



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 XXXVII ISSUE I

thesalute1@gmail.com

pacmoaa.org

January 2018



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I hope everyone had a good Yuletide season and Happy New Year 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. Unfortunately, many of the members and



spouses that usually attend were unable to because of illness or relocation. The beautifully decorated facility and excellent service provided a festive Yuletide atmosphere! Delicious food, wonderful music provided by the Tidewater Concert Band, dancing and Pollyanna gift exchange all contributed to an enjoyable festive evening. Hal recited the "Night Before Christmas" with his usual flair while Santa appeared with his VMI gift bag! His singing and acting were superb, as usual! Sherry Zanke filled in for

"Sherry Ferki" singing a duet with Hal.

PACMOAA members contributed to an over flowing box of Toys for Tots gifts. Lt. Col. Pratt, leader of the Marine Corps JROTC, had two of his JROTC cadets from Churchland High School in uniform to collect the gifts. It was a pleasure to meet and talk with LtCol Pratt, Cadet 2ndLt Andrew Layola and Cadet Sgt Larry Hailes, 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 who were very appreciative when Bob Steorts delivered the supplies. Many thanks to all



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

James Belin
Daniel N Hartwell
Richard J Titi

for these most needed and appreciated donations. We will continue to collect monthly donations for the homeless in Portsmouth. Items greatly needed are laundry detergent, toothbrushes, and small personal size toiletries.

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Click Here for
[LEADERSHIP](#)

Chapter Happenings

Jan 01 New Years Day

Jan 04 USPHS Birthday

Jan 11 PACMOAA meeting

Jan 15 M.L. King Jr. Day

Jan 26 Spouse Day

Jan 28 USCG 2nd Birthday.

JANUARY MEETING

Our January dinner meeting will be held on Thursday the 11th at Hilton Garden Inn at Harbour View. Social hour will begin at 1800 with dinner at 1900. The cost of the meal is \$30.00 including tax and gratuity.

DINNER MENU January 11, 2018

Caesar Salad with Parmesan Cheese and Croutons

Chicken Marsala Red Roasted Potatoes Broccoli

Rolls and Butter

Chef's choice for Desserts

Ice, Tea, Coffee, Water

Please make your reservation **no later than Sunday 7 January** with Sherry by phone at --- by email at --- .

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID!

JANUARY SPEAKER

CAPT SCOTT M. BROWN

Commander, Norfolk Naval Shipyard



CAPT Scott Brown joined the Navy under the Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate Program. He was commissioned with distinction from Officer Candidate School in September 1991, and then completed Nuclear Power and Surface Warfare Officer training.

In June 1993, he reported to USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) serving as Machinery Division Officer.

In July 1996, he reported to Naval Nuclear Power Training Unit, Ballston Spa as an instructor and Plant Evaluation Officer where he supervised operational performance and maintenance on two power plants.

In October 2001, he reported to USS Dwight D Eisenhower (CVN 69) as Reactor Electrical Assistant. During the ship's Refueling Complex Overhaul, his tour encompassed completion of production work and extended well into the testing phase of the overhaul.

After completing Engineering Duty Officer School, Brown reported to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY) in March 2004. He served as Non Nuclear Assistant Project Superintendent (APS) for the Engineered Refueling Overhaul of USS Norfolk (SSN 714), and as Nuclear APS for the Engineered Overhaul of USS Providence (SSN 719). He completed his tour as Deputy Project Superintendent for the 7-3 Selected Restricted Submarine Availability .



From August 2006 to August 2008, he served as Carrier Maintenance Branch Head and NNSY Program Manager at U.S. Fleet Forces Command Ship Maintenance Directorate (N43).

From January 2009 to June 2012, he served as Reactor Officer aboard CVN 71, and led the ship through a combat deployment and refueling overhaul.

In June 2012, he reported to NNSY as the Production Resources Officer. He served in this capacity until September 2014 when he assumed command as NNSY's 107th Shipyard Commander.

