



The Patriot

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



The President's Corner by LCDR Wayne Sine



Celebrate the holiday season with us at [RAC-MOAA's annual Holiday Gala](#) on Friday, December 4th, at VFW Post 9808 in Mechanicsville, Virginia. The new venue displays military photographs, posters, and memorabilia that honor America's military history. We look forward to celebrating with you. And don't forget our [8 November meeting](#) at the Virginia War Memorial! Additional details for both meetings appear later in this newsletter.

As Veterans Day approaches, our nation honors the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Their courage and dedication to protecting our freedoms exemplify the highest ideals of service and sacrifice. In war and peace, veterans have answered the call of duty with resilience, leaving an enduring legacy in their communities and across the nation.

To our RAC-MOAA members, I offer my deepest gratitude and respect. Your service, leadership, and continued contributions inspire future generations and strengthen our shared commitment to citizenship and patriotism. This Veterans Day, we honor your achievements, recognize the sacrifices of military families, and reaffirm our support for all who have worn our nation's uniform. Thank you for your service and enduring legacy.

A CALL TO ACTION: Our Chapter needs members who are willing to step up and volunteer. Whether you are interested in serving as an officer, joining the board, or simply helping with one of our activities, your participation is important. Our organization depends on members who are willing to contribute their time, ideas, and experience. The following areas are where we have the greatest need for volunteers: Membership, Legislative Affairs, and Webmaster.

2027 Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)

COLA Watch: Upcoming Raise Set to 3.6% for Uniformed Services Retirees, Social Security and VA Disability Recipients, Others

The final figure was announced Oct. 14. The [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) (BLS) publishes the *Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers* (CPI-W) on a monthly basis. The Social Security Administration uses the CPI-W to [annually adjust benefits](#) paid to Social Security beneficiaries and Supplemental Security Income recipients. The average of the last three months of the fiscal year is used as the baseline to determine the Cost of Living Adjustment for the next year. This is used for all military payments.

Next Member Meeting is on Sunday, 8 November!

Meeting starts at 1:00pm at the Virginia War Memorial, catered by Panera Bread. More details on page 2.

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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>

8 November Membership Meeting



The November membership meeting will be on Sunday, 8 November 2026, at the Virginia War Memorial, 621 S. Belvidere St., Richmond, VA 23220. The luncheon and presentation are scheduled for 1 to 3 PM. Free covered parking is available in the attached garage with elevator accessibility.

The Speaker will be Kristopher Battles, the Artist-in-Residence at the USMC Museum in Quantico. Kristopher Battles is a contemporary fine artist creating artworks in a variety of media which honor the highest traditions of representational art. Battles graduated with a BFA in Painting from Northeast Missouri State University (now Truman State University) in December 1991, and earned his MFA in Illustration from the University of Hartford in September 2013.

Originally serving as a Marine Reservist from 1986 until 1996, Battles became a Marine combat artist after reenlisting in 2006, and deployed to Overseas Contingency Operations several times to create art for the United States Marine Corps, serving in that billet until 2014. From 2014 until 2019, Battles served as a civilian combat artist for the Naval History and Heritage Command at the Navy Yard in Washington, DC. Battles is currently the Marine Corps Artist in Residence, on staff at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, VA.

Lunch, catered by Panera, will include a variety of salads, fruit, assorted sandwiches, and desserts, along with coffee, tea and lemonade. Cost for the event is \$35 per person. Payment can be made online at the [RAC-MOAA website](https://www.racmoaa.org) 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 or phone 804-796-1113. The reservations deadline is 4 November 2026.

Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC) 4th Qtr Meeting

Our chapter successfully co-hosted the VCOC Q4 Meeting on 10/13 at the Virginia War Memorial. With over 30 members and guests in attendance an additional 7 members participating virtually on ZOOM, 12 council chapters were represented. Attendees had opportunities to share success stories and network over a BBQ buffet lunch. Guest speaker, Karen Ruedisueli, MOAA Director of Health Affairs, Government Relations, provided a legislative update on TRICARE, Military Treatment Facilities and pharmacy benefit challenges.



Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance 01 January 2026:	\$21,220
Receipts	14,070
Expenses	(15,240)
Ending Balance 16 September 2026:	\$20,050
Encumbered Funds	(13,343)
UNENCUMBERED BALANCE	\$6,707

Membership Report

As of 10/18/26	Regular	Surviving Spouse	Honorary	Total
Receiving Services	160	22	4	186

Volunteer members willing to assist with Membership are vitally needed. If you are willing to learn and work with our Membership Chair or wish to join our chapter, please email membership@racmoaa.org.

Please Welcome Our Recent New Chapter Members

Name	Service	Date Joined
Ted Leeman	LTC, USA, Ret	09/01/26
Shelley Marshall	CAPT, USN, Ret	10/17/26

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 normally published five times each year in January, March, May, August, and October.

