



# 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. Although [MOAA](#) and [PACMOAA](#) actively lobby legislatures for all US uniformed services members, we are nonpartisan do not participate in political activities.

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Learn more at [pacmoaa.org](http://pacmoaa.org)

September 2018



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Welcome back! I hope you all had a good summer and got to spend quality time with your family and/or friends. It was great to see some of you at the annual brunch in late July.

The annual June meeting honoring the scholarship winners, their families and the JROTC cadets was very successful. Forty members, spouses and guests signed up and 38 attended. It was noted that the 14th of June was the 234th birthday of the US Army as well as Flag Day. It was a pleasure to meet Ethan Gilmore and his parents, Renee and Marcus, as well as Gwen Leman and her parents, Jessica and Scott Wolland. Both students spoke briefly thanking PACMOAA members for their scholarships and discussing their goals. Ethan will be attending VMI, Hal's alma mater so he got a very enthusiastic welcome from Hal and the other VMI alumni. LTC Dickens and the Woodrow Wilson AJROTC Color Guard participated in the opening ceremony and it was great to see such precision in presenting the colors.

It was also a pleasure to meet MAJ GEN Tim Williams, VA National Guard, the Adjutant General of VA and his Executive Officer, MAJ Fallon Martin. MAJ GEN Williams noted that he is the 28th Adjutant General of VA and the National Guard was organized in 1917. He also presented a challenge coin to each of the scholarship winners and focused many of his remarks to them and the future military members. More than 9,100 personnel serve in the Army, Air



Force and civilian positions across the globe for the VA National Guard. The National Guard has dual responsibilities to the state under the governor and to the federal government. About 98% of the budget comes from the federal government so the mission is to the federal government 1st and Virginia 2nd. The Virginia National Guard is one of the most deployed guards in the US. This past Christmas was the first time in 8 years they

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## Chapter Happenings September

[Click Here for  
DIRECTORY](#)

02 V-J DAY	17 CITIZENSHIP DAY
03 LABOR DAY	18 AIR FORCE BIRTHDAY (1947)
11 PATRIOT DAY	21 NATIONAL POW/MIA
13 PACMOAA DINNER	RECOGNITION DAY
13 NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS DAY	23 AUTUMNAL EQUINOX
17 CONSTITUTION DAY	27 GOLD STAR MOTHER'S DAY

### SEPTEMBER DINNER

Our September dinner meeting will be held on Thursday the 13th at Hilton Garden Inn Harbour View. [MAP](#) Social hour begins at 1800 with dinner at 1900. The cost of the meal is \$30.00 including tax and gratuity.

#### DINNER MENU

Caesar Salad with Parmesan Cheese and Croutons

Chicken Marsala with Red Roasted Potatoes and Broccoli

Dinner Rolls

Chef's Choice Dessert

Coffee and Hot Water for Tea Station

Water and Ice Tea

Please make your reservation no later than Sunday 9 September with Sherry by phone at — by email at — . PLEASE REMEMBER THAT A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID!

## SEPTEMBER PROGRAM



Captain Daniel W. Boothe currently serves as Deputy Chief of Public Affairs for the 113th Wing of the D.C. Air National Guard, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. He previously served active duty as the assistant director of operations for The United States Air Force Band, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington, D.C. where he also served as associate conductor and flight commander of the Concert Band, Singing Sergeants, and the Airmen of Note premier ensembles. His previous assignments include Chief of Public Affairs Engagements at the Pentagon for the 23rd

Secretary of the Air Force, Commander of the United States Air Force Band of Flight, and Assistant to the Chief of Staff for Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command.

While deployed as officer-in-charge of the Air Forces Central Command Band in Southwest Asia, his vision led to ground-breaking U.S. military performances at Jazz at Lincoln Center Doha and secured first-ever live American performances on Afghanistan's second largest radio station for



over 2.5 million listeners. Through his career his distinctive leadership has earned him the U.S. Air Force Outstanding Communication Company Grade Officer of the Year award and three Headquarters Officer of the Year awards. Under his leadership his unit was twice recognized with an Air Force Organizational Excellence Award and also earned the highest international award for military bands, the Colonel George S. Howard Citation of Musical Excellence from the John Phillip Sousa Foundation.