He is a 1991 graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering Physics. He also earned a Masters of Business Administration from the University at Albany, and a Master of Science degree in Nuclear Engineering and an Engineer Degree in Nuclear Engineering, both from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Brown is authorized to wear the Meritorious Service Medal (2 awards), Navy Commendation Medal (4 awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2 awards), Armed Forces Service Medal (2 awards) and a number of unit and campaign awards.

CAPT Brown will administer the oath of office to new Leadership Team members before his presentation on the history of the Norfolk Naval Shipyard.[]

DRIVERS AND RIDERS WANTED

PACMOAA always attempts to coordinate volunteer drivers and members needing transportation to various functions. Please, if you are able to pick up members or need a ride, contact Sherry Ferki or *The Salute* to meet these requirements. Thanks in advance.

2018 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE AND RENEWAL REMINDER

The PACMOAA dues are \$25.00/year for Regular members and \$20.00/year for Aux-

iliary members. You can pay your dues at the next PACMOAA meeting or by first-class mail to: PACMOAA

P.O. Box 5353

Portsmouth VA 23703

Dues enable PACMOAA to pay for VCOC dues, newsletters, internet services, administrative expenses, monthly program speakers, and entertainment like the Tidewater Concert Band that performs at our Christmas Gala when we R&R after the year's efforts.

Why your membership is important! Local chapters are critically important to the ultimate success of any national organization. Membership and dues are critical to chapter survival. The camaraderie we experience at our monthly dinner meetings is a bonus benefit of membership that we enjoy and appreciate. We must have and are grateful for those who are able to additionally perform leadership responsibilities or otherwise participate in important chapter activities. All of us remember why we first joined PACMOAA. PACMOAA and MOAA are both advocating for our best interests and that of our family at the national level. Neither organization can be successful by name alone; they must have a large representation and some source of funding.

What is the least we can do to meet our stated objectives? First and foremost is just being a member of PACMOAA. As a member, you enjoy the camaraderie and community of meeting with other local members who share the exceptional experience of military service and financially support the chapter. You become something larger than a lone voice by lending necessary strength in numbers that effectively support the greater good. Another important component of PACMOAA membership is legislative involvement. Part of your dues pays membership in the Virginia Council of Chapters representing you in Richmond via the Joint Legislative Council, which advises the State Legislature on all matters concerning

military personnel and their families in Virginia. You also can have, if you chose, the opportunity to meet with your Congressman and State Legislators as a representative of a larger advocacy concerning issues affecting you.

As a member, you receive guidance to current information focused on important issues from websites and publications from MOAA and PACMOAA. Our website is **PACMOAA TODAY** and our newsletter published in three forms: *The Salute* by mail, *The Salute express* by email and *The Salute online*. We also have a Youtube Channel, **PACMOAA TODAY**. Please help us protect the benefits of our veterans, retirees, reservists, National Guard and active duty military as well as their spouses and dependents by continuing your membership and **convincing others that it is their best interest to join**.

PACMOAA performed well in 2017 with 11 new members from individual efforts and the Joint Recruiting Event at Patriot's Colony last summer. We ended the year with 83 members, up from 77 at the end of December 2016! This is the first time we have ended the year with more members than when we started since 2010, when Dolly Cherrington recruited 25 new members!

MOAA's greatest mission is to improve the lives of those who serve or have served and their families achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's capital. MOAA's experts in Washington are there to support legislation that benefits the military community and are equally vigilant when fighting to stop legislation that threatens our livelihood. The larger our numbers, the greater our voice.

Please pay your dues as soon as possible so PACMOAA can continue to provide these services. Include the renewal form in this newsletter to help us update our records. Remember your chapter membership strengthens the power VCOC has in the state legislature! Thank you.

