



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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pacmoaa.org

April 2017



March guest speaker CDR Robert R. "Boom" Powell USN (Ret.) and PACMOAA President Sherry Ferki.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello everyone. I hope you all are enjoying the spring weather and didn't have any problems from our most recent storms. This newsletter is coming out later than usual as we had to change our regular monthly schedule to avoid conflict with Holy Week. Between members out of town and members unable to attend because of church activities, we would not have been able to meet the minimum number of attendees required by the Hilton Garden Inn for a dinner. I hope the change in schedule didn't cause any

problem for any of the membership.

PACMOAA expresses many thanks and a BZ to CDR "Boom" Powell who gave an interest grabbing presentation. The editor describes it as an intriguing mixture of Walter Cronkite and Paul Harvey. He began with the debate of who built the first ships as carriers the British or Japanese. During the Great War Britain, France, Germany, Russia and Japan had aviation ships. The U.S. Navy's first aircraft carrier was the USS Langley (CV 1). It was converted from the collier USS Jupiter (AC 3) and recommissioned on March 20, 1922. Although Langley was not the first ship with an installed flight



"Boom" as a young pilot. I see no noticeable change — in his smile.

deck or the first ship from which an airplane had taken off, her service marked the birth of the era of the carrier. She was also the sight of the first carrier catapult when her commanding officer, Cmdr. Kenneth Whiting, was catapulted from her deck.

Some interesting facts about the early development of aircraft carriers: The first sea plane was flown in 1910 and in November 1910, the USS Birmingham was

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Henry F Berck Jr.
- Henry C Boschen Jr.
- Dolores Cherrington
- Herbert W De Groft
- Harry P Miller
- Gordon Nelson
- Robert A Steorts
- Steve Turner

(Continued on page 4) President's Desk

Chapter Happenings

Apr 05 MOAA Storms D.C. Hill **Apr 18 Tax Day**
Apr 14 Good Friday **Apr 20 PACMOAA Dinner**
Apr 16 Easter Sunday **Apr 21 [Purple Up Day](#)**

APRIL DINNER

Our next dinner will be held on **Thursday, 20 April** 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

Spinach Salad with Mushrooms, Hardboiled Eggs and Bacon
with Vinaigrette Dressing

Ham Steak with Pineapple Slice Glaze

Smashed Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans Almandine and Rolls

Chef's Choice Dessert

Water and Ice Tea served at table

Coffee and Hot Water for Tea Station

Cost is **\$30.00** (includes tax and gratuity) Please make your reservation no later than **Sunday, 16 April** with Sherry Ferki at _____

Come join us for good company, good food and a good time.

REMEMBER A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID.

APRIL SPEAKER

After 9/11, did you ever wonder how intelligent young men, who could learn how to take-over a commercial airliner and fly it into a skyscraper to their own certain death, might be persuaded to perform such an act? PACMOAA's own Bob Pomeroy did, and he began a study of the Islamic "religion", only to find that it is more of an ideology, or culture, than simply a religion. Bob graduated from West Point in 1948, but was commissioned in the brand new USAF, as were 37% of his class by their own choice. He completed Flight School in 1949, and flew the AT-6 as a Forward Air Controller in Korea in 1951 as we pushed the Sino/Korean forces back to the present demarcation line. He flew 65 missions, 225 combat hours, in an unarmed, unarmored single-engine AT-6 prop-driven aircraft, picking up battle damage on thirteen occasions. In one case he got safely back to his base with a severed aileron cable in the right wing, and a ruptured pitot system, so that he had no indication of airspeed and only a limited ability to keep the wings level. On another mission, he took a hit in the vulnerable engine oil cooler, and when the engine seized up as he was making an approach to a 1,500 foot US Army flight strip, he dead stuck to a belly landing without significant damage to his plane or crew. On his 65th, and last, mission, Bob was the first FAC to stumble upon a "flak trap", brought in as the Sino-Korean forces had stopped their withdrawal and began to build a



