

# The Patriot



Richmond Area Chapter - Military Officers Association of America - January 2018



## The President's Corner by CAPT Mary Lou Wassel

Happy New Year to All! It is both a great honor and a privilege to accept the role as President of RAC-MOAA for the next two years. During the past four years in my tenure as Legislative Chair, I have been the very fortunate beneficiary of devoted and generous mentoring by members of our current and past Boards of Directors. Indeed, it has been a pleasure, and many times a challenge, to work together advocating on the many issues facing our military and veteran community. I am very humbled by their surprisingly strong support for me in this new position and share their passion to continue our chapter as one of the best in the nation.

I still have much to learn. I'm asking for your help. "It takes a village." Our chapter will only be as great as its membership. Every one of us has many priorities vying for our precious time and talents. Please consider sharing a little of your valuable energies with us. Our Board can use new people on our Membership and Legislative Committees. We would love to recruit a person or two interested in helping with our newsletter and anyone with experience with "Survey Monkey" so we can tap members for ideas and feedback.

Our chapter is also very committed to youth programs including support of the 25 area high schools with JROTC Programs and our Leader-Scholar Awards for qualified college study. If you have experience in any of these areas and desire to help your chapter, please call or e-mail me or any member of the Board listed on Page 4. Additionally, please tell us what you would like to see in future programming and special events.

On the Legislative front, we had a very successful 10<sup>th</sup> annual Legislative Forum on December 6th. Next on the agenda is our annual MOAA Storming of the Virginia General Assembly on Monday, January 22nd. Please consider joining our chapter representatives for this important event. If you have never participated, it is an awesome opportunity to carry our combined military community initiatives to our respective elected leaders. See the Legislative Update on Page 2 for more details.

Now is the time to register for our January 24<sup>th</sup> Dinner Meeting (see Page 6). Our Annual Memorial Service for our departed members will occur, and a "Missing Man" Table will be featured. Please join us for this moving and important tribute to our lost comrades. I look forward to seeing you there!

Finally, I wish you and yours health and happiness in this New Year.

## LTC Ken Ruppap Receives Leadership Award

At the annual meeting of the Military Chaplains Association held in October in Newport News, RAC-MOAA Chaplain LTC Ken Ruppap received the David E. White Leadership Award. This award is given annually by MOAA on behalf of the Military Chaplains Association (MCA). This award recognizes lifetime commitment as a chaplain, vision for joint service and inter-agency collaboration and overall ministry professionalism.

The award included a citation which reads in part: "Chaplain Ruppap currently serves as the Secretary of the MCA and is active in his local MOAA chapter and state council. He regularly participates with the MOAA chapter and council in reaching out to governmental units and leaders in expanding the service offered by MOAA in his local area. He also leads change seminars on request in his community and volunteers in a variety of settings as he extends his compassion and support to those in need."

For 18 years he has served as volunteer chaplain for the Chesterfield County Police. He retired from the Army in 1998 and spent 14 years serving as pastor at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour in North Chesterfield, VA. He and his wife Norma live in Chesterfield.

## MOAA - MOWW Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, 24 January

6:00 PM

Meadowbrook Country Club

### Menu

Salad Bar

Three-entrée Buffet

Seasonal Starch

Vegetable du Jour

Gourmet Dessert Bar

**\$27.00 Per Person**

(Dress: Coat & Tie)

### Program

**Memorial Ceremony**

*To Honor and Remember  
our Departed Comrades*

(Reservation form on Page 6)

## In This Issue

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| President's Corner   | 1 |
| Legislative Update   | 2 |
| Upcoming Events      | 3 |
| News Articles        | 4 |
| Forms & Reservations | 6 |

## Legislative Update by LTC Craig Pinsker

On December 6th, our Richmond Area Chapter co-sponsored our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Legislative Forum with Central Virginia and Southside Chapters of MOAA. Twelve elected leaders and staffers, 14 MOAA members, and three DVS staff members attended the early morning session at the Virginia American Legion Building. A photo of some participants is below.

The current 2018 initiatives for the Joint Leadership Council were presented by MOAA spokespersons, and there was excellent input and discussion between legislators and other attendees. The initiatives being proposed include the following:

- Change the residency requirement for surviving spouses of 100% disabled veterans and those killed in action
- Provide for electronic submission of election ballots for Virginia service members deployed overseas
- Provide funding for the Veteran Entrepreneur Capital Resources Program (VECRP)
- Allow a state income tax subtraction for certain low-income 100% disabled veterans
- Remove the requirement that a veteran's disability rating be combat-related to receive VMSDEP benefits
- Increase the state income tax subtraction level for members of the Virginia National Guard
- Change the eligibility for in-state tuition to include all members of the Virginia National Guard and the Reserve
- Change Virginia tax laws for a phased-in system to eventually eliminate state tax on military retirement income

NOTE: This initiative list may receive final modification in the timeframe between the Forum and the 2018 General Assembly session. For the latest information, check the JLC website at <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/dvs/joint-leadership-council-veterans-service-organizations-2/>.



