



The Falcon Flyer

Jul-Sept 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**



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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 ON THE 3RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 1000 HOURS IN THE WELLNESS CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM OR VIA ZOOM. MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

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

2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| JANUARY 16 | BOARD MEETING, 1000 | JULY | NO BOARD MEETING |
| FEBRUARY 20 | BOARD MEETING, 1000 | AUGUST 21 | BOARD MEETING, 1000 |
| MARCH 20 | QTR CHAPTER MTG, 1500 | SEPTEMBER 18 | AI PRESENTATION, 1000 |
| APRIL 17 | BOARD MEETING, 1000 | OCTOBER 16 | BOARD MEETING, 1000 |
| MAY 15 | BOARD MEETING, 1000 | NOVEMBER 11 | VET DAY PROGRAM, 1030 |
| MAY 26 | MEM DAY PROGRAM, 1030 | NOVEMBER 20 | ANNUAL MEETING, 1500 |
| JUNE 19 | QTR CHAPTER MTG, 1500 | DECEMBER | NO BOARD MEETING |



CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 2025

To all our Chapter and Auxiliary members, Happy Fall! In Northern Virginia, we usually don't see the beautiful foliage of autumn in September but we know it is not far off. Just be sure to plan your annual trek to Skyline Drive this month on a weekday. Traffic on I-66 can be tough this time of year -- as can getting a table for a meal at the Apple-house in Linden! Enjoy the most beautiful time of the year in our beloved Virginia.

Just recently, I sent you two letters that are very important for our Chapter. The first is about our annual Solicitation Campaign which we use to raise funds to support all our operations and activities in the coming year – most notably our Loudoun Veterans Family Support (LVFS) program and our annual scholarship program that awards college scholarships to exceptional JROTC cadets/midshipmen at our three area high schools. The second letter is all about recruiting new leadership for our Chapter in order to sustain our legacy of exceptional MOAA presence and activities at Falcons Landing into the future. There is more detail about both of these pleas that I have made to each of you, our Chapter and Auxiliary members, on page 4 and 6 of this Newsletter.

Fall is always a busy season for MOAA National and the Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC). There is the VCOC Biannual Memorial Meeting (where we remember and honor all Virginia MOAA Members who have passed away in the last two years, in Richmond, VA on October 14th; MOAA National's annual meeting and Total Force+ Conference at National Harbor, MD on October 28-30; and MOAA's Eastern Regional Workshop in Hershey, PA on November 14-15. Our Chapter will be represented at all three events.



I ask each of you to review again my two recent letters to Chapter and Auxiliary members – to be generous in contributing to our annual Solicitation Campaign and to seriously consider volunteering to “step up” and accept a position of leadership on our Chapter’s Board of Directors for 2026.

Have a great fall, everyone!

Phil Walsh, President



SOLICITATION CAMPAIGN

OCTOBER 1-31, 2025



FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
20540 FALCONS LANDING CIRCLE, #P2
POTOMAC FALLS, VIRGINIA 20165



September 24, 2025

Greetings, fellow Falcons Landing MOAA Chapter and Auxiliary members,

Best wishes to all of you as we begin this most beautiful season of all in Virginia – autumn! Autumn is always a season of renewal, fresh starts and new hopes. I am optimistic about our Chapter and Auxiliary – its goals, programs, and activities. And we look forward to continuing our strong legacy of support for Falcons Landing and our local Loudoun County community in 2026.

As you know, from a financial perspective our Chapter operates according to a forward funding paradigm. That means simply that each year we conduct a “Solicitation Campaign” late in the year to acquire the necessary funding to support our programs and operations for the following year. In recent years, our annual budget has been, in general, on the order of \$17,000, broken down as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| JROTC scholarships | \$ 6,000 |
| Veterans Support (LVFS) | \$ 8,000 |
| Adopt-a-Platoon | \$ 1,000 |
| Administrative/Program Support | <u>\$ 2,000</u> |
| Total | <u>\$17,000</u> |

Last year, our Fall Solicitation Campaign produced approximately \$15,000 in donations. That amount plus annual dues was the basis for this year’s budget. We also received a MOAA National grant of \$3500 and Falcons Landing Chapel Fund grants of \$1,500 (so far), all specifically provided for our Chapter’s signature program -- the Loudoun Veterans and Family Support (LVFS) program. This means we were able to provide the Community Lutheran Church, who administers the LVFS program, \$5,000 from our Chapter treasury plus \$5,000 in grants (so far) for a total of \$10,000 for LVFS support in 2025. We expect the requests for assistance from our LVFS program in 2026 will increase from what it was in 2025.

