



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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FROM THE PRESIDENT



We had a grand Pre-Valentine's Day Dinner meeting on Thursday, February 12th. Besides our enthusiastic speaker, Rhonda Stewart, we had some nice romantic back-ground music; our ladies and men were toasted by me and Wendi Carpenter respectively; and all our ladies received a traditional red rose (I hope the fellows didn't feel slighted). The meal and service were grand, Sherry Ferki won the 50-50, and we sang "Happy Birthday" to Shirley Barker and Bob Parker.

Mrs. Stewart informed us concerning the levels of housing and care at "The Village At Woods Edge" in Franklin, Virginia where she serves as the facility's executive director. She also presented general information concerning similar retirement opportunities and options. We were reminded of several different kinds of facilities such as "Lake Prince", "The Chesapeake," and others. She offered an informative question and answer period afterward. All told, it was a grand evening. The only thing to have been improved would have been your presence if you missed this one.

We recognized one of our newest members, CAPT Gordan Van Hook USN (Ret.) and his wife, Anne. The next day I saw his name in the February "Military Officer Magazine" in the Faces of MOAA section on page 71. It mentioned his part in the "Maersk Alabama" incident. Maybe he can be our speaker one evening. (see related item on page 3)

Future meetings look interesting. April is a presentation on the Albert G. Horton Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk. In May John Maiorana, a prior PACMOAA member, will talk about the Mended Hearts organization. June brings our Scholarship dinner and puppet show. July is our Sunday Brunch with Norfolk and Peninsula chapters.

The February issue of *The Salute* presented several MOAA issues and objectives. Now let's think of a few special PACMOAA challenges for the rest of the year:

- Increase our membership up over 100. We currently have 91.
- Share our super web site and newsletter with others.
- Increase our scholarship giving so we can provide two scholarships in June.
- Increase the size of our Legislative Away Team headed by Karl Wilson. A team of four to six people would make contact and communication with our legislators a much easier task. We should take a crowd to the Congressional Luncheon 21 May. You don't have to be on the committee to be an A-Team member.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Pearl Anne Carroll
Michael J McGlynn
Gordan E. Van Hook

In closing, we hope to see everyone at the up-coming meeting, Thursday, 12 March. If you've not been with us for a while, surprise us all and join with us for an evening of dining and comradery.

Thank you for your faithful service,
Hal



[PACMOAA
LEADERSHIP
DIRECTORY](#)

Chapter Happenings

Mar 08 Daylight Savings Starts Mar 15 Ides of March
Mar 12 Dinner meeting Mar 20 Vernal equinox
Mar 17 **St. Patrick's Day** Mar 29 Palm Sunday

MARCH MEETING

Our dinner will be held on **Thursday March 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 Italian Dressing
Chicken Cordon Bleu (sauce on the side)
Jasmine Rice and Mixed Vegetable Medley
Rolls
Chef's Choice Dessert
Coffee and Hot Water for Tea Station
Water and Ice Tea

Cost is **\$30.00** (includes tax and gratuity) Please make your reservation no later than **Sunday, March 8th** with Sherry Ferki by phone or email. Come join us for good company, good food and a good time.

A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID.

GUEST SPEAKER: Col Cherie Zadlo, USAF (Ret.) Director, MOAA's Member Products and Services

During Zadlo's 27-year Air Force career, as a commander or staff officer at wing, group, major command, Department of Air Force, joint command, and



OSD levels, she was responsible for developing, integrating, and delivering support services and facilities in the U.S., overseas, and while deployed. As an installation commander both in the states and overseas, she managed and supported multiple missions, operations, military, civilians, contractors, and their families. In 2003 and 2004, she was the director of Manpower & Personnel (J1), for U.S. Central Command, responsible for the full spectrum of manpower, personnel, and quality-of-life services for U.S. and coalition forces in Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom theaters of operations.

Upon retirement from active duty, she was a consultant to military compensation committees and spent five years as a corporate senior vice president of Ceridian Lifeworks Government Programs.

Zadlo holds a Bachelor of Arts from Baylor University in Texas, a Master of Science from Central Michigan University, and a Master of Science from the National War College in Washington, D.C. She and her husband, Rick Pullen, reside in Alexandria, Va.[]





A PACMOAA MEMBER OF NOTE



As mentioned on page 1, CAPT Van Hook and his wife Anne attended our February dinner where he was belatedly recognized as a new PACMOAA member. As Hal mentioned Gordan was a key figure in response to the pirating of the Norfolk, VA based Maersk Alabama off the coast of Somali. The following items will serve to refresh and expand his comments.

