



# The Patriot

Richmond Area Chapter - Military Officers Association of America - January 2026



## The President's Corner by LCDR Wayne Sine



As we begin the new year, I want to thank COL Vince Cammarata for TWICE serving as President of our Chapter. Vince has been an inspiring leader of our Chapter, and he capped off his Presidency with the recent Gala at the Grapevine Restaurant (photos on page 4), where we all enjoyed good food and a good time. As we enter the new year with a newly elected board, I'd like to thank departing members, LTC Craig Pinsker (Second Vice President), CAPT Hardy Josephson (Transition Services), CDR Cliff Noe (Director at Large), and Rosemary Salcedo (Surviving Spouse Chair) for their service to our Chapter. In addition, I'd like to thank those Board members who have agreed to continue in their current roles for the next two years. I'd also like to welcome our newest Board member, COL Tony Atlas, who has agreed to fill the JROTC role for our Chapter. MAJ John Nahm, in addition to being the new Vice President, has agreed to continue as our webmaster and take on the new role of Membership Co-Chair with Captain Mary Lou Wassel. Mary Lou has faithfully filled this role for many years, but with her new role as President of the MOAA Virginia Council of Chapters, she needed assistance with performing this role. Mary Lou, thank you for your years of service in this role and to John Nahm for stepping up.

Our Chapter has several roles that still need to be filled in the coming months. Those roles include Legislative Chair, Surviving Spouse Chair, and Personal Affairs Chair. We need to identify members who are willing to transition into these roles. If you have an interest in helping with Membership, MOAA's legislative initiatives, Surviving Spouse issues, or Personal Affairs issues, we can provide training for each of these important and rewarding roles. Contact me for further information about what is involved in these positions.

Lastly, we'd like your input on Speakers, Topics and Venues you'd like for the next two years. Please offer your suggestions or requests to me or any member of our board. Our incoming Board looks forward to serving you, our members.

## In Memoriam

In keeping with our tradition, we will pause during our 1 February 2026 meeting to honor and remember our chapter members who passed during 2025. If you know of other members not listed below who passed in 2025, please contact CAPT Mary Lou Wassel at 804-551-1878 or [membership@racmoaa.org](mailto:membership@racmoaa.org) by 1 February.

Known members who passed in 2025 and will be honored at our Annual Memorial Service on 02-01-26 include:

2025-02-16	COL	GAYLE	W	FIX	USA	Retired
2025-03-18	CDR	WALTER	D	TUCKER	USN	Retired
2025-12-30	BGEN	GERALD	R	CHANCELLOR	USAF	Retired

*Our sincere condolences are extended to the families and friends of these esteemed patriots of our chapter.*



Click the TAKE ACTION graphic above to see Active Legislative Campaigns

**OUR MAILING ADDRESS**  
**Richmond Area Chapter—**  
**MOAA**  
**P. O. Box 985**  
**Chesterfield, VA 23832-9998**

Read this newsletter on our webpage at: <https://www.racmoaa.org/Newsletter>

**Next Member Meeting is on Sunday, February 1st!**  
**at the Virginia War Memorial for a buffet lunch catered by Panera Bread. More details on page 2.**

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# February 1st Member Luncheon Meeting



On Sunday, 1 February 2026, the RAC-MOAA Chapter will host a member meeting, luncheon, and memorial service at the Virginia War Memorial, 621 S Belvidere St, Richmond, VA 23220-6504. The luncheon and presentation are scheduled for 1 to 3 PM. Free covered parking is available in the attached garage with elevator accessibility. Lunch, catered by Panera, will include a variety of salads, fruit, assorted sandwiches, and desserts, along with coffee, tea and lemonade.

Our featured guest speaker will be Mark Casper, CEO of Tech for Troops (T4T). T4T's Mission is dedicated to empowering Veterans with computers, skills, and Information Technology (IT) work force training. While located in

Richmond, Tech For Troops has national reach. Mark knows that working computers can provide a new life to struggling Veterans rather than being discarded. The T4T Game Corps "Aiming For Zero" program has saved many lives in the last 2.5 years. In almost 11 years, T4T has responsibly reused or recycled 2 million tons of e-waste and this number is growing.

Mark, a Marine Corps Veteran, has been married for 39 years, is the father of two daughters and a proud "Grampy" to his granddaughters. Mark has found his workplace in life at Tech for Troops.

Mark will provide an update on new and expanded activities at T4T since he last spoke with our Chapter a number of years ago. Mark is eager to share news about new outreaches to Veterans, thanks, in part, to our Chapter's recent \$500 donation to T4T from our Military Community Assistance Program (MCAP).

