

Virginia Peninsula Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America



NEWSLETTER

WEBSITE:

<http://vipmoaa.org>

Editor's EMAIL

admVIPMOAA@outlook.com

Chapter # VA10

President's Message - Glenn Marshall



As we mark the 250th anniversary of our nation's birth, we honor our Founding Fathers who helped shape America's future. The 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence came from many walks of life, including law, commerce, farming, medicine, ministry, printing, teaching, and music. Ranging in age from 26 to 70, they were united by a common cause and willing to risk their lives and fortunes for freedom.

Yet some individuals and groups continue to minimize the Founding Fathers' importance in our nation's history. Over time, fatherhood—both within families and within America's broader story—has received less recognition, as have the historical fathers who helped secure the freedoms Americans enjoy today.

On March 23, 1775, Patrick Henry stood in the pulpit at St. John's Church in Richmond, Virginia, and delivered his famous call: "Give me liberty or give me death!" Although he did not sign the Declaration of Independence, Henry is remembered as one of America's Founding Fathers. His words inspired those in attendance, including George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, and helped encourage the men who would later sign the Declaration. After 250 years, America's founding still reflects the courage of men and women who believed in the promise of a new nation.

That belief now lives in the hands and hearts of our citizens and soldiers, including the men and women of our chapter. Guided by that legacy, WE will "Never Stop Serving" fellow veterans, their families, and the communities we call home.

To advance that mission, we have received a list of Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) national members who have not yet joined our chapter but may be interested in becoming active members. Our goal is to remain a caring, engaged, and active chapter that supports one another and serves as a role model in our community.

As we celebrate Father's Day and our nation's birth, we invite you to join us as we look toward America's future and the generations of citizens and soldiers who will follow us.

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Being an Advocate for Action means "Never Stop Serving"

VIPMOAA SERVANT LEADERSHIP TEAM

BOARD MINUTES- COL (Ret) Karen Coccio, USA

The minutes to our board meetings are posted on our website and are available prior to our general membership meeting, the goal being within the week after the board meeting. The minutes will include all the reports presented at the meeting. Questions or concerns can be brought to any board member, and issues will be included as an agenda item. All members are welcome to attend board meetings. To access the minutes, you must be logged onto your account. **Go to <https://vipmoaa.org/board-meeting-Minutes>.**

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS – COL (Ret) JIM PAULS

VIPMOAA Legislative Goals link: <https://vipmoaa.org/VIPMOAA-Legislative-Goals>

MOAA TAKE ACTION link <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/142300/>

Proposed Congressional Legislation which would affect all “categories” of Military members to include Spouses has been proposed and will be “up for grabs” as Members of Congress return from their “Summer Recess” in order to try to complete a FY 2027 Budget before the current Fiscal Year ends on September 30th!

Before discussing some of the most significant Legislation being proposed, I also want to highlight two other issues which should also be of interest: (1) the “2027 COLA “which could be significant. A recent “prediction” indicated it could be as high as **4.7%** which would be the fourth largest increase since the early ‘90’s and the 5.8% increase in 2009; and (2) a DoD announcement that the most recent effort to “privatize” Commissary operations is “dead!” (Although “dead” for now, I’m not convinced it won’t be long before it becomes a major issue again!)

There are two separate on-going Congressional *Legislatively-related* actions which will impact the DoD Budget: the ***National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)*** which is customarily Congress’ main legislative vehicle for implementing critical DoD - issues especially those related to Service members; and the ***Take Care of America’s Veterans Act (TCAVA)*** which is, according to MOAA, a (new) “sweeping landmark legislative package sponsored by both the Senate and House Veterans’ Affairs Committees.”

