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Chapter # VA10

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NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - TO ALL VIPMOAA MEMBERS

Col Ron Corson

OK! It happened at our March 28th meeting, I was decertified as the VP of the Chapter and re-elected to be the President of VIPMOAA. Not so much that I wanted to have that distinction, but rather that the long serving leadership and Board of Directors were not able to convince some of our younger members that now was the time to step up and keep VIPMOAA on its 5-Star MOAA Chapter trajectory. The election on 28 March also brought in our new Treasurer, Frank Tavenner and our new Secretary, Dan Warren. Also, with a reminder to me during the meeting our newly appointed Membership Chairman, Maria Tavenner, was recognized. The election however, did not fill an important elected position - that of Vice-President. Myself and the Board will be searching to find a qualified candidate to fill that position. To that end if you are interested in learning more about what our VP does and would like to be considered please reach out to me. I really do need a side kick.

As I look back over my time as one of the leaders of the Chapter, I am happy to be the recipient of all the support that our members have given to the Chapter and to our community. Our members freely and consistently have given their time, talents, and financial support to continue to make VIPMOAA a robust community support and social organization in the peninsula area.

I recently gave a presentation at the Chesapeake Senior Living community in Newport News about VIPMOAA and why retired military officers should join our Chapter. In developing that presentation, I compiled some of our Chapter accomplishments over the past 10 years. The impact is remarkable. VIPMOAA has contributed over \$19,000 to support non-profit community organizations that support veterans and community needs. Our members have made donations that have provided \$56,000 for college scholarships to outstanding Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) cadets at the peninsula's high school JROTC programs, and over \$3,800 in JROTC Leadership Awards over the same 10-year period. In addition, member donations have allowed our Chapter to provide over \$6,000 in Leadership Awards to outstanding ROTC Cadets at our Williams & Mary, Christopher Newport University, and Hampton University.

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With the active support and participation of our members, VIPMOAA will be able to continue our outstanding contribution to the community and to the veterans living on the peninsula. The members of VIPMOAA can be assured, as we look forward to the rest of 2024 and beyond, that your Chapter leadership will continue with your support and dedication continue the Chapter's fine efforts and contribution to our community.

As a last thought, I want to personally thank our outgoing President and long serving Board member, Jim Pauls. His dedication and leadership have been instrumental in the success and accomplishments of VIPMOAA. "Never Stop Serving"!

HOOAH! RON

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Please keep up with the latest legislative actions by going to the National MOAA website. Without a chairperson, we are unable to offer you any updates on legislative issues.

TAKE ACTION

Under MOAA's Take Action these active legislative campaigns are highlighted:

- Urge your legislators to support concurrent receipt
- Urge your legislators to pay full housing costs for servicemembers
- Share your story: what does TRICARE for life mean to you?
- Ask your lawmakers to support the retain skilled veterans act
- Urge your legislators to support the military spouse hiring act
- Urge your legislators to support the advancing toward impact aid full funding act
- Urge Congress to expand TRICARE coverage to certain 'gray area' retirees.
- See more when you click on TAKE ACTION!



Since we are unable to offer current surviving spouse activities, please keep up to date with MOAA's [Surviving Spouse Corner](#).

NO NEWSLETTER IN MAY AND NO MEETING IN MAY

CONGRATULATIONS NEW OFFICERS

Congratulations to our new officers and we thank them for stepping forward to take the reins of our Chapter. Our new officers were elected at the 28 March meeting and are:

- President, COL Ron Corson, USA (Ret);
- Secretary, COL Daniel Warren, USA (Ret);
- Treasurer, COL Frank Tavenner, Jr., USA (Ret)

We are pleased to announce that Maria Tavenner has taken over the Membership Chairperson role so aptly handled for six years by COL Pal Miyamasu. She has already been working hard at this position along with her husband and treasurer, Frank. They are a great team to keep our finances and membership in order.

