



The Salute Extra



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 XXXIV EXTRA

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The last 6 weeks have been a roller coaster ride of events for PACMOAA from the high of our Scholarship Awards Dinner with the entertainment of John Byrd, a fellow MOAA member, to the lows of the passing of three members. The unexpected loss of our 1st vice-president Joseph Bush was especially a shock. He will be missed by all. We will cover many items in this newsletter and I would like to add some personal comments.

Although I was not able to attend the annual brunch with the Hampton Roads and Peninsula chapters, it was reported to me that it was not just a brunch; it was a culinary event. This grand time of sharing and comradery remind us of the bonds in the past and current duty, service, and fellowship.

Join me in the pleasure of welcoming recent new member LTC Herbert Charity, USA (Ret) and his wife Lydia who live in Smithfield. Although all MOAA members are not able to join a chapter, I cannot over emphasize the importance of chapters. Chapters are the core of every national organization. We have several new faces, and some good handsome olde ones have been showing-up as well. We need all our guns. If you have not re-upped or attended recently, please come and be counted. On the topic of membership I must move along to the last VCOC meeting where it was noted that PACMOAA has one of the best recruiting results in the state for this year (Good work, Dolly).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Andre H Mayfield
Joseph B. Bush
Matthew J Streeter
Sherry D Ferki
Robert G Ponton
Robert L. Collette
Thomas R Cahill
Robert L Lane
Peggy E Moran
Alice D Taves
Henry F Berck Jr.
Henry C Boschen Jr.
Dolly Cherrington
Kenneth Turner
Maury A Weeks
Harry P Miller
Gordon M Nelson
Herbert W De Groft
Robert A Steorts

Steve Turner and I attended that meeting at the War Memorial in Richmond on 8 July. Among other important items, it is with pleasure and pride that I report three of the six VCOC Officers elected for the coming year are from our own PACMOAA (WOW): Steve Turner as President; Dolly Cherrington as Second Vice President (membership, recruiting, and chapter affairs); and Jim Stephan as Treasurer. Congratulations to those good and willing servants. Stu Williams was also selected as Virginia's top legislative leader. The VCOC Biennial Luncheon will be held this October at Patriots Colony, Williamsburg. We should recruit an adequate number of attendees to properly represent our chapter for the installation of our members into VCOC Office. (more details on page 10).

I would be remiss if I did not express our appreciation to USAA for providing funds that helped make our Scholarship Dinner such a resounding success.

Finally, I cannot overstate the importance of the contributions so many of you make to ensure PACMOAA is the great little chapter that it is. Thanks to all our leadership team who make things happen.

Thanks, and God bless you in all things.

Hal

Always serving



Chapter Happenings

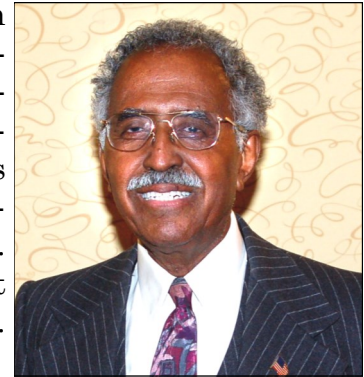
Jul 04 Independence Day
 Jul 12 Annual Brunch

Aug 04 USCG Birthday
 Aug 07 Purple Heart Day

IN MEMORIAM

It is with a measure of profound sadness that we announce the passing of three PACMOAA members in June.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Joseph Benjamin Bush, USMC (Ret) the current First Vice-President of PACMOAA. Joe joined PACMOAA in December 2013 and quickly became an active member. He assumed his duties as Program Chair even before his official installation in January of this year. Joe's service was characterized as fast out of the blocks with a "git er done" attitude. He will certainly be missed!



Ada Lee Sojourner an Auxiliary PACMOAA member living in Danville, VA. Ann held the office of PACMOAA Secretary from 2004 to 2005. She supported her husband Fletcher during his 26 year Marine Corps career.

