



# 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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June 2017



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I hope everyone had a memorable Memorial Day weekend and were able to attend remembrance activities for those who died serving our country. May was a very active month for PACMOAA with participation in a variety of activities. The month began with the 2017 NORTHEAST COUNCIL AND CHAPTER LEADERS WORKSHOP on May 5-6 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. PACMOAA members Karl Wilson (Legislative Representative) and Hal Hostetler (Secretary and Immediate Past President) attended the leadership workshop.

As per Karl Wilson opening remarks were given by LtGen Ed Hanlon, USMC (Ret), Chairman of the Council and Chapter Affairs Committee. LtGen Hanlon emphasized that state MOAA chapters must stress the following:

1. Chapter Purpose/Mission
2. Legislative Advocacy Engagement
3. Community Involvement
4. Membership Growth
5. Chapter Financial Oversight

## IS PACMOAA DYING ?

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The second day featured remarks from Col Dan Merry, USAF (Ret), MOAA Vice President of Government Relations. Col Merry spoke of MOAA Legislative priorities for 2017. They include:

1. Remove the sequester.
2. End SBP-DIC offset, "widows tax"
3. Prevent TRICARE increases/program changes
4. End military pay raise caps
5. Provide timely access to VA care; reduce backlog claims

Next we had our 11 May dinner meeting with guest speaker RADM Fred Metz USN (Ret) giving a fascinating presentation about the Bay Of Pigs failed military invasion of Cuba undertaken by the CIA-sponsored paramilitary group Brigade 2506 on 17 April 1961. Since the CIA ran the mission, the Navy ships supporting it had little knowledge of what was planned. The CIA expected the Cuban people to rise up and support the troops but most of the opposition had been killed by the time of this mission.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Martha L Anderson  
Rosalyn V Gardiner  
Charles E Kuehn  
Kevin Terry



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. Their planes usually dropped bombs but were asked by the CIA to provide combat support for the troops on the beach on 19 April. In order to do this, they had to paint off any identifying info

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## Chapter Happenings

**June 6 D-Day WWII**

**June 14 US Army birthday**

**June 8 PACMOAA DINNER**

**June 18 Fathers' Day**

### JUNE DINNER

Our next dinner will be held on **Thursday, 8 June** 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

Caesar Salad with Parmesan Cheese and Croutons

Chicken Marsala

Red Roasted Potatoes and Broccoli

Chef's Choice Dessert

Coffee and Hot Water for Tea Station

Water and Ice Tea at table

Cost is **\$40.00** (includes tax and gratuity) Please make your reservation no later than **Sunday, 4 June** with Sherry Ferki at \_\_\_\_\_.

Come join us for good company, good food and a good time. **REMEMBER A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID.**

## JUNE PROGRAM

Our Annual Scholarship banquet will open with the Woodrow Wilson Army JROTC Color Guard presenting the colors. The scholarship recipients and their families will be recognized and the recipients will give the members an overview of their plans and goals. This will be followed by two JROTC Leaders - Charlette J. Covington, EMC, USN (Ret) Naval Science Instructor at I.C. Norcom High School and Chailendrea M. Dickens, LTC (Retired), United States Army, Senior Army Instructor at Woodrow Wilson High School.

They will discuss their respective programs and some of the JROTC cadet activities.



The JROTC cadets, JROTC leaders, the scholarship winners and their families will be joining us for dinner so please make them welcome!

USAA again awarded PACMOAA a \$300.00 sponsorship to support this annual event recognizing the scholarship winners beginning their military careers and the JROTC cadets for their support in making this event even more memorable!





The Woodrow Wilson High School Army JROTC Color Guard will present colors at our June Banquet.

(continued from page 1) president's desk

on their planes and the CIA wanted them to give up their IDs but the CO of the Essex refused to have the pilots do that. B 26s were scheduled to provide combat support but there was no communication between the 2 groups of planes.