Send articles or comments to:

Richmond Area Chapter - MOAA

ATTN: Newsletter Editor

P.O. Box 985, Chesterfield, VA 23832-9998

Email: editor@racmoaa.org

Editor: COL Alan Cunningham, USAR (Ret.)

Chapter Legislative Update

RAC-MOAA will host its 19th Annual Virtual Legislative Forum on Thursday, December 3, 2026, with Zoom sessions at 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

The forum will highlight legislative initiatives for the 2027 General Assembly developed by Virginia's Joint Leadership Council (JLC) of Veterans Service Organizations.

The JLC represents approximately 25 veterans service organizations operating in Virginia. At the time of writing, it has identified—but not yet prioritized—up to eight initiatives:

- Women Veterans Study
- VMSDEP 2027
- Charitable Gaming Proceeds
- PTSD Training
- USPHS and NOAA Tax Relief
- New JLC Report Requirement
- JLC Transportation Pilot
- State Annuity Tax Exemption

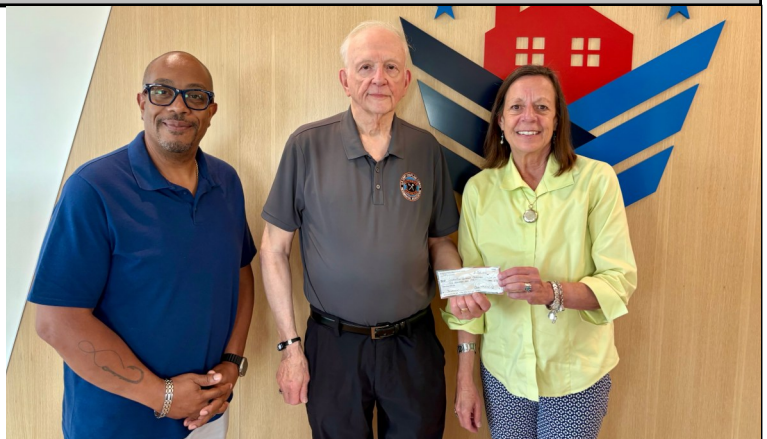
Detailed position papers are available on the [JLC website](#) near the bottom of the page under "JLC 2027 Proposed Initiatives."

Forum format: Members of the 2027 General Assembly will be invited to learn about the JLC's leading priorities for the 2027 session. Invitees will include legislators whose districts fall within RAC-MOAA's territory and those whose districts are covered by each initiative's point of contact (POC). Each POC will present the initiative and answer legislators' questions. The 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. sessions will allow legislators to attend at the time most convenient for them.

RAC-MOAA is seeking a chapter member to serve as Legislative Chair. The chair will represent RAC-MOAA in advocacy campaigns identified by MOAA's national office and in local legislative matters. Interested members should contact any chapter officer for more information.

MCAP Presentation to Liberation Veterans Services

LTC Ken Rupp (middle) presented an MCAP check to LVS. Accepting on behalf of LVS were staff members Ken Sparks, office manager (left), and Lynne Burkness, Chief Advancement Officer (right). LVS is one of many veterans organizations supported by the Richmond Area Chapter of MOAA through your donations to the **Military Community Assistance Program (MCAP)**. Your contributions make a meaningful difference in our community by helping local veterans.



TRICARE Open Season begins Monday, Nov. 9

By TRICARE Communications

TRICARE Open Season begins Monday, Nov. 9. If you're eligible for TRICARE, this is your chance to enroll in a health plan or change plans for coverage that starts Jan. 1, 2027. You can make eligible changes through Tuesday, Dec. 8.

Keep reading for answers to common questions about TRICARE Open Season.

Does TRICARE Open Season apply to me?

TRICARE Open Season applies to you if you have or are eligible for one of these plans:

TRICARE Prime

Uniformed Services Family Health Plan

TRICARE Prime Demo

TRICARE Prime Remote

TRICARE Prime Overseas

TRICARE Prime Remote Overseas

TRICARE Select

TRICARE Select Overseas

How do I know if open season doesn't apply to me?

Open season doesn't apply to you if:

- You're an active duty service member.

You're 65 or older and have TRICARE For Life coverage. This coverage starts automatically once you have Medicare Part A and Part B.

You have a premium-based plan, such as TRICARE Reserve Select, TRICARE Retired Reserve, or TRICARE Young Adult. You can purchase these plans at any time during the year.

What are my options during open season?

If TRICARE Open Season applies to you, you have three options:

- **Stay in your current plan.** You don't need to take any action to keep your coverage.
- **Enroll in a plan.** If you don't have a TRICARE health plan now, you can enroll during open season if you qualify.

