



The Falcon Flyer

Oct-Dec 2025



Supporting those who are serving, those who have served, those who have survived

SUPPORT OF NATIONAL MOAA

MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of uniformed service officers and their surviving spouses. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically non-partisan association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. MOAA's mission is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's capital. Support MOAA's advocacy efforts by going to www.moaa.org/takeaction.

The Falcons Landing Chapter is one of more than 400-plus local organizations affiliated with National MOAA and is a nonpartisan, nonprofit veterans' association. Our chapter provides programs to support those who are serving; those who have served; and those who have survived, while placing special focus on community support.

We support the national organization through support of legislative priorities and "Advocacy in Action" and are active in our community supporting three JROTC programs, helping recovering and needy veterans, supporting surviving spouses in our continuing care facilities and providing speakers to community service organizations.



**THE FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER OF
MOAA WILL ACTIVELY SUPPORT**

**THOSE WHO
ARE SERVING**

**THOSE WHO
HAVE SERVED**

**THOSE WHO
HAVE SURVIVED**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUPPORT OF MOAA NATIONAL/TOC	PAGE 1	IN MEMORIUM	PAGE 13
TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE 2	ACTIVE ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS	PAGE 14-15
2026 MEETING SCHEDULE	PAGE 2	ELECTED OFFICIALS	PAGE 16
CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	PAGE 3-4	THE DAY AFTER	PAGE 17
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS	PAGE 5	GATHERING: TRENCH WARFARE	PAGE 18
FALCONS LANDING CHAP WEBSITE	PAGE 5	GATHERING: PAKISTAN DISASTER	PAGE 19
SUPPORT CHAPTER PROGRAMS	PAGE 6	TOTAL FORCE CONF SUMMARY	PAGE 20
FACT SHEET 2025	PAGE 7	SAVE THE DATE-VETERANS DAY	PAGE 21
ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY	PAGE 8-9		
MEMBERSHIP	PAGE 10		
FINANCIAL REPORT	PAGE 11		
AUXILIARY OF MOAA CHAPTER	PAGE 12		

THE GATHERING IS OPEN TO ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS AND FALCONS LANDING RESIDENTS. THE GATHERING IS NORMALLY CONDUCTED ONCE A MONTH IN THE FALCONS LANDING BALLROOM.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) MEETS FOUR TIMES A YEAR AND THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETS TWICE A YEAR. MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (PRESIDENT, 1ST VP; 2ND VP, SECRETARY, TREASURER) MEETS AS REQUIRED.

COMMITTEES MEET AT DISCRETION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS.

2026 MEETING SCHEDULE

January 16	Board Meeting/Installation of Officers, 1400, WC
April 16	Board Meeting, 1000, WC
May 25	Memorial Day Program, 1030, BR
June 18	General Membership Meeting, 1500, BR
August 20	Board Meeting, 1000, WC
October 15	Board Meeting, 1000, WC
November 11	Veterans Day Program, 1030, BR
November 19	Chapter Annual Meeting, 1500, BR
January 21, 2027	Board Meeting, 1000, WC

WC=Wellness Center Classroom

BR= Falcons Landing Ballroom



CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER 2025

To all our Chapter and Auxiliary members and your families, I wish you a slightly belated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. As I write these words, I am preparing to turn over the leadership of our MOAA Chapter to Ken Evans, who was elected to the Chapter Presidency on November 20th and will assume his new office on January 16th. Having been your President for the past four years, I, of course, will be stepping down with mixed emotions. I feel very good about the state of our Chapter. Our core programs and activities – our Memorial Day and Veterans Day programs, our Loudoun Veterans and Family Support (LVFS) program, our JROTC scholarship program, our monthly Gatherings, and our volunteer work in the Health Center – I expect will all continue at the high level of excellence we have come to know, enjoy, and applaud. Our routine business activities – membership, financial management, legislative affairs, our quarterly Newsletter, and our Chapter Website have been and I believe will continue to be accomplished so well by very competent hands. For this excellent Chapter health report, I commend our Board members, who put in countless hours of work to accomplish our mission and maintain our very high standards of performance. In particular, I would like to recognize and sincerely thank those Board members, that we all know but I will not name here, who have served our Chapter for multiple terms of office and who are always ready to step up and do whatever is required. Indeed it is you that have earned our Chapter MOAA National's Level of Excellence (LOE) and Excellence in Communications awards year after year. This is the stuff of the outstanding legacy our MOAA Chapter at Falcons Landing has developed and maintained for so many years. I offer special kudos to the Chapter leadership team who has served us all so well and who have made my job so satisfying and prideful during my entire tenure.