Captain Boothe has been awarded two meritorious service medals, three commendation medals, two achievement medals, and multiple medals and awards for his involvement in The Global War on Terrorism and Operation Enduring Freedom. He received his commission through Officer Training School, Maxwell, Alabama on October 27, 2009 and subsequently graduated with honors from the Department of Defense Public Information School, Fort Meade, Maryland.

" I very much appreciate this opportunity that you are extending to me as speaker. It's an honor to share perspectives about my service with those who have already given so much".

The topic for the September program is "Military Bands as Force Multipliers" discussing the often misunderstood yet unique capabilities that military bands provide to our nation and to the war fighter. In addition, Captain Boothe will share a 5-minute extremely well produced video.

## MORE CHAPTER NEWS

### PACMOAA POSITIONS OPEN FOR THE NOVEMBER 2018 BALLOT

Members elected this fall will serve from January 2019 to January 2021.

Please consider becoming a member of the Leadership Team as an elected officer or an appointment. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

*(Continued on page 7) NOVEMBER ELECTION POSITIONS OPEN*

**(Continued from page 1) FROM THE PRESIDENT**

were not deployed. More than 15,000 VA National Guard members have been deployed around the world since 9/11. More than 9,000 have been deployed in the Commonwealth. MAJ Gen Williams discussed some of his concerns, such as the effect of increased deployments on guard members and their families. He also addressed the fact that only 30% of otherwise eligible recruits meet both physical and mental standards for induction resulting in a shortfall of resources to complete the mission. Leaders have to ask "what has to give?" He noted that leadership is often filled with challenges and stress but usually meets with positive results if you do so with a pure heart.

MAJ GEN Williams mentioned that the VA National Guard serve in 65 countries and discussed a few in more depth. He also noted that the Air National Guard receives heavy investment from the Air Force and are constantly mobilized. For example, 33% of the Air National Guard are full time versus 16.5% of the Army National Guard being full time. He ended his very interesting presentation noting that we really need to address both the physical and mental health of our children. MAJ GEN Williams is an outstanding role model for our scholarship winners and future military officers!



Many thanks to USAA for co-sponsoring our dinner making it a very special occasion.

I hope to see many of you at our September meeting when we will have a current Air National Guard speaker. Please keep our troops in your thoughts and prayers and "Never Stop Serving".

**MEMBERSHIP AT CRITICAL LEVEL!**

Membership continues to be a crucial issue for PACMOAA's survival!! As was noted in the 35th Anniversary presentation in April, PACMOAA's missions include: 1. Membership, 2. Legislative Advocacy, and 3. Community Involvement. Without increased members and engagement of the current membership, we will not be able to continue being effective in advocacy and community activities!!

PACMOAA currently has **ONLY 69 paid members**, about 83% of the members we had at the end of December 2017. Over the past 5 years, PACMOAA averaged 8 new members/year and decreased in membership by an average of 7 members/year except for last year. Thus far in 2018, we have only 1 new member!! Bob Steorts and I will be attending the Joint Recruiting Event at Patriots Colony on 25 October and hope to recruit new members there. As I mentioned in an earlier newsletter, The PACMOAA Board of Directors voted for PACMOAA to pay for 1/2 of the dinner cost for an eligible member guest. Please reach out in your community and look for potential new members. Also, if you know a potential new member that could attend the 25 Oct event at Patriot's Colony, let me know their name and contact info as Patriot's Colony will pay for their membership for 2019.

Some time ago, MOAA stated that chapters with less than 75 members are dying! Most of our current losses are due to health issues or members moving in addition to two deaths last year. Some members feel that, if they cannot participate, they should not be members. Please remember and remind potential new members that chapter membership numbers do have an impact when dealing with state legislators! Please let Dolly Cherrington or any Leadership Team member know if you have any suggestions on how to increase membership.

Thank you all for your continued membership and support. It is greatly appreciated.