Capt. James Howard Swint, USCG, (Ret) 93 passed away at his Portsmouth home. He is survived by his wife Phyllis. James volunteered as a Lay Minister at his church and was a great supporter of Oasis Social Ministry serving as its Chairman of the Board for two years.



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

This update is an introduction to the following report on our June dinner when two PACMOAA 2015 scholarships were awarded. Many thanks to all the members contributing to this fund. We were able to collect enough money at the last two meetings to fund the two scholarships for \$1500 each. Most of the scholarship funds are collected during membership renewal when renewing members generously add a donation to their checks. Small periodic donations such as participation in our 50/50 are also very helpful towards meeting our goal. These scholarships are greatly appreciated as you can see from the thank you note from Bailey Key (to follow) and the gratitude voiced by both scholarship winners and their parents at the June dinner meeting .



REPORT ON JUNE DINNER

Our June dinner was a resounding success. In attendance were both scholarship recipients and their families. The JROTC Color Guard from Woodrow Wilson High school opened the evening's festivities.



plans on majoring in communications and/or political science while in the Army ROTC.



Scholarship recipient Kimberly Morrison graduated from Grassfield High School in Chesapeake and plans on attending the University of Mary Washington. Her long term goal is to become a neurosurgeon.



Scholarship recipient Bailey Keys graduated from Isle of Wight Academy and plans on attending North Carolina University. She

Following dinner and presentations we were entertained by ventriloquist John Byrd, a fellow MOAA member and VMI class mate of Hal Hostetler (on right below).





Joining John Byrd on stage were Bob and Nell of the Performing Walls. If you know John or Bob or Nell, you really must watch the above video of our June dinner.

The following note on a beautiful card was received on 6 June 2015:

Dear PACMOAA Members,

Thank you so much for inviting my family to last month's meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn. And especially for the warm reception you gave us, words cannot express my gratitude. I am extremely honored to be one of the two recipients of this year's scholarship. I will leave for NC State University August 9 and have already scheduled my classes around my Army ROTC commitment and the Scholars Program which I have been invited to join. It will be a hectic schedule but I can't wait to get started! I also wanted to thank you again for your service to our country and your willingness to help students like myself take their first steps toward realizing their educational and military goals. God bless you and the USA.

Sincerely, Bailey Key

PACMOAA gives special thanks to USAA for contributing to our PACMOAA Scholarship Program by providing financial assistance for our Scholarship Dinner.



As part of the USAA/MOAA affinity association, USAA provides financial support to chapter programs benefiting various community service projects and programs. MOAA national reviews chapter requests for appropriate use then forwards request to USAA.

The United States Army Automobile Association was founded in 1922 by 25 U.S. Army officers to self-insure one another when they were unable to secure auto insurance due to the perception that they, as military officers, were a high-risk group. In 1924, the name was changed to **United Services Automobile Association** when commissioned officers of other U.S. military services became eligible for membership. USAA has grown into a Fortune 500 group of companies offering a variety of insurance, banking and financial services to members and families that serve, or served, in the United States military. By the end of 2014, there were 10.7 million members.

USAA RETURNS PROFITS TO THE INSURED MEMBERS

Since there are no shareholders, profits are retained for financial strength or returned to the members. Returns are accomplished through a Subscriber's Account, commonly known as a distribution. Each year a portion of USAA's profit is retained as "unassigned," the rest is allocated to each member's Subscriber's Account based on several factors. The allocation of capital to a member's Subscriber's Account occurs early in the calendar year. Later in that year a portion of the member's Subscriber's Account is distributed to the member via check or electronic funds transfer. Members with more than 40 years of membership also receive a special yearly "senior bonus" distribution which amounts to 10% of the member's Subscriber's Account balance. The entirety of the Subscriber's Account belongs to the member, but is not completely distributed until approximately 6 months after the member no longer has a USAA property and casualty policy.[]

AUXILIARY CORNER

By Kathy Prout, chair, Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee

If you are about to turn 65, say goodbye to TRICARE and hello to TRICARE For Life (TFL) and Medicare. This transition does not happen automatically, so make sure you take the appropriate steps to ensure a smooth transition.