Please mark your calendars and plan to join your MOAA colleagues on Monday January 22nd for the 2018 MOAA Storming of the General Assembly. Due to the ongoing construction at the General Assembly, legislators have moved into the Pocahontas Building. This will be the first of four years for legislators in their new place. Unfortunately, this new location offers very limited spaces for legislators and committee meetings. If you are planning to attend, please contact Craig Pinsker at 804-301-1222 or [cpinsker@gmail.com](mailto:cpinsker@gmail.com) for final details on the meeting place and times for the Storming activity.

Pictured at left are members of the Virginia General Assembly and legislative aides and DVS representatives who participated in the Legislative Forum on December 6th at the American Legion Headquarters on Commonwealth Avenue in downtown Richmond.

### Treasurer's Report

|                                    |                    |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Balance on Hand 1 January 2017:    | \$ 21,826.97       |
| Receipts:                          | <u>25,894.89</u>   |
| Cash balance:                      | \$ 47,721.86       |
| Expenditures:                      | <u>- 17,729.16</u> |
| Balance on Hand 19 September 2017: | \$ 29,992.70       |
| Less reserves and payables:        | <u>- 19,270.69</u> |
| Unencumbered balance:              | \$ 10,722.01       |

### The Patriot

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Send articles or comments to:

Richmond Area Chapter - MOAA  
ATTN: Newsletter Editor

P. O. Box 72604, Richmond, VA 23235-8017

(Editor: CDR John Baumgarten)

## Upcoming Events

### 24 January 2018 Annual Memorial Ceremony



At our 24 January dinner meeting at the Meadowbrook Country Club, we will pause to honor and remember those chapter members and spouses who passed away during 2017. Our event will also feature a traditional "Missing Man" table to honor those service men and women who have given their lives for our country. The RAC-MOAA chapter members and spouses to be recognized include:

#### Officer Members

|                              |                           |                           |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| LCDR Harry Stoddard, USN     | CAPT Burness Ansell, USN  |                           |
| LTC Clayton Marr, USA        | MGEN Marshall McCabe, USA |                           |
| CAPT C. Denis Gilchrist, USN | LTC Eliot Clarke, USA     |                           |
| CW3 Earl Ladlee, USA         | LCDR Darl Jewell, USN     |                           |
| MAJ Ryland Bailey, USAF      | LTC Thomas Whalen, USA    | LtCOL L. W. Houston, USMC |
| LtCol Phillips Foote, USAF   | LTC James Contreras, USA  | CW4 Robert Gorey, USA     |
| COL J. Walter Shugart, USA   | CAPT Otis Daily, USN      |                           |

#### Auxiliary Members

|                  |              |            |
|------------------|--------------|------------|
| Patricia Breeden | Halma Wilson | Mary Jonas |
|------------------|--------------|------------|

#### Spouses

|               |               |             |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Creola Gentry | Anne Dolbeare | Peggy Jones |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|

If anyone knows of other chapter members or spouses who passed away during 2017 but are not listed above, please contact COL Jim Rose at 804-276-6775 at your earliest convenience. Thanks.

### 28 March 2018 Beyond the Fame and Notoriety: Medical Marvels at Richmond's Chimborazo Hospital

Please mark your calendars today for the 28 March dinner meeting at Meadowbrook Country Club. Our guest speaker will be Art Wingo, Master Volunteer with the National Park Service Richmond National Battlefield and a featured interpreter at the Chimborazo Medical Hospital Museum.

Mr. Wingo will discuss this famous hospital's construction, management and closing. This presentation will also highlight the doctors, staff and medical practices during the war in the context of Chimborazo's operation. Models of the past and present structures will be displayed.

You don't want to miss this unique session.



### 23 May 2018 Annual ROTC Night



Be sure to join us at the Meadowbrook Country Club on 23 May for our annual "ROTC Night," where we present \$1,000 Leader-Scholar awards to senior-year Junior ROTC cadets who have been accepted into collegiate ROTC or service-academy programs in pursuit of careers as military officers.

Since these awards were established in 2002 by the late COL Melville A. Drisko Jr., our chapter has presented these awards to several dozen outstanding cadets. As you will note on Page 6, we are close to achieving our goal of \$5,000 for this year's awards, but your continued financial support will allow us to recognize even more deserving JROTC students.



## Chapter News



## Chapter Supports Families of the Wounded

On 11 November 2017, a RAC-MOAA foursome played in the charity golf tournament at Birkdale Golf Club to help raise funds for Families of the Wounded Fund (FOTWF).