Submitted by Sherry Ferki

## PACMOAA SUMMER ACTIVITIES

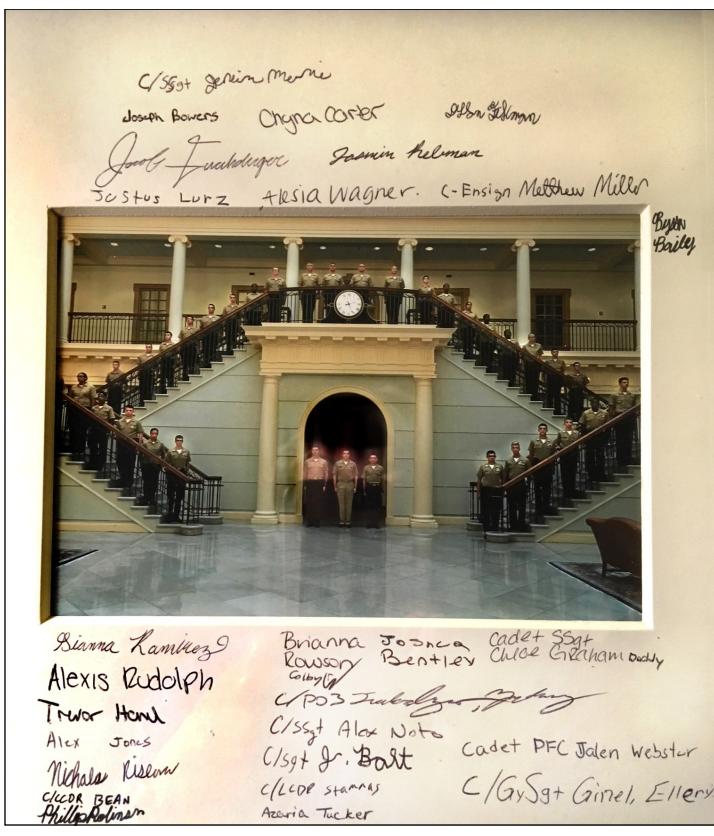
1. Annual Joint Brunch held at the VA Beach Resort and Conference Center on Sunday 22 July.

Unfortunately, this event was not of the caliber we are used to. Just over 40 people attended, down from about 55+ attendees last year. No members from the Peninsula chapter were able to attend and about 20 PACMOAA members/spouses/guests attended. The brunch selections were much fewer than usual. As I mentioned previously, the Marriott has taken over the hotel and had stopped the Sunday brunches but they made an exception for us since the room had been reserved for some time. Those attending enjoyed the camaraderie and the food although it was not kept warm. Hopefully, this will not be our last annual joint brunch but we will have to see what happens with the Marriott as they are undergoing a major renovation project. If you have any suggestions on where the joint brunch could be held, please let me know.

2. Hampton Roads Senior Leadership Camp Award Ceremony held on 17 August at Camp Pendleton

MAJ Ferki represented PACMOAA at this award ceremony for the first JROTC Hampton Roads Senior Leadership Camp. Four schools participated: Churchland HS MCJROTC, Phoebus HS MCJROTC, Pokomoke HS MCJROTC, and Stephan Decatur HS NJROTC - the last 2 are from Maryland. A total of 30 students participated and "throughout the week, the cadets went through many different activities that helped them learn to work as a team ( rather than individuals representing 4 different JROTC groups) and to learn the fundamentals of leadership from the ground up" per the program for the award ceremony. PACMOAA member Lt Col Pratt from Churchland HS was the senior Staff and CWO-3 Mann from Phoebus HS was this year's Camp Commandant and the moderator for the award ceremony. Marines and

Midshipmen from ODU NROTC taught the classes. MAJ Ferki presented a certificate and book on leadership to the Honor Grad, C/LCDR Alexander Bean from Stephan Decatur HS NJROTC - he was evaluated both academically and practically which included not only staff evaluations, but peer evaluations as well. In past years, the summer activities consisted of trips to different MC bases but no classes. Concept creation of the camp was a collaborative effort between Lt Col Pratt, CWO3 Mann and GySgt Nagy. This occurred in the spring and thus no funding was available. PACMOAA and the PACMOAA members that contributed to sponsor cadets were recognized in the program and MAJ Ferki also accepted a framed picture of all the cadets and instructors with all their signatures around the matted picture. PACMOAA sponsored one cadet and with the 3 PACMOAA members that made additional contributions, PACMOAA contributed \$1270.00 out of the \$2200.00 needed for the Churchland cadets. The three original schools set a fundraising goal of \$2200 each for a total of \$6600.



## TRICARE PRIME SUFFOLK OPENS

By Sherry Ferki

Some items of interest on the Tidewater Military Healthcare System (TMHS) [Website](#).

