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Chapter # VA10

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NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - COL RON CORSON

August and the end of summer will soon be here and Oh! My! School starts for some this month. I remember and I hope you do too, how long summers were when we were kids and then Whamo! School brought summer to an abrupt end. I mentioned in the June newsletter that this year seems to have moved on faster than usual. I believe that there is a renewed sense of hope for the future of our country. The new administration, whether you support it or are critical has moved with unusual speed and made many changes in the direction of

the country. From a military perspective recruiting for all our services has rebounded in a surprisingly positive way. Time will tell how much the economy will improve and whether our political leaders will ever address the nation's huge deficit, but the border is in better shape than it has been in many years and inflation is not the killer it recently has been. However, the recently congressionally passed budget bill does not look like it has provided enough funding for the military. But here again we will have to wait and see.

With the year 2025 moving on, we are now within a year of the celebration of the USA's 250th Anniversary. Because of our location in America's Historical Triangle there are many special events being planned leading up to the 250th on July 4, 2026. We will use our Newsletter and web site to ensure our members are aware of the events being planned and conducted in the peninsula area. The Board of Directors will also be looking for support from our members for those events that our Chapter announces that we will support and actively participate in as a Chapter in the coming months into next year.

And Oh Yes! As the current Chapter president, I am still looking for some of our younger members to seriously consider stepping up to join the leadership team of our Chapter. As I have announced many times, VIPMOAA only has four elected positions (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer) and the Chapter needs some younger leaders. The Board of Directors and committee chairman are active and in place, but the Chapter needs a slate of officers for our November election. I ask again interested members to stand up and be counted. Contact me at jrcorson@aol.com or give me a call at (757) 810-4155, and let's talk about how you can help support the future of our 5-Star Chapter.

TABLE OF CONTENTS	PG
President's Message/Ft Eustis	250
Legis/Richard Star Act	2
JROTC AWDS / ROTC Commissioning	3-4
America250/Naturalization July 4/ JROTC Marshall Article	5
New Member Bio/Aug Speaker	6
Donations	7
Pictures of June Lunch/Joint Brunch	8
Member Stats/TAPS	9
MOAA Vacations Ad	10
Executive Board	11
Sept Lunch Reservation Form	12
Calendar	13

HOOAH!

Ron

NEVER STOP SERVING



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS/MOAA TAKES ACTION – CLETA PUCKETT

[TAKE ACTION](#)

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE ADVANCES LEGISLATION
STRENGTHENING NATIONAL DEFENSE/VIRGINIA SHIPBUILDING

Rep Rob Wittman (R-VA), Vice Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee has announced that the Committee has advanced their approved Legislative priorities for the FY 2026 *National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)* for consideration by the full House.

This NDAA delivers essential investments to support our shipyards and strengthen our skilled workforce. This directly benefits Virginia's First District—particularly Naval Weapons Station Yorktown. The NDAA also provides for construction of Ford-class aircraft carriers, Virginia-class attack submarines, the Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine, and overseeing the procurement of the Marine Corps' new Landing Ship Medium (LSM).

The NDAA takes decisive steps to revitalize our defense industrial base and fortify our supply chains. The bill includes provisions to expand missile and munitions production, diversify our supplier base, and support multi-year procurement strategies for critical platforms—ensuring our military remains resilient and prepared.

Other provisions:

- Taking Care of Our Troops and Their Families
- Bolstering Our Tactical Aviation Forces
- Strengthening the Navy
- Ensuring Resilient Space Launch
- Spurring Defense Innovation

For full text click [HERE](#).

The House of Representatives passed H.R. 906, the *Foreign Adversary Communications Transparency (FACT) Act*.

Currently, U.S. law does not require public disclosure of companies tied to foreign adversaries operating in our technology and telecommunications markets. Although the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is prohibited from issuing new licenses to entities deemed national security threats, some companies linked to adversarial governments still hold certain approval.

Time to move the ball into your court...



Your turn to step forward and bring new blood to the Chapter. Contact [Jim Pauls](#) or [Ron Corson](#).

