



# 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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September 2016

## PACMOAA EARNs FIFTH CONSECUTIVE FIVE STAR LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE !

Great news welcoming us back from our summer respite. We are a small chapter, but through dedication and hard work by our leadership we cast a long shadow. We have four months left in the year to meet our 2016 goals. Our greatest challenge now is our dwindling membership which appears to be affecting similar organizations across the country. PACMOAA has recently lost several of our aging membership. We must locate and recruit eligible potential members who are benefiting from our efforts and enlist their help as PACMOAA members.

We not only need new members; we need volunteers to step up to leadership positions. Please consider becoming a member of our Leadership Team as an elected officer or serve in an appointed position. PACMOAA needs as many different perspectives as possible to help us represent all our members and their interests. There are seven elected positions to be filled for next year. You will enjoy the exhilaration and feeling of accomplishment being part of a successful leadership team.

The recent establishment of the Military Medics and Corpsmen Pilot Program in Virginia is just one example of our successful efforts to improve the quality of life of military personnel. It is the first state in the nation to offer this kind of innovative pathway to employment for these highly skilled veterans.

All local MOAA Chapters work hard to preserve military benefits and improve the quality of life of all active duty, reserves, veterans, retired military and their families; but still have time for fun. This year's Annual Summer Brunch is just one example of such good food, fun and camaraderie. Another event this year is the second annual Veterans in the Vineyard event on 8 October 2016 at the Gauthier Vineyard, just a few miles north of here. Free food, free music and free admission. Do not miss it. See page 4 .



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Kenneth App  
Raymond V Cicirelli  
James Fticsar  
Betty Lambdin  
Hans Sachse  
Samuel N Simpson  
Thomas L Wedgewood  
Margaret N Wilshusen  
Richard Yesensky

Our September dinner meeting will be on Thursday the 8th at the Hilton Garden Inn. Our guest speaker is COL Mike McHenry USA (Ret). COL McHenry, after a most interesting military career, founded a successful local Naval Engineering corporation. I would be remiss if I did not note his wife Anne as co-founder.

Thank you for all your hard work and support so far this year. Let's try to recruit during our reduced summer dues.

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[DIRECTORY](#)

## Chapter Happenings

Sep 02 VJ Day	Sep 16 POW/MIA Recognition Day
Sep 05 Labor Day	Sep 18 USAF Birthday
Sep 08 PACMOAA Dinner	Sep 22 Autumnal equinox
Sep 11 Patriots Day /911 Rem	Sep 25 Gold Star Mothers' Day

### SEPTEMBER DINNER

Our scholarship banquet will be held on **Thursday, 8 September** at the Hilton Garden Inn (HGI) Ballroom at 5921 Harbour View Boulevard in Northern Suffolk. [LINK TO HGI](#) for an excellent map, GPS information and HGI contacts. Social hour will begin at 1800 with dinner at 1900.

#### MENU

Iceberg Tossed Salad with Ranch or Italian Dressing  
 Pork Tenderloin with Apples  
 Jasmine Rice and Green Beans Almandine  
 DinnerRolls  
 Chef's Choice Dessert  
 Ice Tea Coffee and Hot Water for Tea Station

Cost is **\$30.00** (includes tax and gratuity) Please make your reservation NLT this **Sunday, 4 September** with Sherry Ferki .

Come join us for good company, good food and a good time. **REMEMBER A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID.** Please request any special diet requirements when making your reservation.

### September Guest Speaker



COL Mike McHenry USA (Ret) served 6 years in the United States Navy and 27 years in the United States Army. His career path is most singular in nature with two command assignments as Company Commander in the Republic of South Vietnam. Twenty two of his 27 years of Army service were in Europe including extended assignments with the British Army: first with the Royal Corps of Transport in Aldershot at the School of Transport (1981-1983) and second at Wilton with the United Kingdom Commanders-in-Chiefs Committees (1989-1992). Mike then served as the Military Attaché in the United States Embassy, London until 1995 when he retired. After retirement, he and his wife Anne founded The [McHenry Management Group](#) (TMMG), a Naval Engineering corporation headquartered in Chesapeake, Virginia, where he continues as owner and Chairman of the Board.

The title of COL McHenry's presentation is "The United States military in the United Kingdom; little remembered vignettes".

## More Chapter Happenings

### IN MEMORIAM

**It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of PAC-MOAA member Phyllis Jean Bennett Swint at the age of 92 years.**

### SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Membership is the lifeblood of any organization. According to MOAA, declining chapters have 75 members or less. All chapters are having the same difficulty with recruiting new members. PACMOAA membership *has decreased from 99 members at the end of 2013 to 77 members* (65 regular, 10 auxiliary/surviving spouses and 2 Honorary) as of 25 August 2016. This includes 5 Lifetime members as well as 7 new members this year.