Let us not rest on our laurels yet, we STILL NEED OTHER POSITIONS FILLED such as the Legal Advisor, Legislative Affairs Chair, and Surviving Spouse Liaison. These three positions are key to the function of the Board and of the Chapter. Without these key people we are severely limited in our functions. Without them you will NOT hear anything about the latest workings of Congress and the Virginia State Legislature where it affects the retired military. We will have NO one to help newly widowed members through the difficult process of reporting the death to DFAS and negotiating all the steps required. We will have NO legal advisor who provides appropriate guidance regarding interfaces with other organizations, legal paperwork, and correct wording for the Constitution and Bylaws.

Certainly, there are three members who will step forward and pick up the reins. Contact Ron Corson at 757-810-4155 or jrcorson@aol.com

TRI-CHAPTER BRUNCH 14 JULY

The Tri-Chapter Brunch this July 14th and will be at the Atlantic Shores Retirement Community from 10 AM to 1 PM. Reservations will be by phone and/or email. Payment of \$25/person at the door. The usual policy of “**A reservation made is a reservation paid**” applies. Please make your reservation with Loren Heckelman at Loren.Heckelman@cox.net or 757-646-6448.

SAN DIEGO AIR & SPACE MUSEUM

The museum has a very interesting display about the Milestones of Flight which provides a peek into the world of air and space with key moments throughout history. From the feather and wax wings used by Daedalus and Icarus in Greek mythology to the first powered and controlled aircraft on another planet, people have been fascinated by flight. How can we lift something above the Earth? How far will it go and how fast will it move? Can it go farther and faster? Can we lift people? What will they see and learn from up there? This gallery represents a larger, ongoing story about the people who asked these questions and the science they used to answer them. We invite you to explore, ask your own questions, and be a part of the story.

The first Milestone listed was about Louis Bleriot who was the inventor of the Bleriot aircraft. He flew from Calais to Dover on July 15, 1909. This was the first successful flight of a monoplane, or aircraft with one set of wings, over the English Channel. On April 16, 1912, Harriet Quimby also flew a Bleriot XI from Dover to Calais, becoming the first female to fly across the channel. Hundreds of these aircraft were produced between 1909 and 1914.

Ref: San Diego Air & Space Museum, [Milestones of Flight](#)

SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

This long word will be part of our lexicon for the next several years for the USA has begun planning the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. The American story for the celebration in July 2026 will recognize the fullness of American history and experience. America250 is a multiyear effort to commemorate the semiquincentennial, or 250th anniversary of the United State and is led by the Semiquincentennial Commission created by Congress. Visit <https://america250.org/> On March 18-20, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation welcomed the national 250th commemoration planners to Colonial Williamsburg. The foundation and VA250 are working closely together.



Virginia has been leading the way both planning and sponsoring activities for the last two years. The Virginia website for this effort is <https://va250.org/>. This logo will be seen across the state.

Commemoration related events are already happening throughout Virginia and can be found in the listing below. On March 11th the Marquis Lafayette gave a dynamic talk about his role in the revolution at the York County Historic Museum. Let's see what is happening in York County through July 4th.

York County History Day

April 13, 2024 - April 13, 2024

This event highlights the American Revolution and Civil War. Enjoy music, military demonstrations, crafts, food, and much, much more around Historic Yorktown.

Pirates Invade Yorktown

April 27, 2024 - April 28, 2024

Take a step back into the Golden Age of piracy as Riverwalk Landing and the Watermen's Museum are invaded by seafaring marauders!

"If This Be Treason...The 1774 York County Resolves and the Liberty Pole" Lecture

June 07, 2024 - June 07, 2024

Governor Dunmore has dissolved the House of Burgesses, and the militia is ready to fight! Join us as we explore our shared history and begin the celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution.

Yorktown Military Appreciation Weekend

June 09, 2024 - June 09, 2024

Join us for a weekend-long patriotic salute to our Armed Forces as we celebrate the contributions of our American heroes both past and present. Enjoy live music, games, stories, special exhibits, and more!