The new Tricare Prime Clinic opened in Suffolk on AUG 27th located at 7021 Harbor View Blvd. just four blocks north of the Hilton Garden Inn. Unfortunately, there currently is no signage visible from the boulevard. Look for the CHKD Health Care Center on the left at the intersection with Marriot Way. SEE [MAP](#)

The new TRICARE Clinic is located directly behind CHKD in the same building and is clearly marked. No panic if you miss the turn off the boulevard, there is a nice roundabout just down the road at College Drive which does not appear clearly on google map. The clinic currently operates at 100% ID check on entry, so have your ID ready. The clinic phone number is 757-953-7000.



This new branch health clinic is being added to offer services to those beneficiaries not currently in an area served by a primary care center. The center provides family practice, pediatrics, pharmacy, laboratory, radiology, physical therapy, and behavioral health services. This site will allow patients to receive outstanding care closer to their homes. All beneficiaries can be seen at this center. Medicare/TFL retirees are currently limited to

pharmacy benefits only at this time. Clinic hours of operation are 7am to 7pm, 7 days a week, 9 am to 5 pm on National Holidays, and is closed Christmas Day. Please note that the PHARMACY HOURS are **9 am to 5:30 pm** according to website. The clinic pharmacy utilizes the TMHS electronic pharmacy system.

As many of you already know, Scott Center Annex pharmacy stopped accepting **new prescriptions** on 1 August. Now PACMOAA area members again have 2 options for new prescriptions: NMCP and TRICARE Prime Clinic Suffolk. New electronic prescriptions are still sent to the NMPC then call 757-953-0258 to request Rx be filled at desired outlying branch. The Suffolk clinic also accepts hard copy Rx's and has electronic access to NMCP pharmacy. The Suffolk pharmacy has limited items available (i.e. currently has no items containing narcotics.) You should check on drug availability. Scott Center has a larger inventory and a drive through window (faster.) A Walmart Super Center is also immediately available around the corner at the Harbour View shopping center (bottom right of above map), but requires Express Script co-pay. The TMHS Military Pharmacies process prescriptions for TRICARE eligible beneficiaries at no out-of-pocket cost to patients. If a beneficiary needs to refill a prescription or speak with staff at one of the Tidewater area military pharmacies, call 757-953-2500 and follow prompts. to select:

Option 1 Army installation (Fort Eustis).

Option 2 Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Scott Center, or one of the outlying Branches including TRICARE Prime Clinic locations.

Option 3 Langley Air Force Base Pharmacy.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE CLINIC JUST OPENED AND DETAILS OF OPERATION WILL CHANGE AS THE SYSTEM SETTLES.

Please notify *The Salute* of any difficulties or changes to share with the membership.

(Continued from page 3) NOVEMBER ELECTION POSITIONS OPEN may, in the execution of the powers granted, appoint such agents as it may consider necessary". Also participate in quarterly board meetings and other duties as designated.

Please let us know if you have any questions/ if you are interested in becoming more active / running for office. Contact Hal Hostetler, COL, USA (Ret) Nominating Committee Chair, (757) 483-8943 [halbren@verizon.net](mailto:halbren@verizon.net) Nominations Committee Chair, Secretary and Immediate Past President.

### **"SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE" FORMED**

A proposed "Regional" Legislative Committee comprised of representatives of the Hampton Roads, Portsmouth, and Virginia Peninsula MOAA chapters' Legislative Committees was given "official" recognition by the Virginia Council of Chapters at their most recent meeting in July. The purpose of the new regional committee is to "review on-going Legislative issues at both the Federal and State level

which impact chapters in the Southeastern region of Virginia and to formulate initiatives, when necessary and appropriate, to support and protect the benefits and entitlements of active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retired military members and their families, and veterans who reside in the region." A sizeable number of the 122-plus thousand active duty, Guard and Reserve military members, 157,000-plus military retirees, and the almost 730,000 veterans who live in State reside in the Southeastern Region, which translates into a considerable amount of "clout" the Legislative committee can generate when dealing with Federal and State officials and Legislators.

