

## IN MEMORIAM

Colonel Roger Stewart Talmadge USA Retired  
16 October 1937 - 22 February 2023



### WE REMEMBER THEM

*At the rising sun and at its going down; We remember them.*

*At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter; We remember them.*

*At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring; We remember them.*

*At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer; We remember them.*

*At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of the autumn;*

*We remember them.*

*At the beginning of the year and when it ends; We remember them.*

*As long as we live, they too will live, for they are now a part of us as*

*We remember them.*

*When we are weary and in need of strength; We remember them.*

*When we are lost and sick at heart; We remember them.*

*When we have decisions that are difficult to make; We remember them.*

*When we have joy we crave to share; We remember them.*

*When we have achievements that are based on theirs; We remember them.*

*For as long as we live, they too will live, for they are now a part of us as,*

*We remember them.*



## President's Corner

**Service**, Webster's dictionary defines service as: 1. The occupation of a servant. 2. Employment, especially for a government. 3. A government branch and its personnel. 4a. One of



the military forces of a nation; 4b. Duty in one of these forces. 5. Work of duties performed for others.

We have all

served or supported our spouse serving under definition 4 a and 4b. I want to thank everyone who has served this great country in uniform or as a spouse supporting those in uniform for your service to our nation. MOAA as a national organization continues to serve all branches of the military and their members. MOAA is recognized as the leading voice on compensation and benefit matters for all members of the military community.

Why am I talking about service when we all have served and belong to an organization that continues to serve the military? I am writing about service because our chapter and many other chapters in Virginia are facing the same service issues. While our national organization grew last year, local chapters remained static or lost members. This is a very real issue for our Smith Mountain Lake Satellite Chapter. They may be forced to close due to lack of volunteers to fill needed positions.

**Presidents Corner** Cont'd on page 2

**2023 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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I hope they can overcome this challenge as they do great work in their area to support local JROTC and other programs.

As you know we are a volunteer organization and depend on volunteers to fill our board positions and assist with the services we as an organization are providing to our local military and future military community. We are not alone in this challenge as I see the same issue in other military organizations I belong to, along with my church. The majority of the work is being done by the same handful of volunteers.

We as a local chapter need your help. As you know we had to go out and ask for financial help to support many of the programs our chapter supports. I want to thank all of those who gave. However, I always find it easier to write a check than give my time.

I am asking you to give some of your time to support our chapter. Many of the board members are wearing two or three hats to fill our required positions. Yes, some of the board positions require a fair amount of time. Many do not or may require time during certain parts of the year such as the ROTC and JROTC awards program. Many require you to just show up for board meetings and maybe participate in a committee if it is something that interests you.

I know many of our members are unable to help due to health issues or while no longer in the service are still working full time. What I am asking is that if you are able to help out on the board or when we present awards, please let a board member know. Any service you can provide, no matter how small would be very appreciated.

This year the board agreed to partner with Affinity Care of Virginia in their "We Honor Veterans Program." This program is designed to honor veterans who are in hospice care as well as other veterans in the homes where Affinity Care is providing hospice services. This program recognizes those veterans present and the MOAA representative presents them with a certificate and a pin to recognize their service to our nation. I was able to participate in one of these ceremonies and found it extremely rewarding. It was great to hear their stories, and yes some were quite colorful, as well as see the gratitude on their face and in their eyes for the recognition. This is another opportunity for our members to serve our chapter if you are available. We normally get a couple weeks heads up so these are not last-minute asks.

Again, thank you all for the service you have given. All I ask is if you enjoy being a member of this chapter you consider serving again so that we will be able to keep the chapter going for those that follow.

Matthew K. Haag CAPT USN (Ret.) President

**OUR MISSION**

As the community face of the Military Officers Association of America, the Southwest Virginia Chapter's mission is to advocate for a strong national defense, be an influential provider and supporter of programs, benefits and services for our military community, and a source of social fellowship for our members.

**OUR VISION**

To Be An Influential Military Organization in Southwest Virginia.

## IN MEMORIAM

Lieutenant Colonel James T. Flynn, USA (Ret)  
4 July 1941-5 March 2023



### **The Things That Make a Soldier Great**

The things that make a soldier great and send him out to die,  
To face the flaming cannon's mouth nor ever question why,  
Are lilacs by a little porch, the row of tulips red,  
The peonies and pansies, too, the old petunia bed,  
The grass plot where his children play, the roses on the wall:  
'Tis these that make a soldier great. He's fighting for them all.

'Tis not the pomp and pride of kings that make a soldier brave;  
'Tis not allegiance to the flag that over him may wave;  
For soldiers never fight so well on land or on the foam  
As when behind the cause they see the little place called home.  
Endanger but that humble street whereon his children run,  
You make a soldier of the man who never bore a gun.

What is it through the battle smoke the valiant soldier sees?  
The little garden far away, the budding apple trees,  
The little patch of ground back there, the children at their play,  
Perhaps a tiny mound behind the simple church of gray.  
The golden thread of courage isn't linked to castle dome  
But to the spot, where'er it be--the humble spot called home.

And now the lilacs bud again and all is lovely there  
And homesick soldiers far away know spring is in the air;  
The tulips come to bloom again, the grass once more is green,  
And every man can see the spot where all his joys have been.  
He sees his children smile at him, he hears the bugle call,  
And only death can stop him now--he's fightin' for them all.

## THE LEGION OF THE TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

On Friday, **6 January 2023**, area veterans including members of the Southwest Virginia Chapter, attended a briefing and fundraiser on the **Legion of the Tuskegee Airman** benefiting the Harrison Museum of African Culture at the Center in the Square in Roanoke, Virginia. The presentation was given by Mr. Gordon Smith, Executive Director with JPMorgan Chase in New York. Gordon works as a Senior Banker in the NY Metro Group of the Commercial Bank, principally handling a portfolio of law firms



Mr. Gordon Smith



CAPT Luther Smith, one of the original and most highly decorated of the Tuskegee Airmen pilots.

including, many of the largest law firms in the USA. Mr. Smith graduated from Princeton University in 1980 with a degree in American History. He is a frequent speaker nationwide about the history of the Tuskegee Airmen, the distinguished group of Black United States military aviators of World War II. Gordon Smith's father, Captain Luther Smith, was one of the original and most highly decorated of the Tuskegee Airmen fighter pilots. Tuskegee Airmen were black servicemen of the U.S. Army Air Forces who were trained using single-engine planes at the segregated Tuskegee Army Air Field at Tuskegee, Alabama during World War II. Although many had the government to allow African Americans to be-

been lobbying hard for become military pilots neither the NAACP nor the most-involved black newspapers approved the solution of creating separate black units because they believed that approach simply perpetuated segregation and discrimination. Nevertheless, largely at the behest of Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt, a separate unit was created. They constituted the first African American flying unit in the U.S. military. On March 19, 1941, the U.S. War Department established the 99th Pursuit Squadron, which, along with a few other squadrons formed later, became better known as the Tuskegee Airmen. Consisting of America's first Black military pilots, these units confronted racism at home in addition to the enemy abroad. Yet despite the extra obstacles, they would go on to compile an exemplary record in the Mediterranean and European theaters of World War II and pave the way for desegregation of the military. The Tuskegee base opened on July 19, and the first class graduated the following March. Lieut. Col. Benjamin Oliver Davis, Jr., became the squadron's commander. All black military pilots who trained in the United States trained at Griel Field,



LtCol Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.



