



The Patriot



Richmond Area Chapter - Military Officers Association of America - November 2024

The President's Corner by COL Vince Cammarata



I want to take a moment and write to the women and men who make up the 18.2 million veterans in the United States of America. Veterans Day is set aside to honor those who have worn the uniforms of the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy, Space Force and Marine Corps while serving our country at home and around the world.

I've been blessed to speak with and for our military on different occasions, and while I'm grateful for each person who actively serves, I am especially grateful for those whose service is behind them. To honor our veterans, I want to share just a couple of thoughts around the idea of values.

Our veterans have contributed so much value to our lives, and it's only right that we stop today and acknowledge our appreciation for them because they willingly gave of themselves for a bigger cause.

I want to write just a bit about the core values of our Armed Services. While each military branch has their own core values, over 36 percent of our veterans served in the Army and the core values of the other branches are found within these seven:

- **Loyalty**—the Army defines loyalty as “believing in and devoting yourself to something or someone.” Simply put, it is a commitment to love, care, and support your people. Leaders should always demonstrate loyalty first before asking for it from their people.
- **Duty**—this means “fulfilling your obligations,” and it's a picture of each member of a team doing his or her part with excellence to ensure the success of everyone.
- **Respect**—I love how the Army defines this: “appreciate the best in other people.” It's putting a “10” on everyone's head and trusting that they will live up to that belief.
- **Selfless Service**—adding value to others by putting their needs ahead of your own. It's the willingness to exceed expectations so others will benefit.
- **Honor**—living according to your values. We live with honor when our walk matches our talk.
- **Integrity**—this is living authentically by being a person who doesn't deceive or intentionally mislead others. Integrity as a leader is the foundation upon which trust is built.
- **Personal Courage**—courage is the willingness to act in the face of fear. We build our courage when we stand up for what we believe is right and good.

Your purpose didn't end the day your military career did—it continues, and finds expression in a new calling, whatever that may be.

We need you as much today as we did when you wore the uniform. Maybe we need you more?

One thing is certain, however—today, we honor and celebrate you. We give you our gratitude for all you've done, and we look forward to all you'll do next. Happy Veterans Day. May God bless you. Vince

RAC-MOAA
Next Member Meeting is on Sunday, November 10th!
 We will be meeting at the Meadowbrook Country Club at 1215 for a buffet brunch.
 More details on page 2.

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

Click the TAKE ACTION graphic above to see Active Legislative Campaigns

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

From Majestic Instrument to a Spire of Silence



Our [10 November 2024 lunch buffet](#) will start at 12:15 PM. We will have the usual breakfast items on the buffet including drinks and sweets. As I am sure that you are aware, prices have been going up, and our costs have risen as well, which now includes a room rental fee on top of the increased cost of the meal. The all-inclusive cost of the buffet is \$30.00.

The presentation will be given by Jim Triesler. Jim is an award-winning educator who serves as the Director of Education for the Virginia War Memorial and as Historian for the National Battle of the Bulge Association. Jim has been educating and entertaining students for over 25 years. He and his students were the recipients of a Save Our History Award from the History Channel for their work towards preserving thousands of letters written between WWII soldiers and their loved ones. Jim has worked to preserve the legacy of WWII veterans by conducting over 200 interviews. He has traveled to nine different countries in Europe to visit the beaches, towns, and battlefields where our soldiers once fought. In 2007, he was the Virginia Region 1 Teacher of the Year and in 2012, the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Person of the Year.

From Majestic Instrument to a Spire of Silence, the Virginia War Memorial Carillon was viewed as “one of the most beautiful and majestic instruments fashioned by the hand of man” when it was dedicated. Virginia War Memorial Director of Education Jim Triesler will discuss the people and planning that surrounded the dedication on October 15, 1932. He will review how for decades the Carillon has supported the community through concerts and activities and look at the various attempts to restore the Carillon to its original purpose – a war memorial and museum.

He will have photos of the 100th anniversary event of Armistice Day and some recent photos of the renovation.

