

Virginia Peninsula Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America



NEWSLETTER

WEBSITE:

<http://vipmoaa.org>

Editor's EMAIL

admVIPMOAA@outlook.com

Chapter # VA10

President's Message - Glenn Marshall



April is turning out to be a month for Advocacy in Action. With MOAA members bringing the organization's top priorities to Capitol Hill on April 15. Advocacy in Action demonstrates the power of our grassroots advocacy, the power of our members and our mission, and the power of our democracy. MOAA members from across the nation visited over 300 congressional offices in support of four pieces of bipartisan legislation: *The Major Richard Star Act*; *The Shutdown Fairness Act*; *The GUARD VA Benefits Act*; *The Military CARE Act*. (See the Legislative affairs section of this newsletter for details on these Acts)

Congressional advocacy matters, but we must also strengthen the talent pipeline for citizens/soldiers. According to Dirty Jobs host Mike Rowe, Gen Z is entering a labor market with diminishing resilience, diluted accountability, and a dangerous aversion to hard-earned grit. "We have established an environment where deadlines are increasingly flexible, excuses are tolerated, and failure lacks significant repercussions."

Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) is important due to the multitude of benefits it provides to high school students. For students interested in scholarships and services, JROTC offers a comprehensive program designed to cultivate essential character traits, leadership qualities, and scholarships life skills applicable to academic, professional, and personal pursuits. Many cadets acknowledge that their involvement in JROTC contributed significantly to their perseverance, determination, grit, and ability to achieve goals

While cadets frequently attribute their increased resilience and resolve to participation in the program, it is important to note that enrollment in JROTC does not obligate students to military service. The high school JROTC curriculum emphasizes citizenship, whereas ROTC at the collegiate level includes military training requirements.

We should make it clear to our elected representatives that we support veterans, their families, and surviving spouses and the needed congressional action from them.

Being an Advocate for Action means "Never Stop Serving"

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VIPMOAA SERVANT LEADERSHIP TEAM

BOARD MINUTES- Maj (Ret) Kathy Schnepf

The minutes to our board meetings are posted on our website and are available prior to our general membership meeting, the goal being within the week after the board meeting. The minutes will include all the reports presented at the meeting. Questions or concerns can be brought to any board member, and issues will be included as an agenda item. All members are welcome to attend board meetings. To access the minutes, you must be logged onto your account. Go to <https://vipmoaa.org/board-meeting-Minutes>.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS – COL (Ret) JIM PAULS

MOAA TAKE ACTION link <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/142300/>

MOAA's experts in Washington are constantly reviewing and assessing legislation that may impact the earned pay, benefits, and support programs of the uniformed services and veteran communities. The organization's endorsement process is deliberative; MOAA will not support or oppose any legislation without a thorough review of its potential effects, positive or negative. [MOAA-Supported Legislation](#)

Advocacy in Action 2026: MOAA's Mission Continues

- **The Major Richard Star Act:** which would end an unfair pay offset faced by tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans.
- **The Shutdown Fairness Act,** which would ensure continued, timely pay for the armed services during federal funding lapses.
- **The GUARD VA Benefits Act,** which would allow veterans to keep the benefits they've earned by protecting them from unaccredited for-profit "claim sharks."
- **The Military CARE Act,** which would create a system to provide military treatment facility patients with the tools they need to combat access-to-care issues and gather data on those issues to improve accountability and oversight.

SURVIVING SPOUSE – COL (Ret) SUZANNE EVANS

This month I would like to highlight the MOAA Surviving Spouse Corner. The most recent article on the web site is March 27, 2026. It is titled "[Strengthening Emotional Well-Being](#)." It is a quick reminder for all of us suffering a loss of a loved one in our lives.

The second article I would like to point out is the [Tragedy Assistance Programs for Survivors \(TAPS\)](#). At <https://www.taps.org/magazine> you can access many articles, a comprehensive resource for grieving families, and very interesting reading. It is published quarterly and may be mailed to you. A takeaway for me was in a TAPS article "[Embracing the Sadness of Grief](#)". "Sadness plays an essential role toward healing. It forces us to regroup- physically, cognitively, emotionally, socially, and spiritually."