Eight Tuskegee Airmen in front of a P-40 fighter aircraft

Kennedy Field, Moton Field, Shorter Field, and the Tuskegee Army Air Fields. They were educated at the Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University), located near Tuskegee, Alabama. Of the 922 pilots, five were Haitians from the Haitian Air Force

and one pilot was from Trinidad. It also included a Hispanic or Latino airman born in the Dominican Republic. The Tuskegee Airmen received further training in French Morocco before their first mission, on June 2, 1943, a strafing attack on Pantelleria Island, an Italian island in the Mediterranean Sea. Later that year the army activated three more squadrons that, joined in 1944 by the 99th, constituted the 332nd Fighter Group. It fought in the European theatre and was noted as one of the Army Air Forces' most successful and most-decorated escort groups. The Tuskegee Airmen are best known for proving during World War II that Black men could be elite fighter pilots. The 99th Pursuit Squadron (later the 99th Fighter Squadron) was the first black

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flying squadron, and the first to deploy overseas (to North Africa in April 1943, and later to Sicily and other parts of Italy). The 332nd Fighter Group, which originally included the 100th, 301st and 302nd Fighter Squadrons, was the first black flying group. It deployed to Italy in early 1944. Although the 477th Bombardment Group trained with North American B-25 Mitchell bombers, they never served in combat. In June 1944, the 332nd Fighter Group began flying heavy bomber escort missions and, in July 1944, with the addition of the 99th Fighter Squadron, it had four fighter squadrons. The 99th Fighter Squadron was initially equipped with Curtiss P-40 Warhawk fighter-bomber aircraft. The 332nd Fighter Group and its 100th, 301st and 302nd Fighter Squadrons were equipped for initial combat missions with Bell P-39 Airacobras (March 1944), later with Republic P-47 Thunderbolts (June–July 1944) and finally with the aircraft with which they became most commonly associated, the North American P-51 Mustang (July 1944). When the pilots of the 332nd Fighter Group painted the tails of their P-47s red, the nickname "Red Tails" was coined. The red markings that distinguished the Tuskegee Airmen included red bands on the noses of P-51s as well as a red empennage; the P-51B, C and D Mustangs flew with similar color schemes, with red propeller spinners, yellow wing bands and all-red tail surfaces.

The Tuskegee Air Field program expanded to train pilots and crew to operate two-engine B-25 medium bombers. These men became part of the second black flying group, the 477th Bombardment Group. Shortages of crew members, technicians, and equipment troubled the 477th, and World War II ended before it could be deployed overseas. Altogether, 992 pilots graduated from the Tuskegee Air Field courses, and they flew 1,578 missions and 15,533 sorties, destroyed 261 enemy aircraft, and won more than 850 medals.



Less widely known is the instrumental role these pilots, navigators and bombardiers played during the war in fighting segregation through nonviolent direct action. Their tactics would become a cornerstone of the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 60s. The Tuskegee Airmen's most influential moment of collective civil disobedience came in the spring of 1945, in what became known as the Freeman Field Mutiny. After enduring years of inadequate training facilities, discriminatory policies and hostile commanders in the Army Air Force, 101 officers of the all-Black 477th Bombardment Group—who had initially trained at the Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama—were arrested at Indiana's Freeman Field base when they refused to sign a base regulation requiring separate officers' clubs for Black and white soldiers. The order came after 61 Black officers were arrested trying to enter the white officers' club. The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African-American military aviators in the United States Armed Forces. During World War II, black Americans in many U.S. states were still subject to the Jim Crow laws and the American military was racially segregated, as was much of the federal government. The Tuskegee Airmen were subjected to discrimination, both within and outside of the army.

After the formal presentation all veterans present were asked to stand and tell about their military service. Southwest Virginia Chapter members COL Thomas Dalzell, USMC (Ret) and CMDR Lee Ensley, USN (Ret) shown left spoke briefly.



**A SALUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT DAVID G. BELLEVIA**  
**MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT**

On Thursday 19 January 2023 Colonel John Miller, USA (Ret), a member of the Southwest Virginia Chapter and the Association of the United States Army, presented a Video program on Staff Sergeant David G. Bellavia, Medal of Honor recipient for his heroics during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Phantom Fury, in Fallujah, Iraq on 10 November 2004. Staff Sgt. David G. Bellavia was a



squad leader in support of the operation. Their mission on that night was to clear a block of 12 buildings, where it was thought six or more insurgents had taken shelter. A Bradley Fighting Vehicle was supposed to provide fire support, but a malfunction on its 25mm cannon meant the platoon would have to kill or capture the anti-Iraqi forces (AIF) without it. After finding nothing in the first nine buildings, Bellavia's platoon moved into the next compound, where they immediately came under fire from the front hallway. Two insurgents manning machine guns under a stairwell had been waiting to ambush the Soldiers as they attempted to clear the home. Moments later, more AIF opened fire from a window. The combined gunfire from the stairwell and the window meant the Soldiers were trapped. Rounds from the insurgent weapons struck the walls and floor, and began wounding Soldiers. Two were bleeding from the face due to shattered glass, and another was grazed by a round to his stomach. Unless something happened quickly, the trapped Soldiers would die.

**OFFICIAL CITATION**

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, March 3, 1863, has awarded in the name of Congress the Medal of Honor to **STAFF SERGEANT DAVID G. BELLEVIA UNITED STATES ARMY**, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

Staff Sergeant David G. Bellavia distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty on November 10, 2004, while serving as a squad leader in support of Operation Phantom Fury in Fallujah, Iraq. While clearing a house, a squad from Staff Sergeant Bellavia's platoon became trapped within a room by intense enemy fire coming from a fortified position under the stairs leading to the second floor. Recognizing the immediate severity of the situation, and with disregard for his own safety, Staff Sergeant Bellavia retrieved an automatic weapon and entered the doorway of the house to engage the insurgents. With enemy rounds impacting around him, Staff Sergeant Bellavia fired at the enemy position at a cyclic rate, providing covering fire that allowed the squad to break contact and exit the house. A Bradley Fighting Vehicle was brought forward to suppress the enemy; however, due to high walls surrounding the house, it could not fire directly at the enemy position. Staff Sergeant Bellavia then re-entered the house and again came under intense enemy fire. He observed an enemy insurgent preparing to launch a rocket-propelled grenade at his platoon. Recognizing the grave danger the grenade posed to his fellow soldiers, Staff Sergeant Bellavia assaulted the enemy position, killing one insurgent and wounding another who ran to a different part of the house. Staff Sergeant Bellavia, realizing he had an un-cleared, darkened room to his back, moved to clear it. As he entered, an insurgent came down the stairs firing at him. Simultaneously, the previously wounded insurgent reemerged and engaged Staff Sergeant Bellavia. Staff Sergeant Bellavia, entering further into the darkened room, returned fire and eliminated both insurgents. Staff Sergeant Bellavia then received enemy fire from another insurgent emerging from a closet in the darkened room. Exchanging gunfire, Staff Sergeant Bellavia pursued the enemy up the stairs and eliminated him. Now on the second floor, Staff Sergeant Bellavia moved to a door that opened onto the roof. At this point, a fifth insurgent leapt from the third floor roof onto the second floor roof. Staff Sergeant Bellavia engaged the insurgent through a window, wounding him in the back and legs, and caused him to fall off the roof. Acting on instinct to save the members of his platoon from an imminent threat, Staff Sergeant Bellavia ultimately cleared an entire enemy-filled house, destroyed four insurgents, and badly wounded a fifth. Staff Sergeant Bellavia's bravery, complete disregard for his own safety, and unselfish and courageous actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army

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Colonel John Miller introduced the video providing background on its production and initial showing in Roanoke on 2 October 2021 at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center. Staff Sergeant Bellavia addressed the assembly via Zoom video sharing his thoughts on the military, the Army and especially Veterans.



