



# The Patriot



Richmond Area Chapter - Military Officers Association of America - January 2025

## The President's Corner by COL Vince Cammarata



Looking back on 2024, we are immensely grateful for our members, supporters, partners, allies and every service member, veteran, family member and survivor we have had the privilege and honor of serving. For 66 years, RAC-MOAA has relentlessly pursued the greatest good for our members and surviving spouses, from within our communities to the halls of Congress, and 2025 will be no different. We celebrate the arrival of a new year and the countless opportunities to continue serving that it brings.

As we look to 2025, we can do so with anticipation for our continued growth while fostering camaraderie not only within our organization but within our veteran community as well. Let us not rest on our 2024 accomplishments; rather, step forward boldly into the unknown of 2025 and further our brand recognition while exploring new and exciting ways to be better stewards of our fellow veterans, our community and one another.

As I close my New Years message, let us acknowledge the service and sacrifices of military members past and present who have defended our American way of life and freedom to observe this holiday season according to our values. Let us also pause and give thanks to those currently standing watch around the world and who are unable to be with family and friends during this time.

Don't forget to sign-up for the [February 16 Meeting](#) at the VA War Memorial and save the date for the March 16 St Patrick's Theme Brunch and May 21st JROTC Leader-Scholar Awards Buffet Dinner—both at Meadowbrook Country Club!

### Social Security Fairness Act: Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) update

The Social Security Fairness Act, HR 82, concerning the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset, was signed into law on January 5, 2025. Upon implementation, the Social Security Fairness Act eliminates the reduction of Social Security benefits while entitled to public pensions from work not covered by Social Security.

**I previously filed for Social Security benefits and they are partially or completely offset.**

At this time, you do not need to take any action except to verify that we have your current mailing address and direct deposit information if it has recently changed. Most people can do this online with their personal [my Social Security](#) account. Visit [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount) to sign in or create your account.



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

### RAC-MOAA

Next Member Meeting is on Sunday, February 16th!

We will be meeting at the Virginia War Memorial for a buffet lunch catered by Mission BBQ. More details on page 2.

### In This Issue

President's Corner	1
SSA Fairness Act	1
MOAA Take Action	1
Feb 16th Meeting	2
In Memoriam	2
Treasurer's Report	2
Membership Report	2
Virginia War Memorial Events	3
Dole Act	3
DLA Expo	4
Holiday Gala Photos	4
2024 VA 4th District Veteran of the Year	5
MCAP News	5
Chapter News	6

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

# Member Luncheon Meeting & Memorial at VWM



On Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, the chapter will host a member meeting, luncheon, and memorial service at the Virginia War Memorial (VWM) at 621 S. Belvidere Street in Richmond. The luncheon and presentation are scheduled for 1 to 3 PM with time available following to tour the VWM until closing at 4 PM . Free covered parking is available in the attached garage with elevator accessibility. The luncheon will be provided by Mission BBQ for an all inclusive price of \$27 per person, and all guests are welcome. Dress is business casual.

Our guest speaker will be Colonel Diana Kupchella, USAF, Ret, President of the Virginia Council of Chapters of MOAA (VCOC). She served on active duty from 1971 to 1997 in a variety of stateside and foreign assignments including Chief Nurse in Okinawa, a Fellowship with Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii in Washington, D.C., and Director of Medical Inquiries and Information in the Office of the Air Force Surgeon General. Post service, Diana graduated from Law School at George Mason University and was admitted to the Virginia Bar in 2000. Diana worked on Capitol Hill as Democratic Counsel for the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs until 2005.

[Click here for reservations.](#) See you there!

## In Memoriam

In keeping with our tradition, we will pause during our 16 February 2025 meeting to honor and remember our chapter members who passed during 2024. If you know of other members not listed below who passed in 2024, please contact CAPT Mary Lou Wassel at 804-551-1878 or [membership@racmoaa.org](mailto:membership@racmoaa.org) by 10 February.