Check the VIPMOAA Surviving Spouses web page for additional information:
<https://vipmoaa.org/Surviving-Spouses>

If you need help in a survivor's issue, reach out to me, and we can work it together. I am in the Idaho mountains during the summer so you may reach me at my email: davsuz_evans@hotmail.com

ROTC/JROTC -LTC (Ret) TOM SWANSON

CHANGES THAT IMPROVE THE JROTC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

VIPMOAA is launching a new JROTC scholarship process prioritizing determination and perseverance over academic achievement. The program aims to honor candidates with strong work ethics and grit, who are preparing for skilled careers in the workforce or military through apprenticeships, trade school, or post-secondary education. At the Feb VIPMOAA BoD meeting a change to the JROTC scholarship program was presented and approved. Going forward we have reduced the number of Senior Cadet scholarships to 6 and increased the amounts from \$500 to \$1000.

Why we are changing the process:

“According to workforce advocate and Dirty Jobs host Mike Rowe, Gen Z is entering a labor market with diminishing resilience, diluted accountability, and a dangerous aversion to hard-earned grit. While many worry about the increasing influence of AI in the workplace, Mike Rowe sees it as an exciting opportunity for young people to explore trade jobs. Vocational sectors—such as plumbing, electrical work, and HVAC—are seeing increased participation from Gen Z. Rowe views this shift as forming the basis of the “Toolbelt Generation,” which may offer greater long-term stability compared to white-collar roles vulnerable to automation.

The VIPMOAA JROTC Scholarship Application website is located at:

<https://vipmoaa.org/JROTC-Scholarship-Application>

VIPMOAA helps bring Army Junior ROTC (AJROTC) to Williamsburg James City County (WJCC) Schools

In the spring of 2025, WJCC leadership asked VIPMOAA to help recruit a JROTC unit. General Michael Harrison, a retired army officer in Williamsburg, volunteered to contact U.S. Army Cadet Command. Within weeks, they met with school officials to apply for an Army unit.

In less than a year WJCC School district was approved to establish an Army Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (AJROTC) program beginning in the 2026-2027 academic year. All high school students will be eligible to enroll. The program will be housed at Jamestown High School.

***VIPMOAA invites our members to become mentors to these cadets as they become citizen/soldiers.
Replenishing the need for a new generation of servant leaders.***

ROTC Commissioning Ceremonies

14 May 2026 – William & Mary, Brinkley Commons Room at the Business School @ 1620

15 May 2026 – Christopher Newport University, Pope Chapel. @ 1525

TBD - Hampton University

ROTC Outstanding Junior Cadet Awards

Each year, VIPMOAA awards a MOAA ROTC Award Certificate, the MOAA ROTC Leadership Medal, and a \$500 stipend to an outstanding junior year cadet at each of our area colleges; Hampton University, Christopher Newport University, and The College of William & Mary.



Maj Kathy Schnepf with CNU Cadet Rylee Ehrett



COL Jim Pauls with Hampton U Cadet Miles Cross



LTC Tom Swanson with W&M Cadet Abigail Mulhern

MEMBERSHIP – *Maria Tavenner*

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

TOTAL Active MEMBERS: 192 REGULAR: 85 SURVIVING SPOUSES: 51 85+: 56

For all membership information please contact Maria Tavenner mbtmembership@aol.com 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. We urge you to recruit **ONE NEW MEMBER**.

TAPS

MAJ William Rennagel, USA (Ret) on 7 March 2026

CDR George T. Riddick, USN (Ret), on 27 April 2026

CAPT Philip F. Yosway, USN (Ret), on 28 April 2026.



MOAA announced the 2025 MOAA Levels of Excellence and Col. Marvin J Harris Communication Award winners. This year, the judges considered 158 LOE award and 259 Communications award nominations, with a record number of new submissions. This was a highly competitive process reflective of the extraordinary level of grass roots engagement and dedication of all affiliates across the country and virtually.

VIPMOAA was awarded a 4 Star LOE and a 5 Star Communication Award.

Thanks to Jim Pauls for handling our submittal. Our Team is off to a good start in 2026 -- with more good things to come from the VIPMOAA team of servant leaders. Thanks to Carolyn for her Great Work: 5-Star Newsletter; 5-Star Website

For full details see our VIP MOAA Awards web page: <https://vipmoaa.org/MOAA-awds>

James City County's 250th Commemoration April 17-19, 2026,

Jason Buck and Syndey Clark sharing VIPMOAA Applications.