Long-Sought Fix for Combat-Injured Retirees Set for NDAA Push

The most recent step in the long fight to overturn an unjust pay offset faced by combat-injured military retirees came July 22, as three senators announced plans to include the text of the Major Richard Star Act as an amendment to the must-pass FY 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Read the MOAA Newsletter info about the [Richard Star Act](#)

JROTC AWARDS



HIGH SCHOOL	AWARD	CADET	COLLEGE
Bethel	Scholarship	Cadet Dominick Barham	
	Leadership	Cadet Janae Blackwell	
Denbigh	Scholarship	Cadet Thinh Sam	
	Leadership	Cadet Saniya Jones	
Gloucester	Scholarship	Cadet Michael Seda Jr	ODU
	Leadership	Cadet Casey Billings	
Hampton	Scholarship	Cadet Promdech Kamoljaratsopha	
	Leadership	Cadet Randy Smith	
Heritage	Scholarship	Cadet Amarion Lucas	NSU
	Leadership	Cadet Zabree Harris	
Kecoughtan	Scholarship	Cadet Mai Ly	
	Leadership	Cadet Riley Moore	
Menchville	Scholarship	Cadet Emma Gassman	TX A&M
	Leadership	Cadet Tucker Stalls	
Phoebus	Scholarship	Cadet Joseph Harrington	Norwich Univ
	Leadership	Cadet Isaac Griggs	
Tabb	Scholarship	Cadet Hannah Winkels	
	Leadership	Cadet Elias Hernandez	
Warwick	Scholarship	Cadet Arianna Green	VCU
	Leadership	Cadet Lesly Uribe-Magana	
York	Scholarship	Cadet Layton Marcoux	Univ of KY
	Leadership	Cadet Antony Abaroa-Micket	

ROTC AWARDS

UNIVERSITY	AWARD	CADET	SERVICE
CNU	Jr award	Dylan Isaac Vaughan	
W&M	Jr award	Tuscan Mulinazzi	
Hampton U	Jr award	Joshua Copeland	
W&M	Commissioning		
Cowley	Ian C	Armor	USA
Gibbs	Kadesha J	Medical Services	USA
Jones	Andrew E	Mil Intel	USA
Keegan	Lucy A	Medical Services	USA
Fong	Mia	Medical Services	(Virginia National Guard)
Hage	George J	Mil intelligence	(Pennsylvania National Guard)
Ernst	Kevin M	Aviation Branch	(Pennsylvania National Guard)
Nolan	Payton J	IRR	USA
Gurl	Dylan		USMC
CNU	Commissioning		
Bochonok	Katherine N	Corps of Engineers	USA
Maldonado	Luis A	Signal Corps	USA
Rice	Cole P	Ordnance Corps	USA
Lazaro	Tyler M	Signal Corps	NCARNG
Washington	Janiyah S	Cyber	NCARNG
Brown	Qion N	FA	NCARNG
Ring II	Joshua W	MI	VAARNG
Montavon	Peter A	MI	WVARNG
Freeman	Rachel A	IRR	USA
Hampton	Commissioning		
Harrod	Carrington	Cyber Corps	USAR
Douglas	Dylan	Adjutant General Corps	USAR
Megget	Zackery	Military Intelligence	USAR

Household Document Organization

Margaret E. Mondul, CDR, USN (Ret)

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American Association of Daily Money Managers

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AMERICA250 HISTORY FACTS

It almost didn't happen. They had gathered in Philadelphia for over a week and still weren't sure how it would come out. Part of the representatives of the 13 colonies wanted to break away from England. Others wanted to stay with King George. Still others were not sure. Debate raged. James Madison presided and took notes. John Adams spoke about Liberty and Freedom. Men from Pennsylvania focused on economic security if they didn't rebel, and sure defeat if they did. The New York representative still had not received orders from Albany and kept abstaining.

Tuesday, July 2, 1776, they would vote. They knew it had to be unanimous; all in or all out. Britain could not be allowed to have a foothold in one of the colonies. Franklin said that all 13 clocks must chime as one. The sticking point was the seven representatives from Pennsylvania. Four of them voted against independence. Three others (Franklin included) voted for separation. More debate. More votes were taken. Still deadlocked. Early evening on Monday, July 1st, and they still had not managed to get everyone on one side or the other.

The vote on the resolution for independence was the next day, Tuesday, July 2, 1776, at 10:00 AM. No one knows what horse trading and negotiations were had among the representatives the evening and night of July 1st in the pubs and taverns in Philadelphia. But when they assembled the next day, not seven but only five of the Pennsylvania men showed up. The other two had somehow been convinced to go fishing or stay home or sleep in that morning. With only five members present in the Pennsylvania delegation, the vote was three to two in favor of independence.

Pennsylvania voted for independence, and, with it, the others fell into line. **And, it was done.**

Jefferson's masterpiece Declaration was approved, and it was signed on Thursday, the Fourth of July, 1776.

Thirteen rag-tag colonies took on the world's strongest army and navy. To an outsider, it probably looked like a sure slaughter for the colonial "army" and death by hanging to the men who signed the Declaration. All *they* knew was that they were willing to risk everything, even to die, for a chance, *only a chance*, to have a country based on Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. **Their liberty and freedom were important enough, — to die for.**

Our United States of America is the only country in the history of Mankind that is founded on those three things:

The right to live.

The right to be free.

The right to pursue your dreams and your happiness.