So, is there anything I would wish for the future? Yes, a few things. I would like to see someone step up and lead the Speakers Bureau which I believe has been a very valuable community service undertaking for a long time. I regret that the Board found it necessary to terminate that program this past year because of a lack of a new volunteer leader. In more general terms, I lament the apparent lack of interest in a sizable portion of our membership in becoming actively involved in our Chapter activities – and, of course, in serving in leadership positions. While our first-class Board of Directors keeps things running at a high level at all times, they too will tire over time. We need to infuse our Chapter with new energy and new ideas much more frequently and with more enthusiasm. Perhaps Ken, in assuming our Chapter's leadership role this year, can find the spark to renew much needed enthusiasm in our general membership. I should note that this problem is not unique to our Chapter. MOAA National is struggling with this phenomena nationwide.



CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER 2025

And so, as I prepare to turn over the Chapter Presidency to Ken, I wish him every success in the coming years – as I do for all continuing and new Board members. I will continue to serve on the Board of Directors in the capacity of Immediate Past President – and I very much look forward to doing so. Thank you all, Chapter and Auxiliary members and your spouses, for your support, friendship, and devotion to helping *those who are serving, those who have served, and those who have survived the service of loved ones*. As one of many MOAA Chapters across our country, this is our mission -- and it is indeed a noble mission. May our MOAA Chapter continue to flourish, prosper, and serve our community and our country.

Phil Walsh, President



MOAA®
FALCONS LANDING
CHAPTER

HAPPY NEW YEAR

NEVER STOP SERVING



2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	KEN EVANS*
1 st VP/LEGISLATIVE	JIM FONTANA*
AFFAIRS	
2 nd VP/PROGRAMS	DAVE NORDEAN
SECRETARY	DONNA EVERAGE
TREASURER	GEORGE DEFILIPPI*
IMMEDIATE PAST PRES	PHIL WALSH

* INDICATES NEW BOARD MEMBER

DIRECTORS

MEMBERSHIP	BUDDY EVERAGE
AUXILIARY	BARBARA O'BRIEN
SS AFFAIRS	JACKIE MULLEN
COMMUNICATIONS	BOB MANNING
JROTC PROGRAM	DENNY MORIN*
LVFS REP	HOWARD SCHUE
LCCWEB REP	PETER SCOTT
GATHERINGS	BEN ROMERO
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	BILL SUTER

WEBSITE



Falcons Landing Chapter

Military Officers Association of America

Home About Us Membership Programs Auxiliary Legislative Newsletter Gathering Members Only



Falcons Landing Chapter members and veterans interested in joining the Chapter are encouraged to browse through the award-winning website. The website is updated monthly with current information. *To access the website, simply type the following URL into your web browser, falconsmoaa.org. If you want to access the Membership Only section, a password is required which you may obtain from our Director of Membership, CDR (Ret) Buddy Everage, (703) 822-1201, beverage49@gmail.com*

Mark Carey, Webmaster
markdcarey@hotmail.com



HELP SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMS

PROGRAMS



LOUDOUN VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

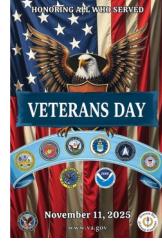


JROTC



FALCONS LANDING
Chambers Roads, Elementary Living
FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA)

SPEAKERS DIRECTORY



November 11, 2025



19

Our activities, especially the veterans' assistance and scholarship programs, require funds well beyond our annual dues. Last year, we solicited donations, and your response was generous. Again, we are asking for your support, promising to apply your donation as you designate. Please annotate your check on the memo line: "veterans assistance," "scholarships," "Adopt-A-Platoon," or "general" (meaning expenses consistent with our mission). *Checks should be made out to the "Falcons Landing Chapter of MOAA" and placed in the mail slot of our Treasurer, Col (ret) George DiFilippi, 3105. Those outside Falcons Landing may mail to George at 20540 Falcons Landing Circle, #P2, Potomac Falls, Virginia 20165. Your contributions may be tax deductible on your federal return. We will send all donors a thank-you letter to that effect.*

A continuing practice of our Chapter is the award of scholarships to deserving junior ROTC seniors at Chantilly Academy (Air Force), Loudoun County HS (Navy) and South Lakes HS (Army).