Independence Day Celebration

July 04, 2024 - July 04, 2024

festive parade down Historic Main Street! Evening activities include a bell-ringing ceremony, patriotic concert, and a spectacular fireworks display over the York River.

"250th Anniversary of the 1774 York County Resolves" Lecture

July 18, 2024 - July 18, 2024

Historian Jim Gallagher will portray Thomas Nelson, Jr. as he describes the importance of the colonial protest against England's taxation policies.

As we approach our America250 celebration is there a historian among our VIPMOAA members who would like to write articles about our founding fathers and our early history? The VIPMOAA Newsletter would like to feature historical articles to tie in with the celebration. Please contact mchale@vipmoaa.org to offer your writing services!

CHESAPEAKE PRESENTATION

On 20 March, President Ron Corson made a presentation about VIPMOAA to The Chesapeake, part of the Virginia Baptist Homes, in Newport News. We thank Kathy Schnepf for making the contact at The Chesapeake and setting up the evening. Ron's talk emphasized who MOAA is, what we do, and why you should be a VIPMOAA member. There were light refreshments and a small attentive audience.



25 APRIL LUNCHEON PROGRAM

VIPMOAA is proud to support and mentor the ROTC cadets at our 3 local colleges (W&M, Hampton U, and Christopher Newport) and those in the 11 JROTC programs at the peninsula high schools.

We award an achievement medal, ribbon, certificate, and a \$500 stipend to an outstanding ROTC junior year cadet, and a set of 2nd Lieutenant bars and a free junior officer membership in MOAA to senior cadets who are commissioned each year. The Professors of Military Science (PMS) from Hampton University, LTC Jasmine Jallah, and from the Revolutionary Guards Battalion representing both Christopher Newport University and Williams & Mary, Lt Col Jason Finch, and two cadets from each of the universities will accompany the PMS's to our April luncheon at Anna's Brick Oven and Pizza. Please see the online April [reservation form](#) or check your March Newsletter.

At the high school level, VIPMOAA awards a leadership achievement certificate, medal, and a \$50 gift card to a deserving junior year cadet, and a \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior cadet, to be used for post-secondary education.



25 April Lunch
Reservation Form

22 AUGUST LUNCHEON – MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Representative Rob Wittman will be our Guest at the 22 August meeting. **This will be a dinner meeting, 5:30-8 P.M.** at Colonial Heritage. Active duty and retired officers are invited to attend and bring interested friends. This is not a political campaign event, but the invitation is extended as Rob Wittman is the Virginia District #1 representative to the House of Representatives, U.S. Congress.

GENESIS PORTAL ALLOWS REFILLS

The Defense Health Agency has launched a new feature that lets you request prescription refills through MHS GENESIS. MHS GENESIS is the Department of Defense's new electronic health record. It's now in use at every military hospital and clinic worldwide.

You can now easily refill your prescriptions by selecting the "Rx Refills" tab in the upper right panel on the portal's homepage.

Through your MHS GENESIS Patient Portal, you'll be able to:

- See all your prescriptions that are available to be refilled.
- Choose which ones you want refilled.
- Choose where you want to pick up the refill.
- See when your prescriptions are ready to be picked up.

This new feature applies to existing prescriptions that have remaining refills. The system determines a prescription is ready to be refilled when you've completed 75% of the previous fill. Your prescriptions won't be eligible for refill before that time. You need a renewal when your prescription has no refills left, or has expired, and you still need the medication. You can use the MHS GENESIS secure messaging feature to request a renewal.

Ref: [Tricare Newsroom](#)

TORII GATES MEANING TO OUR AIRFORCES IN SOUTH KOREA

At the entranceway to most shrines stands a large gate called a torii. Different types of torii can be found at Shinto shrines, no matter their size and shape, they all are a symbol to mark the transition from the normal everyday world to the sacred. Throughout Asia, the Torii Gate brought peace, luck, long life and tranquility.