(Continued from page 2) Speaker

stronger defensive position. Noticing a strange absence of enemy activity, he started a quick exit toward friendly lines, but observed the sudden falling of camouflage covers and the appearance of larger than usual anti-aircraft guns. Soon the sky around his AT-6 was dotted with explosive bursts, and then it was hit by a shell that ruptured a fuel tank setting the gas on fire. With the fire directly beneath the front cockpit, both smoke and flame impacted at once. A Mayday call was made with minimum delay and the observer was given a review of the bail-out procedures and the decision to leave the aircraft over “no-man’s-land” was made. Both crew members cleared the aircraft just before it blew up! Following a helicopter dust off to a MASH hospital for clean-up and ice cream (“HotLips” wasn’t there) was a train ride to Taegu for additional treatment of burns, and finally a flight to Tokyo Army Hospital. Eventually he joined his family in the Philippine Islands.

Subsequently, he was an RF-80 Recce pilot, crossing the Atlantic with his unit in the NATO build-up, serving as flight commander and maintenance officer; and serving as Aide de Camp to COMAIRSOUTH in Naples, Italy, before returning to Shaw AFB to check out in the RF-101 “VooDoo”. Bob next joined the Military Studies Dept at the new USAF Academy, teaching cadets about the history, organization, activities, tactics, and strategic considerations, in the application of USAF forces. After that he was a student at the RAF Staff College Andover, and had an exchange tour on the War Studies Team at the RAF College Cranwell. Tac Recce “requirements” in the Pentagon was next, followed by executive assistant jobs for a senior IG officer, and the Under Secretary of the USAF. Bob next graduated from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, and also obtained an MSBA from GWU while there. After having upgraded to the RF-4C at Shaw, he went to Vietnam as Chief of Reconnaissance and Electronic Warfare for 7th Air Force, flying

RF-4C missions out of Udorn, Thailand. Acquiring hepatitis, before cross-training to the (F-4C) fighter could be started in preparation for a new job as vice commander of an F-4C Fighter Wing (the “Gunfighters”.) Bob was medevaced out of a combat tour for a second time. He was next assigned to the Army War College, where he taught in Strategy and Leadership Departments before becoming the Senior Air Force Rep at Carlisle Barracks. Bob finished 31 years of active duty at SHAPE in Belgium, where he was executive assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Policy; then spent his final 3 years as the United States National Military Representative at SHAPE.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS SHOWING SOME IMPROVEMENT

Almost two thirds of current membership have paid 2017 dues. PACMOAA dues are as follows:

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 that performs at our Christmas gala.

Please pay your dues as soon as possible so we can continue to provide all these services. Please include the renewal form to help us up-date our records. 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!

See renewal form at the end of the newsletter. Thank you.

(Continued from page 1) President's Desk

launched in Hampton Roads. The USS Pennsylvania had the first flight deck built in 1911 in San Francisco Bay and the Centennial of Naval Aviation is 2011 when the Eugene B. Ely landed his Curtiss Pusher plane on a naval ship. In 1917, HMS Furious had 228 feet of a flying platform on the forward section for planes to take off but they were not landing yet. In 1918, the landing area moved to the aft due to concern the planes could be pushed off the side. 1922 was the next US Navy landing when catapults were developed to launch planes off the platform. This is just a brief overview of the fascinating history that was presented.

The evolution of aircraft carriers and their promotion in books and movies was also discussed. When *Top Gun* was released, both Air Force and Navy recruiters set up recruitment tables at theaters! "Boom" also mentioned several other movies including the *Bridge over Toki-Ri* as one of the best movies made.

Visual landing aids were also discussed from the LSO's (Landing Signal Officer) to the current visual landing aids. *Wave-Off*, a History of LSOs and Ship-Board Landings, was written by "Boom" Powell.