2026 FACT SHEET

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.

The Falcons Landing Chapter (FLC) is one of more than 400-plus local organizations affiliated with National MOAA and is a member of the Virginia Council of Chapters. The Chapter is located at Falcons Landing, a Life Plan Community which is operated by the Air Force Retired Officers Community (AFROC). It is the only MOAA Chapter in Loudoun County. The Chapter is also a member of the **Virginia Council of Chapters, MOAA**.

The mission of the Chapter is to provide programs to support: *those who are serving; those who have served; and those who have survived*, while placing special focus on community support.

Chapter membership is open to those who hold, or have ever held, a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force, Public Health Service, NOAA, and their surviving spouses. As of November 20, 2025, there were 122 Premium Members and 68 Auxiliary Chapter Members for a total of 190 Chapter Members.

The most significant, ongoing program for the Chapter is the multifaceted local support to veterans and their families. The Chapter established the **Loudoun Veterans and Family Support (LVFS)** program in partnership with Community Lutheran Church of Sterling, providing financial and general support to Loudoun County Veterans needing assistance.

The Chapter strongly supports the **Loudoun County Community Veterans Engagement Board (LCCVEB)**, whose purpose is promoting a healthy and enriched lifestyle for Loudoun County veterans and their family members through community outreach and advocacy on Loudoun County veterans' issues.

The Chapter sponsors the **Gathering**, a program of distinguished guest speakers for monthly presentations on current and past world and government affairs.

The Chapter has established a **Speakers' Bureau**. This initiative is in keeping with the chapter's goal of continuing to inform the American public about their military establishment. This program has been temporarily suspended until further notice.

Four times a year the Chapter supports the **Adopt a Platoon Soldier Support Effort**® dedicated to quality of life and raising morale for those serving overseas in the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corp, serving deployed United States Service Men and Women by providing ongoing care packages to improve Coast Guard and Special Forces.

The Chapter supports three **Junior ROTC** units in our area of responsibility: the Air Force JROTC unit at Chantilly High School in Fairfax, the Navy JROTC unit at Loudoun County High School in Leesburg, and the Army JROTC unit at South Lakes High School in Reston. The Chapter President and Director of JROTC Programs present scholarships to selected cadets at each school. In addition, the Lieutenant General John Pustay Scholarship is awarded to a selected cadet at Chantilly High School.

Memorial and Veterans Day Programs are presented each year at Falcons Landing.



ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

DONNA EVERAGE

The annual meeting of the MOAA Chapter was held at 3:00 p.m. on November 20, 2025, in the Falcons Landing Ballroom. All Directors and Officers were present with the exception of Barbara O'Brien, Ed Post, Joe Miller, Howard Schue, Bill Suter, and Don Saari.

INTRODUCTION OF PROSPECTIVE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

New candidates for Officer and Director positions were introduced to the Chapter. Those individuals were Ken Evans, Jim Fontana, George DeFilippi, and Denny Morin.

CHAPTER HISTORY AND MISSION

Upon completion of the Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Prayer, Phil Walsh provided a review of the Chapter's History, detailed the purposes of Falcons Landing, and presented the Mission Statement.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

During the presentation of the current Board of Directors, Phil noted the individuals who would be stepping down from their positions at the end of 2025. At the conclusion of the meeting, an election was conducted to elect the new Officers and Directors. Phil made a motion to elect the following proposed slate of Officers and Board Members: Ken Evans for Chapter President, Jim Fontana for Vice President of Legislative Affairs, George DeFilippi for Treasurer, and Denny Morin for JROTC Coordinator. The motion was seconded by Jerry Galloway. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Phil also publicly recognized Peter Scott for his significant contributions to the Chapter, particularly assisting in recruiting a slate of officers to help run the Chapter.