Since he was a child Staff Sergeant Bellavia felt a deep sense of duty to his country deeply embedded by the experience of his grandfather who served in the Army during the Normandy Campaign in World War II. He enlisted in the Army in 1999 and after the terror attack on 9/11 felt his country needed him so he chose to remain in the Army. He related how the Army is like a tribal society, in fact the largest tribe. Every generation needs to tell their story to the next generation on their accomplishments. All that veterans from each generation ask for is appreciation for what they have been asked to do. He feels strongly about the discipline

and training one gets in the Army as opposed to what comes out of some of the country's universities. Most universities are breeding perpetual adolescence. The Army takes adolescents, crushes their bad habits into dust and produces a well trained, disciplined soldier who look alike, act like you and treat each other with dignity and respect. Working together on the battlefield, relying on each other they are making things happen. The Army is a family, in fact the largest adoption agency, that produces leaders who think and employers are looking to take a four year Army veteran rather than a four year college graduate. People turn to veterans to solve their problems. He feels strongly that the country will be saved by veterans. Veterans need to talk with the younger generation about duty and honor and who you are as a veteran, what you represent and showing your love of country.



Chapter President CAPT Matt Haag USN (Ret) presenting a “Thank You” coffee mug to COL John Miller USA, (Ret) for his presentation.

## The Ones Left Behind - Women During the Civil War

On Thursday 16 February 2023 Ms. Linda Breckinridge and Ms. Betty Shideler presented a program titled “**The Women Left Behind**”, focusing on the Breckinridge and Burwell family and the impact the Civil War had on them. Dressed for the time period and based on extensive research they told the story of these the two families and how



Linda Breckinridge and Betty Shideler

the women persevered during these troubling times. The women in the South threw themselves into the war effort with the same zeal as their Northern counterparts. The Confederacy had less money and fewer resources than did the Union, however, so they did much of their work on their own or through local auxiliaries and relief societies. They, too, cooked and sewed for their men. They provided uniforms, blankets, sandbags and other supplies for entire regiments. They wrote letters to soldiers and worked as untrained nurses in makeshift hospitals. They even cared for wounded soldiers both north and South in their homes. Many Southern women, especially wealthy ones, relied on slaves for everything and had never had to do much work. However, even they were forced by the exigencies of wartime to expand their definitions of “proper” female behavior. During the Civil War, women especially faced a host of new duties and responsibilities. For the most part, these new roles applied the ideals of Victorian domesticity to

“useful and patriotic ends.” However, these wartime contributions did help expand many women’s ideas about what their “proper place” should be. Wives, mothers, children, and so many more watched their men go off to fight, hoping their lives would be spared and they would return home. Proper etiquette deemed that women remain home, but there were those who took this opportunity to serve their country in more ways than one. There were nurses, civilian volunteers, and writers who stood in solidarity with their male counterparts to serve the country they believed in. These women of the Civil War courageously fought not only the enemy soldiers but the traditional expectations of a 19th century gentlewoman.

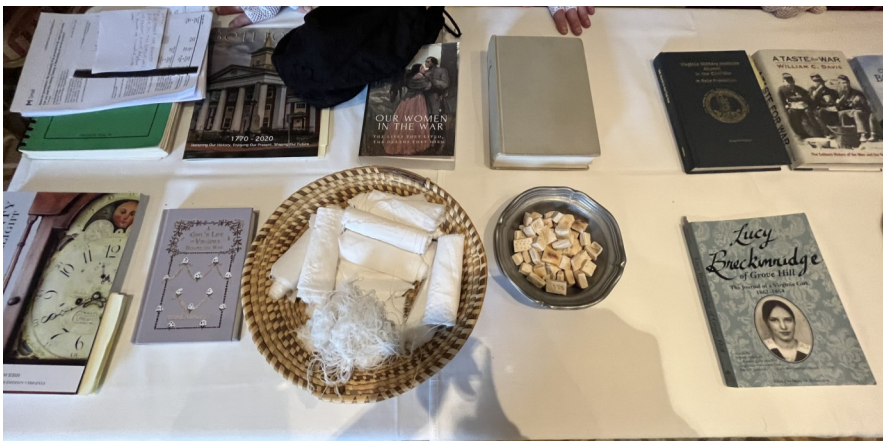


Table with books, research material and show and tell items. Large bowl with typical homemade bandages and lint to pack into wounds. Small bowl contains actual samples of “hardtack”.



Linda Breckinridge and Betty Shideler

At the outbreak of the Civil War, nearly everybody was caught up in patriotic fervor—men and

women, Union and Confederate. Many women supported soldiers through knitting and sewing needed items, growing food, making bandages, gathering medical supplies, and more. When men left to go to war, women took up their duties on top of their own. Supplies were short, inflation was much more rampant than in the North, and long weeks passed without word from soldiers on the front line. The additional burden of armies trampling over the fields and carrying off any crops and animals led to extensive hunger for the civilian population. The effects of inflation were more strongly felt in the South. When the Union blockade kept cotton from being sold, it also prevented goods and supplies from coming in. Prices of everything rose sharply.

Cont'd. on Page 9 “**The Ones Left Behind - Women During the Civil War**”





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**Betty Shideler** portrayed and spoke of Frances Burwell the mistress of Avenel Plantation also known as the William McCreery Burwell House. William M. Burwell was the son of William Armistead Burwell, who was a congressman and the private secretary to Thomas Jefferson during his last year of presidency. Growing up in politics, William M. Burwell followed in his father's footsteps after graduating in the first class of the "new" University of Virginia. After finding his bride, Frances Steptoe, the couple resided for a little while in the Burwell home place in Franklin County Virginia. With Mr. Burwell spending a lot of time working in the House of Representatives and often meeting with Virginia's founding fathers, he was frequently traveling to Washington DC and Richmond, which meant leaving Frances alone. He decided that she needed to be close to her mother. Plans to move to the then town of Liberty which later became Bedford were orchestrated. Sometime around 1836, William and Frances began building their home, "**Avenel**," which derived its name from Mr. Burwell's reading of "The Monastery," as he was an avid reader



of Sir Walter Scott. Avenel has the feel of both the Federal and Greek Revival architecture of its time. Back then, the two-story brick plantation home sat on close to seventy acres, and was a focal point for both the social and political scene. Avenel is a historic home located at Bedford, Virginia. The two-story, brick dwelling displays a blend of Federal and Greek Revival styling. It is topped by a hipped roof and has a one-story wraparound porch. Also on the property are a contributing smokehouse, hen house, a frame 19th-century barn, and site of a kitchen building. It and the surrounding 250 acres were operated as a plantation using enslaved labor by William M. Burwell. "The Lady in White" or the "White Lady of Avenel", is the most commonly reported apparition at Avenel. The apparition is thought to be Mary Frances "Fran" Bur-

well. "The legend has it that she stayed on the front porch waiting for her husband to come home from the Civil War, but he never did.

