



# The Salute online



Monthly newsletter of the Portsmouth Area Chapter, an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America, serving Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Smithfield and Franklin, Virginia, since 1983. Dinner meetings are held the Second Thursday of each month except July and August.

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June 2015



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have a lot of good “stuff” in this letter , so I’ll just be brief. We had an enjoyable dinner meeting in May. It was great to have our old PACMOAA friend CDR John Maiorana with us sharing his ministry with “Mended Hearts.” His associate, Senior Chief Robert Epps, shared his own passionate personal story of survival following multiple cardiac surgeries.

We had multiple winners of the 50-50 to include several MOAA tote bags winners plus another beautifully painted bird house donated by Chuck Kuehn. All are encouraged to participate in the 50-50 drawing. See the picture below. There is not enough space to list all the winners (the editor only gives me this single page.) The 50-50 is important as it supports our scholarship fund and will be seen in action at our June dinner when two students will receive PACMOAA scholarships. At that same meeting you won’t want to miss LTC John Byrd as our special ventriloquist guest. It should be a good evening of fun and laughter. Google “John Byrd Ventriloquist” and see three or more U-Tube demos by John, my Brother Rat of VMI 1968.

The PACMOAA Scholarship recipients and families will be with us at the June dinner as well as the Color Guard from the Wilson High JROTC. Don’t miss this good evening. If you’ve not been with us for a while this will be an excellent time to come.



LtoR Senior Chief Robert Epps, President Hostetler, and CDR John Maiorana



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**Wendi B. Carpenter**  
**Charles B Whitehurst Sr.**  
**Rosalyn V Gardiner**  
**Ronald W. Pyle**  
**Charles E Kuehn**  
**Martha L Anderson**

I want to express my appreciation to PACMOAA members that took the time to join our legislative A-team trip to the congressional luncheon in DC and those who participated in the Memorial Day parade.

I congratulate LCDR Dolly Cherrington who has accepted the nomination for VCOC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Elections will be held in October.

Finally, I must remind everyone to pay their dues. The money is essential to help us help you.

In the Bonds,  
Hal

## Chapter Happenings

**Jun 06 D-Day Observance**  
**Jun 11 PACMOAA Dinner**

**Jun 14 Flag Day**  
**Jun 21 Father's Day**

### JUNE MEETING

Our dinner will be held on **Thursday June 11<sup>th</sup>** at the Hilton Garden Inn (HGI) Ballroom at 5921 Harbour View Boulevard in Northern Suffolk. [LINK TO HGI](#) for an excellent map, GPS information and HGI contacts. Social hour will begin at 1800 with dinner at 1900.

### MENU

Spinach Salad with Mushrooms, Hardboiled Eggs, Bacon  
 and Vinaigrette Dressing  
 Ham Steak with Pineapple Slice Glaze  
 Smashed Sweet Potatoes Broccoli and Rolls  
 Chef's Choice Dessert  
 Coffee and Hot Water for Tea Station  
 Water and Ice Tea

Cost is **\$40.00** (includes tax and gratuity) Please make your reservation no later than **Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>** with Sherry Ferki. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Come join us for good company, good food and a good time. PLEASE NOTE THE INCREASED DINNER COST FOR THIS SPECIAL EVENT. REMEMBER A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID.

### GUEST SPEAKER: LTC John Byrd USAR (Ret)



John Byrd is a graduate of Virginia Military Institute and he received a Masters Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Virginia Commonwealth University. He was licensed as a Professional Counselor for 25 years and served as the Leader of the Stephen Ministry program at Bon Air United Methodist Church for six years. John served on active duty in the Army for two years at Fort Knox, KY and retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel from the Army Reserve. He also retired from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services where he was responsible for monitoring the employment and training status of all police officers and sheriff's deputies in Virginia and certifying all 35 training academies. John began learning ventriloquism at the age of 10. He performed throughout elementary school, junior high school and high school. In 1999, he became interested in the art of ventriloquism again. He thoroughly enjoys performing. It is his passion and in 2014 John was selected as the Senior Idol of Greater Richmond. In 2003, John donated a kidney to his brother-in-law. John will be our guest speaker, or is it speakers, at our June meeting. To view a video clips of a performance at the Kiwanis Club, visit [PACMOAA TODAY VIDEOS](#) and [www.john-byrd.com](http://www.john-byrd.com).



## Chapter Happenings

### WELCOME ABOARD

*The Salute* extends a hardy welcome to MAJ Travis Hartley USAF and his wife Michelle who live in Suffolk.