MEMBERSHIP

Buddy Everage gave a presentation on membership, highlighting that while the number of military service members is decreasing, the population of non-military residents is increasing. As a result, it is anticipated that, over time, membership in the Chapter will continue to decline. During this segment, Phil also announced the passing of Ward O'Brien, a valued member of our MOAA Chapter.

Phil further remarked that the membership challenges experienced by the Chapter are consistent with those discussed at national MOAA meetings. To address declining membership, MOAA has established a national database and is making a concerted effort to inform Chapter membership directors about national MOAA members residing in their areas, encouraging them to join local chapters.



ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY (continued)

DONNA EVERAGE

FINANCES

Richard Searles provided an in-depth review of the Chapter's financials. The Chapter conducts an annual donation campaign to fund operations for the upcoming year, setting a target goal based on anticipated expenses. The primary expenditures are for JROTC scholarships and the Loudoun County Veterans and Family Support (LVFS) program.

FALCONS LANDING MOAA CHAPTER PROGRAMS

Phil discussed the Chapter's programs, noting that LVFS funding was especially critical last year due to increased program costs. In February, a Special Board meeting was held to reassess funding priorities. As a result, the Board decided to reduce JROTC scholarships from \$9,000 to \$6,000 (\$2,000 per school) to ensure sufficient funds for ease visibility and membership, the Chapter published an article in the Falcons Landing newsletter and produced a commercial about MOAA for Channel 970, which will be aired again this year.

CHAPTER ANNUAL UNDERTAKINGS AND MAJOR EVENTS

The Chapter's two major events—Memorial Day and Veterans Day—were successfully held, due in large part to the efforts of Bob Manning and Dave Nordeen. The Chapter also submitted applications for the Levels of Excellence (LOE) Award and Communications Awards. The Chapter was honored with 5-star distinctions for the LOE award and for both the MOAA Newsletter and Website awards.

Peter Scott collaborated with the Resident Council to provide all residents with new ID cards, resulting in nearly all residents receiving updated identification. Peter also led the detailed application process for the LVFS financial grant from MOAA National; all funds from this grant directly support veterans. Since 2016, the LVFS model developed by the Chapter has been emulated nationwide. This year, the Chapter received a \$3,500 grant from MOAA National specifically for the LVFS program.

The national database's committee module was updated, and the Chapter is responsible for keeping its information current. This year, the database transitioned to an entirely new software system, and Phil thanked Buddy Everage for assisting with this process.

Ben Romero presented a review of The Gathering events, which were held in 2025 and are scheduled again for November and December.

The 2026 Chapter meeting dates were announced.



MOAA MEMBERSHIP

BUDDY EVERAGE



REGULAR CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Per the chapter's bylaws -- the membership of the chapter shall be composed of men and women who are serving or have served on active duty or in one of the reserve components as a commissioned or warrant officer in one of the seven US Uniformed Services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service) or in one of the National Guard or Reserve Components thereof. Membership as of November 20, 2025.

REGULAR CHAPTER MEMBERS (ON/OFF CAMPUS) – 122

CHAPTER AUXILIARY MEMBERS -- 68

Surviving Spouses – 56

Spouses of current chapter members – 12

Others - 0

We invite and encourage you to join the Falcons Landing Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), the preeminent organization protecting the rights and benefits of service members past, current, and future. The local chapters perform similar services at the community and county level, and they educate and inform members on important issues facing veterans and their families. We are proud that our Chapter has been awarded MOAA's highest-level 5-Star Chapter rating – and we ask you to join us in perpetuating that honor. As a member you will receive our newsletter electronically via email. If you don't have email access, we will send a print copy to your mailing address.

When you join our Chapter, the only one in Loudoun County, you'll add your voice to those of the members of the [Virginia Council of Chapters \(VCOC\)](#), a statewide network of Virginia chapters.