Fred used several poster boards to describe the sequence of events. He recommended several books including: *Decision for Disaster - betrayal at the bay of pigs* by Grayston L. Lynch, *The Brilliant Disaster* by Jim Rasenberger, and *Bay Of Pigs Declassified - the Secret CIA Report of the Invasion of Cuba* edited by Peter Kornbluh. He has investigated this event in depth and found missing logs for the ships involved. Fred said someone needed to investigate this further and everyone strongly encouraged him to do so as he had such a wealth of knowledge already.

PACMOAA gives Fred a heart felt thanks for his riveting presentation.

## PACMOAA ACTIVITIES DURING MAY

Hal Hostetler attended the **Portsmouth Mayor's Military Affairs Committee** meeting. Hal attends this monthly meeting and ad-

vocates for events recognizing and honoring our military and veterans.

**PACMOAA members attended the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Virginia Congressional Delegation Appreciation Luncheon on May 16.** During the luncheon held in Washington, D.C, six members of the Virginia Congressional delegation were honored for their efforts and continued support of the U.S. military community and Armed Forces. PACMOAA attendees were Hal Hostetler, Karl Wilson, Dolly Cherrington, Jim Stephan and Steve Turner. The latter three are also VCOC Officers.

The six members of the congressional delegation being honored were: Donald McEachin, Robert Goodlatte, Dave Brat, Dan Beyer, Jr., Barbara Comstock, and Gerry Connolly.



VCOC President Steve Turner presenting Congresswoman Barbara Comstock the VCOC Virginia Legislator of the Year Award

Congressman Bobby Scott was not in attendance but was represented by David M. Dailey,





(L to R) Hal Hostetler, David M. Dailey, Karl Wilson and Dolly Cherrington.

his Legislative Assistant. Mr. Dailey was briefed and given position papers on MOAA's military issues by three PACMOAA members.



VCOC President Steve Turner calling the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Virginia Congressional Delegation Appreciation Luncheon to order.

**On 17 May** Legislative Representative Karl Wilson met with a joint task force to address VIPMOAA's concern with proposed legislation establishing the Veterans Entrepreneurship Grant Pilot Program as proposed.

**On 18 May** Sherry Ferki attended the **Strategic Planning Committee with Senior Services of Southeastern VA** with representatives from ten other military/veterans groups in addition to two Board members, including our own PACMOAA member, Herb DeGroft, and four other full time employees of the Senior Services. This will be an ongoing group to

plan a fall meet and greet for veterans 60+. The purpose is to provide information and access to community based services for veterans 60+ and their caregivers as well as linkage to services for active duty men and women. Senior Services has never focused on veterans before and wants to gather as much info and resources as possible to make all services easily available. Their motto is "Courage, Trust, Respect, Results."



PACMOAA Board of Director member, Whitney Jones presented Cadet Chloe Graham the MOAA JROTC Medal at Churchland High School.

During May PACMOAA members assisted MOAA in recognizing outstanding JROTC Cadets by presenting MOAA JROTC Medals to deserving cadets.

MOAA Junior ROTC Medals are used to recognize



outstanding cadets or midshipmen in their junior year in the program who have demonstrated exceptional potential for military leadership (exceptional academic achievement in the case of the Marine Corps JROTC program.) The medal cannot be used for any other purpose. All military services

have officially approved the medal for presentation.

We presented a total of 12 medals this year. Congratulations to the recipient cadets.

Many thanks to the PACMOAA members taking time to participate in the program.