Following Mark's presentation, our annual Memorial Service will be held in honor of Chapter members who passed away during the 2025 calendar year. Chaplain Ken Ruppar will lead us in the Memorial Service.

Dress is business casual and all guests are welcome. [Payment can be made online at the RAC-MOAA website](#) using credit or debit card or by check mailed to PO Box 985, Chesterfield VA 23832-9998. If paying by check, please also send an email to [Treasurer@racmoaa.org](mailto:Treasurer@racmoaa.org) or phone 804-796-1113. The reservations deadline is 28 January 2026.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance 01 January 2025:	\$24,256
Receipts	16,317
Expenses	(19,353)
<b>Ending Balance 13 October 2025:</b>	<b>\$21,220</b>
<b>Encumbered Funds</b>	<b>(9,831)</b>
<b>UNENCUMBERED BALANCE</b>	<b>\$11,389</b>

## Members Who Donated \$100 or More in 2025

CDR John Beall	MAJ Harry Roye
MAJ John Nahm	LTC John Huber
Vincent Burgess	LCDR Wayne Sine
Col Anthony Pais	Mrs. Betty Labin
Mrs. Jane Drisko	CAPT Mary Lou Wassel
COL Mark Rich	BG John Mountcastle
LTC Ed Gilchrist	

## Membership Report

As of 12/31/25	Regular	Surviving Spouse	Honorary	Total
Receiving Services	162	24	4	190
Currently Paid	132	20		152
Lapsed/ Unpaid	30	4		34

Please note: If 2025 dues remain unpaid after 31 March, individuals will no longer receive communications. For membership questions/info or if you are willing to learn and work with our Membership Chair, please contact CAPT Mary Lou Wassel at [membership@racmoaa.org](mailto:membership@racmoaa.org)

## The Patriot

The Richmond Area Chapter (RAC-MOAA) is an independent nonpartisan affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), a member of the Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC-MOAA), and a non-profit, non-stock corporation registered in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Patriot is published five times each year in January, March, May, September, and November

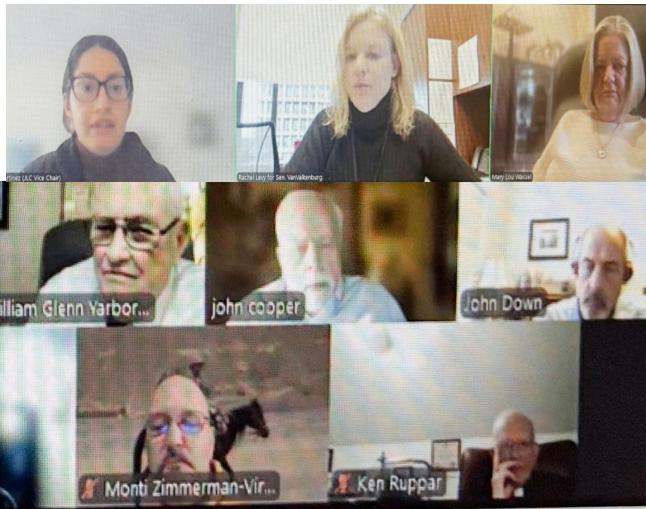
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Email: [editor@racmoaa.org](mailto:editor@racmoaa.org)  
Editor: COL Alan Cunningham, USAR (Ret.)

# 4 December 2025 Legislative Forum

On December 4, 2025, RAC-MOAA hosted its 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Legislative Forum. To accommodate the schedules of legislators, two sessions were held, one at 0730 and another at 1500. Each session included discussions of the five Legislative Initiatives developed by the Joint Leadership Council (JLC) of Veterans Service Organizations. This year, the Forum included participation by the "Point of Contact" (POC) assigned to each Initiative as well as the invited Legislators who represent them. As the experts on each Legislative Initiative, the POCs were well prepared to provide in-depth explanations of their Initiative and to answer all questions raised by participating Virginia Legislators. The five Legislative Initiatives discussed during the Forum included: Stop Unscrupulous Firms from Exploiting Veterans; Veteran Suicide Death Information Access Veteran Textbook Support Grant; Exempt Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) from Limits on Use of Proceeds from Charitable Gaming; Inclusion of USPHS and NOAA in Income Tax Subtraction.

Detailed descriptions for each Legislative Initiative can be found at the following website: <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/about-us/boards-foundations/joint-leadership-council-of-veterans-service-organizations>. The JLC initiatives can be found near the bottom of the webpage under **JLC 2026 Initiatives**.