If you have interest in or questions about joining MOAA's select group of professionals at the national and/or chapter levels, please contact CDR (Ret) Buddy Everage, (703) 822-1201, beverage49@gmail.com, or fill out the Contact Form in the Contact Tab of the Falcons Landing Chapter website at falconsmoaa.org. You can also find the membership application for MOAA National/Chapter at www.falconsmoaa.org/



SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT RICHARD SEARLES

FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER MOAA SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT 1 JANUARY -- 31 DECEMBER 2025

	<u>YTD ACTUAL</u>	<u>2025 BUDGET TOTAL</u>
2024 DONATIONS	14,034	
2024 DUES	1,940	
2024 NET TRANSACTIONS	13	
CASH BALANCE, 1 JANUARY 2025	\$ 15,987	

INCOME

2025 DONATIONS AND DUES	<u>16,314</u>	<u>16,000</u>
-------------------------	---------------	---------------

EXPENDITURES

DIRECT SUPPORT	<u>(13,200)</u>	<u>(15,300)</u>
PROGRAMS	<u>(605)</u>	<u>(850)</u>
ADMINISTRATION	<u>(1,773)</u>	<u>(1,280)</u>
TOTAL EXPENDURES	<u>(15,579)</u>	<u>(17,430)</u>
 DECREASE IN CASH	 <u>735</u>	 <u>(1,430)</u>

CASH BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER 2025	\$ <u>16,722</u>
---------------------------------------	-------------------------

THE DETAILED FINANCIAL REPORT MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE
CHAPTER TREASURER, GEORGE DEFILIPPI, AT gdefilippi@gmail.com



FALCONS LANDING MOAA CHAPTER AUXILIARY

BARBARA O'BRIEN

THE CHAPTER AUXILIARY IS ESTABLISHED TO ASSIST THE CHAPTER IN EXECUTING ITS PURPOSE. AS STATED IN THE CHAPTER BYLAWS, THE PURPOSE OF THE MOAA CHAPTER IS TO PROMOTE THE PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES OF MOAA AND, SPECIFICALLY, TO ACTIVELY SUPPORT:

- THOSE WHO ARE SERVING
- THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED
- THOSE WHO HAVE SURVIVED

FURTHER, WHILE THE AUXILIARY IS A SEPARATE, SELF-GOVERNED ORGANIZATION THAT SHARES THE SAME PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CHAPTER, IT IS ESTABLISHED SPECIFICALLY TO DIRECTLY SUPPORT THE CHAPTER'S PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES.

The MOAA Chapter Auxiliary is the Go-To Volunteer Organization at Falcons Landing

THREE CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP ARE SPECIFIED IN THE BYLAWS:

- SURVIVING SPOUSES OF REGULAR CHAPTER MEMBERS – AUTOMATIC MEMBERSHIP ON THE PASSING OF A REGULAR CHAPTER MEMBER
- SPOUSES OF REGULAR CHAPTER MEMBERS – UPON REQUEST/APPLICATION FROM A SPOUSE OF A LIVING REGULAR CHAPTER MEMBER
- OTHER INTERESTED RESIDENTS OF FALCONS LANDING – UPON REQUEST/APPLICATION FROM A NON-MOAA AFFILIATED RESIDENT OF FALCONS LANDING WHO IS INTERESTED IN ASSISTING WITH THE AUXILIARY'S PROGRAM OF VOLUNTEER WORK.

MORE ABOUT THE AUXILIARY

- AUXILIARY MEMBERS PAY NO CHAPTER DUES
- VOLUNTEER OUTREACH AVAILABLE IN INDEPENDENT LIVING, THE JOHNSON CENTER, WEST FALLS CENTER, AND HILLSIDE HOUSE TO INCLUDE: VISITATION, COFFEE/MEAL VISITS, EXERCISE, BINGO, MAIL DELIVERY, NEWSPAPER DELIVERY, ASSISTANCE IN 2L INTERACTIVE PROGRAMS, HAPPY HOURS, MUSIC, WEEKEND COVERAGE OF RECEPTION DESK IN TJC WHEN REQUESTED.
- TYPICAL ON-SITE VOLUNTEER EFFORT – APPROXIMATELY 150-200 HOURS/MONTH.