The meaning of this tradition was not lost on the American airmen that daily risked their lives in defense of South Korea and the US interests there. In an attempt to have these traditions rub off on the aircrews, Torii Gates were constructed at many US operated airbases and used as a portal to the flight line.



A famous photo of the torii gate leading to the Sabre flight line at Kimpo Air Base, is pictured at the right. The airfield was originally constructed in 1939-42. In 1958, the airport was redesigned and named Gimpo after the nearby city of Gimpo.

FIVE MEN, 55 MIGS by Nixon Galloway, Kimpo Airfield near Seoul, Korea, is a famous painting in the art collection of the Air Force. The pilots in the picture are: (Left to Right) Captain Lonnie R. Moore, 10 MIGs Colonel Vermont Garrison, 10 MIGs and 7.33 Kills in WWII Colonel James K. Johnson, 10 MIGs and 1 Luftwaffe in WWII Captain Ralph S. Parr, 10 Kills in Korea and Major James Jabara, 15 MIGs and 1.5 Victories in Europe in WWII. The aircraft are North American F-86 Sabre Jets.



Ref: [National Museum of the United States Air Force](#); [Department of the Air Force Art Collection](#);

MILITARY COMMUNITY SERVICE/SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS

29 March 2024 - Total \$1,719 (22% funded)

Annual Funding Goal - \$7,500

Make a Difference!

DONATE

Please consider including a tax deductible donation when you renew your membership or pay for events.

The following organizations are recipients of our members' generous donations:

- [Fisher House at Portsmouth Naval Hospital](#)
- [Liberty Lounge, Colonial Williamsburg](#)
- [Old Dominion Honor Flight](#)
- [USO of Hampton Roads & Central Virginia](#)
- [JROTC/ROTC](#)
- [Civil Air Patrol](#)
- [Williamsburg House of Mercy](#)

DIAMOND LEVEL (\$1000+)

PLATINUM LEVEL (\$500 - \$999)

GOLD LEVEL (\$100 - \$499)

Atienza, Fernando/Marilyn
Corson, Ron
Hollingsworth, Bryce
Rosado, Raymond/Katrinka
Tavener, Frank/Maria

SILVER LEVEL (\$50 - \$99)

Warren, Daniel/Elaina
Greenhalgh, Jack

BRONZE LEVEL (\$25 - \$49)

Fahlender, Ted
Krantz, Kenneth/Josephine
Lee, Ronald/Helen
Lynch, Maurice/Virginia
Siekirski, Zenon/Gerry
Skelly, Cynthia
Tarr, Elaine

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.

MARCH 28 VIMS TOUR & LUNCHEON

Our visit to the Virginia Institute for Marine Sciences (VIMS) was arranged by Elaina Warren. We thank Elaina for the time and effort she spent visiting and making the arrangements. VIMS is a world class research and education center in marine sciences. VIMS provides advisory services to the world. Please follow their mission at <https://www.vims.edu/>

After very informative and extremely interesting presentations, we moved to YROC for lunch. After lunch the election for President, Secretary, and Treasurer was held.

We were extremely pleased to have Senator Danny Diggs and Delegate Shelly Simonds attend the tour and luncheon. Senator Diggs represents the newly formed 24th district encompassing York County, the City of Poquoson, City of Williamsburg, one precinct in James City County and half of Newport News. Delegate Shelly Simonds represents the 70th District located in the City of Newport News in the Hampton Roads region and includes Glendale and neighborhoods near Christopher Newport University.



CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

TOTAL MEMBERS: 223 REGULAR: 166 SURVIVING SPOUSES: 57 85+: 89 LM: 11

For all members and prospective new members please contact Maria Tavenner membership@vipmoaa.org or 703-407-2176. if you have a change in address, rank, marital status, phone number, or email, as well as death of member or spouse.