"Boom" is still very involved in aviation and brought info about the Military Aviation Museum which celebrates and honors the first 50 years of military aviation. More information is available at www.Military.AviationMuseum.org or 757-721-7767. They have a special display of "Warbirds Over The Beach" as well as having rides in a 1941 Boeing Stearman available. Additional information was provided on the Tidewater Soaring Society which offers instruction to new members. see more at www.tidewatersoaring.org

As a person with little knowledge about aviation except from the movies and TV shows, this was a great way to learn about the history of the aircraft carrier and naval aviation. It was

mentioned that most naval aircraft carriers had an Air Force person on board at some point.

For those who could not attend in March, I hope I have given you a taste of the vast amount of information "Boom" provided with his excellent power point and discussion. Our next 2 meetings will be rather close together with the delay of our April meeting but I hope you will be able to attend both. Please look over the projected schedule for the spring and summer. This is a very busy time of year for PACMOAA members and we welcome participation of as many members as possible. Take care and please continue to support the military community in whatever ways you can

SPRING AND SUMMER EVENTS

It appears that our Spring and Summer have several interesting and important activities.

5 April MOAA Storms the Hill. see MOAA article on page 7.

20 April PACMOAA DINNER MEETING - COL Robert (Bob) Pomeroy, USAF (Ret.), will be our speaker.

21 April is Purple Up Day

April is the Month of the Military Child (MOMC.) "Purple Up! For Military Kids" will be celebrated across Department of Defense Education Activities (DoDEA) on Friday, April 21st. This is a day for DoDEA Communities to wear purple to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. Purple symbolizes the combined colors of all branches of the military—Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red, and Navy blue

11 May 2017 PACMOAA DINNER MEETING - DETAILS TBA

(Continued from page 4) President's Desk

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.

16 MAY CONGRESSIONAL LUNCHEON

On May 16th as 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 of the U.S. Military Community and the Armed Forces: active duty-reserves-National Guard- retirees-veterans- surviving spouses-family members. More information will be included in next newsletter.

18 MAY PACMOAA BOARD MEETING

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

8 JUNE PACMOAA DINNER

Program includes:

Presentation of the 2017 PACMOAA JROTC Scholarships. The scholarship recipients' parents will also attend the June dinner meeting. It is always a pleasure to meet the students and hear of their accomplishments in school as well as their goals.

Speaker has not been determined at this time

A local High school JROTC Color Guard will present the colors.

USAA hopefully will co-sponsor this event.

While we are talking about the Scholarship dinner, I would like to briefly outline our program for new members, update the membership of our progress so far this year, and thank you for your generous support over the years which has made our program so successful!

Since I took over the chairmanship of the Scholarship committee in 2001, PACMOAA has awarded 27 scholarships. Only three students were unable to use their scholarship for various reasons attesting to the acumen of our selection board. One to two scholarships have been awarded each year, ranging from \$1000 to \$2000. The scholarship is allotted over the first two semesters in school and is contingent upon continued enrollment in ROTC. The money may be used for tuition, room and board, or other school related expenses. Unlike the MOAA scholarships, the students do not have to come from a military family.

The number and amount of scholarships to be awarded for the year is voted on at the February Board Meeting and is based on membership donations. Since one student could not use the scholarship last year, we already have enough money for two \$1500 scholarships.

Information pertaining to our scholarship went out to local high schools in Portsmouth, Suffolk, Franklin, Chesapeake, Southampton and Isle of Wight in late March. That includes over 30 local high schools in addition to 13 JROTC units.

CDR Scott Dickinson, the Co-Chair of the Scholarship Committee revised the application so that it can be distributed and completed electronically. Scott also set up an electronic scoring sheet for the Scholarship Committee members to facilitate a better review of applications. Scott's efforts bring us into the 21st century are greatly appreciated!

College expenses are increasing as are all other expenses. Please consider a donation to help these students in their quest for a career in the military. This can easily be done by adding \$10 or \$20 - or more - to your dues check or adding

\$5 - or more - to your dinner check. All donations are greatly appreciated and most helpful!