You will be required to sign up for Medicare Part B during the Social Security initial enrollment period, which is about three months before your 65th birthday. Make your appointment early! It can take a month or more to get an appointment. Start online at www.ssa.gov. Make sure to bring to the appointment your birth certificate, marriage license(s), divorce decree(s), Social Security card, military ID, driver's license, and previous year's tax records. Medicare rates are based on your income, so rates vary. TFL covers all uniformed services retirees, survivors (including certain former spouses), and other servicemembers who might be disabled and are Medicare eligible and enrolled in Medicare Part B. There are no fees with TFL as there are with TRICARE. However, before you can begin using TFL, you must:

- ⇒ enroll in Medicare Part B;
- ⇒ have an accurate, up-to-date record in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS)
- ⇒ have a valid military ID.

Medicare becomes your primary insurance, and TFL becomes your secondary payer to Medicare for a Medicare-eligible condition. However, TFL covers some conditions that Medicare does not. In those cases, TFL will be the primary payer, and you will have a copayment. Otherwise, anything not covered is a personal expense. Be sure to ask whether a drug or test your doctor orders is covered by Medicare. If not, you might find yourself with an unexpected, expensive bill.

If you are not in receipt of Social Security, Medicare will bill you quarterly. If you receive Social Security payments, Medicare Part B will be deducted from this compensation.

When a provider accepts Medicare assignment, that provider agrees to accept the Medicare-approved amount as payment in full for any claim filed. A Medicare-approved provider who does not accept Medicare assignment must file a claim and cannot bill you for more than 115 percent of the maximum Medicare allowable charge (MMAC). Medicare will reimburse 80 percent of the MMAC. TFL will pay the balance up to 115 percent of the MMAC.

Traveling overseas? There is no Medicare coverage overseas. The beneficiary pays out of pocket for medical expenses. TFL is available as TRICARE Standard overseas. There is a \$3,000 catastrophic cap per family per fiscal year. Travel insurance is recommended to cover these additional fees and cost shares.

If you are a MOAA member and have provided MOAA with your birth date, a copy of the publication [Aging into Medicare and TRICARE For Life](#) will be sent to you on your 64th birthday. This publication explains everything. Please share your birth date with MOAA. This will give association representatives the ability to assist you with Medicare and other benefits.[]

Editorial note: Military Treatment Facilities are available for limited care on a Space Available basis to TFL patients traveling in areas outside the US or US territories. TFL patients can also locate medical care via International SOS, a TFL contractor. It appears that medical treatment coverage can be available for TFL vacationers, but medial transport can be a problem should you need medical evacuation home. Medical transportation is very expensive so one should consider a travel insurance policy when on vacation outside the continental US, but be careful to read ALL the "fine print" of any policy!

Include medical coverage in your vacation planning!

VIRGINIA DEPT. OF VETERANS SERVICES

Helping Transitioning Military Members, Veterans, and Families.

Virginia to Become First State to Link Military Service Members, Veterans, and Families to Veterans Career Transition Program at Syracuse University

Continuing to ensure that Virginia remains the state of choice for military personnel transitioning to civilian life, the Virginia Department of Veterans Services is partnering with Syracuse University's Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) to bring [The Veterans Career Transition Program \(VCTP\)](#) to Virginia. Under a grant from JPMorgan Chase & Co, VCTP connects transitioning service members, veterans, and family members to industry-specific education and training programs to facilitate post-military employment, and information about national and state level opportunities and benefits for veterans and their families.

Industry certifications that could be earned through VCTP are PMP, PHR/SPHR, CCNA, Comp TIA and Six Sigma, to name a few. Through online courses – accessible from any location, at any time – participants will have the opportunity to gain an understanding and insight into the corporate culture of civilian business/industry, government, and other civilian sector employment opportunities. This program is delivered at no cost to transitioning military service members, post-9/11 veterans, and their family members.

