Virginia Peninsula Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America

VIPMOAA NEWSLETTER

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PREZ SEZ

"Keeping Involved "

Did you happen to read Vice Admiral Norb Ryan's column, "from the President" in the March issue of the MOAA magazine, *Military Officer*? I personally found it to be quite poignant and relevant – especially his comment that "…we at MOAA and other leadership organizations need to urgently redouble our collaborating efforts to build a far greater awareness in our communities of the challenges facing our AVF and our veterans and – most important – educate them about how they can help." I think our chapter has done a pretty good job over the last several years in fulfilling that challenge. And, I know we can continue to do so because there are many opportunities available to help us be a major source of "influence" in our chapter area.

The first and probably most pressing thing we can do is support the Virginia "Wounded Warrior" Program. For the second consecutive year, we invited a representative of the Program to be a featured speaker at a chapter event and SGM Ken Rich, (USA-Ret), the Program's "Regional Director" did so at our chapter meeting last month. Following his presentation, the chapter presented him a $500 donation, matching last year's contribution. But, our "involvement" shouldn't end there. I've been talking to Ken about on-going things we in the chapter can do to help "Wounded Warriors" in the community and we hope to have some sort of "game plan" completed shortly. In the meantime, everyone can help by making a contribution to the "Wounded Warrior" program. To find out how, go to http://www.dvs.virginia.gov/woundedwarrior/wwp-your-generous-support.shtml.

Another "community outreach" endeavor worthy of our continued support is the "Honor Flight" program. As you know, it provides free travel to World War II and Korean veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit the National World War II and Korean War Memorials. This year's first event will be held on Saturday, April 17th. The organizers of the event would like to have as many people as possible to assemble for a send-off ceremony which will be held at 7:00 AM at the Colonial Heritage Club House in Williamsburg (across the street from the "Pottery" entrance on RT 60 in Lightfoot). Last year, several of us participated and it was truly a heart-warming experience. So, come on out and join us this year! If you need more information or would like to make a donation to help support the trip, visit the "Honor Flight" website: www.honorflightHTVA.org.

Jim Pauls, Col, USAF (Ret), President / keydetman@aol.com

MAY 27 OUTING – MISS HAMPTON II HARBOR CRUISE NARRATED TOUR DEPARTS PROMPTLY AT 10:00 AM

710 SETTLERS LANDING RD, HAMPTON, VA - Tel. (757) 722-9102

MISS HAMPTON II

Our May meeting will be a departure from our usual program format. We are meeting for a special boat tour on board the Miss Hampton II led by Mike Cobb, Curator of the Hampton History Museum, who gave us a truly memorable program on the history of Fort Wool on November 19, 2009. This 2 ½ to 3 hour Harbor Tour departs promptly at 10:00 AM (please board NLT 15 minutes before departure) from the Historic Downtown Hampton waterfront and proceeds out the Hampton River, passing Hampton University and Blackbeard's Point.

Entering the Hampton Roads Harbor, you will sail the waters of Captain John Smith and the First Settlers. Your tour continues past historic Fort Monroe and the Old Point Comfort Lighthouse, the oldest continuously operating lighthouse in America. After an awe-inspiring view of the magnificent Chesapeake Bay the cruise will stop (weather permitting) for a 30-minute guided walking tour of the Civil War Island Fortress of Fort Wool. And who better to guide us on this tour than our friend, Mike Cobb, whose comprehensive book on the history of Fort Wool was published in July 2009?

Another highlight of your tour will be an in-depth view of the massive warships at the Norfolk Naval Base, home to aircraft carriers, nuclear-powered submarines, and various types of support ships. And the return trip to Hampton features a captivating narrative of the famous Battle of the Ironclads: the Monitor and the Merrimac! Light food, snacks and drinks are available on board. No high heels – rubber soles recommended. A list of local restaurants will be on board for those who wish lunch after the cruise. Park (free) in the garage across from the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

This promises to be a truly outstanding program and should be of great interest to our members. A reservation coupon and schedule appear elsewhere in this newsletter. To attend, please send your check and completed reservation coupon to arrive at VIPMOAA Hospitality ***no later than Thursday, May 13, 2010***.

WE'LL SEE YOU ON THE MISS HAMPTON II ON MAY 27TH.

John E. Corcoran, Jr., Capt, USNR (Ret.), Programs Publicist