



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.

VOLUME XXXIII ISSUE VI

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pacmoaa.org

June 2014

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Summer is almost here and school has ended for most colleges and will end soon for secondary schools. Many of our members will be able to spend more time with children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and friends. PACMOAA takes a break from our normal routine for July and August so we won't have dinner meetings for those months. Remember the annual brunch on 13 July 2014. The Hampton Roads Chapter secured the date and venue for our PAC/VIP/HRC MOAA Mid-Summer Brunch Mixer. It will be held at the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center on Sunday, July 13th, starting at 1100 hrs. This is always a great social event and a wonderful way to interact with members from the two other local MOAA chapters.



Chaplain Chuck Rowley, the Chaplain at NMCP, spoke about his experiences with the Dover Dignified program starting in February 2010. He was the first Navy Chaplain in this role and noted that it was "the most rewarding honorable experience" of his career in the ministry.

"The solemn dignified transfer of remains is conducted upon arrival at Dover Air Force Base, Del., from the aircraft to a transfer vehicle to honor those who have given their lives in the service of our country. The vehicle then moves the fallen to the Port Mortuary.

The dignified transfer is not a ceremony; rather, it is a solemn movement of the transfer case by a carry team of military personnel from the fallen member's respective service. A dignified transfer is conducted for every U.S. military member who dies in the theater of operation while in the service of their country. A senior ranking officer of the fallen member's service presides over each

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JUNE

Martha L Anderson
Rosalyn V Gardiner
Carolyn Jones
William T Perry
Gist Phillip A (Andy)
Ronald W. (Ron) Pyle
Charles B Whitehurst Sr.

JULY

Thomas R Cahill

Robert L. Collette
Sherry D Ferki
Thais E Keegan
Robert L Lane
Andre H Mayfield
Peggy E Moran
Robert G Ponton
Connie Poore
Alice D Taves

AUGUST

Henry F Berck Jr.

Henry C Boschen Jr.
Dolores A Cherrington
Herbert W De Groft
Kennie Howard
Harry P Miller
Gordon M Nelson
Annamarie Pischnotte
Robert A Steorts
Lawrence H Taylor Jr.
Steve Turner
Maury A Weeks []

Chapter Happenings

LEADERSHIP
 DIRECTORY

[CLICK HERE](#)

June 12 PACMOAA Dinner June 15 Father's Day
June 14 [US ARMY BIRTHDAY](#) July 13 Summer Brunch
JUNE MEETING

Our dinner will be held on **Thursday June 12th** 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

Iceberg Tossed Salad with Ranch or Vinaigrette Dressing
 Pork Tenderloin with Jasmine Rice
 Green Beans Almandine and Rolls
 Chef's Choice Dessert
 Coffee and Ice Tea and Hot Tea Station

Cost is **\$40.00** (includes tax and gratuity) Please make your reservation no later than **Sunday, June 8th** .

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS DINNER PROGRAM

Guest Speaker is Ken Wright

Ken Wright is one of the founders and current President of the Buffalo Riders of Hampton Roads, an African-American equestrian club, which keeps alive the memories, contributions and history of the men and women of the Buffalo Soldiers. Those who fought so bravely to protect this Nation, particularly during the Indian Wars. The organization is very active in community awareness programs by accepting requests for speaking engagements and their February parade of horses in Portsmouth, Va. honoring the Buffalo Soldiers and October Trail Ride in Franklin, Va. Ken is very interested in the history of the Buffalo Soldiers and intrigued at the many contributions and bravery of these soldiers. He will speak briefly on the history and some of the key points that made these soldiers so noteworthy.



[VIDEO](#)

Ken is a nationally noted contemporary artist, painting mainly abstract work. He maintains an art studio & gallery at the d'Art Center in downtown Norfolk, Va. His paintings are in collections all over the world. To name a few: Indonesia, West Africa, France, the office of U.S. Senator Mark Warner, and the White House. Ken is a former Arts Commissioner for the State of Va., appointed by ex-governor Doug Wilder. He has also served on several other boards and art committees. Ken is a graduate of Norfolk State University with a Bachelor of Fine arts degree. He retired after 39 years as a graphic artist for the Virginian-Pilot Newspaper.