## 2017 MOAA JROTC Medal Recipients

School	Director	Date	Presenter Cadet
<b>CHESAPEAKE</b>	<b>All AFJROTC</b>		<b>Scott Dickinson</b>
Deep Creek HS	Maj Pearman	<b>23 May</b>	<b>Madison Coleman</b>
Great Bridge HS	Maj Kevin Gore		<b>Logan Hall</b>
Indian River HS	LtCol Thomas Martin		<b>Benjamin Roache</b>
Oscar Smith HS	Col Bacon		<b>Antonio Stewart</b>
Western Branch HS	Col Mike Kloski		<b>Mackenzie Howard</b>
Grassfield HS	LtCol Gordon Strong		<b>Evan Treanor</b>
<b>PORTSMOUTH</b>			
Churchland HS <b>MCJROTC</b>	LtCol Paul Pratt	<b>16 May</b>	<b>Whitney Jones</b> Cadet Chloe Graham
I.C. Norcom HS <b>NJROTC</b>	CWO2 Joseph Redwood	<b>25 May</b>	<b>Karl Wilson</b> Cadet Saliyah Harris
Woodrow Wilson HS <b>AJROTC</b>	LTC Chailendraia Dick- ins	<b>12 May</b>	<b>Sherry Ferki</b> C/SSG Ashli Boykins
<b>SUFFOLK</b>			
Lakeland HS <b>AFJROTC</b>	Maj Dale Blake	<b>5 May</b>	<b>Richard Titi</b> Cadet Riley Davis
Nansemond River HS <b>AFJROTC</b>	LtCol David Hedger	<b>12 May</b>	<b>Karl Wilson</b> Cadet 2Lt Cody Durick
Smithfield HS <b>AJROTC</b>	LTC Badoiam 1SGT Marvin Hunter	<b>25 May</b>	<b>Ken App</b> C/SGT Destiny Hoover



(L to R) Shirley Barker, Bruce and Sherry Ferki, Nell and Bob Wall at Portsmouth Memorial Day Parade assembly area. Dan Carlson not in photo.

## COMING SUMMER EVENTS

Our Scholarship Banquet this June will be our last regular meeting until September 14th, but there are three summer events I would like to bring to your attention.

### VA PROFILES OF HONOR MOBILE TOUR SCHEDULE THIS SUMMER

Learn more about the **WWI and WWII Profiles of Honor Tour**, a mobile exhibition that brings an interactive traveling exhibition to museums, libraries, and historic sites throughout Virginia. Modeled on the highly successful [Civil War 150 History Mobile](#) tour, Profiles of Honor brings to life the state's integral role in both wars, highlighting the stories of Virginians who served in both conflicts. Current schedule can be found at:

[www.viriniawwiandwwii.org/tourschedule](http://www.viriniawwiandwwii.org/tourschedule).

## JULY 8

### Patriot's Day: Commemorating the Great Wars

**Location:** Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum #2 High Street Portsmouth, VA 23704

**Hours:** Saturday, July 8: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**23 JULY ANNUAL SUMMER BRUNCH** with Hampton Roads and Peninsula Chapters will be at the Vir-

ginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center. Deadline for reservations and directions will be sent out shortly.

## 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" first year's chapter dues.

## 17 AUGUST BOARD MEETING

I hope to see many of you at our annual brunch on 23 July and hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable summer. Please keep our troops in your thoughts and prayers.

Sherry Ferki, President

## IS PACMOAA DYING ?

In preparing this issue of *The Salute*, I extracted the following from this month's message from President Ferki:



"If you know any potential members that you would like **to invite to the joint recruiting event on 1 August, send me their addresses and I can mail them an invitation.** With only 72 members paid at this time, our chapter is considered to be dying per MOAA. Increasing membership is crucial."

I had just prepared our directory listing strength at 78 members. The delinquent dues problem leaves us at 72. It is always a hard decision to drop someone from the rolls because of some problem with dues. We are a family sized organization with a hard working leadership, several holding more than one position to ensure all bases are covered in a timely manner.

As an observer and reporter of our activities, I can assure you we are still a healthy small chapter casting a long shadow. However, we could use a few more members.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by Bob Steorts, Chaplain

### The Watch

"Is there something wrong with the watch?" my wife asked. I was holding it in my hand, stroking its face with my thumb as I admired the Christmas present she had given me.

"No. It's perfect, and I love it. I was just remembering another watch of mine from a long-time ago," I told her.

My family sat around the breakfast table that Christmas morning and watched me expectantly, waiting for me to tell them about that long-ago watch. Smiling, I strapped on my new watch, and I began my story.

In Vietnam, back in 1970, I'd worn a watch that my dad had given me. The watch itself was nothing special - just an old Timex on a wide, black leather band, complete with buckles and brads, which was the fashion of the day. It was always important to me to be aware of the time, so it was rarely off my wrist.