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There are many challenges facing PACMOAA, MOAA and the military community in the coming year. CWO3 Karl Wilson, USA (Ret.) has been very diligent about getting info out about legislation pending 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 know the financial challenges facing our country, but the remedy should not fall primarily on the military community. We need to let our elected representatives know our positions on the



issues. The annual "VCOC Storming the Hill" in Richmond has been canceled due to hotel challenges and the lack of any meeting space at the Pocahontas Building. The VCOC 1st Quarter meeting will still take place on 21 January. Please contact Karl or Dolly if interested in attending. The loss of the "Storming the Hill" requires a Grass Roots effort on individual PACMOAA members to contact and inform legislators of our position on issues in a timely manner.

I want to thank the Leadership Team members whose terms have expired or changed. Mrs. Bettye Hussey will be stepping down from her Board position as well as that of the Surviving Spouse Liaison position. She was a marvelous

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addition to the Leadership Team and contributed many good ideas at board meetings. Even though relocated to Northern VA some time ago, Bettye continued to attend Board meetings and dinner meetings as often as possible through the end of 2017. CWO4 Whitney Jones also ended his term as a Board of Directors member.

COL Gordon Nelson, USA (Ret.) has done a wonderful job as newsletter editor and webmaster for many years and would like an apprentice to assist with communications. Our newsletter and website look very professional and both are full of important and relevant information. These resources are especially important for many of our members unable to attend meetings.

I am looking forward to another productive year for our chapter. If you have any suggestions to improve PACMOAA, please contact any Leadership Team member or me. We may be the Elected Leadership Team but our mission is to represent the membership. That is difficult to do without input so please share your ideas!

Never Stop Serving
Sherry Ferki

NEWS FROM MOAA

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

The Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee (SSAC) began 2017 with the exciting opportunity to develop the second MOAA Virtual Chapter, following in the successful footsteps of the [Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter](#). We completed the necessary paperwork in August and forwarded it to MOAA to for submission to the board of directors for their approval at their February meeting.

In April, SSAC members participated in MOAA's annual Storming the Hill event in Washington, DC. We asked legislators to prevent disproportional TRICARE fee hikes, end harmful sequestration cuts, and eliminate the Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset affecting 63,000 surviving military spouses. If the offset cannot be eliminated, then extend and increase the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA). We received positive feedback, and Congress included a provision in the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act that provides a permanent extension to the SSIA. We will continue to push Congress to eliminate the offset in its entirety.

We continued efforts to increase our visibility within MOAA membership. SSAC members made informative presentations about the SSAC at the Regional Leaders Workshop in Memphis and Oklahoma City. Col. Terri Coles, USA (Ret.) stressed the important roles of spouses and surviving spouses in local chapters in her column "Your Secret Weapon" on page 48 of the November *Military Officer*. Finally, in December, the SSAC named Shirley Phillips, of the Tucson (Ariz.) Chapter, its 2017 Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award winner.

It has been a busy and exciting year with many new and challenging opportunities for the SSAC. We look forward to 2018 with the addition of new committee members, including a new virtual position aimed at younger surviving spouses who might not be able to travel because of jobs, children, etcetera, but who are interested in working on surviving spouse issues. Applications will be on the MOAA website in January 2018, and the two-year term begins April 2018.

SSAC member applications will be available in March 2018 on the MOAA website. Deadline for submission is June 30, and the four-year term, with optional two-years begins October 2018.

2018 MOAA TOP 10 OBJECTIVES

Below is an abridged list of MOAA's Top Ten Objectives for 2018. Use this [LINK](#) to MOAA's website or go to our website for the unedited list.

1 Action item: Ensure any TRICARE reform sustains access to top-quality care and avoids disproportional TRICARE fee increases, which affects all.

Remedy: Personal stories from constituents have a lot of impact on Capitol Hill. MOAA's members, councils, and chapters are a great source of grassroots support. Remind congressional legislators that any TRICARE reform not only must serve to strengthen the interdependent relationships between health care and readiness but also take into account that veterans prepaid for their health benefits through decades of service and sacrifice.