**Linda Breckinridge** spoke of and portrayed Emma Breckinridge her husband's great, great grandmother. She also told of Grove Hill, located in Fincastle, Botetourt County, Virginia, a 26-room manor that stood on a plantation of 3,385-acres and was widely regarded to be one of the most elegant in the region, bearing a resemblance to the still extant Berkeley Plantation. The manor was completed in 1804, for General James Breckinridge (1763-1833) and his wife Ann Cary Selden (1771-1843). Attached to the main house was a 2-story brick kitchen wing and behind that were further offices and stables, also in brick. U.S. Secretary of State Henry Clay (1777-1852) was a frequent visitor there and supposedly so too was Breckinridge's great friend, Thomas Jefferson. The house was occupied by the General's grandson when it was destroyed by fire in 1909, which left just one outbuilding standing.



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She spoke of Ms. Lucy Breckinridge of Grove Hill who wrote a diary titled "The Journal of a Virginia Girl, 1862-1864 (Women's Diaries and Letters of the South)" that were her Civil War memoirs of a high-spirited, progressive woman. Begun to alleviate the "boredom of wartime," Lucy Breckinridge's journal quickly became this intelligent young woman's confidante as she came of age in war-torn Virginia. Nineteen-year-old Breckinridge offers candid views of life on the home front as she chronicles the war that killed three of her brothers and debates such universal issues as war, peace, religion, love, marriage, and the role of women in society. While Lucy Breckinridge vents frustration over the passive role forced upon women during the Civil War, she writes enthusiastically about social events, friends, and suitors. In her passionate and sometimes irreverent style, Lucy Breckinridge offers an honest portrait of life on the family plantation.

## MOAA'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

MOAA's Legislative Priorities for advocacy as the 118th Congress continues its work. Their focus remains on all seven of the uniformed services and their service-earned entitlements.

- Compensation and Service-Earned Benefits
- Military Housing
- Health Care for Currently Serving and Retirees
- Health Care and Benefits for Veterans
- Service Families
- Survivors
- Guard and Reserve

As protecting health care and service-earned benefits is a challenge, MOAA will press forward to engage Congress to shape outcomes in these vital areas. There are steep hills before us. Our nation has a rising debt of more than \$30 trillion and a deficit of more than \$3 trillion. Because of this, MOAA anticipates robust attempts to control federal budgets, reduce or eliminate unprogrammed expenditures, and reduce entitlements. MOAA needs you to be ready to reach out to your legislators and keep that engagement going as necessary to make sure your voice is heard. **Details at <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/advocacy/moaa-legislative-priorities-118th-Congress/>**

## VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS/JOINT LOGISTIC COUNCIL INITIATIVES

- JLC 2023 Initiatives: JLC 2023 Approved Initiatives
- JLC 2023-01 Expand Tax Relief for Surviving Spouses of Military Service Members to also include "Died in the Line-of-Duty"
- JLC 2023-02 Real Property Tax Exemption Effective Date.
- JLC 2023-03 Removal of Age Requirement Income Tax Subtraction
- JLC 2023-04 Appropriate \$400,000 (GF) for State Veterans Cemeteries; Eliminate Spouse/Dependent and Guard/Reserve Burial Fees
- JLC 2023-05 Virginia National Guard State Park Admission
- JLC 2023-06 Virginia National Guard Income Tax Exemption

**A summary of the approved 2023 JLC Initiatives Policy papers for each initiative can be accessed on the JLC webpage at: <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/dvs/joint-leadership-council-veterans-service-organizations-2>**



**THOUGHTS OF A CAREER WELL SPENT AS A NAVAL AVIATOR  
COMBAT PILOT AND TEST PILOT**

**or**

**How Naval Aviation Saved a Poor Farm Boy  
From a Life of Milking Cows in 20F Below! Weather**

On Thursday **16 March 2023** Kenneth N. "Dutch" Rauch, Sr. CAPT USN, (Ret) presented a rousing walk through 50+ years of aviation history from the "deck plate-level." As Dutch himself once said, " Naval Aviation saved a poor farm boy like me from a life of milking cows in -20 degree winters!" Starting with some boyhood pictures on a snowy farm in central New York to the Naval Academy graduating in 1966 and commissioned an Ensign then to flight training in the T-34,T-2B/C, F-9 Cougar. 1968- 1971 a Steely-Eyed Yankee Air Pirate flying the A 4 Skyhawk in Vietnam in the Gulf of Tonkin –from the USS ORISKANY (CV-34). Flew 300+ combat missions. In 1971 post combat tours. Assignment as Ground School (avionics and weapons)



II



Instructor and Instructor Pilot A-7E Corsair RAG then to Empire Test Pilot School, Wiltshire, UK . Flew inventory of test pilot school aircraft - great collection of RAF antiques! HunterTMk4- high performance spin test,Lightning (transonic/supersonic test)-

no fuel cross feed! Canberra- all variants (Vr 60/Vmc95) Twin Pioneer Viscount Hastings( reed valves) Debonair Texan Beverly (CG issue!) and 6 glider variants.



1972-1974 assigned to Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, MD as experiential test pilot on the A4 Skyhawk, A-7 E Corsair11, A-6 Intruder, F-14 Tomcat, CLX –84 and NASA Shuttle Final approach profiles .

*Continued on Page 12 "Thoughts of A Career Well Spent as A Naval Aviator.."*

Continued from Page 11 "Thoughts of A Career Well Spent as A Naval Aviator"

1979-1981 assigned to Canadian Forces College, Toronto as Director Staff Tutor. 1981-1984 back to sea duty as Aircraft Handling Officer aboard the USS Midway, CV-41 out of Yokosuka, Japan. At Sea every Christmas & Thanksgiving, 360 days at sea in 81/82, 290 days at sea 82/83, 310 days at sea 83/84, on station for IRAN Hostage Ops (Desert One, ETC), MID-WATER with MV CACTUS 1983. 1981-1984 Command Tour -1981-1984 VC-5 CHECKERTAILS based NAS CUBI POINT, RP,



TopGun WESTPAC 14 A-4 MONGOOSE in A-4F modified to play adversary. 4 SH-3 SEAKING helicopters. Adversary services for USN 7th Fleet and USAF Clark AFB and ROKAF Team Spirit. 1984 – 1986 Post-Command Tour USS KITTY HAWK(CV63) as AIR OFFICER, Air Boss "BOSS" Responsibilities all aircraft: movement/parking, Launching/recovering and refueling. 1987 - 1991 "Shore Duty" at the Pentagon. Special/Advanced Technology and Executive Assistant (EA) to DCNO (Air)(3-star). 1991 – 1993 Major Command Training Air Wing Two (TWII), NAS KINGSVILLE, Texas. Responsible for Naval Air Station AND three training squadrons, each