The recognition that those three most precious rights came from our "Creator", not some king or government. Our American Trinity is: Liberty. *E Pluribus Unum**, In God We Trust. So, every day, let us raise a glass and say a prayer of thanks for the men of 1776. And also, that **they were willing to risk death for OUR freedom, too.**

John M. Alexander, July 4, 2020

JROTC ARTICLE – GLENN MARSHALL

Glenn Marshal, VIPMOAA member, published an opinion piece in the 27 July, 2025, Daily Press, on JROTC Programs Bridge the Skilled Career Readiness Gap. Excellent review of the role of JROTC on developing skills and values in its career-ready cadets.

JULY 4TH NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

Fort Monroe was the scene of the naturalization ceremony where 100 new citizens from over 40 countries took their oath of allegiance. No more fitting date to welcome new citizens than July 4th!



NEW MEMBER BIO

Bobby Ray Graves, CW3, AUS, (Ret)
147 Mainsail Loop
Yorktown, VA 23693
Phone: 804-426-6186 email: bgraves@hlaavb.org



Bobby Ray Graves is a retired Chief Warrant Officer 3 of the US Army, currently residing in Yorktown, Virginia. He holds a master's degree in education from Strayer University and is a graduate of Faith Landmarks Bible Institute. Additionally, he is an ordained minister.

During his military service, Bobby served on active duty from February 11, 1982, to February 11, 1992, achieving the rank of Staff Sergeant. He was stationed at various locations including Fort Monmouth, NJ; Fort Gordon, GA; Ft. Detrick, MD; Coltano, Italy; and Pirmasens, Germany.

Subsequently, he continued serving in the Army Reserve from March 11, 1987, to July 31, 1997, attaining the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 3 and receiving the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters. His roles included Equal Employment Officer and DEOMI training graduate.

Following his retirement from the military, Bobby pursued a career in HR management, working as a Technical Recruiter, HR Manager, and Talent Acquisition Professional. He also dedicated time to education and public service, serving as a high school teacher for special needs students, a Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialist with the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC), and a Talent Acquisition Specialist with Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA). In addition, he served as the Senior Commander for the Assembly of God Royal Ranger Ministry at Faith Landmarks Ministry Outpost 187. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to found I Sow Fitness, LLC, and his advocacy efforts included serving as President of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) Virginia Peninsula Chapter, Board of Directors.

In his ministry work, Bobby, an ordained minister, has been involved in outreach programs in Nairobi, Kenya; Detroit, Michigan; Norfolk, Virginia; and Puerto Rico. On a personal note, he has been married to his high school sweetheart for 50 years, and they have three children and eight grandchildren. His spouse is an artist and gallery founder. They relocated to Newport News in 2021 and have traveled to various destinations including Italy, France, Switzerland, Africa and Hawaii.

FEMA's URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSION – AUGUST SPEAKER



Leo Titus is the Chief Operating Officer of ECS, Ltd. one of the nation's leading geotechnical engineering, environmental consulting, construction materials testing, and facilities engineering firms.

On September 11th, 2001, the Pentagon was one of the targets of what was the deadliest attack on the United States in its history. The Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) responded by deploying its Urban Search and Rescue teams (USAR) to both New York and the Pentagon. These USAR teams specialize in search and rescue in urban disaster situations such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and terrorist attacks.

Virginia Task Force One based in Fairfax County, VA, (also known as VATF1) was the first FEMA USAR team to arrive at the Pentagon at approximately 1:30 PM on September 11th. VA-TF1 is FEMA's most experienced USAR team.

MOAA VACATIONS AD

You will note that on p 10 we are running a full-page ad for MOAA Vacations. This will appear only in this August online newsletter. Our website now contains a banner for the MOAA VACATIONS for more information.

MILITARY COMMUNITY SERVICE/SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS

31 JULY 2025 - Total \$8,750.50 (116.6% funded) WOW!!

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 considered to be recipients of our members' generous donations:

- [Fisher House at Portsmouth Naval Hospital](#)
- [Liberty Lounge, Colonial Williamsburg](#)
- [Old Dominion Honor Flight](#)
- [USO of Hampton Roads](#)
- [JROTC/ROTC](#)
- [Williamsburg C of C, Home for Holidays](#)
- [Williamsburg House of Mercy](#)

Please click on the links above to read more about these organizations.