Join us for this inspiring presentation by [clicking here for reservations](#). See you there!

Treasurer’s Report

Beginning Balance 01 January 2024:	\$21,934
Receipts	11,555
Expenses	(13,430)
Ending Balance 26 August 2024:	\$20,059
Encumbered Funds	(8,539)
UNENCUMBERED BALANCE	\$11,520

Membership Report

As Of	Regular	Surviving Spouse	Life/Honorary	TOTAL
12 Oct 2024	182	26	4	212

The chapter had two “nonmember” losses this month of note: CAPT William Manning, USN, Ret – passed 9/30/24
Betty Williams – passed 9/23/24 – Betty was the spouse of LtCol Stanley Williams, USMC, Ret, chapter member who passed 3/27/23

For the upcoming 2025 calendar year, 42 members will be due for renewal. This renewal notification process will begin in November.

For membership questions/info, or how to join, please contact CAPT Mary Lou Wassel at 804-551-1878 or by email at: 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

Editor: COL Alan Cunningham, USAR (Ret.)

Legislative Update

On 21 November 2024, RAC-MOAA will hold its **17th Annual Legislative Forum**. Members of the Virginia General Assembly (who represent districts within RAC-MOAA's area of influence) are invited to hear RAC-MOAA members present, and respond to questions on, key legislative initiatives impacting Virginia's military service members, retirees, and surviving spouses. The Legislative Initiatives were identified by the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations in Virginia. MOAA is one of the twenty-five Veteran Service Organizations appointed to Joint Leadership Council (JLC) by the Governor of Virginia.

To accommodate the busy schedules of Virginia's legislators, the Forum is presented in two sessions: first at 0730, and again at 1500. This allows legislators to attend whichever session best fits their schedule.

If you would like to participate in this year's Forum, please send an email to legislative@racmoaa.org

The JLC has identified **five** Legislative Initiatives for consideration during the 2025 Virginia General Assembly. Links to the initiatives are included below:

- [Verification of Veteran Status – Arrest, Jails, and Prisons](#)
- [Stop Unscrupulous Firms from Exploiting Veterans](#)
- [Virginia National Guard Tuition](#)
- [Suffolk State Veterans Cemetery Expansion](#)
- [Women Veterans Day](#)

If you are looking at the paper version of the newsletter, you can get to the links on our website by going to:

<https://www.racmoaa.org/Newsletter>

Virginia War Memorial Event

The Commonwealth of Virginia's 68th Annual Veterans Day Ceremony

Join your fellow veterans on Monday, November 11th for the 68th annual Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony at the Virginia War Memorial, honoring Virginia's men and women who have served and who are currently serving in the United States Armed Forces.

Event Details Date: November 11, 2024, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

The event is rain or shine.

The ceremony will be held in the Virginia War Memorial's E. Bruce Heilman Amphitheater.

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

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

2024 Veterans Day Discounts

Restaurants, businesses, and attractions are extending their thanks to veterans and active duty military personnel by offering freebies and discounts on and leading up to Veterans Day.

Food and Dining

Applebee's Grill and Bar: All veterans and active duty military members receive a free entrée from a special menu Nov. 11 at select locations.

Golden Corral: Active duty servicemembers and veterans get a free dine-in meal Monday, Nov. 11 from 4 p.m. to close.

Mission BBQ: Veterans and active duty servicemembers get a free sandwich Nov. 11.

Red Robin: All veterans and active duty servicemembers get a free Red's Tavern Double burger with free refills of Bottomless Steak Fries when they dine in Nov. 11.

Shopping, Products, and Services

Academy Sports: Service members and first responders get 10% off in store and online Oct. 20-Nov. 12.

Great Clips: Veterans and active duty service members can visit a salon Nov. 11 and receive either a free haircut that day or a free haircut card to use at a future visit. In addition, non-military customers who get a haircut on Veterans Day will receive a free haircut card to give to an active service member or veteran they know as a way of saying thank you.

Rack Room Shoes: Service members and their families get 20% off their entire in-store purchase with valid ID.