- ***NDAA***: Includes several MOAA-sponsored bills to include:
 - ***Major Richard Star Act***: Would end the “pay offset” that military members who are medically retired before attaining 20 years of experience similar to what Active-Duty members were experiencing, i.e. the loss of military retirement pay equivalent to amount of VA Disability Compensation that has been awarded.
 - ***Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)***: Since 2015, *BAH* covers only about 95% of expected rent and utility bills which affects junior service members especially! Increasing the compensation to 100% would help those members in particular!
 - ***TRICARE For Life and GLP-1s Pharmaceuticals***: This past year, coverage for these types of drugs for certain TFL users was eliminated and created an especially harmful impact on TFL users who needed them.
 - ***Duty Status Reform Act***: Would cut the more than two dozen reserve “duty statuses” to four to ensure Reserve members earn the same benefits and service credit as their active-duty counterparts when performing similar duties.
 - ***Military CARE Act***: Would establish a digital reporting system to allow patients at military hospitals and clinics to report “access-to-care” issues in order to help expedite improvement in the specific care they are supposed to be receiving as well as documenting issues to the Defense Health Agency.

- **Take Care of America’s Veteran’s Act:** Incorporates more than 60 “provisions” addressing Veteran’s benefits, health care, education assistance, transition assistance, caregiver support, and Survivor Benefits which include a sizeable number of MOAA’s longest standing priorities to include:
 - **Major Richard Star Act** (discussed above.
 - **Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement (3R) Act:** Would support family caregivers who sacrifice careers and retirement security to care for severely wounded veterans. It would include support the “Caring for Survivors Act (H.R.2055/ S. 611)” which would increase the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) rates for Survivors by almost \$450 per month! Would also include MOAA-supported “Love Lives On Act (H.R.1004/S.410)” which would allow Surviving Spouses to maintain certain benefits, including DIC and SBP payments if the Spouse remarries before age 55!

The Act also includes several controversial issues related to funding and future “disability rating” procedures which causes MOAA concerns. (A more definitive discussion of these concerns was included, on June 6th, in a special (MOAA) “President’s Message” sent “To All MOAA Members”. Please take some time to read the message AND contact a Legislator to express your concern!

(Note: the VIPMOAA website has a list of legislator contact information for our area, and can be found at: <https://vipmoaa.org/Contact-your-Legislators>)

SURVIVING SPOUSE – COL (Ret) SUZANNE EVANS

Check out the VIPMOAA Surviving Spouses web page for additional information:

<https://vipmoaa.org/Surviving-Spouses>

If you need help in a survivor's issue, reach out to me, and we can work it together. I am in the Idaho mountains during the summer so you may reach me at my email: davsuz_evans@hotmail.com

Comrade In Arms Support Team – LTC (Ret) Paul Fameli

CAST’s Mission:

To stand by our comrades with timely, confidential, and meaningful assistance that strengthens bonds of camaraderie, honors the traditions of military service, and reinforces the spirit of lifelong mutual support.

We are seeking members with caregiving skills—nurses, doctors, chaplains, grief counselors, and compassionate listeners—to volunteer. Even one hour of your time can make a difference for a comrade in need. Paul Fameli (famelipj@aol.com) and Kathy Schnepf (kathy.schnepf@gmail.com) would like to hear from you. If you have a need for support, contact them as well.

For more information check out the VIPMOAA website:

<https://vipmoaa.org/Comrade-In-Arms-Support-Team>

ROTC/JROTC -LTC (Ret) TOM SWANSON

ROTC Commissioning Ceremony

14 May 2026 – William & Mary, Brinkley Commons Room at the Business School



W&M President Katherine Rowe's Opening Remarks.



2LT Braden Coykendall receiving his MOAA Packet



LTC Huebner, Brett Evans, & COL Dievendorf with the newly Commissioned Lieutenants.