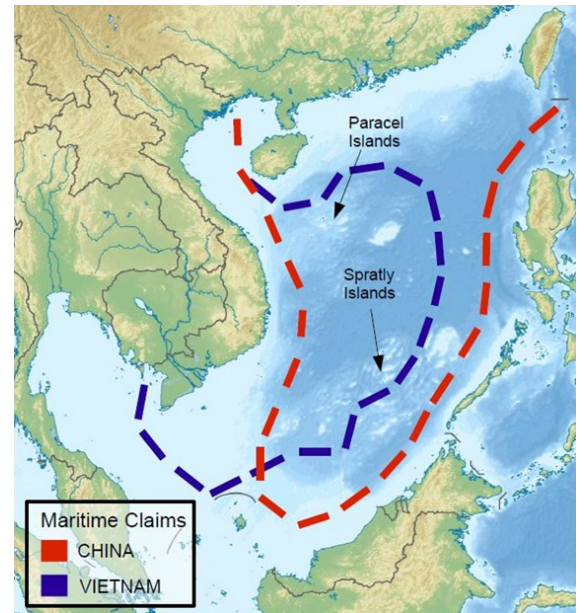


commanded by a Commander (O-5) with two TA-4J SKYHAWK and one T-2C BUCK-EYE. 47-49 years of age flying SKYHAWKS, even getting traps. 1991-2004 Retired, After retirement from active duty recalled" to Naval Air Systems Command, Naval Air Test Center "Grandfather" on X-31 VECTOR Test Team. X-31 - Rockwell and Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm (MBB)/EADS, part of a joint US and German Enhanced Fighter Maneuverability. VECTOR - further define "post-stall/High AoA flight regime; Write/compile flight control program for Post-Stall; Define requirements for/manufacture GPS-based Navigation System for Post-stall approach/landing. "Products" GPS-based WAAS-like NAV accuracy better than 1CM, Refresh 5 MS, Flight Control Program, Final flight/landing approach was post-stall 92KTS with auto derotation's spot on target touchdown point. 2004 – 2009 Retired, RETIRED! Sailed a 1984 Morgan 462 ketch rig South to the Islands!!

**A Glimpse at Carrier Strategically Located**



Choke point for the South China Sea. Abuts major oil discoveries in South China Sea. Conflicts with PRC, PI-Based Air Operations in Vietnam

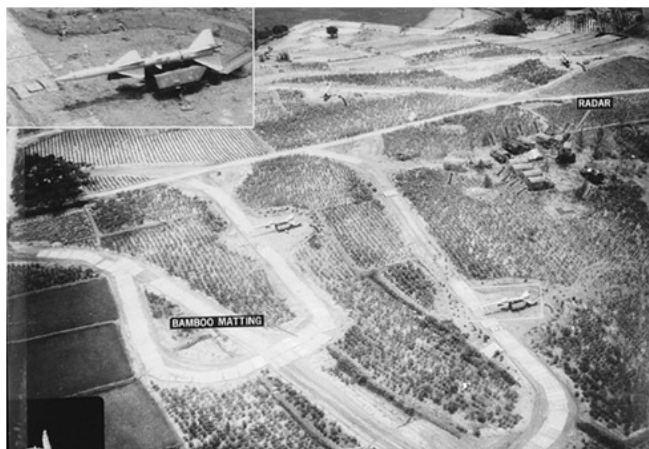


Continued from Page 12 "Thoughts of A Career Well Spent as A Naval Aviator.."

**WHY WE FLEW .....The bottom line = King of the Mountain**



**VIETNAMESE WEAPONS**



Continued on Page 14 "Thoughts of A Career Well Spent as A Naval Aviator.."

Continued from Page 13 "Thoughts of A Career Well Spent as A Naval Aviator.."

US NAVY Players - Aircraft on "27C" Carriers/Large Deck Carriers



The HEROS (SAR) - Search and Rescue

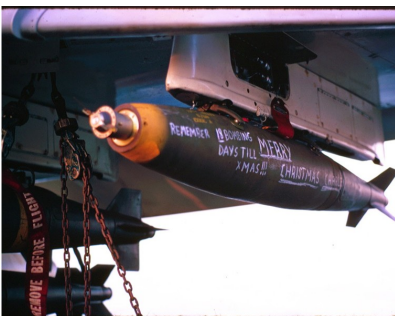


Continued on Page 15 "Thoughts of A Career Well Spent as A Naval Aviator.."

Continued from Page 14 "Thoughts of A Career Well Spent as A Naval Aviator.."

**Vietnam Players 22 Carriers**

- USS Yorktown (CV-10)
- USS Intrepid (CV-11)
- USS Hornet (CV-12)
- USS Ticonderoga (CV-14)
- USS Lexington (CV-16)
- USS Hancock (CV-19)
- USS Bennington (CV-20)
- USS Bon Homme Richard (CV-31)
- USS Kearsarge (CV-33)
- USS Oriskany (CV-34)
- USS Midway (CV-41)
- USS Franklin D. Roosevelt (CV-42)
- USS Coral Sea (CV-43)
- USS Valley Forge (CV-45)
- USS Forrestal (CV-59)
- USS Saratoga (CV-60)
- USS Ranger (CV-61)
- USS Independence (CV-62)
- USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63)
- USS Constellation (CV-64)
- USS America (CV-66)
- USS Enterprise (CVN-65)



AGM-52 Shrike anti-aircraft missile



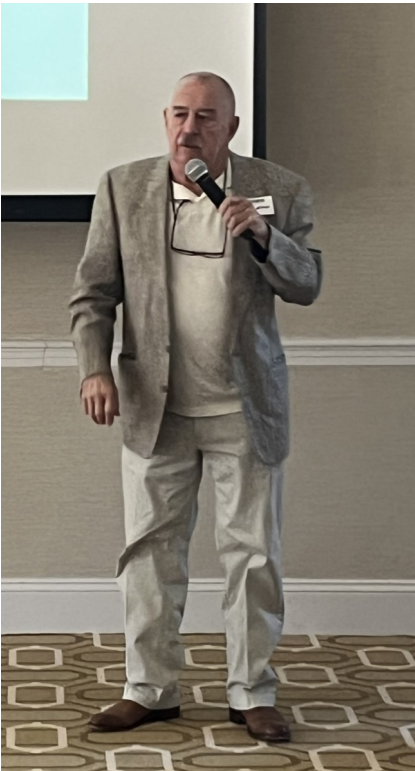
WALLEYE



CBU

Continued on Page 16 "Thoughts of A Career Well Spent as A Naval Aviator.."

Continued from Page 15 "Thoughts of A Career Well Spent as A Naval Aviator.."