This was in complete contrast to the attitude of my friend and hooch mate, Bill, who was a breath of fresh air amid the constant military regimen. He never wore a watch, refusing to be a "slave to time." Instead, Bill depended upon the clocks in the aircraft, or on his fellow pilots, to keep him punctual.

We were both pilots with the Lancers, Company B, 158th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 101st Airborne Division. He was an avid reader with a great sense of humor, and we had quickly become friends.

One July morning, Bill had an early mission to resupply a platoon located atop one of the jungle-covered mountains between Firebase Ripcord and the A Shau Valley, a very hostile area. As he was about to land on the pinnacle, Bill's aircraft was riddled by fifty-one caliber machine gunfire from directly below the landing zone. Even though one of the rounds had almost completely torn off his right leg just below the knee, he and his copilot were able to impale the helicopter on a tree stump to keep it from crashing down the mountainside. Bill's crew pulled him into a crater, and the ground troops provided cover for them until a medevac helicopter could pick him up and take him to the MASH unit at Camp Evans.

We were all stunned by the news of Bill's injury. That same evening, another Lancer pilot named John accompanied me to the field hospital to visit Bill. The hospital was actually a large Quonset hut containing all of that day's injured who were in recovery. The room, with its rounded ceiling, had no windows and was very dimly lit in an attempt to provide comfort for the patients.

John and I wove our way through the hospital beds until we found Bill. Like all the others in the room, Bill had a Purple Heart pinned to his hospital pajamas. His right leg had been amputated, and he was heavily sedated. He was to be evacuated to a hospital in Japan later that evening.

While John and I tried to find the right words,

Bill commented that he just wished that he knew what time it was. In the Quonset hut, it was always dusk. As he drifted in and out of consciousness, he found it disturbing that he had no concept of how much time had elapsed. When we were about to leave, I took off my watch that Dad had given me and put it on Bill's wrist. We wished him good luck and said goodbye.

When we got outside, John turned to me and said "That was really nice, what you did with your watch."

Embarrassed, I told him that it was just an old Timex and that I had been planning to buy another one anyway. Now, I said, I had a good excuse to go ahead and get myself a new watch. Besides, Bill was a friend and a Lancer.

I was relieved when he let the matter drop.

The following weeks were hectic, with long, perilous hours of flying and little time to rest. I didn't get to the PX to pick up another watch. With all the enemy contact I was engaged in, it was the last thing on my mind.

One evening, when I returned from the day's missions, another pilot met me at operations and told me to hurry to our makeshift officer's club because there was going to be a raffle for a new watch. *Great*, I thought, *I need a new watch*. I ran to the club to buy a ticket before the drawing. But when I arrived there, it was too late to purchase a raffle ticket. Another pilot told me not to worry; they had already included my name.

Unbelievably, it was my name that was pulled from the hat. It was the nicest watch that I had ever seen and much more expensive than any I would have considered buying myself. This was amazing, for I had never won anything. That watch was my prized possession for many years.

I hadn't thought about any of this for a long, long time. And suddenly, sitting in my kitchen table Christmas morning, I was struck with a revelation. It had never occurred to me before

but, all at once, I knew with certainty that mine had been the only name in that hat. I closed my eyes as the realization settled in, flooding me with emotion. The Lancers had given it to me in a way that allowed them to express gratitude without it being obvious. It had worked; it had taken me over twenty years to realize the true value of that watch.

There are some things about that time so long ago that I do not ever want to remember. And there are other things, like the watch, that I pray I will never forget.

*Bill Walker*

FROM: *CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE VETERAN'S SOUL*

We always looked out for our own. In June, we celebrate Flag Day and Father's Day. Let us also remember our Heavenly Father every day, not just one day a week. He is always there for us.

## CELEBRATE OUR KIDS

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he'd make a deal with his son, "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car."

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided, he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."

The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

(You're going to love the Dad's reply!)

"Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?"

## THAT'S A WRAP FOR JUNE