For the 0730 session, participants from Top Left include Katherine Martinez (JLC Vice Chair), Rachel Levy representing Senator VanValkenburg, Mary Lou Wassel (RAC-MOAA) Second row from left to right: Wayne Sine (RAC-MOAA), John Nahm (RAC-MOAA), Mark Rich (RAC-MOAA), Glen Yarborough (JLC Legislative Chair), John Cooper (JLC member representing Air Force Sergeants Association), John Down (JLC member representing MOAA). Third row from left to right: Delegate Buddy Fowler, Jill Eyler representing Senator DeSteph, Rick Raskin (JLC member representing Veterans of Foreign Wars), Monti Zimmerman (Representing MOAA), and Ken Ruppar (RAC-MOAA).



For the 1500 session, participants from Top Left include: Wayne Sine (RAC-MOAA), Mary Lou Wassel (RAC-MOAA), Glen Yarborough (JLC Legislative Chair), John Cooper (JLC member representing Air Force Sergeants Association), Delegate Buddy Fowler. Second row from left to right: Delegate Dan Helmer, Katherine Martinez (JLC Vice Chair), John Down (JLC member representing MOAA), John Nahm (RAC-MOAA), Mark Rich (RAC-MOAA), Rachel Levy representing Senator VanValkenburg, Ken Ruppar (RAC-MOAA), Jill Eyler representing Senator DeSteph, Rick Raskin (JLC member representing Veterans of Foreign Wars), Monti Zimmerman (Representing MOAA), Newly elected Delegate Lindsey Dougherty, Senator Ryan McDougle, and Dara Hechter (DVS Policy Analyst). Another participant who was not captured in the pictures was Bill Aramony (JLC Chairman).



# Holiday Gala Photos



## 19 November Presentation to Tech For Troops



This picture was taken on November 19th during the RAC-MOAA November Board Meeting held at Tech for Troops. The picture shows our chapter donating a \$500 check (from RAC-MOAA's "Military Community Assistance Program") to Tech for Troops. Pictured from left to right, are: Wayne Sine, Curt Powell, Craig Pinsker, Hardy Josephson, Jennie Nienaber (office manager at Tech for Troops), Darryl Crewe (key team member at Tech for Troops), Owen Waltman, Mark Rich and John Nahm. This was RAC-MOAA's first in-person Board meeting in several years. The meeting was also attended virtually, via Zoom, by Board members who could not attend in-person. The facilities at Tech for Troops were ideal for the hybrid meeting (held both in-person and virtually).

## Coming Events at the Virginia War Memorial

### Livestream – National Museum of the Marine Corps WWII Gallery Tour

**Date:** 01/22/2026 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM; **VIRTUAL**—**Registration Required**

Join the VA WM for a live virtual tour of the National Museum of the Marine Corps as a museum educator guides you through their World War II Gallery highlights and learn about the important role the Marine Corps played in WWII.

### 35 Years Beyond Operation Desert Storm

**Date:** 03/21/2026 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM; **Adult Programs, IN-PERSON**

Salute to Service will provide veterans and their families with a day of celebration and remembrance of Operation Desert Storm, all while fostering an atmosphere of peer support, camaraderie, and historical reflection. **Request for Invitations are now open.**

Location: Virginia War Memorial, 621 S. Belvidere Street, Richmond, Virginia 23220

For information about these and other events, go to: <https://vawarmemorial.org/events/>

# Veteran & Military Year-Round Discounts

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has compiled a [list of Veteran & military year-round discounts](#). The sharing of any non-VA information does not constitute an endorsement of products and services on the part of the VA. Verify information with the provider when you are interested in using the discount to insure that the information is current.

Researching Veteran discounts often means dodging outdated information, misleading sites or even malware. The VA has created a reliable list: no fees, and fully vetted. They've got your six.

This list was created in 2021, but verified as of Dec. 12, 2025. Updates will follow as needed.

Here are the areas with discounts available to Veterans that you can find at:

<https://news.va.gov/85765/veteran-discounts-available-year-round/>

<a href="#">Accessories</a>	<a href="#">Home and garden</a>	<a href="#">Restaurants</a>
<a href="#">Automotive</a>	<a href="#">Jewelry</a>	<a href="#">Retail</a>
<a href="#">Clothing and shoes</a>	<a href="#">Hair, face and body</a>	<a href="#">Subscriptions and streaming services</a>
<a href="#">Computer, electronics and gaming</a>	<a href="#">Memberships</a>	<a href="#">Travel and lodging</a>
<a href="#">Entertainment</a>	<a href="#">Miscellaneous</a>	<a href="#">Wireless and internet</a>
<a href="#">Health, wellness and fitness</a>	<a href="#">Medical and prescriptions</a>	
<a href="#">Food and beverage</a>	<a href="#">Outdoors and sporting goods</a>	
	<a href="#">Pet and animal</a>	