21 Apr 24	Sherman (Mick)	Weisinger	COL, USA, Ret
7 Jul 24	George E.	Ward	MAJ, USAF, Ret
20 Sep 24	William	Manning	CAPT, USN, Ret
23 Sep 24	Betty	Williams	Surviving Spouse
14 Oct 24	Ronald M.	Grignol	LTC, USAF, Ret

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

### 2024 Annual Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance 01 January 2024:	\$21,934
Receipts	20,697
Expenses	(18,325)
<b>Ending Balance 31 December 2024:</b>	<b>\$24,306</b>
<b>Encumbered Funds</b>	<b>(12,311)</b>
<b>UNENCUMBERED BALANCE</b>	<b>\$12,995</b>

### Membership Report

As Of	Regular	Surviving Spouse	Life/Honorary	TOTAL
31 Dec 2024	179	25	4	208

30 members who have not yet paid 2025 dues will no longer receive communications after 31 March 2025 if dues remain unpaid.

Volunteer members willing to assist with Membership are vitally needed. If you are willing to learn and work with our Membership Chair or need to know how to join, please contact CAPT Mary Lou Wassel at 804-551-1878 or by email 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

Send articles or comments to:  
Richmond Area Chapter - MOAA  
ATTN: Newsletter Editor

P. O. Box 985, Chesterfield, VA 23832-9998  
Email: [editor@racmoaa.org](mailto:editor@racmoaa.org)

Editor: COL Alan Cunningham, USAR (Ret.)

# Virginia War Memorial Livestream Events

## The Battle of the Bulge: Eighty Years Later

**Event Details—Date: January 16, 2025 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

Join Virginia War Memorial Director of Education, Jim Triesler, as he discusses the Battle of the Bulge and reflects on the experiences of those who served in Belgium and Luxembourg during the bitter winter of 1944 – 1945.

Although free, register early for this ONLINE ONLY event: <https://bit.ly/3ZxOrE6>

## Triumph and Controversy: The Career of General Douglas MacArthur

**Event Details—Date: January 28, 2025 10:30 am – 11:30 am**

Douglas MacArthur was often found at the center of triumph or controversy. Roosevelt valued his military mind but also called him the most dangerous man in America. Eisenhower considered him a genius, but also found him too theatrical. Churchill lauded him as one of the bravest allied commanders, and Truman found him enormously frustrating. What do you think of MacArthur? Join Director of the MacArthur Memorial, Amanda Williams, for an examination of his career – the good, the bad, the facts, and the fiction.

Although free, register early for this ONLINE ONLY event: <https://bit.ly/3VMf72X>

**For more information on this and other events at the War Memorial,**

**go to: <https://vawarmemorial.org/events/>**

## **Dole Act Becomes Law:** **What It Means to Veterans and Caregivers**

The president signed the [Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act](#) into law January 2, after years of arduous advocacy by MOAA and more than 40 other veterans organizations. This landmark bipartisan bill, representing more than 90 pieces of legislation developed throughout the 118th Congress, provides significant relief to veterans and their families by expanding benefits, enhancing services, and improving long-term care solutions.

Some key benefits of the legislation:

- Full Coverage for Home Nursing Care: Increases the VA's share of home nursing care costs from 65% to 100%, expanding access to essential services.
- Additional Assistance for Caregivers in many areas
- Fighting Veteran Homelessness
- Improved Access to VA Health Care
- Expands Education, Employment, and Economic Benefits

[See MOAA.ORG](#) for complete descriptions of benefits under the new law.

# DLA 6 November 2024 Expo



RAC-MOAA increased its profile at the Defense Logistic Agency Installation (DLA) (Bellwood) Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Expo on November 6, 2024. CMD Clifford Noe, USN (Ret.) and MAJ John Nahm, USA (Ret.), greeted and conversed with numerous DLA personnel attending the Expo that focused on the many benefits available to them. CMD Noe retired from DLA and enjoyed seeing old colleagues and catching up with what is happening at the Installation and what is going on in their lives. There were information sheets and business cards to hand out and the face-to-face interaction was rewarding. The MWR office personnel informed us that 42% of its workforce is retired Military or Guard and Reserve. It is to be hoped that we may have inspired some of the people we met to join RAC-MOAA.