Naval Aviators at the 16 March 2023 Membership. L to R: Matt Haag, CAPT USN, (Ret); CMDR Lee Ensley, USN (Ret); CAPT Gary Powers, USN (Ret); CAPT Kenneth "Dutch" Rauch, USN (Ret) and CAPT John "Jude" Lahr, USN (Ret).

Chapter President CAPT Matt Haag presenting the Chapter Cup to Capt Dutch Rauch in appreciation for presenting the program at the membership meeting





## WE HONOR VETERANS PROGRAM

**Affinity Care of Virginia**, a hospice organization operating out of the Roanoke area, approached the Southwest Virginia Chapter with a request to participate in the **“We Honor Veterans Program”**, a partnership between the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) and the Department of Veterans Affairs. The program offers care for veteran-specific physical or emotional issues that may arise near the end of life.

Affinity Care of Virginia recently became involved with the **“We Honor Veterans Program”** including **“Pinning Ceremonies”** with some of the individuals they serve. The **“Pinning Ceremonies”** offer a more purposeful experience for the veteran and their family in assisted living facilities as well as those who are receiving hospice care from them. The **“Pinning Ceremonies”** are generally conducted with both the patient's family/loved ones as well as their hospice care team. The ceremony typically generally lasts for 30 minutes to an hour and is led by their chaplain and a staff member. They greet everyone and set forth the purpose of our meeting-to honor our veterans and their family for their service to this country. They will play their branch song and ask the group to sing along if they want to.

In January 2023 Affinity Care of Virginia approached the Southwest Virginia Chapter to participate in a large **“Pinning Ceremony”** at Richfield Living-The Health Center-Salem Campus. They had 7 veterans who they were honoring, representing the Air Force, Army, and National Guard. The event was set for 25 January at 10:30 A.M. in their Skylight Café. The program takes longer than an hour in total. Here is the typical program:

- Introductions and Opening Prayer by Affinity Chaplain
- Branch Song Medley by Affinity Music Therapist
- What it Means to Serve, your perspective & gratitude
- Pinning of Veterans - Staff person hands certificate to MOAA rep who pins on lapel and offers salute to each veteran.
- Reflections or Statements from Veterans, if desired
- Closing with “God Bless America”.

Chapter President CAPT Matt HAAG, USN (Ret) volunteered to participate in the **25 January 2023 “We Honor Veterans Program”** at Richfield Living-The Health Center-Salem Campus. He said he was honored to participate in the ceremony honoring the veterans. While he was able to fit into his Service Dress, this is not a requirement as business casual is just fine. He talked briefly about what military service meant to him, thanked each veteran for their service and then pinned them and let them speak. There were four veterans who were able to show up for the service with the staff of Richfield. They then went to three more veteran’s rooms and presented certificates and pins to those unable to make the public ceremony. CAPT Haag said he personally found this very rewarding and the veterans really appreciated the recognition. He was told afterwards that the veterans were showing off their certificates to the other Richfield members and staff for several days.



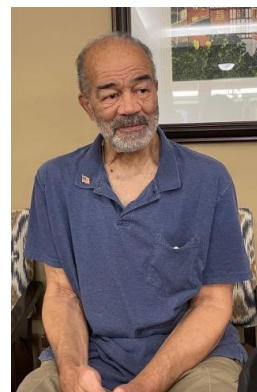
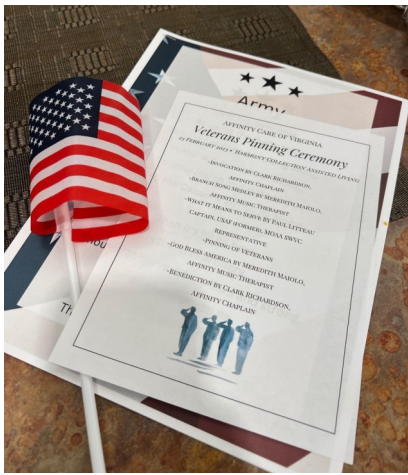
The Southwest Virginia Chapter will solicit volunteers from the membership to continue this **“We Honor Veterans Program”** in conjunction with the Affinity Care of Virginia.



*Continued on Page 18 “We Honor Veterans Program”*

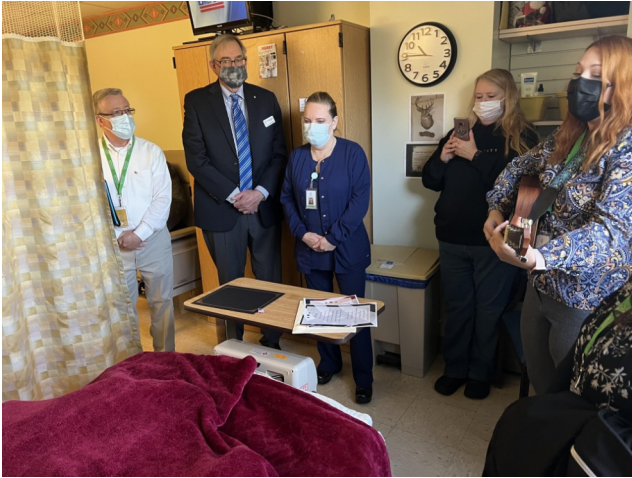
Continued from Page 17 *"We Honor Veterans Pro-*

On **Thursday 23 February 2023** the Southwest Virginia Chapter participated in a pinning ceremony at Harmony Assisted Living in Roanoke, Virginia. This program is conducted in partnership with the *"We Honor Veterans Program"* and aims to ensure that every veteran in our local community is honored and recognized for their service. Residents and staff gathered to join in honoring those who have served, sharing laughter, tears, and moments of reflection. Several residents who were physically unable to make it to the ceremony were honored privately in their rooms. There were eleven veterans being honored with pins and certificates with several spouses in attendance. Capt Paul Litteau, USAF (Former) represented the Chapter and spoke briefly with a focus on the veterans present and included remarks about the wives and family members who also served in their own way waiting, praying and keeping the family together. Paul did the pinning and his wife Donna presented the certificates.



Continued from Page 18 *"We Honor Veterans Pro-*

On **Thursday 9 March 2023** Southwest Virginia Chapter member LTC Robert Habermann, USA (Ret) participated in a pinning ceremony at the Virginia Veterans Care Center in partnership with the *"We Honor Veterans Program"* that aims to ensure that every veteran in our local community is honored and recognized for their service. Honored this day were Wade Perk and Fred Swanson, both Army veterans (enlisted). Each veteran was presented with a pin and a certificate of service.



LTC Habermann reported the following: "Each ceremony lasted about 30 minutes and included: opening remarks from the chaplain; the playing of the soldier's branch song; my remarks; the presentation of the individual's certificate; the placement of the pin on the veteran followed by my salute; remarks from the patient/family; another patriotic song; and the chaplain's final prayer to close us out the ceremony."

*Continued from Page 19 "We Honor Veterans Program"*

## WE HONOR VETERANS PROGRAM

### Presentation Used With Each Veteran

Today we honor (Name), who unselfishly placed his/her life on the line for our freedom. He/she is one of those men and women who were ordinary people until they heard and answered the call of duty. They left their families, homes, and lives not for recognition, fame, or even the honor we bestow upon (Name) today. They served to protect our country and maintain our way of life.

