



# VIPMOAA

## NEWSLETTER



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### PREZ SEZ

“Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day” *Sally Koch*



The April 30<sup>th</sup> Honor Flight Historic Triangle Virginia trip to Washington, D.C to take WWII veterans to see the WWII Memorial and other monuments and memorials, including Arlington National Cemetery was another successful event and moving experience for those who participated. Two full buses departed Colonial Heritage in Williamsburg to begin the outing. Three VIPMOAA members accompanied the veterans as escorts, one served as a road guard, and eleven attended the departure ceremony as well wishers and roadside cheerleaders. Afterward, the VIPMOAA group had an enjoyable breakfast together at a Williamsburg establishment. The Honor Flight Historic Triangle Virginia usually sponsors a spring trip and a fall trip so we will be looking forward to an encore performance in October, with hopefully even greater chapter participation.

Our collection efforts are underway for the chapter **Military Community Service/Scholarship Fund** and several members have included contributions with their May outing reservation forms. See donor listing on Page 4.

On another note, please permit me to express my admiration and gratitude for a job extremely well done regarding our **JROTC/ROTC Programs**. Our chapter supports **11 local area high schools** that have JROTC programs and two Army ROTC Battalions located at **three university campuses**. Springtime is the busy time of year for recognition and awards. We have a committee of two co-chairs who oversee these activities and make all arrangements. Colonel George Fries had been the chair of this committee for several years until recently recruiting Colonel Norm Merski as his co-chair. George will include information on these programs elsewhere in this Newsletter and an updated expanded version in the August Newsletter but I wanted to take this opportunity to thank him, and Norm, for their extra efforts and outstanding performance arranging and conducting the chapter involvement in the various promotion and graduation ceremonies. Thanks also to the chapter members who helped with JROTC presentations and ROTC graduation ceremonies.

Let me close with another appeal to all who have cell phones to turn in to bring them with them to our chapter lunch/dinner or board meetings, or give them to someone who will attend one of these functions. If none of these methods work for you, please give me a call and I will see that arrangements are made to retrieve them from you. To date, we have collected and submitted 63 cell phones that I am aware of. The Cell Phones for Soldiers program runs through September 2011 with the results of chapter and/or council collection efforts being announced at the MOAA Annual Meeting to be held in October 2011 in San Antonio, Texas.

*Frank Duckett, Major, USAF (Ret), President*

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