Sports Clips: Many participating Sport Clips locations are offering free Veterans Day haircuts for those with military ID.

Target: Active duty service members and veterans as well as their spouses and children get a 10% discount, which guests can use twice — in store or online — during the promotional period of Oct. 27 through Nov. 11. To redeem the offer, guests must verify eligibility by registering at [Target.com/circle/military](https://www.target.com/circle/military).

Attractions

Colonial Williamsburg: All active duty service members, reservists, National Guard members, veterans, and military retirees and their dependents receive free admission Nov. 8-11.

Mount Vernon (Mount Vernon, Va.): All active duty, former, or retired military personnel receive free admission November 11.

[MORE DISCOUNTS: [Veteran.com](https://www.veteran.com)]

Exclusive Discounts for MOAA Members

Members save year-round on shipping, storage, and so much more. Access your deals today!

[Click Here](#)

Donate to MOAA's Crisis Relief Program

Help our heroes when disaster strikes.

With natural disasters impacting every corner of our country, The MOAA Foundation's Crisis Relief Program is here to provide active duty service members, veterans, and their families with financial assistance when they need it the most.

But we cannot do it alone!

Your donation today will help fund a grant to those in need. Imagine the impact your gift could have!

A crisis relief grant could restock a refrigerator for a family who went days without power, provide a safe place for evacuees to spend the night, purchase gravel for a disabled veteran whose driveway was washed away, and so much more.

The truth is, when natural disasters hit, the needs of those impacted are paramount. Help The MOAA Foundation lighten the load for those in need by donating to support the Crisis Relief Program today.

Your tax-deductible gift can offer hope to veterans, service members, and military families affected by a natural disaster or crisis situation. Can they count on your support?

[DONATE HERE NOW](https://www.racmoaa.org)

Chapter News

Chapter Contacts - 2024

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 10 November Sunday Brunch Buffet Meeting at the Meadowbrook Country Club

Please make reservations for _____ persons for the Sunday Brunch on **10 November 2024 starting at 1215.**

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

My check for \$ _____ (**\$30.00 per person**) payable to "RAC-MOAA" is enclosed. **Please respond by 9 Nov!**

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.

GOAL!!!



COL Mel Drisko Leader-Scholar Award

Goal \$2,000

By 1 May 2025 Achieved \$375

As Of 25 Oct 2024

Achieved 19% 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!!!



Military Community Assistance Program (MCAP)

Goal \$5,000

By 31 Dec 2024 Raised \$2,636

As of 25 Oct 2024

53% of Goal Achieved!

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: _____

THE RICHMOND AREA MILITARY

Holiday Gala

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR A GRAND HOLIDAY GALA!
Friday, December 6th, 2024, 6:00pm
The Meadowbrook Country Club
\$75 per person

HOLIDAY BUFFET FEATURING:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Appetizers | Garlic Mashed Potatoes |
| Salad Bar | Green Beans Almondine |
| Hand-carved Top Round of Beef | Hot Rolls |
| Chicken Williamsburg -
(Stuffed w/ Crabmeat & Virginia Ham) | Cakes and Pies for Dessert |
| Vegetable Lasagna | Coffee and Tea |
| | Cash Bar |

Dress will be holiday style, service dress, mess dress, black tie optional. We'll have holiday music, good service, camaraderie with your fellow members and lots of holiday cheer.

To register, please use the online registration form found at racmoaa.org OR fill out the section below and return with your check to Richmond Area Chapter-MOAA, PO Box 985, Chesterfield, VA 23832-9998. Please allow time for the mail if you use this method.

Please make your reservations by Friday, November 22nd, 2024.



Please make reservations for _____ persons.
Enclosed is my check payable to "RAC-MOAA" for \$_____ (\$75 per person).

Name _____

Email _____ Phone # _____

Guest _____

Guest _____

Guest _____

If you have more than 3 guests, list their names on a separate sheet of paper and send along with this form.

Contact Owen Waltman with Questions - (804) 796-1113