Dr. Mike Haynie, Vice Chancellor for Veteran and Military Affairs at Syracuse University and Executive Director of the IVMF notes “We are excited to provide this service nationwide, with [Virginia being the first state to link to the VCTP website](#) to ensure Virginia service

members, veterans and their families are provided with as many resources as possible to ensure a successful transition from the military. Virginia has the fourth largest Post-9/11 Veteran population in the country, and we are thrilled to play an important role in Virginia's efforts to help them transition and contribute to the Commonwealth's economy.”

John Newby, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, adds “We are very excited for the employment and career-enhancing resources that our partnership with Syracuse University's Veterans Career Transition Program will provide. This resource will benefit Virginia's transitioning service members as well as help feed the pipeline of ready-to-work employees into the New Virginia Economy.”

Veterans can access VCTP via the agency's website, <http://www.dvs.virginia.gov/education-employment/virginia-transition-assistance-program-vtap/>.

LEGISLATIVE CORNER

On Wednesday the 10th of June 2015, Karl Wilson, PACMOAA's Legislative representative attended the opening of the 23rd Veterans Benefits Field Office located on the Tidewater Community College Chesapeake Campus.



(R to L) Virginia State Senator John Cosgrove, Karl Wilson, and City of Chesapeake Mayor Adam P. Krasnoff.

Karl is very active in keeping the MOAA brand, as an influential interested organization, visible to legislators and other public officials .

After the ribbon cutting, Karl did not waste the opportunity to meet individually with the Deputy Secretary of Veterans and Defense affairs James Areizaga-Soto, City of Chesapeake Mayor Adam P. Krasnoff, and Virginia State Senator John Cosgrove.

[The Virginia Department of Veterans Services \(VDVS\)](#) now operates 23 benefit services offices that assist veterans and their family members in filing claims for federal veterans benefits; two long-term care facilities offering nursing, assisted living, and domiciliary care for veterans, and three veterans cemeteries that provide an honored final resting place for veterans and their families. VDVS provides veterans and family members with direct linkages to needed services including behavioral healthcare, housing, employment, education, and other programs. The Department operates the Virginia War Memorial, the Commonwealth of Virginia's monument to honor the memory of Virginia's men and women who demonstrated a willingness to serve and fight to defend our way of life from World War II to the present.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER JULY 2015

Final Remarks from 1st vice-president Joseph Bush Change of Address

This is to confirm my new residence. I received a call from God, the Chief Architect, on Thursday; and He informed me that my new home was ready.

Each of you know that I have been working on my building, sending up my timber for many years, and for the past few days have been packing up and getting ready for this permanent move. I knew that my mansion needed a few finishing touches and the Assistant Chief Architect, Jesus Christ, had to inspect it and give His final approval. On Thursday, May 28,

2015, God let me know that my mansion has passed all inspections and it was okay for me to move in so He told me to go ahead and change my address.

My new home is a sight to behold! It is located on an exclusive estate behind the beautiful Pearly Gates. It's just over the other side of serene celestial shore in Beulah land. Of course you know the streets are paved with gold and every day is Sunday. Trees with twelve manners of fruit grace my garden and I can walk and talk with the Master without a worry or care. I've lived in several places during my lifetime, but my new home is better than any place I ever lived.

There has been a small reunion with a few of my close relatives: grandmother, mother, father, uncles, aunts, cousins and a few other celebrities.

There is peace, joy and happiness here. No pain, no pills, or doctors, no strife or discontent; only sweet serenity. I can dine at the Master's bountiful table and if I wish to , sing in the heavenly choir. Best of all, my heavenly Father is here in all His Glory. Guess what, I could not afford designer clothes before, but I have my own designer now, and I have been fitted with my own white robe, wings, and golden slippers.