IN MEMORIUM

JOAN KEENAN

FEBRUARY 10, 1936-OCTOBER 9, 2025
SURVIVING SPOUSE OF THOMAS KEENEN, JR
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

GRETCHEN GREENE

JUNE 5, 1935-OCTOBER 13, 2025
SPOUSE OF WALLACE GREEN
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

GEORGE RUSSELL

1930-OCTOBER 31, 2025
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

WARD O'BRIEN

SEPTEMBER 4, 1937-NOVEMBER 16, 2025
UNITED STATES NAVY/ARMY

PATRICK FITZPATRICK

JUNE 8, 1939-NOVEMBER 19, 2025
UNITED STATES NAVY

ANN KENNEDY

JANUARY 28, 1930-NOVEMBER 21, 2025
SURVIVING SPOUSE OF JIM KENNEDY
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

SUSAN WELSH

APRIL 27, 1932-DECEMBER 18, 2025
SURVIVING SPOUSE OF JACK WELSH
UNITED STATES NAVY





MOAA'S ACTIVE ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS

Listed below is a summary of the current Active Advocacy Campaigns being conducted by MOAA. As chapter members of MOAA you are encouraged to participate in those areas that are of particular interest to you. For more details of each area and instructions on how to participate click on the following URL: [MOAA | Action Center](#).

Support for Military Spouses: Advocating for the inclusion of military spouses as a target group under the Work Opportunity Tax Credit to combat their high unemployment rate.

TRICARE and Health Coverage:

- Opposing the end of GLP-1 coverage for TRICARE For Life retirees.
- Calling for expanded TRICARE eligibility for Guard and Reserve members who are federal employees.
- Supporting coverage of assisted reproductive technology, including IVF, for service-members and their families.
- Seeking to expand TRICARE Young Adult eligibility up to age 26.
- Promoting improved access to OB-GYN and prenatal care for military families.

Veteran Support and Benefits:

- Urging passage of the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act to support veteran caregivers.
- Advocating for legislation to provide timely care for toxic-exposed veterans.
- Supporting the Fairness for Servicemembers and Their Families Act to update life insurance coverage in line with inflation.
- Pushing for increased Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for surviving spouses.
- Backing the Love Lives On Act to protect the right of surviving military spouses to remarry and retain benefits.
- Endorsing the Major Richard Star Act amendment to correct pay offsets for medically retired veterans.

Military Family Quality of Life:

- Seeking restoration of full Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH).
- Addressing hazardous unaccompanied housing conditions in the military.
- Improving access and reporting for care at Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs).
- Advocating for leave policy parity for U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps members.



MOAA'S ACTIVE ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS (continued)

Financial Protections: Calling for the resumption of Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) operations to safeguard servicemembers from predatory financial practices.

Sexual Trauma and Disability System: Supporting the Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act to improve care for survivors of military sexual trauma and defending the integrity of the VA disability system.

Personal Stories: Encouraging servicemembers, veterans, and their families to share their experiences regarding TRICARE coverage changes, pharmacy network impacts, GLP-1 coverage, and disability system integrity.

FEDERAL



WASHINGTON

STATE



RICHMOND

LOCAL



LEESBURG

ELECTED OFFICERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION ARE FOUND ON PAGE 16

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**An Evening with The Honorable Phyllis J. Randall,
Chairwoman, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors**

January 6, 2026

7:30pm

Falcons Landing Ballroom

**Also in attendance will be Retired Air Force Colonel, Vice Chair,
Michael Turner and Algonkian District Supervisor, Julie Briskman.**



ELECTED OFFICIALS

VIRGINIA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

Senator Mark Warner

703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-2023
<https://warner.senate.gov>



Senator Tim Kaine

231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Tel. (202) 224-4024
<https://kaine.senate.gov>



Congressman Suhas Subramanyam

Virginia's 10th Congressional District
1009 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-5136
<https://subramanyam.house.gov>



GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA

Abigail Spanberger, eff 1/17/2026)

P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218
Phone: (804) 786-2211
Email: Use the web contact form
Website: <https://governor.virginia.gov>



VIRGINIA STATE SENATORS

Loudoun County is represented by several State Senators and Virginia House of Delegates.