MUST be a member for 5 years to qualify for a FREE membership at 85 years. Talk to Maria.

Our Chapter is always in recruiting mode and we look to each member to be an active recruiter, preferable to an officer **YOUNGER** than you! We urge you to recruit **ONE NEW MEMBER.**



NEW MEMBERS

Sadly, no new members this month

TAPS

Col Charles Ames Smith, USAF (Ret), 28 March 2024



"Any nation that does not honor its heroes will not long endure."-- Abraham Lincoln



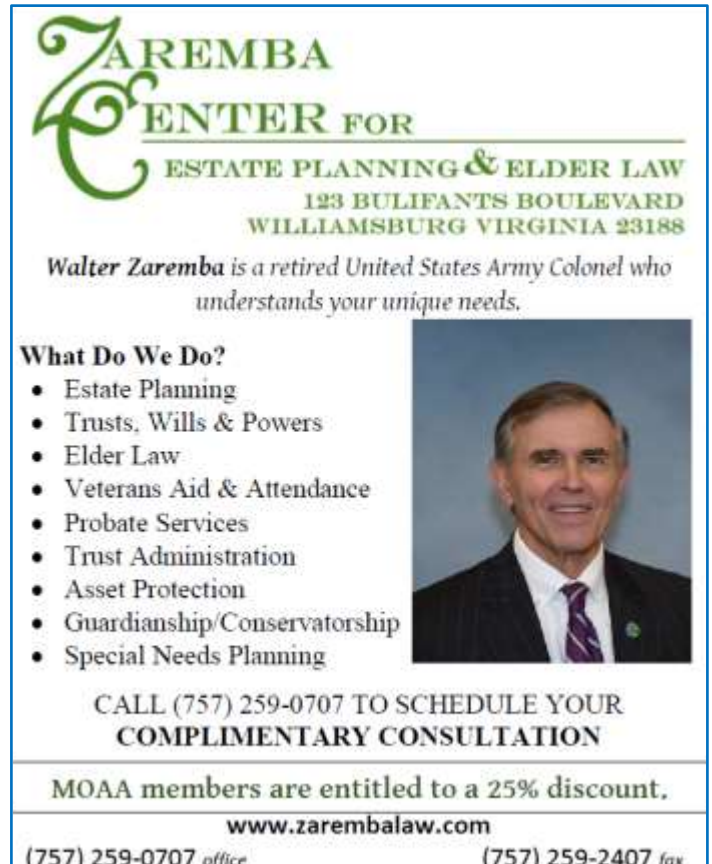
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800-716-9000 patriotscolony.com

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).



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April 2024 VIPMOAA Newsletter
2023 EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: COL Ron Corson, USA (Ret)
jrcorson@aol.com 757-810-4155

PAST PRESIDENT: Col Jim Pauls, USAF (Ret) (Marvella)
keydetman@aol.com 757-851-1141

VICE PRESIDENT: Vacant

SECRETARY: COL Daniel Warren, USA (Ret) (Elaina)
dwarrenmd@cox.net 804-642-6597

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

OFFICERS - APPOINTED

LEGAL ADVISOR: Vacant

ADVISOR: Maj Gen Wayne Jefferson, USAF (Ret)
(Bonnie) wojeff59@gmail.com 757-920-5628

SURVIVING SPOUSES LIAISON: Vacant

COMMITTEES:

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN: Vacant

MEMBERSHIP

CHAIRMAN: Maria Tavenner, CIV (Frank)
membership@vipmoaa.org 703-407-2176

RECRUITING: All Board Members

COMMUNICATIONS

CHAIRMAN: Carolyn McHale, CIV (John)
cgmchale@gmail.com 240-463-7815

MEDIA LIAISON: Vacant

EDITOR: Carolyn McHale, CIV (John)
cgmchale@gmail.com 240-463-7815

ROTC/JROTC

CHAIRMAN: Lt Col Thomas Swanson, USAF (Ret)
(Marci) tgschwanson@cox.net 757-593-1431

PERSONAL AFFAIRS

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

CHAPTER EVENTS

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

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN: Vacant

VIPMOAA BOARD MEETINGS

2nd Thursday @ 10:00 A.M.