We started the year with 84 members. LCDR Cherrington sent out 165 letters inviting eligible MOAA members to join and only 4 joined. LCDR Cherrington would like to hold a membership drive in the spring but NEEDS a committee to help plan and run it! At this time, we have 2 members - LCDR Cherrington and Bettye Hussey working this project. PACMOAA accomplishes a lot for a small chapter but we need more people doing the work of the organization! Another way to increase membership is to invite a friend to a dinner to see what the organization is like. If all members could invite one friend over the next 6 months, that should also help with membership.

The dues money enables PACMOAA to pay for things like the newsletter; speaker expenses; VCOC dues and administrative expenses like nametags, printing, postage and entertainment like the Tidewater Concert band that perform at our Christmas gala. It is hard to meet expenses with decreasing membership. **Remember the effectiveness VCOC has in the state legislature is directly related to chapter membership!**

## 2016 ANNUAL BRUNCH

The Portsmouth Chapter (PAC), the Hampton Roads Chapter (HRC), and the Virginia Peninsula Chapter (VIP) of MOAA hosted a brunch mixer at the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center on Sunday, the 17th of July 2016. Between 50 and 60 members, spouses and guests from all chapters attended. PAC-MOAA had 20 attendees with some members unable to attend. PACMOAA was well represented.

This was our 4th year at this location, PAC-MOAA and the Virginia Peninsula Chapter had met for the annual brunch at Fort Monroe for many years until it's closure. We had a beautiful view looking out over the bay, the food was delicious and the pianist was excellent. As usual, it was a great time for camaraderie and meeting new MOAA members from other chapters.

Next year as a change, PACMOAA will coordinate going back to the Chamberlain in Hampton. This will not only offer some variety but redistribute travel time among members of different chapters.



### WELCOME ABOARD

**The Salute extends a hardy welcome to CDR Daniel Carlson, USN (Ret) and his wife Barbara from Chesapeake.**



## A Salute to Our Military Veterans & Their Families



**YELLOW  
RIBBON FUND, INC.**  
Welcoming Our Injured Service Members Home



**MOAA**  
Military Officers Association of America

**MISSION BBQ®**  
The American Way.



*New Kent*  
WINERY



Join us for a salute event of food, beverages, entertainment, and more. All active duty Military, Guard, Reserves, Veterans, and their Families will be our honored guests.

For information/RSVP please contact:  
[fgwickersham@vsecorp.com](mailto:fgwickersham@vsecorp.com)

**Date:** Saturday, 08 October 2016

**Time:** 1:00 to 5:00 PM,

**Location:** **Gauthier Vineyard**

5000 Farmers Drive

Barhamsville, Virginia 23011

[www.gauthiervineyard.com](http://www.gauthiervineyard.com)

## PACMOAA EARNs FIFTH 5 STAR LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE IN A ROW!!

### PACMOAA 2015 PROGRAMS / EVENTS

January - Dinner meeting on 8 January - Installation of officers by COL Victoria Revilla, USA (Ret), President VCOC and discussion per MOAA and VCOC objectives.

February - Dinner meeting on 12 February - Rhonda Stewart, Executive Director of the Village at Woods Edge, an Assisted Living Facility, discussed the options available to seniors.

February - Board meeting on 26 February.

March - Dinner meeting on 12 March - COL Cherie Zadlo, USAF (Ret), Director of MOAA's Member Products and Services discussed her role and the services available.

April - Dinner meeting on 9 April - Ms Morgan Mogush discussed the Albert G. Horton Jr Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk, VA

May - Dinner Meeting on 14 May - CAPT John Maioriana, USN Chaplain (Ret), VP for Mended Hearts in Norfolk, VA discussed the programs/resources offered and Senior Chief Robert Epps, a survivor presented his story.

May - Board meeting on 28 May.

May - Participated in Portsmouth's 131st Annual Memorial Day Parade - 25 May.

June - Dinner Meeting on 11 June honoring scholarship winners. LTC John Byrd, USAR (Ret) and a variety of puppets entertained the membership.

July - PACMOAA's annual brunch was held at the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center with HRCMOAA and VIP-MOAA on 12 July.

September - Board Meeting on 3 September.

September - Dinner Meeting on 10 September. Vanessa T. Greene, retired police officer and employee of local Social Services Dept.

discussed surviving domestic abuse and how to assist those still experiencing domestic abuse.

October - Dinner Meeting on 8 October - Delegate Matthew James, 80th District covering sections of 4 local cities discussed the VA House of Delegates

October - Participated in first annual Veterans in the Vineyards and produced a [video](#).

November - Board meeting on 5 November.