Ken is married to the former Simonetta Haley, and they have two adult children, Ken Jr. and Shelly. They have four grand-children, Brandon, Ken III,



Kristopher, and Chele', and one great-grandson, Brandon Jr. Ken is a Deacon and active member at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Portsmouth, Virginia .

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The 2014 PACMOAA scholarship award will be announced and presented at our June dinner. The extra \$10 (voted on and passed in 2013) for this dinner is to cover the extra cost for the recipient and special guests.

ROTC AWARDS FEED BACK

To: Maj Ferki and Pastor Hostetler,

I am very thankful that you arranged to have the MOAA Award presentation at our ball Friday night. Pastor Hostetler was a most pleasant guest and added greatly to our event. Our cadets really appreciated having a visitor acknowledge their achievements.

Being an infantryman, a pastor, plus willing to take his time to honor one of our cadets shows that Pastor Hostetler is all about "service before self" - one of the Air Force's core values that we often emphasize to our cadets.

Again, I can't thank both of you enough.

From: LTC Alfred Harris Director of King's Fork High School AFJROTC.

All medal and scholarship recipients will appear in our next issue!

MAY CONGRESSIONAL LUNCHEON

Vice Adm. Norb Ryan Jr., USN-Ret., President of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), joined more than 100 attendees, and nine members of the Virginia congressional delegation, including Sen. Mark Warner, for the 29th Virginia Congressional Appreciation Luncheon, on Tuesday, May 20, on Capitol Hill. More to come in our next issue!

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY ANNUAL SUMMER BRUNCH with Hampton Roads and Peninsula Chapters will be on the 13TH at the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



The participating PACMOAA parade members were (top) Karl Wilson, Bob & Nell Wall, and Shirley Barker. (below) Ray & Peg Cicirelli, Ron Pyle, and Sherry Ferki. Largest representation in years. Lunch in Churchland followed. Great fun was had by all. Be sure to watch the video above!



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

We currently have 82 paid members in PACMOAA (down from 99 at year's start). We have gained 2 new members and 2 former members rejoined. PACMOAA received a \$500 member retention bonus from MOAA for retaining 90% of our members from 2013. This year MOAA has increased the required retention rate needed to receive this bonus to 95%! Twenty-one members have not renewed their membership for 2014, please do so as soon as possible. You can pay your dues at the next PACMOAA meeting or mail it to:

PACMOAA,
P.O. Box 5353,
Portsmouth, VA 23703. []

(Continued from page 1) from the President

dignified transfer. The sequence of the dignified transfer starts with the fallen being returned to Dover by the most expedient means possible, which may mean a direct flight from theater, or a flight to Ramstein Air Base, and then to Dover. It is the Department of Defense's policy and AFMAO's mission, to return America's fallen to their loved ones as quickly as possible. Once the aircraft lands at Dover, service-specific carry teams remove the transfer cases individually from the aircraft and move them to a waiting mortuary transport vehicle. In March 2009, the Secretary of Defense announced a change in policy that, upon consent of the family of the deceased, allowed media access to cover dignified transfers. The only dignified transfers that will be open to media coverage, with family approval, are those personnel who die in the line of duty supporting Operation Enduring Freedom." Quoted from Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations (AFMAO) Fact Sheet.

Chaplain Rowley stressed that it was "Always Family Members First." He was usually notified within hours of a death and coordinated contacting all family members at the same time wherever they were. Initially it was thought that only a few family members could attend the arrival but that changed quickly. Chuck discussed when 32 deaths occurred in one plane crash with 18 Seals. 1000 family members attended the arrival with over 5000 total people attending. The Seal community is very tight and they came from all over the country to honor their fallen comrades. Another important part of his coordination was making sure the families had a place to stay for several days even though the identification process usually took 7 days before the military member could be transferred home. The Chaplain met with them while they were at Dover and called them 1 week out, 2 weeks out, 1 month out and continued following up with them as appropriate for each family. He showed a short video of the transfer when the fallen military member returned home with

the streets lined with community members honoring the returning fallen. It was wonderful to see the outpouring of love and support for the families and their deceased family member. This was a very moving as well as informative presentation.