11 Apr, 9 May, 13 Jun

Rocco's Smokehouse Grill

207 Bypass Road
Williamsburg, VA 23185-2920 (757) 253-8550

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

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 MEETING INFORMATION – 27 JUNE 2024

RESERVATIONS & CANCELLATIONS: Mail your “Reservation Form” and check to arrive by RSVP date. Contact the POC for additions or cancellations after that date. **Chapter pays for no-shows and late cancellations.**

MEMBER APPRECIATION PICNIC

Newport News Park, Shelter #10 – 13560 Jefferson Ave, Newport News VA 23185
Phone 757-886-7912

RSVP - by 6 pm Friday, June 21st COST: \$10

Member Appreciation Picnic!!

POC: COL Ron Corson, USA (Ret) jrcorson@aol.com 757-810-4155

DATE: 27 JUNE 2023

TIME: 1130 Sign-in / Social

1300 Announcements

1200 Lunch

1400 Fifty-fifty Drawing / Adjourn

Catered by Rocco’s Smokehouse Grill

MENU: BBQ, Hamburgers, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw; sodas/water

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

RSVPS WITH PAYMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY RSVP DATE. NOTIFY POC FOR CHANGES TO REGISTRATION! PAYMENTS FOR CANCELLATIONS AFTER THE RSVP DATE WILL NOT BE RETURNED. RESERVATIONS MAY BE MADE ONLINE AND PAYMENT MAILED TO VIPMOAA. MEMBERS WHO MAKE A RESERVATION WITH A PROMISE TO “PAY AT THE DOOR” AND ARE A “NO SHOW” WILL BE BILLED ACCORDINGLY.



CLIP & MAIL RESERVATION FORM FOR LUNCH/TOUR ON THURSDAY 27 JUNE 2024

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

MEMBER _____

SPOUSE _____

GUEST (1) _____

GUEST (2) _____

TOTAL NUMBER ATTENDING _____ @ \$10 PER PERSON \$ _____

VIPMOAA 2024 Donations (Scholarship, ROTC, Community, Other) \$ _____

CHECK (payable to VIPMOAA) AMOUNT \$ _____

Member - first meeting please check here _____ Celebrating a special occasion? Check here/and provide details _____

Member Address _____

Member Phone _____

MAIL WITH CHECK TO: VIPMOAA HOSPITALITY–JUNE, BOX 6463, WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23188

TO ARRIVE BY 21 JUNE 2024. NO CONFIRMATION IS SENT. CONSIDER A DONATION WITH YOUR RESERVATION.

CHAPTER MUST PAY FOOD SERVICES FOR NO-SHOWS OR LATE CANCELLATIONS



VIPMOAA NEWSLETTER
BOX 6463
WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23188



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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.

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

Date	Location	L/D	Speaker
25 April 2024	Anna’s Brick oven	Lunch	ROTC Presentation by PMS’s
23 May 2024	NO MEETING		
27 Jun 2024	Picnic Newport News Park Shelter #10	Lunch	Catered by Rocco’s
14 or 21 July	Tri-Chapter Brunch	Brunch	Atlantic Shores Retirement Center
22 Aug	Colonial Heritage	Dinner	Rep Rob Wittman
19 Dec	Christmas Luncheon	Lunch	Governor’s Land

Click on link under Lunch or Dinner for reservation form/online reservations.

If you have suggestions for topics or speakers, please contact COL Ron Corson jrcorson@aol.com 757-810-4155. 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 mchale@vipmoaa.org Newsletters sent by USPS 1st class mail take 2-8 days + 5 days preparation by printer. Will receive it approximately the 12th – 16th of the month.