

## VIPMOAA in ACTION

These summer months have been “officially” somewhat inactive for the VIPMOAA organization. We usually set aside the summer months as a period where many of our members travel and/or just enjoy summertime activities with friends and family.

But *unofficially*, the summer has been anything but inactive. June found us on an outing to The Williamsburg Winery where several members met for a tour and lunch. Thanks to Margaret Mondul for arranging this event. Also in June, seven VIPMOAA members joined members from the other 17 MOAA chapters of the VCOC for the annual Congressional Luncheon where they met with Virginia’s Senators and House Representatives.

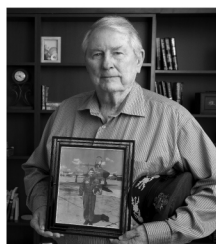
In July, several VIPMOAA members joined with members of the Hampton Roads Chapter and the Portsmouth Chapter at The Chamberlin for an informal brunch. Thanks to Jim Pauls for coordinating this function. For August, some 60 VIPMOAA members, spouses, and guests enjoyed the “*Music Under the Stars*” concert at Ft. Monroe; somewhat of a farewell tribute to Ft. Monroe, which has had a long and storied history with the Military. Thanks to Melva Mallison and Jay Harper for setting up VIPMOAA’s participation at this nostalgic event. August also provided us with an unexpected and unusual earthquake, as well as an uninvited guest named **Irene**.

As we proceed into September, we return to an increased level of “official” activities. On September 22 we have our luncheon/meeting at Patriot’s Colony (see page 9). October 13 is the VCOC Biennial Dinner, also at Patriot’s Colony (see page 4). On October 27 we have our luncheon/meeting at Rocco’s (see page 10). November 17 finds us at Langley AFB for our *Annual Business Meeting* and December 15 we have our *Holiday Dinner* event (details for these events will appear in future newsletters).

But even with all these events, as well as cleaning up from **Irene’s** unfriendly visit, there is much more to be done. In the next few months, there will be a great deal of political activity concerning the economy and the “wars” in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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These political maneuvers will involve many issues that may (will) affect the “benefits” that the military (active, retired, and veterans) have earned through their service to our country. These issues will directly impact your quality of life.

MOAA on the national level and VIPMOAA and the other chapters of the VCOC at the state and local levels are working hard to let our representatives know our position on these issues.

What can you do? MOAA’s/VIPMOAA’s ability to influence our legislators is directly proportional to the number of our members that they represent. We need to increase our membership at all levels in order to maximize our influence. Our legislators need to know that the military community represents a large segment of their constituents; and that we vote!

So please ensure that you renew your membership in MOAA and VIPMOAA. VIPMOAA renewal forms will appear in the October Newsletter. You can also be a recruiter. If you know someone who is eligible for membership, encourage them to join MOAA or VIPMOAA; or both. Membership forms for VIPMOAA can be found on our website at <http://www.VIPMOAA.org>.

*Richard Bunger, CWO2, USN (Fmr)*