I am nearing the end of almost nine years as President for PACMOAA. I was President from Jan. 2003 to Dec. 2006 and then from 2010, when the Immediate Past President Dave Davis resigned and he transferred out of state to a new job with about 9 months remaining of his term, to the present. I have enjoyed this experience tremendously, but I am ready for someone else to take over as President. I will continue to be very involved and support and assist the new President as much as possible. We have a great Leadership Team plus many members that have been involved with PACMOAA for many years, which are wonderful resources. Usually the Immediate Past President is the head of the Nominations Committee only twice. This will be LCDR Lynn Terry's sixth time performing this job and he could use some assistance. Please let me know if you have any questions. Notify Lynn or myself if you are interested and willing to become more active. The list of positions open for the November election will be in the July/August newsletter.

I hope you all have a great summer and hope to see many of you at the June meeting and/or the July brunch. Take care and remember those still serving.[]

WELCOME BACK
The Salute extends a hardy
welcome back to MAJ Chuck Kuehn, USA (Ret.) who lives in Suffolk.

I find that the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have.

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)

Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep

All those soldiers belong to somebody. They got moms, they got wives, they got kids.... They got somebody who loves them.

Liz Allen, Vietnam nurse

Growing up, I wanted to be a doctor, but money was scarce, so I went to nursing school. In 1966, during my senior year, an Army Nurse Corps recruiter came to talk to us. It all sounded so exciting: I would have a chance to travel, it paid well, and, most important, I was assured I wouldn't have to go to Vietnam if I didn't want to - which I didn't.

I signed up. After basic training, I was assigned to Letterman Hospital at the Presidio of San Francisco. During my two years at Letterman, I received orders for Vietnam three times. The first two times, I said no. but the third time; I decided that my two years of experience would probably be an asset over there.

We landed in Tan Son Nhut Air Base, and when the airplane door opened, I nearly fell backward, overwhelmed by the heat and the stench. Suddenly, all my experience seemed trivial. Being twenty-three years old seemed very young. I was scared, but there was no turning back.

After our debriefing, I was assigned to the Sixty-seventh Evac Hospital in Qui Nhon. When the helicopter landed on the hospital tarmac, they set my things on the ground. I climbed out, straightening my skirt. The soldiers in the helicopter yelled, "Good luck, Captain" as they took off.

I was in my class A uniform, which meant I was also wearing nylons and high heels. Nothing could have been less appropriate for the surroundings. Miles of barbed wire, topped by concertina wire, encompassed the hospital compound and the large adjoining airfield, along with acres of hot concrete. I squared my shoulders and marched inside the grim cinder block building in front of me. I was told to get some sleep, because I started tomorrow. I gratefully fell into a bed, and in the morning, I donned my hospital uniform - fatigues and Army boots - just like the soldiers.

Because I was a captain, I was made head nurse on the orthopedic ward, which primarily held soldiers with traumatic amputations. I took my role seriously and had a reputation for strictness.

Being a nurse in the states for two years did not adequately prepare me for Vietnam. I witnessed a tremendous amount of suffering and watched a lot of men die. One of my rules was that nurses are not allowed to cry. The wounded and dying men in our care needed our strength, I told them. We couldn't indulge in the luxury of our own feelings.

On the other hand, I was always straight with the soldiers. I would never say, "Oh, you're going to be just fine," if they were on their way out. I didn't lie.

But I remember one kid that I didn't want to tell. The badly wounded soldier couldn't have been more than eighteen years old. I could see immediately there was nothing we could do to save him. He never screamed or complained, even though he must have been in a lot of pain.

When he asked me, "Am I going to die?" I said, "Do you feel like you are?"

He said, "Yeah, I do."

"Do you pray?" I asked him.

"I know, Now I lay me down to sleep".

"Good," I said, "that'll work."