Newly Commissioned Lieutenants

- Braden Coykendall, USA Aviation
- Carson Foley, USA Infantry
- Justin Gregor, Judge Advocate General Corps
- Daniel Penney, USA Military Intelligence
- Alyssa Riley, USA Medical Corps
- Bryana Smith, USAR Logistics
- Anderson Stroh, USA Medical Corps
- Avery Thompson, ARNG Artillery
- Gabe Turner, USMC Naval Aviation

MEMBERSHIP – *Maria Tavenner*

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

TOTAL Active MEMBERS: 192 REGULAR: 86 SURVIVING SPOUSES: 50 85+: 56

For all membership information please contact Maria Tavenner mbtmembership@aol.com or 703-407-2176, or if you have a change in address, rank, marital status, phone number, or email, as well as death of member or spouse. We urge you to recruit **ONE NEW MEMBER**.

New Member:

Doug Stiegler, 1st LT, USA

Doug is a native Marylander. He graduated from Pennsylvania’s Lafayette College with a BA degree in Economics and served in the U.S. Army in Texas, Germany and Korea. Following his Army service, he was a self-employed contractor for 20 years.



Doug was married for 61 years to Barb, who died in February of this year. For 29 years, they provided a ministry to leaders, lay and clergy, at *The Inn of the Shepherd*, a small retreat facility adjacent to their 200-year-old Maryland farmhouse.

In 1988, Doug and Barb left the family business and spent two years in Haiti as missionaries, assisting various churches and mission organizations in local, social, and religious efforts, and leading teams to Jamaica, Trinidad, and Paraguay.

Seeing the results of a dictatorial government on family life, Doug was encouraged to become the Director of the Family Protection Lobby (FPL) in 1993. Founded in 1980, FPL defended traditional family values before the Maryland state legislature. As a watchman, he alerted the citizens of legislation affecting them and communicated to legislators the needs and desires of families for a safe and healthy living environment. He conducted training seminars on the government process and on grassroots lobbying activities. He was also executive director of the Association of Maryland Families, and the Maryland associate for Focus on the Family.

Doug and Barb moved to Williamsburg in 2015. Doug has two married sons, four grandchildren and two great granddaughters. He is currently active at Good Shepherd Anglican Church where he leads a community prayer group. He is driven to help families grow strong and communicate well.



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VETERAN OWNED

JBLE RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY (27Jun26)

The Joint Base Langley-Eustis Retiree Council hosted the Annual Joint Base Langley-Eustis Retiree Appreciation Day on Saturday, June 27, at the PX Main Entrance at Ft Eustis. Military retirees were thanked for their selfless service to our nation by an array of speakers that included 733rd MSG Commander COL Jacob Roper, Guest Speaker MAJ (Ret) Robert Sheperd (currently an actor, author and storyteller) and by Retirement Services Officer Christie Crowder who also gave the opening and closing remarks. As one of over 40 vendors, VIPMOAA members were on hand to interact face-to-face with retirees and their families, answering questions and providing information about our organization. Members were able to connect with other vendors and organizations serving the retiree community, while enhancing our organization's visibility and demonstrating our commitment to supporting retirees. It was a fun event that brought the community together and resulted in growth for our membership (applications were available and several interested retirees filled them out). Let's do this again in 2027!



CW4 (Ret) Russ White, Pres. Glenn Marshall, Maj's (Ret) Craig and Kathy Schnepf, LTC (Ret) Karen Coccio

MILITARY COMMUNITY SERVICE/SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS

-COL (Ret) Frank Tavenner, Jr. FBTtreasurer@aol.com 703-407-6989

Category

Diamond Level (\$1000+)

Platinum Level (\$500 - \$999)

Corson, Ron
Mabie, Lew/Nan
Miyamasu, Paul/Mary
Tavenner, Frank/Maria

Gold Level (\$100 - \$499)

Butz, Rose Marie
Fameli, Paul/Atsuko
Fahlender, Ted
Greenhalgh, Jack
Lindsey, Edward/Glenda
Marshall, Glenn/Judy
Nutwell, Bob/Lynn
Schnepf, Kathy/Craig
In the name of Skoglund, Shizuko
Wood, Betty