JULY ANNUAL SUMMER BRUNCH with Hampton Roads and Peninsula Chapters still being planned.

July or August **JOINT CHAPTER 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. Col Hal Hostetler, USA (Ret) Secretary and Immediate Past President, 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) 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 member's" first year chapter membership dues.[]

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by Bob Steorts, Chaplain

One of the things that fascinates me about baseball is the way coaches position their players on the field. When a power player comes up, they move them in the direction of his power, or if a spray hitter comes to bat, they move the players in the other direction.

And sometimes they play them straight away. If the coaches expect the hitter to bunt, they pull the players up close; they place them midway when they hope to turn a double play. In the latter innings, they move everybody back to avoid an extra base-hit.

Coaches will tell you convincingly that close games are often won or lost just by positioning of the players. A particular play can succeed or fail because of the placement of the players. It's true in all sports. Positioning is all-important. It is tremendously important, too, in the game of life. And in the seventh Beatitude, Jesus is saying to us, "Here's your position! Go into life as peacemakers! Let that be your stance! Let that be your attitude, you commitment! Take the position of peacemakers!"

Over the years, scholars have come at this seventh Beatitude from three different directions. Some have said it has to do with the Hebrew word *shalom*. *Shalom* means "wholeness, fullness, everything you need to make a life good." So in that context, this Beatitude could be paraphrased as: "Blessed are those who work to improve the quality of life for everyone and make this world a better place to live."

This is what Abraham Lincoln meant when he said, "I would like it to be said of me that I always pulled up a weed and planted a flower where I thought a flower would grow."

Other scholars have suggested that this Beatitude has to do with *inner peace* - peace within, serenity in our hearts and souls. Still others say that this Beatitude challenges us to work harder on *our relationships with others*. That's what it's all about, they say - being in a right relationship with other people. I'm sure it means some of all of these. I'm equally sure that the real peacemakers are those who have the following three important qualities: Patience, loving, and Christ like.

NEWS FROM MOAA

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

By Sharon A. DeVaney, member, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee

When servicemembers and dependents turn 65 and they enroll in Medicare, they also will become eligible for No fees associated with TFL, however, beneficiaries must pay the Medicare Part B premiums to stay enrolled in TFL. TFL works as the secondary payer to Medicare; Medicare pays 80 percent of covered services, and TFL pays the remaining 20 percent. TFL also pays the Medicare deductible. Generally, beneficiaries should not have any out-of-pocket costs for Medicare and TRICARE-covered services.

Under provisions of the FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), TRICARE benefit plans for servicemembers and dependents under age 65 will be streamlined from three plan types to two. TRICARE Select is the new preferred provider option; it will replace TRICARE Standard. The new TRICARE Select will have an Extra-like network of TRICARE providers who will have agreed to accept a pre-negotiated rate of payment. The other option is TRICARE Prime. It will be modernized so the majority of referrals to specialists from primary care managers will no longer be required to go through a pre-authorization process.

TRICARE also has new preventive care coverage, including the Cologuard colorectal cancer screening exam and BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene testing for breast cancer. For children and families, TRICARE's benefit coverage will be consistent with the American Academy of Pediatrics' standards of care of well children over age 6. Beneficiaries using TRICARE Standard no longer will pay cost shares for well-child screening and preventive visits. Learn more about the new preventive care coverage on MOAA's website.

Regarding pharmacy changes, TRICARE Pharmacy contractor, Express Scripts, announced

CVS pharmacies no longer would process prescriptions as of Dec. 1, 2016. Instead, Walgreens pharmacies returned to the TRICARE network. Beneficiaries who had been using CVS should have been notified how they could transfer their prescriptions to a nearby network pharmacy. You can find your closest TRICARE network pharmacy using the Express Scripts website.