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

Category

Diamond Level (\$1000+)

Platinum Level (\$500 - \$999)

Miyamasu, Paul/Mary
Corson, Ron

Gold Level (\$100 - \$499)

Butz, Rose Marie
Fahrlender, Ted
Greenhalgh, Jack
Lindsey, Edward/Glenda
Marshall, Glenn/Judy
Nutwell, Bob/Lynn
In the name of Skoglund, Shizuko
Tavenner, Frank/Maria
Wood, Betty

Silver Level (\$50 - \$99)

Arnold, Ray/Rita
Clarke, Robert/Anneliese
Evans, Suzanne
Burrows, LeRoy
Francisco, Ben
Morris, Thomas
Smith, Gretchen
Tarr, Elaine

Bronze Level (\$25 - \$49)

Dievendorf, Lynn/Sallie Moore
Gemeinhardt, Fred
Graves, Bobby
Pauls, Jim/Marvella
Schnepf, Craig/Kathy

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.

CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY



Sail Yorktown Festival

June 12, 2026 - June 14, 2026

Set sail for an unforgettable weekend at the Sail Yorktown Festival, an official Sail Virginia 2026 Affiliate Harbor event, June 12–14, 2026! Kick things off Friday morning with a spectacular Opening Ceremony & Parade of Sail on the York River, ...

VA250 Sail Yorktown Festival: <https://www.va250.org/event-detail/?id=1921>

Sail250® Virginia (June 19-23)

The year 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding in 1776 – The United States of America's Semi quincentennial.

For this milestone occasion, a fleet of the world's most magnificent international tall ships and military ships, in an epic peacetime gathering, will sail into the port of Virginia as part of Sail250® America. <https://sail250virginia.com/>

In the tradition of the past five iconic OpSail events held in the Norfolk/Hampton Roads/Chesapeake Bay region since 1976, the fleet will once again bring extraordinary experiences and opportunities to every corner of our communities.

Schedule of Events: <https://sail250virginia.com/Schedule-of-Events>

IMPORTANT DATES IN US MILITARY HISTORY FOR MAY

26 May 1783 – **Congressional Resolution passed** – all non-commissioned officer and enlisted Soldier of the Continental Army furloughed “to their homes” until the “definitive peace treaty”, when they would be discharged.

8 May 1945 – **Germany Formally Surrenders** in WWII

May 1968 – **Vietnam War** – The May Offensive or Little Tet - People's Army of Vietnam and VC launched Phase Two of the TET Offensive – May 1968 was the deadliest month of US casualties for entire war.

15 May 2006 - **Operation Mountain Thrust** is launched, it was the largest allied offensive of the War in Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban.



the

Annual Williamsburg Memorial Day Celebration

Honor Our Fallen Heroes

Monday, May 25, 2026, | 10:00 AM



Join us as we honor those who gave their lives serving our country—armed forces, police, firefighters, paramedics, and first responders. VIPMOAA, as part of the Combined Veteran Organization Community (CVOC), will display our flag in remembrance of all the fallen comrades.

See link for more details : <https://williamsburgmemorialpark.com/memorial-day/>

23 April Luncheon at Fort Eustis Club

Guests: ROTC Maj Hoffman USA; Cadets: Lee & Joseph (CNU); Penney & Mulinazi (W&M)



LTC Tom Swanson



Maj Hoffman USA



Bobby Graves, member, VPChapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) spoke briefly on his experiences with hearing loss.
Shout out to our server at Ft Eustis meeting: Dana, excellent job!

Luncheon at The Chamberlin, Fort Monroe

Start Time: 11:30 AM

End Time: 2:15 PM

28 May 2026

Venue: **The Chesapeake Dining Room at The Chamberlin**

Contact: **KATHLEEN SCHNEPF**

Guest: **Representatives from Fort Monroe and The Chamberlin**

OPTIONAL: 1000 - 1100 hours, FREE, GUIDED Pre-Luncheon Historical Tour of Fort Monroe, Visitor and Education Center