For additional information, visit <https://newsroom.tricare.mil/News/TRICARE-News>

Coming Events at the Virginia War Memorial

- **VWM Livestream – Panic in the Persian Gulf: USS Iwo Jima Boiler Room Explosion**
- **Date:** October 29, 2026 2:00 pm– 3:00 pm
- **Categories:** Adult Programs, VIRTUAL

On the night of October 30, 1990, the USS Iwo Jima (LPH-2), an amphibious assault ship in the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Shield, suffered a catastrophic boiler room explosion that killed 10 sailors. Dr. Clay Mountcastle, Director of the Virginia War Memorial, will investigate the facts of what occurred on the night of October 30, 1990, and highlight other catastrophes in the Persian Gulf of similar magnitude. Although free, register early for this ONLINE ONLY event.

- **Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony**
- **Date:** November 11, 2026 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
- **Categories:** Children & Families, IN-PERSON

Join the Virginia War Memorial for the Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony as we honor Virginia's veterans and recognize the service and sacrifice of all who have worn our nation's uniform. Location: Virginia War Memorial, 621 S. Belvidere Street, Richmond, Virginia 23220

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

Chapter News

Chapter Contacts - 2026

Elected Officers & Directors

President	LCDR Wayne Sine	804-363-5406
Vice-President	COL Tony Atlas	804-931-7894
Secretary	LTC Terry Moore	804-739-8112
Treasurer	LTC Owen Waltman	804-796-1113
Director-at-Large	Vacant	
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	804-551-1878
VCOE Rep.	COL Mark Rich	804-706-6650

Appointed Directors

Legislative Affairs	Vacant	
Youth Programs	Col Anthony Pais	703-987-0827
Personal Affairs	Vacant	
Transition Services	Vacant	
Publicity	Vacant	
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	Vacant	
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 **8 November Luncheon Meeting** at the Virginia War Memorial

Please make reservations for _____ persons for the Luncheon on **Sunday, 8 November 1926, at 1230.**
My check for \$ _____ (**\$35.00 per person**) payable to "**RAC-MOAA**" is enclosed. **Respond by 4 Nov!**

Rank and name: _____

Guest(s): _____

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

Yes ☐ No ☐

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.

GOAL!!!

ALMOST THERE!

KEEP GOING!

WE CAN DO IT!

ACCELERATE!

START!

COL Mel Drisko Leader-Scholar Award

Goal
5/1-12/31/2026
\$2,000
Raised \$3,475
As of 16 Sep 26
174% OF GOAL!

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: _____

GOAL!!!

ALMOST THERE!

KEEP GOING!

WE CAN DO IT!

ACCELERATE!

START!

Military Community Assistance Program (MCAP)

12-Month Goal for 2026
\$4,000
Raised \$4,852
As of 9/16/26
121% of Goal!

Military Community Assistance Program (MCAP) Contribution

I wish to contribute \$ _____ to support the Military Community Assistance Program (MCAP). This fund provides money to support worthwhile military and veterans' organizations of Virginia like: The VA National Guard Foundation; The Richmond Fisher House; Sitter-Barfoot Veterans Care Center; and the USO.
Enclose check payable to RAC-MOAA & put MCAP in comments. *All contributions are tax deductible.*



The Richmond Area Chapter—MOAA *Holiday Gala*



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW
Friday, December 4th, 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM
VFW Post 9808
7168 Flag Lane, Mechanicsville, VA 23111



The evening opens with a social hour at 5:30 PM, with appetizers and a cash bar available.

After the Mechanicsville High School JROTC presents the Colors, the dinner buffet will open at 6:30 PM. The meal features sliced beef tenderloin, mashed potatoes, salad, and apple or chocolate pie. Guests may choose cheese ravioli in place of the beef tenderloin, and a vegan salad option will be offered.

The cost is \$55 per person. Online registration is preferred. Choose one entrée for each attendee: beef tenderloin, cheese ravioli, or the vegan option. To register by mail, complete the form below and mail it with your check to Richmond Area Chapter-MOAA, PO Box 985, Chesterfield, VA 23832-9998. Please allow enough time for delivery and provide an entrée choice for yourself and each guest. The reservation deadline is close of business Monday, **November 23rd**. Holiday festive attire is encouraged, and guests are welcome. Celebrate with fellow members and friends over excellent food, fellowship, holiday cheer, and caroling.

Please make reservations for _____ persons.

Enclosed is my check payable to RAC-MOAA for \$_____ (\$55 per person).

Email _____ Phone# _____

Name _____ ☐ Beef Tenderloin ☐ Cheese Ravioli ☐ Vegan

Guest _____ ☐ Beef Tenderloin ☐ Cheese Ravioli ☐ Vegan

Guest _____ ☐ Beef Tenderloin ☐ Cheese Ravioli ☐ Vegan

Guest _____ ☐ Beef Tenderloin ☐ Cheese Ravioli ☐ Vegan

Guest _____ ☐ Beef Tenderloin ☐ Cheese Ravioli ☐ Vegan