November - Participated in the Portsmouth [Veterans](#) Day Commemoration Program

November - Dinner Meeting on 12 November - Annual Business Meeting with elections.

December - Dinner Meeting on 10 Dec - Annual Christmas celebration with dinner, concert with dancing, and a visit from Santa.

## POSITIONS OPEN FOR NOVEMBER 2016 BALLOT

Members elected this fall will serve from January 2017 to January 2019.

Please consider becoming a member of the Leadership Team as an elected officer or appointed. PACMOAA needs as many different perspectives as possible to help us represent all our members and their interests!

The Board of Directors is composed of the elective officers, president, 1st and 2nd vice presidents, secretary, and treasurer, the immediate past president, and four elective directors who will serve for a period of two years.

Positions to be filled this November with job description from the Bylaws include:

**President** : "The president shall be the chief elective officer of PACMOAA, shall preside at meetings of PACMOAA, and of the Board of Directors, and shall be a member ex-officio, with the right to vote, of all committees except the nominating committee. He shall also, at

the annual meeting and at such other times as he may deem proper, communicate to PACMOAA or to the Board of Directors information or proposals which in his opinion would help in achieving the purposes of PACMOAA. Further, he shall perform such other duties as are necessarily incident to the office of the president."

**Secretary:** "The secretary shall provide timely notification of all meetings of PACMOAA and of the Board of Directors and shall maintain a record of all proceedings. He shall ensure maintenance of the membership records/list and ensure dues notification goes out in the newsletter. He shall prepare such correspondence as may be required and shall maintain PACMOAA's correspondence files. He shall safeguard all important records and documents and valuable equipment belonging to PACMOAA. Further, he shall perform such other duties as are commensurate with his office or as may be assigned to him by the Board of Directors or the president."

**2 Board Members :** "The Board of Directors shall have supervision, control and direction of the affairs of PACMOAA, shall determine its policies or changes therein within the limits of the Bylaws, shall actively prosecute its purposes, and shall exercise direction in the disbursement of funds. It may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its business as may be deemed advisable and may, in the execution of the powers granted, appoint such agents as it may consider necessary". From Bylaws. Also participate in quarterly board meetings and other duties as designated.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if you are interested in becoming more active/running for office.

Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)

Nominations Committee Chair, Secretary and Immediate Past President

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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by Bob Steorts, Chaplain

### BEAUTIFUL DAY, ISN'T IT?

*Worse than not having sight is having no vision.*

Helen Keller

The day started out rotten. She overslept and was late for work. Everything that happened at the office contributed to her nervous frenzy. By the time she reached the bus stop for her homeward trip, her stomach was one big knot.

As usual, the bus was late - and jammed. She had to stand in the aisle. As the lurching vehicle pulled her in all directions, her gloom deepened.

Then she heard a voice from up front boom, "Beautiful day, isn't it?". Because of the crowd, she could not see the man, but she heard him as he continued to comment on the spring scenery, calling attention to each approaching landmark. This church. That park. This cemetery. That firehouse. Soon all the passengers were gazing out the windows. The man's enthusiasm was so contagious she found herself smiling for the first time that day.

They reached her stop. Maneuvering toward the door, she got a look at their "guide"; an older gentleman, with a beard, wearing dark glasses and carrying a thin, white cane.

FROM *Chicken Soup for the Senior Soul*

I pray that we will have the VISION to see the good in others and share God's love and have a Beautiful Day!

### Governor McAuliffe Signs Historic Legislation Establishing Military Medics and Corpsmen Pilot Program

This historic event was attended by three PACMOAA members: Legislative Representative CWO3 Karl Wilson, MAJ Sherry Ferki (representing the Virginia Nursing Association and PACMOAA), and VCOC President COL

Steve Turner. The legislative representatives from the PACMOAA, Hampton Roads and Peninsula Chapters met before the bill signing and spoke with aides for Senator Kaine and Senator Warner. All the hospital systems in Virginia will be involved with this program. This event culminated efforts by VCOC via the JLC 2016-06 initiative to develop a Bridge to Health Care Careers for Former Military Medics and Corpsmen as outlined in the following position paper:

### 1. Objective :

To provide former military medics and corpsmen with employment opportunities and help fill workforce gaps for employers in the Virginia health care sector.

### 2. Background:

- a. 11,000 medics and corpsmen transitioned out of the military in 2014.
- b. Medics and corpsmen receive extensive and valuable health care training while on active duty
- c. This military health care experience may not easily translate into comparable certifications/licenses required for health care jobs, meaning that former medics and corpsmen may be required to spend two or more years in school before they can obtain the credentials necessary to work in Virginia's healthcare sector.