The FY 2017 NDAA also included a provision that would allow dependents of retired members to purchase hearing aids at-cost. MOAA is working closely with DoD's TRICARE department on the details of this benefit and likely will have updates in a few months.

MOAA TO STORM HILL IN APRIL

On April 5, over 150 members of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) from every state met with legislators on Capitol Hill to discuss important issues facing the military community.

[In March] we mentioned MOAA will "Storm the Hill"-something we do every year. This year our focus is on ending the sequester, with its harmful budget caps, and the widows tax, the offset to SBP-DIC that will cost surviving spouses over \$15,000 a year if not repealed.

Sequestration is a complicated issue with a variety of scenarios and no firm cost projections because of several variables. The Budget Control Act of 2011 established caps restricting DoD's ability to spend funds previously approved. Those caps were then adjusted through the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 to account for increases in appropriations for certain purposes; for DoD, those purposes were for overseas contingencies operations. In short, sequestration ties up billions of dollars of heretofore projected spending, cripples DoD's acquisition process, and threatens basic allowances and entitlements for our military.

We need Congress to legislate an end to sequestration and follow up with budget reforms that take into account today's defense and non-defense realities shaped by dynamic global se-

curity challenges.

The SBP-DIC offset is unfair to surviving spouses, and we have been working to repeal it for more than 15 years.

Outright repeal would cost nearly \$10 billion, but in 2007, Congress recognized the “unfairness” of the offset and, in response, authorized SSIA as a vehicle to repeal the offset gradually. This incremental slope has leveled off at \$310 per month (compared to the intended \$1,258 per month benefit lost due to the offset). However, SSIA will expire in May 2018 unless Congress extends the allowance.

We need Congress to repeal the offset entirely. However, given the magnitude of such a bill, we understand and support an incremental strategy to continue to increase SSIA over time until its intended culmination: total repeal of the offset.

But the Armed Services Committees that own the program have a problem with financing it because of congressional funding rules that force them to cut a dollar of retirement or TRICARE for Life for every dollar added for the SSIA. MOAA agrees this is not a good solution.

That's why the Armed Services Committees have asked the Budget Committees for help in identifying outside offsets to allow the SSIA fix.

You can help ensure Congress stays aware of the need to take care of active duty military, reserves, guards, veterans, retirees, and their families by sending your legislators [MOAA-suggested messages](#) concerning current legislation.

MOAA STANDS FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the benefits of uniformed service-members of all ranks. MOAA Spouse Programs extend our advocacy efforts to their spouses and families. For more than 85 years, we've been a leading advocate for you. From your career to your kids, we're here for you for life.

Every Voice Counts

MOAA's greatest mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families, which is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's capital. MOAA has worked to improve the lives of military families by:

- advocating for the adoption of the Interstate Compact on Education in all 50 states;
- advancing licensure and certification accommodations for military spouses in all 50 states;
- gaining in-state tuition for veterans and authorized Post-9/11 GI Bill surviving military spouses;
- revising laws to allow retirement contributions to Special Needs Trusts for permanently disabled military children;
- restoring more than \$300 million in funding to the commissary and preventing reductions in benefit;
- ensuring members of the drilling National Guard & Reserve had access to TRICARE
- Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a great cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military families.

THE SHORT VERSION OF A LONG STORY

After shopping several days ago, I couldn't find my car in the parking lot. I gave myself a quick personal "TSA Pat Down" and discovered that my keys were also missing. After I was sure the car was missing, I called the police and reported the theft. I then called my wife for a ride home. I began explaining that I had lost the car keys and someone had stolen the car. She seemed overly upset and interrupted with, “are you trying to be funny? I dropped you off!” I sheepishly answered with “can you come pick me up?” She replied with “I will, if I can ever convince the local Polizia that I did not steal your car!”

THAT'S A WRAP FOR APRIL

PACMOAA MEMBERSHIP FORM 2017

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 number From MOAA card or *Military Officer Mailing Label*

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

Spouse email: _____

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