2 Action item: Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector, which affects all active duty currently serving uniformed personnel and their families

The remedy: We must work to ensure annual military pay raises approved by Congress remain tied to the Employment Cost Index.

3 Action item: Block erosion of compensation and non-pay and quality-of-life benefits affecting all currently serving uniformed personnel

The remedy: MOAA will continue to oppose proposals to reduce the value of compensation or undermine long-term retention.

4 Action item: Protect military retirement and COLAs affecting all new entrants into military service after Jan. 1, as well as those with less than 12 years of active military service who choose to opt in to the new blended retirement system (BRS)

The remedy: Extend the period of government matching funds beyond 26 years to actual retirement. Oppose any efforts to reduce or eliminate the mandatory 12-years-of-service bonus in the BRS. Continue to seek compre-

hensive implementation of legislation authorizing concurrent receipt of uniformed service retired pay and VA disability compensation, to include a heightened focus on Chapter 61 retirees (those medically retired with less than 20 years of service).

5 Action item: Sustain wounded warrior programs and expand caregiver support affecting more than 52,000 servicemembers wounded in action, 1,000 battle-injured with major limb amputations, 327,000 traumatic brain injuries, and hundreds of thousands of individuals with service-connected conditions acquired since Sept. 11, 2001

The remedy: MOAA is committed to moving DoD and the VA to establish a more unified and integrated system of care and benefits that will provide comprehensive, wrap-around services to facilitate the health and well-being of the nation's wounded, ill, and injured. The Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Act of 2017, sponsored by Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and Rep. James Langevin (D-R.I.), is one step in that direction.

6 Action item: End financial penalties to disabled servicemembers affecting veterans with service-connected injuries

The issue: Veterans forced into disability retirements before completing a full career (also known as Chapter 61 retirees) are prohibited from receiving military retired pay concurrently with VA disability compensation.

The remedy: Sen. Dean Heller (R-Nev.) and Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-Ga.) have introduced legislation - S. 66 and H.R. 333, respectively - to expand concurrent receipt for disabled retirees.

7 Action item: End financial penalties to survivors affecting Military survivors whose sponsors died of service-connected causes

The remedy: Sen. Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) and Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) introduced legislation - S. 339 and H.R. 846, respectively - to eliminate the SBP-DIC widows tax.

8 Action item: Ensure the Guard and Re-

serve system adequately supports requirements for an operational reserve affecting members of reserve components

The issue: Members of the Guard and Reserve community have proven their mettle many times over during the past 16 years of armed conflict. Classification of these units has changed from a strategic reserve to a combat-ready warfighting element incorporated into current and future war planning. As the demands on Guard and Reserve troops have evolved, so has the need for benefits comparable to their active duty counterparts.

The remedy: MOAA will continue to work with Congress to generate and support legislation strengthening legal protections for Guard and Reserve members in their civilian employment and in consumer contracts.

9 The issue: Recruiting and retention of an all-volunteer force require alignment of spouse and family support programs affecting every servicemember who has or will have a family

The issue: The decision to remain in service often is a family decision made around the kitchen table and considers the evolving needs of the entire family.

The remedy: Decrease the military spouse unemployment rate, which remains four to six times higher than the national rate. Increase the synergy between family support and health care systems, along with initiatives to address schools lacking appropriate resources to keep mobile military children on track.

10 Action item: Ensure timely access to VA health care and preserve veterans' earned benefits affecting 21 million veterans in the U.S., with 6.7 million receiving care from the Veterans Health Administration.

The issue: The demand for VA health care and benefits continues to grow, even as the agency has received insufficient funding from Congress and faced frequent proposals for budget cuts.

The remedy: MOAA continues to press for VA health care and benefit system transfor-

mation, including investments in technology, financial systems, and infrastructure.