30 Ingalls Road Fort Monroe (one block from The Chamberlin)

Price Per Person: \$32.00



You don't want to miss this special tour at Ft Monroe Visitor Center, on May 28 from 10am-1100, prior to the Meeting Luncheon at the Chamberlin. The Center is a hub for exploring the area's rich history, from its indigenous roots to its role in the Civil War and the 1619 arrival of the first Africans in English North America. Located in a repurposed 1909 Coast Artillery Library, it features exhibits on African Heritage, the "Contraband Decision," and the fort's construction, along with interpretive resources. Please come and bring a friend to this free event. For more information, contact Kathy Schnepf, VIPMOAA VP/Event Coordinator at kathy.schnepf@gmail.com or 802-274-9477

RSVP by 20 May 2026

MENU: Light Appetizers, Plated Salmon Luncheon, Dessert, Drinks (Wine is available \$)

Reservations may be made on line at: https://vipmoaa.org/get_calendar_details.cfm?calendarid=113

THE CHAPTER PICNIC IS COMING 25 June 2026

Yes Virginia, VIPMOAA is once again having a "Picnic" at Newport News Park on 25 June. Last year we were at the Virginia War Museum. This year we will be back at Shelter 10 in the park. We will also hold the "Not So Annual Golf Putting Tournament". But we are only set for six teams of four. If you want to demonstrate your still resident leadership skills sign up to be a team "Captain" when you send in your registration form for the June picnic. Oh Yes, the picnic will be catered by "Rocco's Grill House Barbeque" You all come now – you hear!

A SALUTE to **Rocco's Smokehouse Grill**, temporarily located at 1430 High St. #1103 in Williamsburg. Rocco has served VIPMOAA for many years and we wish to thank him for hosting past monthly Board Meetings and providing delicious barbecue food at our annual picnics.



VIPMOAA Member Interest Survey (2026)

Member Information

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Purpose: This survey will help guide chapter planning for **August–December 2026 and beyond**, and identify ways members can contribute their time, interests, and expertise to:

- Support military members, veterans, and surviving spouses
- Strengthening chapter programs and leadership
- Serve our local community

1. Meeting Preferences

a. Meeting Frequency: Every month Every other month

b. Alternative Activities (“outings”)

Would you be interested in occasional outings instead of traditional lunch meetings? Yes No

If yes, please suggest ideas: _____

c. Meeting Time Preference: 1130 (Lunch) 1800 (Dinner) Mix of both

d. Meeting Location Preference: Different restaurant/venue each month Same location each month

Suggestions for venues: _____

e. Guest Speakers: Do you know someone who could speak at a meeting? Yes No

If yes, please provide name and contact information: _____

2. Volunteer Interests

I would like more information about supporting the following areas (check all that apply):

Leadership & Governance: President Vice President Secretary Treasurer

Programs & Support: Community/Outreach (CAST) Surviving Spouse Program Chaplain

Communications: Newsletter/ Website Media/Publicity

Events & Membership: Events/Meetings Fundraising/50-50 Drawings Membership & Recruiting

Youth & External Engagement: JROTC/ROTC **Liaison to:** Military Organizations Patriot’s Colony

Advisory Roles: Legal Advisor Legislative Affairs

Additional Comments / How I Can Help: _____

Important Note

Many of these roles already have a lead. Volunteers are often needed to **assist and support**—whether occasionally or regularly. Contributions can be flexible, and some tasks can be done from home.

Please return your completed survey **as soon as possible**:

Option 1 (Mail or Email):

Kathy Schnepf, Vice President, VIPMOAA
923 Edgewater Drive, Newport News, VA 23602
Email: kathy.schnepf@gmail.com

Option 2:

Return to any Board Member at a meeting/luncheon

Option 3:

Patriot’s Colony Mailbox

2026-27 EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: 1LT Glenn Marshall, USA
marsh8279@aol.com 757-585-1196

VICE PRESIDENT: MAJ Kathleen Schnepf, USAFR (Ret)
kathy.schnepf@gmail.com 802-274-9477

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

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

OFFICERS - APPOINTED

LEGAL ADVISOR: Vacant

SURVIVING SPOUSES LIAISON: COL Suzanne Evans, USA (Ret)
davsuz_evans@hotmail.com 808-221-6096

COMMITTEES LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

MEMBERS: Cleta Puckett, SS okbltmca@gmail.com
405-203-0987

LTC Brett Evans, USA (Ret), bdevans7@yahoo.com ,
406-396-0666

ADVISOR: COL Jim Pauls, USAF (Ret) keydetman@aol.com
757-851-1141

PERSONAL AFFAIRS

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

VIPMOAA BOARD MEETINGS

2nd Thursday @ 10:00 A.M.