Silver Level (\$50 - \$99)

Arnold, Ray/Rita
Burrows, LeRoy
Clarke, Robert/Anneliese
Evans, Suzanne
Francisco, Ben
Morris, Thomas
Pauls, Jim/Marvella
Smith, Gretchen
Tarr, Elaine

Bronze Level (\$25 - \$49)

Dievendorf, Lynn/Sallie Moore
Gemeinhardt, Fred
Graves, Bobby
Nix, Boyd/Sharon

Donations of less than \$25 are not listed. Donations for these programs can be added to your monthly activities' reservation, or a donation may be submitted at any time. All donations are tax deductible with a letter for donations of \$100+ provided for IRS information. Make checks payable to VIPMOAA and send to VIPMOAA CS/SF Mgr, Box 6463, Williamsburg VA 23188.

Household Document Organization

Margaret E. Mondul, CDR, USN (Ret)

Let Me Help YOU

Organize, Understand and Prepare

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HHDObyMargaret@aol.com

American Association of Daily Money Managers

Morgan Stanley

WEALTH MANAGEMENT

437 W. Duke Of Gloucester
Street
Williamsburg, VA 23185

direct 757 259 7150
mobile 757 968 6077

Andrew J. Chess, QPFC

Financial Planning Specialist
Financial Advisor
NMLS #2628989

Andrew.Chess@morganstanley.com
<https://advisor.morganstanley.com/Andrew.Chess>

IMPORTANT DATES IN US MILITARY HISTORY FOR JULY

July is a pivotal month in US military history, marked by the Declaration of Independence, decisive Civil War battles, and major legislative shifts that desegregated the armed forces and established the modern Department of Defense and Department of the Air Force.

Revolutionary War

- **July 4, 1776:** The Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, formally separating the 13 colonies from Great Britain and establishing the United States of America.

American Civil War

- **July 1-3, 1863:** The Battle of Gettysburg was fought in Pennsylvania. This Union victory is widely considered the turning point of the Civil War.
- **July 4, 1863:** Confederate forces surrendered Vicksburg, Mississippi, to Union General Ulysses S. Grant, effectively splitting the Confederacy in two and giving Union forces control of the Mississippi River.

20th Century & Beyond

- **July 26, 1947:** President Harry S. Truman signed the National Security Act of 1947. This landmark legislation restructured the US military, creating the Department of Defense, the CIA, and the US Air Force.
- **July 26, 1948:** President Truman signed Executive Order 9981, officially desegregating the United States Armed Forces and mandating equal treatment and opportunity for all service members regardless of race.
- **July 27, 1953:** The Korean War Armistice Agreement was signed at Panmunjom, halting active hostilities and establishing the Korean Demilitarized Zone.


NOT TOO LATE TO SIGNUP FOR THE JULY 19th Tri-Chapter Brunch

The Portsmouth Area Chapter (PAC), Peninsula Chapter (VIP), and the Hampton Roads Chapter (HRC) of MOAA are hosting a brunch buffet in the Magnolia Room at the Atlantic Shores Retirement Community, Virginia Beach.

Cost of brunch is \$40.00 per person.

Make reservations by contacting Kathy Schnepf (kathy.schnepf@gmail.com)

Reservations are required NLT noon on Monday, July 13, 2026



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PATRIOTS COLONY
At Williamsburg

Patriots Colony is a Riverside Health System active retirement community whose Independent Living is exclusive to former military officers, federal civil employees and their spouses or widow(ers).

Additional information can be found on line at :

https://vipmoaa.org/get_calendar_details.cfm?calendarid=117

Remember: A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID!

The annual Membership Appreciation Picnic event was held on 25 Jun 2026 at Shelter #10 in Newport News Park. The event was catered by Rocco's Smokehouse Grill. The weather for the event was great and fun was had by all. We played Bingo, had a Golf Putting Challenge, a guess how many “Nuts and Screws” are in the jar challenge, and other activities as well.