### COMING SUMMER AND FALL EVENTS

#### 12 July: ANNUAL BRUNCH

The Portsmouth Chapter (PAC), the Hampton Roads Chapter (HRC), the Virginia Peninsula Chapter (VIP) of MOAA are hosting a brunch mixer at the [Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center](#) on Sunday, the 12th of July 2015, from 1100 to 1400. All members are cordially invited to attend. The hotel is located at 2800 Shore Drive in Virginia Beach. Plenty of parking is available at the hotel with a closer entrance to the Tradewinds restaurant on the upper level of parking. There is elevator at the rear of the indoor parking garage (Bayside) that will take you directly right to the front entrance of the Tradewinds. You can also park at the outdoor lot by taking the left ramp (up) facing the hotel. The [brunch menu](#) is as delicious as it sounds.

Cost of the brunch will be \$27.00 each plus tax and gratuity, which will be billed individually by the hotel staff. Cash bar is available. They will have the piano player as they did last year.

Make reservation NLT 30 June 2015. Please call or email Sherry Ferki [navmed1@cox.net](mailto:navmed1@cox.net) or 686-4650. Come on out and enjoy the scenery, food and camaraderie among our chapter members and meet members from the other local chapters! Hope to see you there!

**10 September:** Vanessa Greene will speak at our dinner on her experiences as: the Coordinator of the Hampton Roads Military and Civilian Family Violence Prevention Council.

**8 October:** Program TBA

**12 November:** PACMOAA Annual business

meeting and election of Leadership Team

**10 December:** Annual Christmas Gala[]

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

Only 66 members have paid their 2015 dues. We have 91 enrolled members as of January! Your dues help us help you. It's a real bargain at less than \$2.10 a month. The Newsletter and website are not free; just to mention two immediately visible benefits. They keep you informed on current legislation that have great impact on your life. They assist you in informing your legislators as to what legislation you want or do not want them to support. PACMOAA officers also meet with legislators on your behalf as part of the VCOC annual 'storming the hill'. **Chapter membership helps the VCOC advocate for improvements for all servicemembers, retirees, veterans and their families in Virginia.** PACMOAA also meets with your elected Federal Legislators at the annual congressional luncheon. PACMOAA supports local JROTC programs (pg.5) by presenting earned MOAA medals and providing scholarships for students going into ROTC programs (pg.6)!

You get all of this plus the camaraderie and good times at our dinners and galas. Jump back in and commit to your PACMOAA family. Mail your dues to PACMOAA, PO Box 5353, Portsmouth, VA 23703.

### IN MEMORIAM

**It is with a measure of profound sadness that we announce the passing of two PACMOAA members.**

**Dr. Thais E. Keegan of Chesapeake a member since 2010.**

**CAPT Lawrence H. Taylor Jr. USN (Ret.) a member since 1984. CAPT Taylor is survived by his wife Ann.**

**Mrs. Hazel Wilhelm, a former member no longer in the area, also passed away.**

**131st ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE & VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL SERVICE**

participating including marching bands and JROTC groups, antique cars, the [Buffalo Riders](#) and their beautiful horses, a variety of old-



The City of Portsmouth and the Portsmouth Mayor's Military Affairs Committee held the nation's oldest continuously running Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Captain Darin K. Via, Commanding Officer, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth was the Grand Marshal. PACMOAA was represented by Sherry Ferki, Bruce Ferki and Shirley Barker riding in a car with the PACMOAA signs on all four sides. Gordon and Twila Nelson attended to take pictures and watch the parade. Hal Hostetler played with the Tidewater Concert Band next to the reviewing stand as the partic-

er military vehicles, and cars with placards like PACMOAA. It's always a pleasure to see so many people of all ages waving the American Flag and thanking us for our service. We also passed several girls holding handmade signs thanking us for our service. Veterans were visible in the crowd as were some people in wheelchairs.



Sherry Ferki and Shirley Barker attended the Vietnam War Memorial Service that immediately followed the parade. Unfortunately attendance was low, probably due to lack of publicity. The names of each Portsmouth Serviceman killed in action during the Vietnam War were read off as the bell was tolled. After this, echo taps was played by two members of the Tidewater Concert Band. It was a beautiful service. □

icipating groups passed by. LTC Pratt USMC (Ret) marched with his MCJROTC Cadets. All in all PACMOAA was well represented. The Mayor and other city officials acknowledged the participants as information about each group was read. There were over 60 groups



## 2015 JROTC AWARD CEREMONIES

**The next time you meet one our MOAA JROTC medal presenters, thank them for taking the time to personally present the medals at awards ceremony.**