Our recent conflicts have helped us realize how unique the American way of life is. The freedom we enjoy is extraordinary, and we must continue defending it. Now is the time to honor (Name), who protected our liberty.

The defense of freedom, though, is not just for those in the military; we all share that duty and responsibility. We don't have to join the Army, the Navy, or any other service branch to defend our way of life. We can protect our freedom by maintaining it here in America.

From the time we wake up in the morning to the time we lie down at night, we should be grateful for every soldier, sailor, airman, and marine guarding our homes and families. Like them, (Name) risked everything, knowing he might never return home.

Thank you, (Name), for your service. Please permit me to place this pin on your lapel. May God bless you, and may God bless the United States of America.



## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST FOR VETERANS

- National Vietnam Veterans Day to honor Vietnam Veterans with a special ceremony at the Vinton War Memorial, 1700 hours 29 March 2023.
- The Fifth Annual "**Freedom Fest**", hosted by New Freedom Farm and set in beautiful Buchanan, VA in Botetourt County, will provide family fun 22-23 April. The event, a fundraiser for New Freedom Farm, promises 70+ craft and goods vendors, food trucks, live entertainment, activities for children, and over 80 raffle baskets.

## OPERA ROANOKE'S VETEANS FAIR

The Southwest Virginia Chapter of MOAA participated in **Opera Roanoke's Veterans Fair** on Friday 24 February 2023, and on Sunday 26 February 2023, at the Jefferson Center in Roanoke Virginia. The Veterans Fair was held prior to Opera Roanoke's performances of "**Glory Denied**", a musical telling of the true story of Col. Floyd "Jim" Thompson, USA (Ret), America's longest-held prisoner from the Vietnam War. The story chronicles the harrowing and heroic story of Jim's nine-year life as a captured soldier and the aftermath of his return home. The opera explores family relationships during a difficult time in our nation's history, and is a compelling and heart-wrenching story of loss, hope, and one man's will to survive. The opera is based on the acclaimed book by former Coast Guard member Tom Philpott, who also had a career as a reporter and editor with Army Times Publishing. Writer Tom Cipullo adapted Philpott's book as a taut two-act opera that uses just four singers, representing the younger and older selves of Thompson and his wife, Alyce. Mr. Cipullo tells the story as a dialogue between past and present, with actions and their implications shown almost simultaneously. A discussion period was held after each performance with the cast, producer and musical director



to discuss personal thoughts of the performance and the full effect of the Opera and its production. They discussed how the show came about and how the producer put it all together. Well worth the extra time.

The Veterans Fair was held to focus on businesses and organizations that currently impact veterans in the community, whether that be offering services and resources to the veterans directly or being a guiding hand to their families. Opera Roanoke sees our impact in the community and want to help us to reach others. Their goal for the fair is to assist veterans in finding resources they might not have otherwise known and sharing their mission with the audience members who may be looking for volunteer or support opportunities. Free tickets were available to all veterans at both performances.

The Southwest Virginia Chapter set up a table at the Veterans Fair to provide information on The Military Officers Association of



America and chapter activities in Southwest Virginia. LTC Robert Habermann, USA (Ret) and COL Thomas Dalzell, USMC (Ret) greeted visitors and provided information on Friday 24 February and CAPT Gary Powers USN (Ret) and chapter member Joseph Obenshain greeted visitors and provided information on Sunday 26 February.

Some of the other organizations having information tables included the Association of the United States Army (AUSA); Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare; U.S Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration Customer Service and Community Affairs; National Suicide Prevention Lifeline; TAP Veterans Services; Suicide Prevention Council of Roanoke Valley; Vittles For Vets; Healing Strides of Virginia; Healing Waters Fly Fishing; American Legion.

## The Forgotten Verses Of “The Star-Spangled Banner”

Do you know all the words to “*The Star-Spangled Banner*”? Many people have difficulty memorizing the lyrics of the first verse of the US anthem, which is commonly performed at sports events and other public gatherings. But did you know that there are three additional verses that we almost never hear? As if one verse weren’t hard enough to learn.

### Why is the “Star-Spangled Banner” the US national anthem?

In 1814, the poet and lyricist Francis Scott Key penned the lyrics to “The Star-Spangled Banner,” originally known as “Defense of Fort McHenry.” During the War of 1812, Key witnessed the attacks on Baltimore and wrote the words based on his experiences this night. These lyrics were printed in local newspapers and set to the tune of an existing song called “Anacreon in Heaven,” and then officially arranged by John Philip Sousa. Key’s famous lyrics entered the world as a broadside ballad, or a song written on a topical subject, and printed for wide distribution. More than a century later, in 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed an executive order designating “*The Star-Spangled Banner*” as the national anthem, and in 1931, the US Congress confirmed the decision. The tune has kicked off ceremonies of national importance and athletic events ever since.

### What are the forgotten verses of the “Star-Spangled Banner”?

While the first verse of “*The Star-Spangled Banner*” is widely known by the American public, the last three verses are generally omitted in performances. Here are all the four verses, as they were written more than 200 years ago by Key:



O say can you see, by the dawn’s early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight’s last gleaming,  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight  
O’er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rocket’s red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,  
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave?



On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep  
Where the foe’s haughty host in dread silence reposes,  
What is that which the breeze, o’er the towering steep,  
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?  
Now it catches the gleam of the morning’s first beam,  
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream,  
'Tis the star-spangled banner—O long may it wave  
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave!



And where is that band who so vaunting swore,  
That the havoc of war and the battle’s confusion  
A home and a Country should leave us no more?  
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps’ pollution.  
No refuge could save the hireling and slave  
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave,  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave  
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave.



O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand  
Between their loved home and the war’s desolation!  
Blest with victory and peace may the heavens rescued land  
Praise the power that hath made and preserved us a nation!  
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto—“In God is our trust,”  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave  
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave.



## **SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER: LOOKING BACK ON 2022**

Surviving spouses comprise approximately 13% of MOAA's membership — that is over 46,000 members, voices, voters, givers, and doers. The Surviving Spouse Advisory Council (SSAC) represents these 46,000 members by supporting surviving spouses and spouses and promoting MOAA's strategic priorities at every opportunity through education, encouragement, and engagement.

In 2022, surviving spouses led MOAA chapters as president, secretary, treasurer, newsletter editor, program director, and legislative chair and created and managed community programs. We conducted five surviving spouse liaison trainings for over 100 surviving spouse liaisons, spoke at more than two dozen chapter meetings, wrote 12 articles, contributed to more than 100 Advocacy In Action sessions, and participated in 12 virtual meetings with over 500 total participants. We also organized and participated in a surviving spouse/spouse summit that attracted more than 80 participants. For further information log on the MOAA website at <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/news-listing/?cat=107>

## **DO YOU KNOW?**

Did you know that the Southwest Virginia Chapter of MOAA undertakes annual MOAA Medal awards presented to distinguished JROTC Cadets/Midshipmen in 14 area high schools and the four ROTC Cadets/Midshipmen at Virginia Tech and Radford University? Did you know that these awards recognize the recipient's academic, community service and leadership qualities that demonstrate exceptional potential for leadership while a member of their respective JROTC/ ROTC Programs? These JROTC/ ROTC awards consist of a MOAA Medal Award and an appropriate Award Certificate. The chapter bears the cost of the MOAA Medal Awards, presentation folders and mailing costs.