## Access MOAA's Webinar Archive

As a member benefit, PREMIUM and LIFE members of MOAA can find expert guidance on benefits, finance, and more in the Webinar Archive found at: <https://www.moaa.org/content/benefits-and-discounts/transition-and-careers/webinar-archive/>

Latest Featured Webinar Archived in December 2025 is [Understanding Your VA Benefits](#)

To see the Full Webinar Archives By Subject, [click here](#).

MOAA's Transition Center regularly presents webinars offering in-depth analysis on finance and benefits, valuable advice on careers and transitioning, and information on your earned veteran benefits. To see MOAA's schedule of upcoming webinars, [click here](#).

For council and chapter webinars, [click here](#).

## Cost of Living Adjustments are Finalized

The 2026 Veterans disability compensation rates are in! Starting Jan. 1, 2026, all compensation benefit rates have been increased by 2.8% to match adjustments made to Social Security benefits. This increase impacts [disability benefits, clothing allowance, dependency and indemnity compensation \(DIC\), as well as other assistance programs](#) provided by the VA.

For more information and how to compute your disability pay, [click here](#).

All military and civilian government benefits to include Social Security, military pay, retirement pay, civil service pay and retirement are also increased by 2.8%. Unfortunately, Medicare Part B premiums also increase so the pay will not show the entire 2.8% increase as some of the increase is lost to increase medical insurance for Medicare. All of these payments were in effect for the 1 January 2026 paychecks so payments received this month should show the increase in pay.

# Chapter News

## Chapter Contacts - 2026

### Elected Officers & Directors

President	LCDR Wayne Sine	804-363-5406
Vice-President	MAJ John Nahm	804-839-5635
Secretary	LTC Terry Moore	804-739-8112
Treasurer	LTC Owen Waltman	804-796-1113
Director-at-Large	COL Tony Atlas	804-931-7894
Director-at-Large	LtCol Curt Powell	703-999-5816
Past President	COL Vincent Cammarata	804-338-8975

### Appointed Directors

Member Services	CAPT Mary Lou Wassel MAJ John Nahm	804-551-1878 804-839-5635
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### Appointed Directors

Legislative Affairs	Vacant	
Youth Programs	COL Anthony Atlas	804-305-8397
Personal Affairs	Vacant	
Transition Services	Vacant	
Publicity	MAJ John Nahm	804-839-5635
Surviving Spouse	Vacant	
Hospitality	LTC Terry Moore	804-739-8112
Special Programs	LTC Owen Waltman	804-796-1113
Chaplain	LTC Ken Ruppar	804-639-0179
Webmaster	MAJ John Nahm	804-839-5635
Editor	COL Alan Cunningham	804-307-7815

### Chapter Database or E-mail Address Corrections ([Login to the Website](#) to make Updates is Preferred)

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

Request you add Zip Code Plus 4. The Plus 4 is needed by the Postal Service and gives you faster mail delivery. It saves the editor time having to look it up for mailings. Thanks, keeping us informed of address changes saves money.

### Reservations for the 1 February Luncheon Buffet Meeting at the Virginia War Memorial

Please make reservations for \_\_\_\_\_ persons for the buffet Luncheon on **Sunday, 1 Feb 26, at 1300**.

My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (**\$35.00 per person**) payable to "RAC-MOAA" is enclosed. **Please respond by 28 Jan!**

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

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

Are you attending a RAC-MOAA Event for the first time? \_\_\_\_\_

If you are mailing a check, please call 804-796-1113, or email the Treasurer (treasurer@racmoaa.org) to let him know to expect your check. Registration on web page is preferred method.



### COL Mel Drisko Leader-Scholar Awards Contribution

I wish to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support the *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 degrees and careers as military officers.

Enclose check payable to RAC-MOAA & put Leader-Scholar in comments. *All contributions are tax-deductible*.

Print 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: Virginia Veterans Services Foundation; the VA National Guard Foundation; The Fisher House at Richmond VAMC and Sitter-Barfoot Veterans Care Center; The Spinal Cord Injury Unit Recreation Services; USO; and other worthwhile military and veterans' organizations of Virginia.

Enclose check payable to RAC-MOAA & put MCAP in comments. *All contributions are tax-deductible*.

Print Name and Rank: \_\_\_\_\_