Photos courtesy of Paul Miyamasu



The Chapter presented Rocco Colafrancesco, a Certificate of Appreciation for his continual support to the chapter and catering the June picnic lunch for several years at the Newport News Park. Rocco is the owner of the Rocco's Smokehouse Grill, temporarily located at 1430 High Street, Williamsburg, pending completion of repairs to his restaurant at 207 Bypass Road. Shown are chapter president Glenn Marshall, Rocco, and past president Ron Corson.



VIPMOAA 24 Sept 2026 Luncheon Meeting at Chihuahua's Mexican Grill

309-B Oyster Point Rd, Newport News VA (757) 369-9708



RSVP - by 3 pm Thur, 17 Sept COST: \$24

“Take part in a German History lesson while eating delicious Mexican Food”

POC: Kathy Schnepf, kathy.schnepf@gmail.com (802) 274-9477

Menu Options:

- (1) Taco Salad (chicken or beef) in crispy tortilla bowl w lettuce, beans, cheese dip, shredded cheese, sour cream
- (2) Taco & Burrito (chicken or beef) with rice
- (3) Quesadilla Rellena (chicken or beef) with crema salad, rice
- soft drinks, iced tea, coffee, and Sopapillas for dessert



- 1130 Sign-in/Social**
- 1200 Lunch is served**
- 1300 Program/Announcements**
- 1345 Adjourn**

Speaker: **Mrs. Frauke Elber** is a historical author documenting WWII naval cadet life and an active advocate for women in aviation, with a career spanning literary preservation, historical research, and community service.

Timely reservations guarantee a smooth luncheon; room setup, table seatings, food amounts and proper staffing for the size of our group.

Must REGISTER for the event ([register online](#)). Please consider a donation!

RESERVATIONS MAY BE MADE ON LINE or VIA THE FORM BELOW, AND PAYMENT MAILED TO VIPMOAA. RSVPs WITH PAYMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RSVP DATE. NOTIFY POC FOR CHANGES TO REGISTRATION!! CHAPTER MUST PAY THE VENUE FOR NO-SHOWS. A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID

CLIP & MAIL THIS RESERVATION FORM FOR LUNCHEON ON THURSDAY 24 Sept 2026

Please write name and rank/title for each person who will attend:

	<u>Menu Option</u>	<u>Meat</u>
MEMBER _____	(1) or (2) or (3)	Chicken or Beef
SPOUSE _____	(1) or (2) or (3)	Chicken or Beef
GUEST (1) _____	(1) or (2) or (3)	Chicken or Beef
GUEST (2) _____	(1) or (2) or (3)	Chicken or Beef

Circle 1 Option and 1 Meat per person

TOTAL NUMBER ATTENDING _____ @ \$24 PER PERSON \$ _____

VIPMOAA 2026 Donations (Scholarship, ROTC, Community, Other) \$ _____

CHECK (payable to VIPMOAA) AMOUNT \$ _____

Member Email/ Phone _____

MAIL WITH CHECK TO: VIPMOAA HOSPITALITY - Sept, BOX 6463, WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23188

Patriots Colony Residents Use VIPMOAA mailbox under 2321

2026-27 EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: 1LT Glenn Marshall, USA
marsh8279@aol.com 757-585-1196

VICE PRESIDENT: MAJ Kathleen Schnepf, USAFR (Ret)
kathy.schnepf@gmail.com 802-274-9477

SECRETARY: COL Karen Coccio, USA (Ret)
karen.coccio@gmail.com 757-652-7933

TREASURER: COL Frank Tavenner, Jr., USA (Ret)
FBTtreasurer@aol.com 703-407-6989

OFFICERS - APPOINTED

LEGAL ADVISOR: Vacant

SURVIVING SPOUSES LIAISON: COL Suzanne Evans,
USA (Ret) davsuz_evans@hotmail.com 808-221-6096