Diamond Level (\$1000+)

Armstrong, Mac
Avery, Betty
Lounsbury, Harriet
Whitman, Robert

Silver Level (\$50 - \$99)

Clarke, Robert
Dievendorf, Lynn/Sallie Moore
Greenhalgh, Jack
Jabs, Kathleen
Leo, Jeanne
Pace, Donald
Pauls, Jim/Marvella
Sills, Rick/Wanda

Platinum Level (\$500 - \$999)

Corson, Ron
Mabie, Lew/Nan

Bronze Level (\$25 - \$49)

Doebler, Jim/Carol
Evans, Suzanne
Gorrell, Frankie
Lorge, Gene
Lynch, Mo
Taksar, Ron/Beverly

Gold Level (\$100 - \$499)

Arnold, Ray/Rita
Burrows, Roy
Fahrlender, Ted
Fameli, Paul/Atsuko
Hollingsworth, Bryce
Inskeep, Jim/Mary
Ivey, Charles/Carol
Lindsey, Edward/Glenda
Marshall, Glenn/Judy
Miyamasu, Paul/Mary
Nutwell, Bob/Lynn
Smith, Gretchen
Swaney, Robert/Betty
Tavener, Frank/Maria
Wood, Betty

Donations of less than \$25 are not listed.

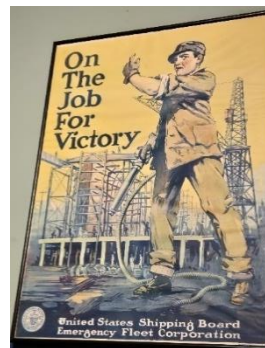
Donations for these programs can be added to your monthly activities' reservation or a donation may be submitted at any time. All donations are tax deductible with a letter for donations of \$100+ provided for IRS information. Make checks payable to VIPMOAA and send to VIPMOAA CS/SF Mgr, Box 6463, Williamsburg VA 23188.

PICTURES FROM 26 JUNE TOUR OF VA WAR MUSEUM



The Museum featured some interesting posters. Posters presented pictorial publicity in building morale, arousing the spiritual forces of the nation, and stimulating the war will of the people. We needed posters, but they had to be the best posters ever drawn. Simple words and dramatic art put out a powerful message.

Dick Gillem obtained this rucksack during the famous Battle of Ia Drang with the 1st Cavalry Division in Nov 14-16, 1965. He donated it to the VA War Museum.



Joint Chapter Brunch – 13 July
20 VIPMOAA members attended



CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

TOTAL MEMBERS: 217 REGULAR: 161 SURVIVING SPOUSES: 56 85+: 92 LM: 10

For all membership information 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


None

TAPS

None



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



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Group Travel: We offer the opportunity to travel with your fellow MOAA members from your local chapter and across the country, thereby increasing the fun for your next vacation.

MOAA Support: MOAA Vacations supports MOAA National and Local Chapters. By booking through us you are also supporting MOAA's mission and initiatives, as a portion of the proceeds helps fund advocacy and support programs for the military community and their families.

If you're considering booking a trip, it's worth exploring what MOAA Vacations has to offer!

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ACTING VICE PRESIDENT: Col Jim Pauls, USAF (Ret)
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dwarrenmd@cox.net 804-642-6597

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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

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tgsanson@cox.net 757-593-1431

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membership@vipmoaa.org 703-407-2176

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

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

VIPMOAA BOARD MEETINGS

2nd Thursday @ 10:00 A.M.

14 Aug, 11 Sept, 9 Oct

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 – 25 SEPT 2025 DINNER

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.**

VIPMOAA DINNER AT HOLIDAY INN

980 Omni Blvd, Newport News, VA 23606 Phone: 757-223-2110

RSVP - by 6 pm Thurs, 18 Sept **COST: \$49**

POC: Jim Pauls, keydetman@aol.com 703-919-6094

DATE: 25 Sept 2025

TIME: 1730 Sign-in / Social (cash bar)

1900 Program

1800 Lunch

2000 Fifty-fifty Drawing / Adjourn

MENU: CHICKEN MARSALA, BACON WRAPPED MEATLOAF, SPINACH SALAD/STRAWBERRIES/GOAT CHEESE/CANDIED PECANS, ROASTED RED POTATOES, SOUTHERN GREEN BEANS WITH BACON, BERRY CHEESECAKE, BEVERAGES.

Must REGISTER & PAY 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 ON THURSDAY 18 SEPT 2025

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

MEMBER _____

SPOUSE _____

GUEST (1) _____

GUEST (2) _____

TOTAL NUMBER ATTENDING _____ @ \$49 PER PERSON \$ _____

VIPMOAA 2025 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 _____

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TO ARRIVE BY 19 SEPT 2025. 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

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.

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

Date	Location	L/D	Speaker
28 Aug 2025	YROC	Lunch	Leo Titus, FEMA & 9/11 at the Pentagon
25 Sept 2025	Holiday Inn	Dinner	TBD
23 Oct 2025	W&M Puller Clinic	Lunch	TBD
20 Nov 2025	TBD	Lunch	Business Meeting
18 Dec 2025	Governors Land	Lunch	Annual Holiday Lunch

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.