Pictured from left to right are LTC Ken Rupp, CPT Bill Haneke (of the FOTWF board), BG Joel McKean, COL Guy Roberts and LTC Owen Waltman (all RAC-MOAA members).

Using donations received for its MCAP Fund, RAC-MOAA donated \$1,000 to support the Families of the Wounded.

## In Memoriam

COL J. Walter Shugart  
United States Army

CAPT Otis P. Daily  
United States Navy

Mrs Mary Elizabeth Jonas  
Auxiliary Member

*Our condolences on the passing of these great Patriots*

## Chapter Membership Report

|                   | Reg | Aux | Hon | Total |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| 1 January 2017:   | 496 | 93  | 9   | 598   |
| Gains:            | 28  | 13  | 0   | 41    |
| Losses:           | 73  | 24  | 1   | 98    |
| 31 December 2017: | 451 | 82  | 8   | 541   |

See Page 5 for a listing of our most recent new chapter members.

## Don't Forget to Renew Membership for 2018

Dues notices for 2018 membership renewals were sent to 358 chapter members in early November. To date, there are still a large number of members who have not sent in their 2018 dues. If you received a dues notice, please pay your dues by 31 December 2017, to help fund our chapter operations for 2018. If you lost or misplaced your dues notice or are unsure if your dues are paid, please contact CDR John Baumgarten (see below) to verify your membership status.

## Chapter Contacts - 2018 thru 2019

### Elected Officers & Directors

|                    |                      |          |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------|
| President          | CAPT Mary Lou Wassel | 551-1878 |
| 1st Vice-President | BG Joel McKean       | 562-8475 |
| 2nd Vice-president | LTC Craig Pinsker    | 301-1222 |
| Past President     | CAPT Hardy Josephson | 641-9578 |
| Secretary          | LTC Terry Moore      | 739-8112 |
| Treasurer          | LTC Owen Waltman     | 796-1113 |
| Director-at-Large  | COL Don Kaiserman    | 338-3423 |
| Director-at-Large  | COL Mark Rich        | 706-6650 |

### Appointed Directors

|                     |                      |          |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------|
| Member Services     | CDR John Baumgarten  | 379-7586 |
| Legislative Affairs | LTC Craig Pinsker    | 301-1222 |
| Youth Programs      | COL Alan Cunningham  | 796-7818 |
| Personal Affairs    | COL Jim Rose         | 176-6775 |
| Transition Services | Vacant               |          |
| Publicity           | COL Jim Rose         | 276-6775 |
| Spouse Liaison      | Mrs Rosemary Salcedo | 360-0957 |
| Hospitality         | LTC Joe Tarantino    | 276-5393 |
| Trips & Tours       | Vacant               |          |
| Chaplain            | LTC Ken Rupp         | 639-0179 |



Pictured above Past President CAPT Hardy Josephson makes a donation of \$500 from our MCAP Fund to Mr. Mark Casper, director of the "Tech for Troops" program, which provides technical skills to troops in transition.

## More News

### Welcome to New Members

MAJ David Pitts, USA  
LTC Hampton Hart, USA  
COL Wayne Powell, USA  
COL Mike Flanagan, USA  
LTC Joseph Davis, USA  
MAJ Thomas Marlow, USA  
CW5 John Anderson, USA  
COL Scott McConnell, USA  
MAJ Brad Bergman, USMC  
LTC John Rogala, USA  
LTC Norman Walker, USA  
LTC Thomas Smith, USA  
CWO4 Thomas Lindley, USN  
LTC Ronald Sims, USA  
COL John McNeil, USAF  
CDR Alan DeRoco, USN  
CPT Allison Heist, USAF  
Mrs Sandra Daily, Auxiliary  
Mrs Shirley Shugart, Auxiliary  
Mrs Lillian Gorey, Auxiliary

### MOAA Reduces Cost of ROTC and JROTC Awards

For 2017, MOAA decided to pass on the total cost of providing ROTC, JROTC and Gold Bar program awards to MOAA chapters. This policy change caused RAC-MOAA to incur a substantial expense to continue this outreach effort.

Thankfully, due to a significant amount of feedback received by the MOAA president and MOAA Council and Chapter Affairs from state councils and chapters throughout MOAA, a recent policy change was issued by MOAA Council and Chapter Affairs, which will reduce the individual chapter cost of providing these awards by fifty percent.

For example, instead of RAC-MOAA paying about \$6.00 for a ROTC or JROTC award, the cost in 2018 will be about \$3.00, with MOAA picking up the rest of the cost. Our voice was heard!