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Cleta Puckett, SS okbltmca@gmail.com 405-203-0987

LTC Brett Evans, USA (Ret), bdevans7@yahoo.com ,
406-396-0666

ADVISOR: COL Jim Pauls, USAF (Ret) keydetman@aol.com
757-851-1141

Personal Affairs

CHAPLAIN: CAPT Donald Troast, USN (Ret)
donaldtroast2015@gmail.com 757-920-3458

CAST Chair: PAUL FAMELI LTC USA (Ret)
cast@vipmoaa.org 757-561-7560

VIPMOAA BOARD MEETINGS

2nd Thursday @ 10:00 A.M.

13 August & 10 Sept

[Patriots Colony Large Hobby Room](#)

6000 John Tyler Hwy

Williamsburg, VA 23188 (757) 220-9000

**Members are welcome to attend & may submit
proposed agenda items in advance to the President.**

MEMBERSHIP

CHAIRMAN: Maria Tavenner, CIV
mbtmembership@aol.com 703-407-2176

RECRUITING: All Board Members

COMMUNICATIONS

CHAIRMAN: Vacant

MEDIA LIAISON: Vacant

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: MAJ Craig Schnepf USAF (Ret)
admVIPMOAA@outlook.com

EVENTS

CHAIRMAN: MAJ Kathleen Schnepf, USAFR (Ret)
kathy.schnepf@gmail.com 802-274-9477

Gretchen Smith, gkbs9281@gmail.com, 540-420-8502

Elaina Warren, elainagw@cox.net, 804-642-6597

FUND RAISING: COL Karen Coccio, USA (Ret)
karen.coccio@gmail.com 757-652-7933

ROTC/JROTC

CHAIRMAN: LTC Thomas Swanson, USAF (Ret)
tgsanson@cox.net 757-593-1431

LTC Gene Lorge, USA (Ret) elorge@cox.net 757-403-4678

Our Mission Statement:

To be a champion of local and national legislation that benefits our military community. To perpetuate the traditions of the American Military by providing camaraderie among our members, providing support for veterans, and by mentoring young men and women in the community to become America's future military leaders. To be a trusted counselor for our surviving spouses.



VIPMOAA NEWSLETTER
 BOX 6463
 WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23188

IF MAILING ADDRESS CHANGES,
 NOTIFY VIPMOAA

Please consider sharing this newsletter with a prospective member. We invite military officers to become members. Please see our [website](http://vipmoaa.org) (VIPMOAA.ORG) or contact [Maria Tavenner](mailto:maria.tavener@vipmoaa.org) at 703-407-2176. Contact Maria for any changes in your address or membership.

The VIPMOAA NEWSLETTER is published by the VIPMOAA Chapter, which is an Affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its Affiliated Chapters and councils are non-partisan. The advertisements that appear in this publication also do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or this Affiliate.

Website: <https://vipmoaa.org/Home>

Meeting Schedule – Luncheon/Dinner on the 4th Thursday of the month except for Nov/Dec

Date	Location	L/D	Speaker
19 July 2026	Atlantic Shores, Virginia Beach	Brunch	Annual Tri-Chapter Event
August	None	N/A	Summer Break
24 Sept	Chihuahua’s Mexican Grill, Newport News	Lunch	Mrs. Frauke Elber
22 Oct	Patriots Colony	Lunch	TBD

If you have suggestions for topics or speakers, please contact Kathy Schnepf (kathy.schnepf@gmail.com). Newsletters are posted on the website and emailed to members on the 1st of the month. If you don’t receive your monthly Newsletter by the 3rd of the month, check your spam email first, then contact the Newsletter Editor at (admVIPMOAA@outlook.com). Newsletters sent by USPS 1st class mail take 2-8 days + 5 days preparation by the printer.

RENEW YOUR VIPMOAA MEMBERSHIP

