemembers before fees are increased because the biggest fees would affect beneficiaries without access. The proposed fee increases are disproportionately high for retirees. Without guaranteed access, enrollment fees for TRICARE For Life and TRICARE Standard are inappropriate. Means-testing health care benefits earned through service is not only wrong, but unprecedented. No other employer, federal or civilian, means-tests benefits. Any annual fee adjustment should be based on the retiree COLA, not the projected health care cost index growth of 5.2 percent a year.

SBP coverage provides a military spouse up to 55 percent of their servicemember's retired pay upon death for any reason. For active duty deaths, the coverage automatically is provided

to the spouse. Under current law, survivors of deceased active duty and retired servicemembers who participated in SBP must forfeit dollar-for-dollar from their SBP when military service causes the death and DIC is awarded by the VA, currently \$1,254 per month (\$15,048 a year). This means those affected by this inequity lose all or part of their SBP. Current legislative proposals to repeal the offset are H.R. 1594 and S. 979. MOAA has been fighting for full repeal of this offset for 15 years.

In 2008, a Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) was approved by Congress to partially compensate for the SBP/DIC injustice, with the intent to continue increasing the SSIA to phase out the offset. Unfortunately, the authority to continue SSIA will end Oct. 1, 2017. If the SSIA is not extended, as provided in H.R. 4519, then SBP/DIC survivors will lose an additional \$310 a month (\$3,700 a year).

On Storming the Hill day, we told our legislators the SBP/DIC offset should be fully repealed, but if sufficient funds could not be found to do so, the SSIA should be extended and increased to continue phasing out the offset completely.

While we were encouraged by responses from most legislators, we urge you to contact your legislators on these issues, too. To call your legislators' office toll-free, use MOAA's direct line to the congressional switchboard: (800) 272-6622. Then, ask the Capitol operator to connect you with your legislator's office, and ask to speak with the legislative assistant or military legislative assistant.[]

A man's got to do what a man's got to do. A woman must do what he can't.

~ Rhonda Hansome

The phrase "working mother" is redundant.

~ Jane Sellman

Whatever women must do they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good. Luckily, this is not difficult.

~ Charlotte Whitton

TAKE ACTION NOW

STOP DEFENSE BILL PERSONNEL COMPENSATION CUTS

Military people have a lot to lose as House and Senate Armed Services Committee leaders are working to resolve big differences in their respective versions of the FY17 Defense Authorization Bill.

dramatic retiree health care fee increases

huge erosions to housing allowances

another pay raise cutback

more cuts to force levels

Military leaders say forces already are on the ragged edge of readiness. Similar patterns of repeated personnel and benefit cuts caused retention problems in the 1970s and 1990s. We should learn from history rather than repeating it.

Internet members use this link to [MOAA's suggested message](#) urging your legislators to ensure these major allowance reductions are dropped from the final defense bill. Do not forget to provide your name and contact information. Hard copy readers please review the message below and prepare your letters to your legislators. You may also contact *The Salute* for assistance.

"Military people have a lot to lose as House and Senate Armed Services Committee leaders are working to resolve big differences in their respective versions of the FY17 Defense Authorization Bill.

Please do all you can to ensure the following proposals do not stay in the final defense bill:

- disproportionately high health care fee increases
- steep housing allowance cuts that would cost many \$10,000-\$20,000 per year or more
- a fourth consecutive year of capping military pay
- raises below the average American's; and
- significant cuts to force levels

Military leaders say forces already are on the ragged edge of readiness.

Similar patterns of repeated personnel and benefit cuts caused retention problems in the 1970s and 1990s. We should learn from history rather than repeating it.

Please do all you can to ensure these cuts are dropped from the final FY 2017 defense bill."

A Short Story from Truthbook

This is a true account recorded in the Police Log of Sarasota, Florida.

An elderly Florida lady did her shopping and, upon returning to her car, found four males in the act of leaving with her vehicle. She dropped her shopping bags and drew her handgun, proceeding to scream at the top of her lungs, "I have a gun, and I know how to use it! GET OUT OF THE CAR!"

The four men didn't wait for a second threat. They got out and ran like mad.

The lady, somewhat shaken, then proceeded to load her shopping bags into the back of the car and got into the driver's seat. She was so shaken that she could not get her key into the ignition. She tried and tried, and then she realized why. It was for the same reason she had wondered why there was a football, a Frisbee, and two 12-packs of beer in the front seat.

A few minutes later, she found her own car parked four or five spaces farther down. She loaded her bags into the car and drove to the police station to report her mistake. The sergeant to whom she told the story couldn't stop laughing. He pointed to the other end of the counter, where four pale men were reporting a car jacking by a mad, elderly woman described as white, less than five feet tall, glasses, curly white hair, and carrying a large handgun.

No charges were filed.

Moral of the story?

If you're going to have a senior moment...make it memorable!

THAT'S A WRAP FOR JULY