When he asked me if I would hold his hand, something in me snapped. This kid deserved more than just having his hand held. "I'll do better than that," I told him.

I knew I would catch flak from the other nurses and corpsman, as well as possible jeers from the patients but I didn't care. Without a single look around me, I climbed onto the bed with him. I put my arms around him, stroking his face and his hair as he snuggled close to me. I kissed him on the cheek, and together we recited; "Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take."

Then he looked at me and said just one more sentence, "I love you, Momma, I love you," before he died in my arms - quietly and peacefully - as if he really were just going to sleep.

After a minute, I slipped off his bed and looked around. I'm sure my face was set in a fierce scowl, daring anyone to give me a hard time. But I needn't have bothered. All the nurses and corpsman were breaking my rule and crying silently, tears filling their eyes and rolling down their cheeks.

I thought of the dead soldier's mother. She would receive a telegram informing her that her son had died of "war injuries", but that was all it would say. I thought she might always wonder how it had happened. Had he died out in the field? Had he been with anyone? Did he suffer? If I were his mother, I would need to know.

So later I sat down and wrote her a letter. I thought she'd want to hear that in her son's final moments, he had been thinking of her. But mostly I wanted her to know that her boy hadn't died alone.

Diana Dwan Poole

We dedicate this article to the nurses and corpsman who give loving care and caring to those who need it most.

NEWS FROM MOAA

REJECT PAY & BENEFIT CUTS

The Senate Armed Services Military Personnel Subcommittee accepted the following administration proposals to shift defense costs onto military servicemembers, retirees, and families:

- **Health Care:** a two to three-fold increase in TRICARE pharmacy copayments. This follows last year's increase in copayments with future increases tied to cost-of-living adjustments.
- **Military Pay:** caps the active duty pay raise at 1 percent versus the 1.8 percent pay raise scheduled under current law for the second consecutive year. History shows that once pay caps start they continue until they hurt retention -- and the administration plans at least five years of pay caps.
- **Housing Allowance:** currently serving will be required to pay 5 percent out-of-pocket for their housing. On average this will penalize a military family by more than \$1,200 a year.

The full committee will consider these proposals starting this May. Act now and send your senators a [MOAA-suggested message](#) asking them to resist these efforts to balance the defense budget on the backs of those who serve.

A DOG'S TAIL NEVER LIES

On May 12, the Treasury Department released its latest monthly budget report showing a \$106.9 billion federal budget surplus in April. It's historically a surplus month for the department, when many Americans file taxes and corporations make quarterly tax payments.

Although slightly smaller than last April's monthly surplus, it is contributing to a decline in the annual budget deficit. Through the first seven months of the fiscal year the annual deficit stands at \$306 billion -- \$181 billion or 37 percent less than it was for the same period in

FY 2013.

The Congressional Budget Office forecasts a \$492 billion deficit for FY 2014.

A shrinking deficit is welcome news, but it's still a deficit. Our national debt is nearly \$17 trillion dollars, and continues to grow (albeit at a slower rate).

Our nation will need to continue to grapple with deficit reduction in the years ahead. MOAA will continue to ensure that those who serve our nation aren't asked to carry a disproportionate share of that burden.

DEAR DAD

An old farmer living alone in the country wanted to plant his pepper garden, but the ground was very hard and he was too old to do the work. His only son who used to help him was in jail pending trial for robbing a bank. The old man wrote this letter to his son and mentioned his situation:

"Dear Jake, I've been very depressed lately because it looks like I won't be able to plant my peppers this year. You know how much your mother loved planting peppers this time of year, but I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. I know if you were here my troubles would have been over. I know you would have been happy to dig the plot for me."

Love, Dad

A few days later he received a letter from his son: "Dear Dad, Don't dig up that garden! That's where I buried the THINGS!"

Love, Jake

At 4am the next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area looking for the THINGS. After digging all day and finding nothing, they apologized to the old man and left. The next day the old man received another letter from his son.

"Dear Dad, Happy Fathers Day! Go ahead and plant your peppers now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances."

Love, Jake

THAT'S A WRAP FOR JUNE