## **NEWS FROM MOAA**

This issue of *The Salute* seems to announce changes in every area. MOAA is no exception. The MOAA newsletter has been issued for several months and I have been wrestling with how adapt *The Salute*. First, I recommend all email users sign up for the MOAA newsletter topics of interest. Just use this [link](#) and enter your email. If you have not registered your current email with MOAA you will be asked to do so. I will relay important MOAA email news or alerts during the month and summarize links in the monthly newsletter. Second, hard copy readers will receive abbreviated MOAA information in the newsletter and can read complete printouts at our monthly dinner meetings or they can use their grandchild's computer and go to [pacmoaa.org](http://pacmoaa.org).



(left to right) CWO3 Karl Wilson, USA (Ret), Legislative Committee Chair, Portsmouth Chapter, Col Jim Pauls, VIPMOAA Chapter, and CDR Link Smith, USN (Ret), Legislative Committee Chair, Hampton Roads Chapter

### **MAR-A-LAGO TRIO'S INFLUENCE ON VETERANS ADMINISTRATION 'ASTOUNDS' FORMER SECRETARY**

By Tom Philpott

"Former VA Secretary Anthony Principi says he "found it astounding" that three wealthy friends of President Donald Trump, members of his Mar-a-Lago country club in Palm Beach, Fla., were able to affect executive hiring at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and might

have influenced VA policy.

The non-profit newsroom ProPublica [reported last week](#) that Trump and his White House staff allowed billionaire Ike Perlmutter, physician Bruce Moskowitz, and lawyer Marc Sherman, none of whom have ever served in the military, to screen candidates for senior VA executive positions, helping to determine who got hired, promoted, and fired, including nominees requiring Senate confirmation.

In an attempt also to influence VA policy, the trio reportedly had daily communication with then-VA Secretary David Shulkin or senior staff, suggesting programs, particularly on veterans' health care, to carry out a White House agenda aimed at privatizing more of the medical care that veterans receive.

It was an agenda Shulkin and senior aides had resisted, or moved too slowly on, resulting in firings, forced retirements, and denied promotions. ProPublica said it relied on interviews with former VA officials and on hundreds of emails between VA staff and the so-called "Mar-a-Lago Group." Journalist Isaac Arnsdorf obtained the emails though the Freedom of Information Act. He reported that the trio was led by Perlmutter, 75, chairman and CEO of Marvel Entertainment....."

"....Rep. Tim Walz (Minn.), ranking Democrat on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, said the "actions taken by these individuals and VA leaders appear to contradict" such claims and the arrangement "reeks of corruption and cronyism."

Walz wrote to Wilkie, who became VA secretary in late July, asking that the department "hand over all correspondences between VA officials and the three men identified in the article, without delay." If the revelations "prove true and VA is being secretly run from the shadows of Mar-a-Lago by individuals with no accountability to taxpayers and who have never served" in government, Walz wrote, "that would amount to an unprecedented, disturbing, and profoundly unacceptable betrayal of our nation's veterans....."

*To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centreville, VA, 20120 or email [milupdate@aol.com](mailto:milupdate@aol.com)*

Use this [LINK](#) to read entire article.

I feel management of VA health care could be turned over to the US Public Health Service, a commissioned uniformed service of the federal government established in 1798, which has faithfully provided health care to the US military since 1799 until today. At the same time providing ground breaking public health service to the general population. Learn more about the USPHS at this [LINK](#).

## SOME PARTING ITEMS

A boy in Sunday school had been taught by the same teacher for a number of years. She had a memorable way of reading classic children stories to the children and always ended them by saying: "And the moral of the story is..."

Eventually, he moved up a grade in Sunday school and had a new teacher who also read to her charges.

A few weeks later, the minister asked the boy how he liked his new Sunday school teacher. He replied: "She is great, but she does not have any morals."

I am trying to leave Facebook and make friends in the real world face to face.

Every day I go down the street and tell the passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel, what I did the night before and what I will do tomorrow night. I give them pictures of my family and my dog. I also listen to their conversations and I tell them I love them.

And it works! I already have 3 people following me: two police officers and a psychiatrist.

My kids, always observant of their surroundings, tend to pick out details no one else would notice. For example, while driving with my children one summer day, a woman in the convertible ahead of us stood up and waved. She was stark naked! As I was reeling from the shock, I heard my 5year-old shout from the back seat, "Mom! That lady isn't wearing her seat belt!"

**THAT'S A WRAP FOR SEPTEMBER**