Military Officer: CAPT Gordan E. Van Hook USN (Ret), a MOAA Life Member, joined MOAA in 2007. In 2009, Van Hook led the Maersk crisis team in Mombasa, Kenya, responding to the hijacking of *Maersk Alabama* and organizing repatriation of the crew while assisting U.S. naval forces that rescued Captain Richard Phillips. He is a consultant with his company Maritime Insights LLC. He is a MOAA board member, serving on its Print and Digital Media, Governance, and Strategic Planning committees.

LinkedIn: Capt. Van Hook served on various destroyers and frigates and staffs. He was Chief Engineer on USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS (FFG-58) when she struck a mine in the Persian Gulf in 1988, and was awarded the Bronze Star with Combat "V" for his actions to save the ship. He commanded USS O'BANNON (DD-987) and served as operations officer for the Fifth Fleet to launch Operation Enduring Freedom after 9/11. He also commanded

DESTROYER SQUADRON 23, and served as Sea Combat Commander for NIMITZ (CVN-68) Strike Group. He served on the CNO's Strategic Studies Group and as Executive Director of the CNO Executive Panel.

The *Maersk Alabama* hijacking in 2009 was a series of maritime events that began with four pirates in the Indian Ocean seizing the cargo ship MV *Maersk Alabama* 240 nautical miles southeast of Eyl, Somalia. The siege ended after a rescue effort by the U.S. Navy on 12 April 2009. It was the first successful pirate seizure of a ship registered under the American flag since the early 19th century. Many news reports referenced the last pirate seizure as being during the Second Barbary War in 1815, although other incidents had occurred as late as 1821.

CNN-Pirates again targeted the Maersk Alabama in 2011 off the coast of Kenya, where "The captain followed the appropriate protocol and authorized an embarked security team to fire warning shots (forcing) the pirates to turn away."[]





STORMING THE HILL

PACMOAA kicked off our 2015 legislative effort with our legislative team attending a two-day campaign on 25 and 26 January to solicit support for military and veteran issues at the Virginia General Assembly. The team included Karl Wilson (our Legislative Representative), Steve Turner (our VCOC representative and VCOC 1st vice president), Dolly Cherrington (assistant legislative representative), and Hal Hostetler (PACMOAA president). This was the 19th consecutive visit to the Virginia Assembly by VCOC and chapter representatives from all MOAA chapters in the Commonwealth of Virginia. On Sunday the 25th, council officers and chapter representatives met at the Virginia War Memorial located in Richmond, VA for their 1st Quarter, 2015 VCOC meeting with the focus being on preparation for the following day's "Storming" of the Virginia Assembly. The agenda for the legislative committee was to review the 2015 Joint Leadership Counsel of Veterans Services Organizations (JLC) objectives in preparation for presentation by chapter representatives to state delegates and senators the following day.

The JLC legislative objectives are as follows:

1. Funding support for Department of Veteran Services by state representatives
2. Support Virginia Wounded Warriors program
3. Fund 3 new positions for the Virginia War Memorial.
4. Reduce veteran Homelessness
5. Approve veteran lottery
6. Fund veteran care centers (Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia)

Other Legislative efforts endorsed by the JLC

1. Veterans dockets (Courts)
2. Funding for V³ program (Virginia Values Veterans)

*Note: General Assembly approved state funding for veteran care centers construction projects (Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia)

Monday morning after the VCOC meeting we "Stormed the Hill" from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. We briefed the final recommendations of the Vir-

ginia Board of Veteran Services Organizations and the JLC and the background for the outcome on each.

The VCOC representatives reconvened in the Speakers Conference Room. Delegate Kirk Cox, R-66th District, hosted the VCOC Day at the Assembly with his staff offering assistance where needed. Virginia's new Commissioner of Veteran Services, John Newby, welcomed the VCOC representatives and was followed during the day by remarks from Delegate Cox, Del. Bill Howell, Del. Chris Stolle, Del. David Toscano, Congressmen Randy Forbes and Rob Wittman, Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam and Governor Terry McAuliffe.



Speakers Conference Room while Delegate Stolle was addressing VCOC representatives.



VCOC President Victoria Revilla to the left of Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe and his wife, Dorothy.



Chapter representatives met with all state delegates or legislative assistants representing



Del. Lionell Spruill (Chesapeake and Suffolk) was most positive, promising to support all our goals.



Sheryl Moody Reddington, Legislative Assistant to Delegate Johnny Joannou (Portsmouth), received us and promised to thoroughly brief Del. Joannou.



Karl Wilson had a good one-on-one chat with Delegate Matthew James (Portsmouth). Not just another photo-op.