# 2024 Holiday Gala Photos



## 2024 Virginia 4th District Veteran of the Year



In honor of Veteran's Day, Congresswoman Jennifer McClellan announced the 2024 Virginia 4th District Veteran of the Year, Lieutenant Colonel (Lt. Col.) Curt Powell. A 23-year U.S. Marine Corps veteran, Lt. Col. Powell served through combat deployments in Somalia and Lebanon. He then served as a White House Advance Officer under President Clinton, where he planned and directed Marine One presidential missions. Today, he continues to give back to our community as the founder

of a mentorship program at the Chesterfield Veteran Treatment Docket. Lt. Col. Powell and eight other veterans he recruited and trained to serve as mentors and provide support and guidance to Virginian veterans in their post-service life. I thank Lt. Col. Powell for his lifetime of service to our nation and congratulate him as our 2024 Veteran of the Year for Virginia's Fourth.

Lieutenant Colonel (Lt. Col.) Curt Powell is an active member of RAC-MOAA and a Director of the Organization acting in a variety of capacities within RAC-MOAA. Click the Header or the photo to see the presentation by Congresswoman McClellan.

## **MCAP NEWS by Chaplain (LTC) Kenneth Ruppar, USA-Retired**

At the November meeting of your Board of Directors, the Board approved a recommendation by the Military Community Assistance Program Committee (MCAP) to send grants totaling \$3200 to 9 local agencies for the support of veterans and currently serving members of our military in Virginia. These donations, although appreciated, were well below the \$5,000 goal.

Seven agencies received continued support: Virginia National Guard Foundation, the USO, Tech 4 Troops, Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center, the Veterans Services Foundation, The Virginia War Memorial Foundation, and Honor Flight. We were unable to support other veteran groups that we usually support due to the lack of contributions this past year.

However, the committee was able to add two new agencies for funding: Liberation Veterans Services and the Chesterfield-Colonial Heights Drug Court Foundation. The first assists homeless veterans with housing and meals while assisting them to address physical and mental health issues, job searching and movement towards improved living conditions. The Drug Court Foundation assists veterans with mentorship and available veteran resources as an alternative to incarceration.

We thank our members who donated to the MCAP program. If you have questions about the program or other local agencies to suggest for consideration please contact a Board or Committee member. Members of the committee are CPT Hardy Josephson, LTC Craig Pinsker, LTC Owen Waltman and LTC Ken Ruppar (Chair).

Please consider donating to this program as we seek to assist the work of these and other important agencies.

# Chapter News

## Chapter Contacts - 2025

### Elected Officers & Directors

President	COL Vincent Cammarata	804-338-8975
1st Vice-President	CAPT Mary Lou Wassel	804-551-1878
2nd Vice-president	LTC Craig Pinsker	804-301-1222
Past President	COL Mark Rich	804-706-6650
Secretary	LTC Terry Moore	804-739-8112
Treasurer	LTC Owen Waltman	804-796-1113
Director-at-Large	MAJ John Nahm	804-839-5635
Director-at-Large	CDR Cliff Noe	804-931-7894
Director-at-Large	LtCol Curt Powell	703-999-5816
Appointed Editor	COL Alan Cunningham	804-307-7815

### Appointed Directors

Member Services	CAPT Mary Lou Wassel	804-551-1878
Legislative Affairs	LCDR Wayne Sine	804-363-5406
Youth Programs	LCDR Wayne Sine	804-363-5406
Personal Affairs	Vacant	
Transition Services	CAPT Hardy Josephson	804-883-5955
Publicity	MAJ John Nahm	804-839-5635
Auxiliary Affairs	Mrs. Rosemary Salcedo	804-938-9945
Hospitality	LTC Terry Moore	804-739-8112
Special Programs	LTC Owen Waltman	804-796-1113
Chaplain	LTC Ken Ruppard	804-639-0179
Webmaster	MAJ John Nahm	804-839-5635

### 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 **16 February Sunday Lunch Buffet Meeting** at the Virginia War Memorial

Please make reservations for \_\_\_\_\_ persons for the Sunday Brunch on **16 February 2025 starting at 1300.**

[Reservations and Payment](#) on our website using PayPal or a credit card is the preferred method.

My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (**\$27.00 per person**) payable to **"RAC-MOAA"** is enclosed. **Please respond by 14 Feb!**

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](mailto: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.* Last year we were below our annual goal, so please be generous for this worthwhile cause.

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.* We only received \$3,074 of the \$5,000 goal for 2024 and were not able to donate to all of the veteran causes that we support. Let's make up the difference this year.

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