I could go on and on about my new home, but instead I'm going to pray that each of you will be able to move here one day. In closing, here is my new address:

Joseph B. Bush
No. 1 Heavenly Place
Beulah Land, Heaven 01234-5678

I don't have a telephone, pager, cell phone or email, so when you think of me, call on God. He is only a prayer away. If you don't know His number, just read the Bible, it's listed on every page.

Remember that I love you and am waiting for you on the Glory Side.

Be blessed,
Joseph

(From Joseph's Funeral Bulletin)

PURPLE HEART DAY

On August 7 in 1782, in Newburgh, New York, General George Washington, the commander in chief of the Continental Army, creates the “Badge for Military Merit,” a decoration consisting of a purple, heart-shaped piece of silk, edged with a narrow binding of silver, with “Merit” stitched across the face in silver. The badge was to be presented to soldiers for “any singularly meritorious action” and permitted its wearer to pass guards and sentinels without challenge. The honoree’s name and regiment were also to be inscribed in a “Book of Merit.”

The Badge of Military Merit is considered by some the first military award of the United States Armed Forces; however, the Fidelity Medallion (pictured to right) is older. After being issued to three soldiers for a specific event in 1780, it was never awarded again, so the Badge of Military Merit is often considered the oldest. The Purple Heart is the official successor decoration of the Badge of Military Merit.

Washington’s “Purple Heart” was awarded to only three known soldiers during the Revolutionary War: Elijah Churchill, William Brown and Daniel Bissell, Jr. The “Book of Merit” was lost, and the decoration was largely forgotten until 1927, when General Charles P. Summerall, the U.S. Army chief of staff, sent an unsuccessful draft bill to Congress to “revive the Badge of Military Merit.” In 1931, Summerall’s successor, General Douglas MacArthur, took up the cause, hoping to reinstate the medal in time for the bicen-



ennial of George Washington’s birth. On February 22, 1932, Washington’s 200th birthday, the U.S. War Department announced the creation of the “Order of the Purple Heart.”

In addition to aspects of Washington’s original design, the new Purple Heart also displays a bust of Washington and his coat of arms. The Order of the Purple Heart, the oldest American military decoration for military merit, is awarded to members of the U.S. armed forces who have been killed or wounded in action against an enemy. It is also awarded to soldiers who have suffered maltreatment as prisoners of war.

VICTORY DAY?

While looking for official holidays occurring in July and August, I stumble upon Victory Day on August 10th. It appears to be a State Holiday in Rhode Island commemorating victory over Japan and the end of WWII. The holiday falls on the 2nd Monday in August. I thought V-J Day was on the 2nd of September. After some web surfing, I soon decided that the situation is almost as complicated as the birthday of the US Coast Guard, which is 4 August.

The war in the Pacific was hard fought and bloody. The tide had definitely turned, and the U.S. military was fighting island by island towards Japan. Resistance was fierce. Casualties on both sides were high. Finally on August 14, 1945, Japanese Emperor Hirohito cabled the U.S. to surrender, and agreed to the terms of the Potsdam Declaration. On August 15, news of the surrender was announced to the world. On September 2, the Japanese formally surrendered aboard the U.S. battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. President Truman declared this date to be V-J Day. The battleship USS Missouri was chosen as the venue for the formal surrender ceremony, as she was named after President Truman’s home state.

Actually there appears to be a national push to downplay the anniversary because of our new relationship with Japan.

As *The Salute* photographer, I rather lean towards August 14, the date when one of the most famous photographs of the 20th century symbolizing the joyous atmosphere of street celebrations was reportedly captured. Remember President Truman announced Japan's surrender and end of hostilities on August 15th. The cable from Japan was probably not a closely held secret. The candid photo (below) was taken by Alfred Eisenstaedt and published in LIFE magazine. Since then, about 11 men and three women have all claimed to be one of the two the people in that photo.



LOST REMAINS OF WWII MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT FOUND

By Margaret Wright
The Santa Fe New Mexican (Tribune News Service)
Published June 30 2015
Via *The Stars and Stripes*

Among the World War II Marines whose remains had not been located on Tarawa is Medal of Honor recipient 1st Lt. Alexander "Sandy" Bonnyman Jr.