School	Director	Date/ Time	Presenter/ Cadet
<b>CHESAPEAKE</b> Ceremony at Deep Creek HS	All AFJROTC	Tuesday 12 May 1830 - 2000	Sherry Ferki/
Deep Creek HS	COL William Etchison		Cadet Ryan Miller
Great Bridge HS	MAJ Kevin Gore		Cadet Malik Anderson
Indian River HS	LTC Thomas Martin		Cadet Jamen Diaz-Ferebee
Oscar Smith HS	COL Michael Helsabeck		Cadet Justin Javier
Western Branch HS	COL Mike Kloski		Cadet Ebony Jones
Grassfield HS	LTC Gordon Strong		Cadet Zackary Oudersluys
<b>PORTSMOUTH</b>			
Churchland HS MCJROTC	LTC Paul Pratt	Thursday 28 May 0900	Whitney Jones/ Cadet Rachel Hayes
I.C. Norcom HS NJROTC	CWO2 Joseph Redwood	Friday 15 May 1800 - 2000	Hal Hostetler/ Cadet Chief Petty Officer Michael W. Broadnax
Woodrow Wilson HS AJROTC	LTC Chailendrea Dickins	Friday 8 May 1730	Sherry Ferki/ Cadet 1LT Chyna Outlaw
<b>SUFFOLK</b>	All AFJROTC		
Lakeland HS	MAJ Dale Blake	Friday 8 May 1830	Rick Titi/ Cadet Shaniqua Walker
Nansemond River HS	LTC Alvin Odom	No response	
King's Fork HS	LTC Alfred Harris	None this year	
Franklin HS	LTC Linwood Wright	Wednesday 28 May 1315	Steve Turner/ Cadet 1LT Ryan Powell
Smithfield High School AJROTC	LTC Peter Badoian	Thursday 21 May 1315	Sherry Ferki/ Cadet PFC Nathan White

## 2015 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Scholarship Committee members, Sherry Ferki, Peg Cicirelli, Bob Parker, Lynn Terry and Bob Steorts, met and reviewed the applications for the PACMOAA scholarship. There



Above is a display set up by Sherry Ferki for review at our last dinner. (clockwise) Certificate presented with the MOAA JROTC Medal, PACMOAA 2015 Levels of Excellence entry, MOAA JROTC Medal, extra edition of The Salute express in April featuring the Month of the Military Child, followed by programs from US Army and US Air Force JROTC awards ceremonies.

were 12 amazing applicants this year whose grade point averages ranged from a low of 3.5 to a high of 4.25. Students can have greater than a 4.0 (top of the scale) since many of them took Honors classes, advanced placement, and dual enrollment - receiving high school and college credit for the course. Looking back over the 15 years I've worked with the scholarship committee, the most applicants we've ever had before was 5. Peg Cicirelli updated the list of schools applications are sent to and included many private schools that had not been contacted in the past. Many thanks to Peg for doing this and for forwarding the scholarship information to the schools!!

The Scholarship Committee had a very difficult time selecting only 2 awardees from this outstanding group of students. Seven of the twelve belonged to JROTC in their high school and all excelled in academics and belonged to or led many school organizations such as the Student Government Association and National Honor

Society. Most of them were very involved in sports, church activities, mission trips and volunteer activities. One applicant is graduating from high school one year early and another received an associate degree from a community college before graduating from high school! Several of them also work to help support their families. To say this was a very difficult task is a vast understatement. The caliber of these students and their involvement in the school and community was truly a pleasure to see. **These students are why we donate to the Scholarship Fund and why we need continued donations.** One student needs \$38,000 for the first year of college!

Both students selected have shown dedication and commitment to excelling in sports, school, volunteerism, and leadership. Bailey and Kimberly exemplify the characteristics that make great military officers.

**Bailey Keys** is graduating from Isle of Wight Academy and plans on attending North Carolina University. She plans on majoring in communications and/or political science while in Army ROTC and is not sure what she'll do after that. Having served as a Page for the Virginia House of Delegates in 2011 and Head Page in 2012, she may end up there after retiring from the military. Bailey has a distinguished career in Fastpitch Softball with the Galaxy Fastpitch Softball Class A Travel Team from 2007-2013, All-State and All-Metro Softball from 2011-2014; and in All-Metro Volleyball in 2014. Her academic performance is as amazing as her athletic abilities and she has been awarded multiple awards in Forensics, Science Fairs and Essay contests. Bailey is the Class of 2015 Salutatorian and attended Girls State, the U.S. Naval Academy Leadership Program, and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Summer AIM program in 2014. She is also very active in numerous school clubs like Scholastic Bowl Team and Battle of the Brains Teams and organizations such as VP National Honor Society, member of Key Club and History Club. Bailey is a very well rounded young lady and noted in her applications : "My most valuable

character traits were taught to me by my parents, church family, and the delegates in Richmond while serving as page and head page for the Virginia House of Delegates. They are: faith, a firm handshake, and most importantly a serving spirit."