### 3. Discussion:

- a. Because former medics and corpsmen cannot move directly into the health care sector without further training and credentialing, they may be unemployed, or underutilized and underpaid. Their potential to make an immediate impact on Virginia's health is untapped.
- b. Creation of a medic and corpsmen health career pilot program would allow Virginia health care employers to hire former medics and corpsmen immediately after their separation from the military, tapping into their skills and experience.

### c. To create the pilot program:

- i. Legislation is required to give licensed practitioners the authority to delegate certain tasks to these highly - skilled veterans, enabling them to utilize their medical training in the Virginia health care sector.
- ii. Funding is needed in order to test clinical utility, build buy-in from and familiarize hospitals with the veterans' skills and abilities, and test whether medics/corpsmen would be interested in this role.

### 4. Recommendation:

That the Governor and General Assembly authorize three positions and appropriate \$400,000 (GF) in FY17, continue at these levels in FY18, and pass the legislation necessary to assist former military medics and corpsmen in continuing to use their skills learned in the service and to place them on a path to careers in Virginia health care industry.

Excerpts From Virginia State Website for Governor McAuliffe dated 27 June 2016

**NORFOLK** – Governor McAuliffe today ceremonially signed the Military Medics and Corpsmen bill, establishing the Virginia Military Medics and Corpsmen (MMAC) Pilot Program in the Commonwealth.

“Expanding benefits and employment opportunities for our veterans in Virginia has been a top priority of my administration since day one, and the Virginia Military Medics and Corpsmen pilot program underscores Virginia's unwavering commitment to our service members,” **said Governor McAuliffe.**

The MMAC Program in Virginia is modeled after the highly successful Veterans Health Administration Intermediate Care Technician Pilot Program, which operated in 15 Federal Veterans Affairs Medical Centers across the United States. With the MMAC Program, Virginia is the first state in the nation to offer this kind

of innovative pathway to employment for these highly skilled veterans.

"As a former Army doctor, I worked alongside military medics while treating soldiers injured during Desert Storm," said **Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam**.

Sentara Heart Hospital hosted the bill signing. **Howard P. Kern, President and CEO of Sentara Healthcare, added**, "Recognizing how important this is for veterans, and the Commonwealth's need for more health care professionals, Sentara has supported establishing this pilot program. We also have provided input to the Department of Veterans Services as it has been developing the details."

The MMAC Program will be accepting applications from qualified service men and women by the fall of 2016. To learn more visit [www.dvs.virginia.gov](http://www.dvs.virginia.gov) or call the MMAC Program Manager at 804-786-0571.

Submitted by : MAJ Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret) , Secretary and Immediate Past President

## WW I AND WW II COMMEMORATION COMMISSION

The General Assembly created the Virginia World War I and World War II Commemoration Commission to plan, develop, and carry out programs and events to commemorate the 100th anniversary of World War I and the 75th anniversary of World War II, a statewide commemoration that holds tremendous educational, economic, and tourism opportunities.

Primary goals of the commemoration include honoring veterans and preserving their stories, connecting people to history through travel and tourism, and inspiring a desire to learn more. In partnership with museums, historic sites, and organizations across the state, the Commission is planning a number of programs and Signature Events, including:

Tourism marketing grants of up to \$5,000 to museums, historic sites, and partner organizations.

"Profiles of Honor" traveling museum and legacy scanning of images related to WWI and WWII

Statewide teacher symposium

Signature Events at locations across the state

Statewide calendar of events and interactive listing of places to visit

From website: [www.virginiaworldwarII.org](http://www.virginiaworldwarII.org)

We will keep members updated on local events commemorating WWI and WWII

JUST SOME THOUGHT ON MEDICAL CARE  
IN AMERICA. MORE TO FOLLOW NEXT  
MONTH, UNLESS I AM IN THE HOSPITAL

A man suffered a serious heart attack while shopping at a discount store. The store clerks called 911 when they saw him collapse to the floor. The paramedics rushed the man to the nearest hospital where he had emergency open heart bypass surgery. He awakened from the surgery to find himself in the care of nuns at the Catholic Hospital. A nun was seated next to his bed holding a clipboard loaded with several forms, and a pen. She asked him how he was going to pay for his treatment.

"Do you have health insurance?" she asked.

He replied in a raspy voice, "No health insurance."

The nun asked, "Do you have money in the bank?"

He replied, "No money in the bank."

Do you have a relative who could help you with the payments?" asked the irritated nun.

He said, "I only have a spinster sister, and she is a nun."

The nun became agitated and announced loudly, "Nuns are not spinsters! Nuns are married to God."

"The patient replied, "Perfect. Send the bill to my Brother-in-law." (from Truthbook)

**THAT'S A WRAP FOR SEPTEMBER**