14 May & 11 June

[Patriots Colony Large Hobby Room](#)

6000 John Tyler Hwy

Williamsburg, VA 23188 (757) 220-9000

While Rocco's is rebuilding from a fire.

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

MEMBERSHIP

CHAIRMAN: Maria Tavenner, CIV
mbtmembership@aol.com 703-407-2176

RECRUITING: All Board Members

COMMUNICATIONS

CHAIRMAN: Vacant

MEDIA LIAISON: Vacant

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: MAJ Craig Schnepf USAF (Ret)
admVIPMOAA@outlook.com

EVENTS

CHAIRMAN: MAJ Kathleen Schnepf, USAFR (Ret)
kathy.schnepf@gmail.com 802-274-9477

Gretchen Smith, gkbs9281@gmail.com, 540-420-8502

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

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

ROTC/JROTC

CHAIRMAN: LTC Thomas Swanson, USAF (Ret)
tgsanson@cox.net 757-593-1431

LTC Paul Fameli, USA (Ret) famelipj@aol.com 757-561-7560

LTC Gene Lorge, USA (Ret) elorge@cox.net 757-403-4678

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 LUNCHEON MEETING INFORMATION – 25 June 2026

MEMBER APPRECIATION PICNIC

Newport News Park: Shelter 10– 13560 Jefferson Ave, Newport News VA 23185



RSVP - by 3 pm Sat, 20 June

COST: \$20

POC: Kathy Schnepf, kathy.schnepf@gmail.com (802) 274-9477

DATE: 25 June 2026

Catered by Rocco’s Smokehouse Grill

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

TIME:

- 1130** Sign-in/Social
- 1200** Lunch is served
- 1300** Program/Announcements
- 1415** 50/50/Adjourn



Timely reservations guarantee a smooth luncheon; room setup, table seatings, food amounts and proper staffing for the size of our group.

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

RESERVATIONS MAY BE MADE ON LINE AND PAYMENT MAILED TO VIPMOAA. RSVPs WITH PAYMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY RSVP DATE. NOTIFY POC FOR CHANGES TO REGISTRATION! A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID! CHAPTER MUST PAY THE VENUE FOR NO-SHOWS.

CLIP & MAIL RESERVATION FORM FOR PICNIC LUNCH ON THURSDAY 25 June 2026

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

MEMBER _____

SPOUSE _____

GUEST (1) _____ GUEST (2) _____

TOTAL NUMBER ATTENDING _____ @ \$20 PER PERSON \$ _____

VIPMOAA 2026 Donations (Scholarship, ROTC, Community, Other) \$ _____

CHECK (payable to VIPMOAA) AMOUNT \$ _____

Member - first meeting please check here _____ Celebrating a special occasion? Provide details _____

Member Address & Phone _____


Patriots Colony Residents
Use VIPMOAA mailbox under 2321

**MAIL WITH CHECK TO: VIPMOAA HOSPITALITY - JUNE, BOX 6463, WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23188
TO ARRIVE BY 20 June 2026. NO CONFIRMATION IS SENT.**

Household Document Organization
Margaret E. Mondul, CDR, USN (Ret)
Let Me Help YOU
Organize, Understand and Prepare
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HHDObyMargaret@aol.com
American Association of Daily Money Managers

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WEALTH MANAGEMENT
Andrew J. Chess, QPFC
Financial Planning Specialist
Financial Advisor
NMLS #2628989
Andrew.Chess@morganstanley.com
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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 \(VIPMOAA.ORG\)](http://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.

Website: <https://vipmoaa.org/Home>

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

Date	Location	L/D	Speaker
28 May 2026	The Chamberlin	Lunch	Reps from Fort Monroe and The Chamberlin
25 Jun 2026	Newport News Park	BBQ	Member Appreciation fun and games
19 July 2026	Atlantic Shores, Virginia Beach	Brunch	Annual Tri-Chapter Event
August	None	N/A	Summer Break

If you have suggestions for topics or speakers, please contact Glenn Marshall, marsh8279@aol.com 757-585-1196. 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 (admVIPMOAA@outlook.com). Newsletters sent by USPS 1st class mail take 2-8 days + 5 days preparation by the printer.

RENEW YOUR VIPMOAA MEMBERSHIP