PACMOAA area members. We were not able to meet with Senator Lucas or staff as she was recovering from surgery. She has just returned to work. Best wishes for her recovery.

The intent of Governor McAuliffe and other legislative leaders is to make Virginia "The most Veteran-Friendly State" and the work done by the VCOC and MOAA chapters is a key factor in their success. []

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by Bob Steorts, Chaplain

Each summer in the late 1960's, my two sisters and I would ride the Greyhound bus from Arizona to Arkansas to stay with our father.

A World War II veteran, Dad had many medical problems, any one of which could cause many people to lose more than their sense of humor, but not him.

I have vivid memories of Dad waking us up in the morning. Before he'd put on his legs for the day (he had lost his legs after his discharge), his wheelchair was his mobility. Holding his cane, which was his extended arm, he would roll through the house yelling, "Up, up, up!" Get up and face the day! It's a beautiful day! Rise and shine!" If we didn't get up right away, he would repeat his song in rhythm with his cane hitting the end of our beds. This was no performance put on for our benefit; every day was truly a beautiful day to him.

Back in the sixties, there was no handicapped parking or wheelchair accessible ramps like there are now, so even a trip to the grocery store was a difficult task. Dad wanted no assistance from anyone. He would climb stairs slowly but surely, whistling all the way. As a teenager, I found this embarrassing, but if Dad noticed, he didn't let on.

Once during a trip to the store, he found the three of us in the makeup department and began to look at makeup with us. He picked up a container of powder and started reading the label out loud. "Leaves your skin soft and silky from head to toe. Well that leaves me out," he said laughing. We had to laugh, too. He had a



talent for finding humor in everything he did.

Those summers always ended too soon. He would drive us back to Arizona every year, stopping at the checkpoint for fruit and vegetables at the New Mexico-Arizona border. When asked if he had any fruits or vegetables, he would reply, "Just three sweet peas".

Our father has been gone for a long time now, but not the lesson that he taught us: You are only as handicapped as you let yourself be.

I know now, too late, that any one of his "sweet peas" would be proud to walk beside him - whistling - up a set of stairs. And be glad to wake to the sound of his voice, to rise and shine and see one of his beautiful days.

In memory of Marian Segal Arnett Jr., World War II veteran, 1928-1970.

This story is from "Chicken Soup for the Veterans Soul" and it is a reminder of those who served in WWII and the sacrifices made that we may be free forever.

Always remember - never forget!

AUXILIARY CORNER

by Sharon DeVaney MOAA AMAC

Recent natural disasters have emphasized the importance of being prepared for an emergency. Depending on where you live, you might prepare for a hurricane, an earthquake, a tornado, a fire, or a flood. I think it would be helpful for everyone to have a "grab-and-go" box that contains important information for any type of emergency.

My grab-and-go box is in my family room by the door leading to the garage. My box contains cash, phone numbers (family members, doctors, pharmacy, bank, credit card company, etcetera), prescription medications, copies of prescriptions (medications, eyeglasses), copies of my homeowner's insurance, deeds, wills, durable power of attorney, a health care directive, recent investment statements, a home inventory, and personal documents (birth, death, and marriage certificates; DD Form 214; passports; etcetera).

Also, my grab-and-go box contains the keys to my safe-deposit box, computer usernames and passwords, and the numbers of my Social Security card, driver's license, bank accounts, credit cards, investment accounts, etcetera. It is important to include a list of debt obligations, including contact information. I also have added a cellphone charger and batteries.

I have decided on a few personal items I would grab if time permits. They include a shadow box of my husband's medals and a box of family photos. I plan to take a thumb drive with recent documents and my cellphone, laptop, and tablet. If I had pets, I would need to prepare for them.

It also would be helpful to have an inventory of valuables. A video camera or smart phone can help you gather this information. Other helpful hints are to have at least a half of tank of gas in your car at all times, maps in your car, and one or two escape routes in mind. Decide with family members on one or two possible destinations for meeting.

My home state of Colorado has experienced both fires and flooding recently. Residents are preparing as best they can for each possibility, and I hear them asking each other, "Do you have an emergency plan? Is your important information in a secure location? Is it readily accessible if you have to leave quickly?"

We never know when a disaster will occur. So prepare your grab-and-go box now.

The following hand scrawled telephone message, found on the refrigerator, was forwarded to me by one of *The Salute's* proof readers:

SOMEONE FROM THE GUYANA COLLEGES CALLED. THEY SAID THE PABST BEER IS NORMAL. I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU LIKED BEER.

I am unsure if I am to take this as "under paid proof readers will never be replaced by spell check" or "men should not take phone messages."

THAT'S A WRAP FOR MARCH