District 31: Senator Russet Perry

General Assembly Building, Room No: 506
P. O. Box 396
Richmond, VA 23218
Phone: (804) 698-7531
Fax: (804) 698-7651
Email Address: senatorperry@senate.virginia.gov
Website: senate.virginia.gov

District 32: Senator Kannan Srinivasan

General Assembly Building
Room No: 504
P. O. Box 396
Richmond, VA 23218
Phone: (804) 698-7532
Fax: (804) 698-7651
Email Address: senatorsrinivasan@senate.virginia.gov
Website: senate.virginia.gov

VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELAGATES

District 27: Delegate Atoosa Reaser

General Assembly Building
201 North 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
Room 904
Office: (804) 698-1029
Email: DelMMartinez@house.virginia.gov

District 28: Delegate David Reid

General Assembly Building
201 North 9th Street
Room 913
Office: (804) 698-1028
Email: DelDReid@house.virginia.gov

District 30: John McAuliff

General Assembly Building
201 North 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
Room 819
Office: (804) 698-1020
Email: DelMMaldonado@house.virginia.gov

LOUDOUN COUNTY BOS

Chair, Phyllis J. Randall

1 Harrison Street SE, 5th Floor
Leesburg, VA 20175
Phone: (703) 777-0204
Email: Phyllis.Randall@loudoun.gov
Website: loudoun.gov/board



THE DAY AFTER

~article by Bob Manning

The day after *The Gathering*'s AI Seminar by **Mark Carey** on December 18, one resident, a dear friend – still energized by my explanation of our family's AI-powered poetry project – decided to put her newly acquired skills to work, using our project as her frame work. Her mission? To gently remind me that Army came up short against Navy in the Army–Navy game.

It turns out this was her very first attempt at writing with AI. I later learned this was the prompt she used:

"Write a poem to a retired Army officer friend who was rooting for the Army in the Army–Navy game and lost. I am a former Navy officer and want to playfully rub it in. Five stanzas, rhyming."

A Navy Officer's Consolation to Her Army Friend

You marched in bold with Army pride,
Convinced this year you'd turn the tide.
But when the whistle blew at last,
Your hopes retreated...sinking fast.
You claimed your Black Knights couldn't fail,
Yet Navy's sails caught just the gale.
While you were shouting "Beat the Blue,"
The scoreboard gently disagreed with you.
I watched you pacing, jawline tight
A seasoned soldier braced to fight.
But even veterans must concede,
When Navy plants the winning seed.
Take heart, old friend – no shame, no fear,
You'll get another shot next year.
But till that day, I must insist:
The Navy's still the one you missed.
So raise a glass, accept your fate,
A friendly loss you can't debate.
From one old sailor with a grin–
Go Navy, Beat Army...and thanks for the win.



They say imitation is the best form of flattery – unless it involves football. "See you next year, **Pamela**. Oh, one more thing...I know it was you who planted a Navy flag in my front yard! Until next year – Go Army-Beat Navy."



THE GATHERING: TRENCH WARFARE

~ by Jim Mullen; speaker photo by Alex Hild



Kevin Cropp

During the August Gathering meeting our guest speaker, CAPT Kevin Cropp, USN (Ret), presented a historical discussion based on Trench Warfare in WW I. That war started in 1914 and continued until 1918. It involved Germany and European Allied Forces and was known for the role of trench warfare. During that period, a number of innovations in warfare were developed including tanks, aircraft, artillery, machine guns, and chemical weapons, as well as tactics and methods of operation. The most prominent figure from the war was the development of a stalemate on the Western Front, which consisted of a near continuous line of trenches from the English Channel to Switzerland.

The trenches were an elaborate construction that allowed the troops of both sides to have shelter from opposing forces. During the war, the forces developed routines of daily operation, with new methods for providing food, medical support and logistical support for weapons, as well as new clothing for winter and summer. Soldiers often provided clothing supplies from home for protection in winter weather. The dress often was related to clothing from the local lifestyle. For example, the Scots used kilts. Soldiers wore soft hats for the first part of the war until helmets were introduced in 1916. Food included hard tack, bully beef and spam.

Our guest speaker provided a number of details and examples about weapons systems and details on trenches and styles of weapons, which created an interesting presentation on the time period from the Great War! Our thanks to CAPT Cropp.