*Happy New Year  
2018*

### Help Present ROTC and JROTC Awards

It is time to think about volunteering to help RAC-MOAA present ROTC and JROTC awards in the Spring of 2018. RAC-MOAA provides MOAA awards to ROTC students at the University of Richmond and its five satellite units, as well as the 25 JROTC units listed below:

|                     |                   |                |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| King William HS     | Armstrong HS      | Atlee HS       |
| Benedictine HS      | Charles City HS   | Cumberland HS  |
| Deep Run HS         | Franklin Military | Henrico HS     |
| George Wythe HS     | Hermitage HS      | Huguenot HS    |
| Highland Springs HS | Lee-Davis HS      | James River HS |
| J. R. Tucker HS     | John Marshall HS  | Manchester HS  |
| Meadowbrook HS      | Monacan HS        | Thomas Dale HS |
| Patrick Henry HS    | Powhatan HS       | Varina HS      |
| Goochland County HS |                   |                |

Presenting these awards gives recognition to RAC-MOAA for its community outreach efforts, and it means a lot to the cadets to have their awards presented by military officers.

If you are an alumnus or alumna of any of these schools, or otherwise wish to support this worthwhile program, please contact our Youth Programs Director, COL Alan Cunningham at 804-796-7818 or at [cunninga@gmail.com](mailto:cunninga@gmail.com). COL Cunningham will provide presenters with the date, time and place of the awards ceremonies for the various schools. Thanks in advance for your support.



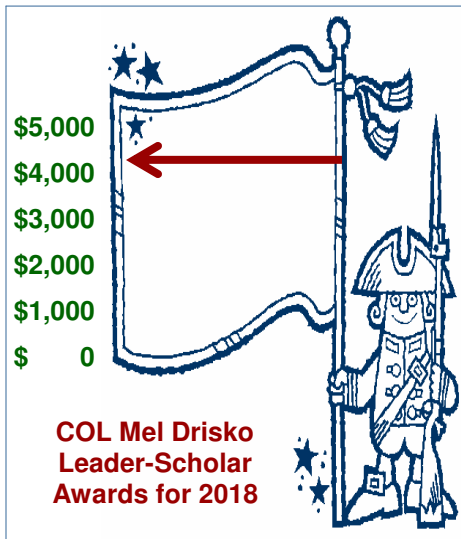
### Chapter Supports VA War Memorial

Pictured above, RAC-MOAA's MCAP Committee Chairman, LTC Ken Ruppap, presents a check for \$250 to Mr. Paul Levengood, Vice-president for Financial Development at the Virginia War Memorial. This donation was made possible from your donations to the MCAP Fund.

## Forms & Reservations

An envelope addressed to the Chapter is enclosed. If the envelope is missing mail correspondence to:

**Richmond Area Chapter  
MOAA  
P. O. Box 72604  
Richmond, VA 23235-8017**



## Chapter Database or E-mail Address Corrections

Please make the following changes to the RAC-MOAA Membership Database and/or my e-mail address:

Request you add ZipCode Plus 4, if this is not already on your address label, or of this is a change of address. The Plus 4 gives you much faster mail delivery service. Thank you. Keeping us informed of address changes saves money.

## Help Recognize America's Future Officers

Why not take this opportunity to help RAC-MOAA reach its Year 2018 program goal of \$5,000 for the chapter's *COL Mel Drisko Memorial Leader-Scholar Fund*. As shown by the flag on the left, some chapter members have already helped us make progress toward our goal. Join this philanthropic group today by making your personal contribution to the Leader-Scholar Fund.

## COL Mel Drisko Leader-Scholar Awards Contribution

I wish to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to support the *COL Mel Drisko Memorial Leader-Scholar Awards Fund*. This fund provides monetary awards for senior-year JROTC cadets who have demonstrated the leadership and scholastic ability to pursue collegiate careers as military officers. *All contributions are tax-deductible.*

Printed Name and Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

## Military Community Assistance Program (MCAP) Contribution

I wish to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to support the Military Community Assistance Program (MCAP). This fund provides money to support one or more of the following initiatives: postage for care packages to deployed troops; support for wounded warriors and their families; memorials for troops killed-in-action; expenses for "Welcome Home" ceremonies and events for troops returning from deployment; and other means of necessary and worthwhile support for the military and veterans communities of Virginia. *All contributions are tax-deductible.*

Printed Name and Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

## January 2018 Dinner Meeting Reservation

Please make reservations for \_\_\_\_\_ persons for the dinner meeting on **Wednesday, 24 January 2018** at the **Meadowbrook Country Club**. My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (**\$27.00 per person**) payable to "**RAC-MOAA**" is enclosed.

### Buffet Menu

Rank and name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Salad Bar  
Three-entrée Buffet  
Seasonal Starch  
Vegetable du Jour  
Rolls & Butter  
Gourmet Dessert Bar  
Coffee or Tea**

Are you attending a Chapter meeting for the first time? \_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No

Check here if you need a ride to the meeting

**Deadline for reservations or cancellations  
Friday, 19 January 2018**