**Kimberly Morrison** is graduating from Grassfield High School in Chesapeake and plans on attending the University of Mary Washington. Her long term goal is to become a neurosurgeon and to continue to excel at everything she does. Kimberly has been very active in the Air Force JROTC for her 4 years at Grassfield HS. LTC Gordon R. Strong, USAF (Ret)- Senior Aerospace Science Instructor writes of her:

"Cadet Morrison has been a top cadet in the Air Force JROTC program since the day she joined (2011). She is a drill team commander, color guard team member, and is currently the cadet squadron commander responsible for the activities of 180 cadets. She earned the squadron's top fitness award two years in a row. Her leadership example, military discipline and attention to detail has helped the school earn consistent high places during drill competitions (second overall in April 2015 - highest ever for the program). When a job in JROTC needs to be done - Cadet Morrison will "step-in" and fill the position."

She headed the participation of the Air Force JROTC Kitty Hawk Air Society in fund raising for Operation Homefront in 2014 when they raised over \$2100 for family members of deployed service members!

Kimberly is involved in varsity field hockey and track and field as well as volunteering in a variety of venues. In addition to all the above mentioned attributes, Kimberly maintains a very high GPA, is in the National Honor, and has won multiple awards.

PACMOAA extends congratulations to both of these exceptional students and best wishes for successful careers as Military Officers!

Reported by Sherry Ferki  
Scholarship Chair

## 2015 VCOC CONGRESSIONAL APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

On Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2015, PACMOAA'S legislative away team of Hal Hostetler, Dolly Cherrington, Shirley Barker, and Karl Wilson headed to Washington, D.C. for the 30<sup>th</sup> Virginia Congressional Appreciation Luncheon. We had one 'en route' stop to pick up Alice Taves our indomitable and cherished PACMOAA Life Member.



Alice displaying her Honorary Lifetime Membership. The Richmond paper clip below attests to her ability to corner officials and make her point.



The luncheon honors the thirteen members of the Virginia Congressional delegation for their efforts and continued loyal support in the U.S. military community and the armed forces.

The VCOC outstanding legislator award was presented to Congressman Randy J. Forbes of the Virginia 4<sup>th</sup> District. The award recognizes Members of Congress for exemplary support of the national security of the United States and the current and past members of the Armed Forces and their families. In his remarks, Congressman Forbes stated America's defense budget must match threats based on strategy, not budget decisions.

"The men and women serving in our armed forces are not only America's finest, but also the reason this country is free," said Congressman Forbes. "I am both honored and humbled to receive this award; I have no higher priority in Congress than continuing my work to defend our defenders, support our military families,



(PACMOAA legislative A-Team L to R) Shirley Barker, Karl Wilson, Hal Hostetler, Alice Taves and Dolly Cherrington.

care for our veterans, and properly equip our heroes on the frontlines."

Congressman Forbes is the Chairman of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee on the House Armed Services Committee.

Congressman Bob Wittman, 1<sup>st</sup> District, spoke of the importance of the Veteran's Administration to serve all active duty and veterans.

Congressman Scott Rigel, 2<sup>nd</sup> District, spoke about his service in the Marine Corp Reserve.

Unable to attend, Bobby Scott, 3<sup>rd</sup> District was represented by Amanda Armstrong, legislative assistant to the congressman. She noted the congressman's support of former Senator Jim Webb's post 9/11 G.I. Bill, which was signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2008.

Jaime Areizaga-Soto, Deputy Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs of Virginia was extended and accepted an invitation issued by Karl Wilson to speak at a future PACMOAA meeting.

By Karl D. Wilson  
Legislative Representative

## FATHER'S DAY PROCLAMATION

"Fathers play a unique and important role in the lives of their children. As mentor, protector, and provider, a father fundamentally influences the shape and direction of his child's character by giving love, care, discipline, and guidance. As we observe Father's Day, our nation honors fatherhood and urges fathers to commit themselves selflessly to the success and well-being of their children. And we reaffirm the importance of fathers in the lives of their children. Raising a child requires significant time, effort, and sacrifice; and it is one of the most hopeful and fulfilling experiences a man can ever know. A father can derive great joy from seeing his child grow from infancy to adulthood. As a child matures into independence and self reliance, the value of a parent's hard work, love, and commitment comes to fruition.

Responsible fatherhood is important to a healthy and civil society. Numerous studies confirm that children whose fathers are present and involved in their lives are more likely to develop into prosperous and healthy adults. Children learn by example; and they need their father's presence as examples of virtue in their daily lives. A child's sense of security can be greatly enhanced by seeing his parents in a loving and faithful marriage."

George W. Bush

## THAT'S A WRAP FOR JUNE