THE GATHERING: PAKISTAN DISASTER RELIEF

~ by Jim Mullen; photo by Alex Hild

The Gathering presentation on September 18 featured as our guest speaker VADM, USN (Ret.) Michael LeFever. He presented a discussion of his role as Commander of a task force providing disaster relief to the people of Pakistan after a major earthquake in 2005, which left 80,000 dead, 178,000 injured and 3,000,000 people homeless. The United States had medical support, transportation, food and water, and a requirement to deliver support to a country that had limited resources and did not necessarily want U.S. presence. His challenge as the US Commander assigned to the mission of Commander, Disaster Assistance Center Pakistan for US relief was to find a means of delivering support and saving lives, starting with about 48 hours of lead time.

What we learned during his presentation was not just the role of military strength, but rather the nature of US citizens – both in the military and with other U.S. relief organizations, to provide humanitarian support to people in need. Working with local leaders and with the community of Pakistani people, plus with relief organizations from other nations, they combined to help Pakistan return to a new normal and to build a stronger relationship between Pakistan and the US.

US support consisted of providing medical supplies that were the equivalent of two MASH hospitals, as well as transportation, including critical helicopters to reach remote distances across Pakistan. It also included equipment support in helping rebuild local communities. Admiral Lefever pointed out the value of building long-term relationships that paid dividends in trust between the US and Pakistan that came into focus during a flood in 2008, when the US again provided critical support.

The details of this support can be found in a book by Admiral Lefever called “End Game First.” It focuses on strategic planning, including entry planning and an exit endgame, leadership, and relationships, plus the ability to react with flexibility to rapidly changing situations in unfamiliar environments.

Admiral LeFever was recognized by Pakistan with the award of “Hilal-i-Quaid-i-Azam” (Order of Great Leader) from the President of Pakistan.



(L to R) Ben Romero, Gwen DeFilippi, Mike LeFever, George and Penny DeFilippi

I had the good fortune to record the presentation from Channel 970 to use in creating this article and would certainly recommend repeating this presentation as one of the best Gathering sessions available to Falcons Landing residents. (L to R) Ben Romero, Gwen DeFilippi, Mike LeFever, George and Penny DeFilippi.



INAUGURAL TOTALFORCE+ CONFERENCE SUMMARY

OCTOBER 28-29



MOAA's first-ever TotalForce+ conference was held at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, concluding on October 29, 2025.

The event brought together a diverse group of participants, including service and industry leaders, social media influencers, celebrities, advocates, decorated veterans, and numerous other stakeholders.

Throughout its two days, the central message remained clear and succinct: "People matter." This guiding principle shaped the discussions and initiatives presented at the conference.

Attendees had the opportunity to connect with dozens of exhibitors, listen to a variety of speakers, and engage with special guests. The sessions addressed a wide array of personnel-related topics and challenges affecting both active service members and veterans, as well as their families.

Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), President and CEO of MOAA, delivered remarks on the main stage, emphasizing the importance of positive collaboration within the total force community. He highlighted the conference's role in providing a forum for stakeholders to come together, share meaningful solutions, and establish lasting connections. Kelly expressed optimism that TotalForce+ would become a regular event shaping the total force landscape.

The conference began on a high note with a keynote speech from former Army Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta, a Medal of Honor recipient recognized for his actions in Afghanistan on October 25, 2007. Giunta recounted his journey to military service, which started with his enlistment in 2003, and spoke to a packed audience about the power and value of the all-volunteer force.

Giunta's remarks resonated with attendees, as he stressed that meaningful contributions to a team do not require participation in combat or enduring hardship. Instead, he encouraged everyone to be useful to others and focus on collective achievement rather than individual recognition, underscoring the extraordinary accomplishments that are possible when credit is not the priority.



SAVE THE DATE

April 25, 2026 at 1300 hours in the
Falcons Landing Ballroom



Linton Hall School Fife and Drum Corps performs for Falcons Landing Veterans Day event sponsored by the Falcons Landing Chapter of MOAA.

All Falcons Landing residents and staff are invited to attend a special performance by the Linton Hall School Fife and Drum Corps, honoring the 250th Anniversary of the United States and the 30th Anniversary of the founding of Falcons Landing.