2018 TRICARE CHANGES

For most of the past year, MOAA has been working on the critical efforts required to implement key reforms of the TRICARE program (there are no changes to TRICARE For Life). This has included hours of communication and work with the Defense Health Agency (DHA) and many other stakeholders to prepare for these changes, which largely will take place on the first of the New Year.

Important changes coming January 1, 2018, include:

Consolidation of TRICARE's existing three regions into two. Consolidation of TRICARE Standard and Extra into TRICARE Select. Shifting TRICARE operations to the calendar year (beginning Jan. 1) rather than the fiscal year (beginning Oct. 1). New enrollment requirements starting with an open enrollment period December 2018. A new [TRICARE cost structure](#).

Of particular interest to beneficiaries are TRICARE's changes to its fee structure. These changes likely will result in fee increases for many beneficiaries, as we have described [in a recent article](#). MOAA has expressed its concerns to Congress and officials at the DHA.

MOAA's continued efforts to compel the DHA to be transparent in its calculation of these new fees has started to bear some fruit. For instance, maternity care will continue in the same fee structure it is now (a single bundled copayment applied for the whole maternity episode of care). Additionally, reexamination of some the new Select copayments calculations will result in some fee reductions. This is a bit of good news for beneficiaries.

If you want to keep up with all of the changes, sign up for TRICARE's Take Command program at www.TRICARE.mil/changes.

SPACE AVAILABLE FOR EDITOR

For those that noticed the 2nd Coast Guard birthday on page 2, an Act of Congress combined the Life Saving and Revenue Cutter Services on 28 January, 1915 thus creating the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard embraces its creation by the Tariff Act of 4 August 1790 establishing the Revenue Cutter Service as part of the Department of the Treasury. The Act authorized construction of ten cutters and recruitment of 100 revenue officers.

The birthday this month of the US Public Health Service, a non-military commissioned officer service eligible for MOAA membership, intrigued me as my wife had worked for the service. I have decided to outline the origin and history of the service on a space available basis, as it is very telling of how the US Government manages health care.

The Service was created by the 5th US Congress as the "Act for Relief of Sick and Disabled Seamen." President John Adams signed the act into law on 16 July 1798. The Act required the Department of the Treasury to "provide for the relief and maintenance of disabled seamen." This Act led to the formation of several hospitals at river ports and sea ports across the United States to be maintained by the Marine-Hospital Fund. The Act authorized the deduction of twenty cents per month from the wages of seamen for the Marine Hospital fund to care for sick and disabled seamen, as well as building said hospitals. The money collected went directly into the hospital fund. Some consider this the first Federal individual mandate levied on individuals for health insurance and preceded the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act by nearly 212 years. It is interesting to note that this 1798 law was enacted as a matter of national security and not a social welfare program. Even though Congress continued to collect money for the fund, the money eventually was put in the general treasury. When the government amasses significant money in a designated fund, Congress seems to find a way to gain control of the funds to spend on whatever they want. In the late 60's President Johnson created Medicare for children under a Social Security title. The justification "spin" at the time was "eyeglasses for kids" a social welfare program. The huge Social Security fund paid for by a mandated tax levied on individuals was to provide money collectable at retirement. The "eyeglass Act" opened access to the fund by Congress who replaced retirement funds with IOUs. We know how well that worked.

to be continued in next issue

GOOD ADVICE FOR 2018

From The TruthBook website

Accept the fact, some days you're the pigeon - and some days you're the statue!

Always keep your words soft and sweet - just in case you have to eat them.

Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.

Drive carefully - it's not just cars that can be recalled by their Maker.

If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.

Never buy a car you can't push.

Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.

Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.

Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.

The second mouse gets the cheese.

When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.

Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.

You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.

Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.

We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names and all are different colors - but they all have to live in the same box.

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

Have an awesome day and know that someone has thought about you today.

THAT'S A WRAP FOR JANUARY