Search for WWII heroes' remains hinges on

history buff's research. One man's obsession has persuaded the U.S. military to send a search team to a remote, tiny island where previous excavation missions for the remains of lost servicemen have proved frustrating and fruitless.



A white marker at the Santa Fe National Cemetery is inscribed with the name of Marine 1st Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Jr., but the plot beneath it is empty, mirroring the void Bonnyman's family has lived with since his death

more than 70 years ago in World War II.

Bonnyman, a posthumous recipient of the Medal of Honor, America's highest award for valor in combat, was one of about 1,100 Marines killed in 1943 during the Battle of Tarawa. His remains were among the hundreds declared "unrecoverable" by the U.S. quartermaster general in 1949, but thanks to the efforts of a small, privately funded organization, Bonnyman's family can finally make preparations to bring him home.

With its team of experts, the Florida-based nonprofit History Flight used remote sensing, ground-penetrating radar and cadaver dogs to search for the lost cemeteries of Tarawa, a battleground of the Pacific Theater. Drone flights helped create a high-resolution aerial map of the island. Then it was cross-referenced against old military maps.

Gradually, investigators discovered that the original burial information wasn't recorded correctly. The trench where Bonnyman was thought to have been laid to rest with 39 other soldiers was finally located on private property owned by a shipping company. History Flight crews excavated the site in May and recovered the remains.

For the rest of the story visit these links: [one](#) and [two](#) []

VCOC BIENNIAL MEETING

An abbreviated Biennial VCOC business meeting is scheduled for October from 10-12 AM at Patriots Colony in Williamsburg. Spouses and others attending the luncheon but not wanting to attend the business meeting may take a brief shopping trip or walking tour in downtown Williamsburg with transportation provided by Patriots Colony. They will return at 1130 for the 1200 sit down lunch served by Patriots Colony. The exact cost of lunch is not set yet, but will surely be under \$20 a plate. Next there will be a Memorial service for all the Chapter members who have passed during 2014 to present. Finally there should be the installation of new VCOC offic-



ers. Officiating officer has not been announced, but will be a MOAA National official. Festivities should be complete by 2 PM or so. This is a good opportunity for PAC-MOAA to attend a nearby event and meet officers from other Chapters and MOAA National.

MAN DOWN

A husband and wife were shopping in their local Wal-Mart. The husband picks up a case of beer and places it in the cart.

She said, "What do you think you are doing?"

He said, "They are on sale, only \$10 for 24 cans!"

She said, "Put them back it's a waste of money."

So the man puts the case back. A few isles later, the wife picks up a \$20 jar of face cream and puts it in the cart.

He said, "What do you think you are doing?"

She said, "It's my face cream. It makes me look beautiful."

He said, "So does 24 cans of beer and it's half the price."

PA system said, "MAN DOWN, ISLE 7."

THAT'S A WRAP FOR JULY



Top photo is from our July brunch. Bottom photo is of local chapter officers and VIPs who attended the brunch (from Left to Right) LTC Robert Steorts USAF (Ret) PACMOAA, COL Boyd Nix USAF (Ret) VIP-MOAA, LTC Jim Stephan USAF (Ret) PACMOAA, COL Steven Turner USAF (Ret) PACMOAA, CDR Ortiz, Bert, USN (Ret) HRCMOAA (BACK ROW), COL Jim Pauls (Ret) VIPMOAA (FRONT ROW), COL Jim Smith, USA (Ret) HRCMOAA, MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret) PACMOAA, CAPT Richard Titi, USN (Ret) PACMOAA, CDR Margaret Cicirelli USCG (Ret) PACMOAA, CDR Hans Sachse USN (Ret) PAC-MOAA, COL Bryce Hollingsworth USAF (Ret) VIPMOAA. We had a record turn out with 70 or so attendees.