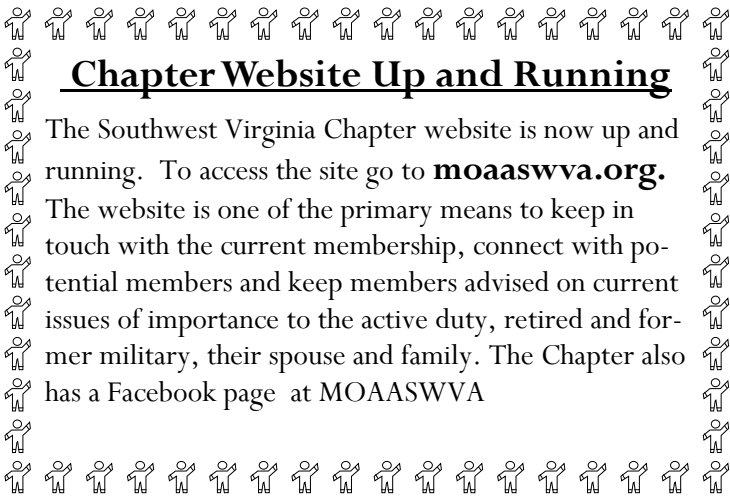
Did you also know that the Southwest Virginia Chapter of MOAA has established two Leadership Awards presented to ROTC Cadets/Midshipmen at Virginia Tech and Radford University during each academic year? Recipients are to be juniors or who will be starting their final year in the coming fall of the academic year. The Leadership Awards were established to recognize the recipient's academic, community service and leadership qualities that demonstrate exceptional potential for military leadership while a member of the Virginia Tech and Radford University ROTC Programs. The two Leadership Awards each carry a \$500 monetary award and an appropriate Award Certificate. The chapter bears the cost of the two Leadership Awards, presentation folders and the two \$500 monetary awards.

The South West Virginia Chapter of MOAA has been a strong supporter of the Military Family Support Center. At this time The Military Family Support Center is undergoing transition and the Southwest Virginia Chapter is looking into options to restart the mission to identify and provide for the morale, welfare, and informational needs of military families (of all branches and components) who reside outside of the established support networks. During 2023 the chapter hopes to merge with another food pantry to be able to provide supplies and distribute food stuffs to needy military families.

The South West Virginia Chapter of MOAA also supports the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin, Virginia each year providing a MOAA Mobile Vehicle and with the Christmas Wreath Laying Program providing and placing wreaths on veterans' grave sites. The Chapter funded and dedicated a "Memorial Bench" at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin, Virginia in honor of LTC James "Pat" Green, USA (Ret) who was the person most responsible for getting the cemetery located at Dublin, Virginia.

These programs are extremely important for the SWVC to continue as the community face of the Military Officers Association of America, to be an advocate for a strong national defense, to be an influential provider and supporter of programs, benefits and services for our military community, and to be a source of social fellowship for our members. The chapter has no regular financial stream except for chapter dues or donations. During the coming year we will be asking for your personal and financial support of our outreach programs and our monthly membership meetings.





**Chapter Website Up and Running**

The Southwest Virginia Chapter website is now up and running. To access the site go to **moaaswva.org**. The website is one of the primary means to keep in touch with the current membership, connect with potential members and keep members advised on current issues of importance to the active duty, retired and former military, their spouse and family. The Chapter also has a Facebook page at MOAASWVA

**WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON AT MOAA**

- Legislative Accomplishments?
- Legislative TAKE ACTION Center?
- Publications and Reports?
- Military Officer Magazine?
- Newsletters?

**Log on to MOAA.org**

**MOAA Southwest Virginia Chapter**  
**P.O. Box 3090**  
**Roanoke, VA 24015-1090**  
**Email: info@moaaswva.org**  
**Webpage: www.moaaswva.org**  
**Facebook: MOAA SWVA**

**The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and the Southwest Virginia Chapter (SWVC) of MOAA** are a nonprofit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. Membership is open to those who hold or have ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force, Public Health Service, or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and their surviving spouses.

**UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS**

**20 April 2023** – Board of Directors meeting. Program by Ms. Rebecca J Stackhouse, CTRS, FACHE, Executive Director Salem VA Health Care System with an update on the Salem VA Health Care System.

**18 May 2023** – Bus trip to the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, Virginia to include a tour of the Virginia War Memorial and lunch. We are confirmed with the memorial, Kyndall Dreumheller, for a tour on 18 May 2023 arriving around 11:30 that day.

Lunch will be catered by Joe's Inn with a selection similar to what Hidden Valley Country Club offers. A bus has been chartered from Sunshine Tours at \$75 a seat which includes lunch. The cost is \$25 if you are going to drive yourself or have a friend join us for the tour.

Bus pickup sites are at the Park and Ride in Christiansburg and the Park and Ride at exit 141 on I 81. Times will be announced later. An email will be sent out in April requesting a reservation. An RSVP is a placeholder until we get a check via mail or pay at the April meeting. If by April meeting if we do not have enough folks signed up we cancel contracts and plan for a BBQ like we did last year and just have a meeting to get together before the summer without a program.







**CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP  
as of 31 March 2023**

Regular Members 109  
Surviving Spouses 2  
Total Members 118  
Talk to a fellow officer about joining the Southwest Virginia Chapter!

**JOIN THE CHAPTER**

Looking to join the Southwest Virginia Chapter? Want more information on how to join and become involved? Check us out on the chapter website at **moaswva.org** or on face book at **moaswva** then Contact COL Bob Brown, USA (Ret), Chapter Membership Chair at (540) 904-2810 or email at **rfbrown68@gmail.com**.



**MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER - ENROLLMENT/RENEWAL FORM**

Name (First ,Middle, Last, Rank) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Retired \_\_\_\_\_ Active Duty \_\_\_\_\_ NG \_\_\_\_\_ Former Officer \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_ MOAA Membership ID No. \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Chapter Dues are \$30.00. Widows (ers) dues are \$15.00. Dues for those entering MOAA between 1 July and 31 December are \$20.00. Please mail dues payment to: **MOAA, Southwest Virginia Chapter, P.O. Box 3090, Roanoke, VA 24015-1090**

**Note:** The Chapter Newsletter *The Communique* is published quarterly and sent to the membership by email. Printed copies will be provided upon request. The next issue will be published at the end of June 2023.

*Featured in this Issue*  
 Presidents Corner  
 In Memoriam - COL Roger Talmadge, LTC James Flynn  
 The Tuskegee Airmen  
 MOAA and VCOG Legislative Priorities/Initiatives  
 We Honor Veterans Program  
 Opera Roanoke Veterans Fair  
 The Forgotten Verses Of "The Star-Spangled Banner"

**Bring a fellow officer  
and their spouse to  
our next meeting.**



**NEVER STOP SERVING.**



Military Officers Association of America  
 Southwest Virginia Chapter  
 P.O. Box 3090  
 Roanoke, VA 24015-1090