So, to acquire funds for our Chapter’s expenditures next year, we will initiate our Fall Solicitation Campaign this year again on October 1st – and it will run through the month of October. I would like to set a target of \$18,000 or approximately \$90 per member for this year’s Campaign. Please make out your annual tax-deductible contribution check to “**Falcons Landing Chapter of MOAA**”. On the memo line, if you wish, you may designate your contribution for a specific purpose (e.g., General, Scholarships, Veterans, Adopt-A-Platoon, Color Guards). Please mail your check to our Chapter’s address or put your check in Treasurer Richard Searles’ box in the mailroom, Box #46874. Above all, please be generous so our Chapter and Auxiliary can continue to do its noble work in 2026.

On a final note, we are currently recruiting members to serve on our Chapter’s Board of Directors (BOD) for 2026. I will address the status of our prospective Chapter leadership team for 2026 in a separate letter to the membership shortly.

Thank you so much in advance for your support of our 2025 Solicitation Campaign and (hopefully) in some cases for your willingness to step up and serve on our Chapter’s BoD in 2026. And best wishes for an enjoyable 2025 fall season!



HELP SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMS

PROGRAMS



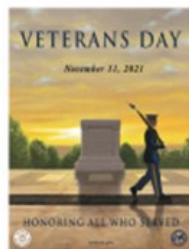
LOUDOUN VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT


FALCONS LANDING
Community Association Living
FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA)

SPEAKERS DIRECTORY



JROTC



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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, Richard Searles, 46874. Those outside Falcons Landing may mail to Richard 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).



RECRUITING NEW LEADERSHIP



FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
20540 FALCONS LANDING CIRCLE, P2
POTOMAC FALLS, VIRGINIA 20165



September 30, 2025

Greetings, Falcons Landing MOAA Chapter and Auxiliary members,

I am writing to you about something that I have spoken to you, our membership, about multiple times before – volunteering to become part of our MOAA Chapter’s leadership team. That leadership team is our Chapter’s Board of Directors (BoD) – consisting of sixteen officers and directors as shown in the attached diagram. Many of the individuals who are serving now on the Chapter’s 2025 BoD have been serving on our Board in some capacity for multiple years even though their elected term of office, except for the Chapter presidency, is only one year. The President’s elected term of office is two years.

Our Falcons Landing MOAA Chapter was established in 2010 thanks to the combined efforts of Gen John Pustay USAF (Ret.), a longtime resident of Falcons Landing, and BGen Barbara Brannon USAF (Ret.), the former President/CEO of Falcons Landing. Our Chapter’s legacy at Falcons Landing is rich with a long history of innovative programs, service to local veterans and the community at large, and annual awards for excellence received from MOAA National. This legacy is due to the ever-present leadership, professionalism, and dedication of our officers and directors over the years – personal traits that characterize all our Chapter members, I believe, without exception. It is with this assurance of identifying replacement officers and directors with the same exceptional personal and professional qualities, that I seek replacements on our Chapter’s BoD to ensure we remain able to continue our strong legacy of service in 2026.

Peter Scott has been leading a recruiting effort for Chapter BoD replacements for most of this year. He has had some success – notably the position of JROTC Program Director. However, there are still four positions that need to be turned over to new individuals at the end of this year – there may be more. The four positions are Chapter President (my position), Chapter Treasurer, Director of the Speakers Bureau, and Director of Public Affairs. Peter and I have talked to many of you about serving on the Board. Frankly, we have been disappointed with the response received thus far. We understand the reluctance that both new and old members may have about taking on a responsibility they are not familiar with and have no former experience with. We have all been there. These jobs (including mine as President) are not difficult to learn – and there is always experienced help sitting right next to a new Board member. My main point is that getting directly involved in helping run our Chapter can be immensely rewarding to retired military officers who are used to making a difference and helping their community, wherever they are, become better. MOAA can provide that sense of helping others and that sense of being part of a noble cause. Our MOAA Chapter plays a unique role here at Falcons Landing – please consider helping us continue our long legacy of excellent service by joining our Board.

Any member who is willing to respond to this request for help can contact me directly, or Peter Scott, or any Board member. We do need both new ideas and new energy – but mostly we need new people who have always been can- and will-do people. I know you are out there -- now is the time to step up and become one of us! Thank you for listening.

Phil Walsh
President, Falcons Landing MOAA Chapter



WE NEED YOU!



2025 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

FALCONS LANDING MOAA CHAPTER
2025 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

| | |
|---|--|
| PRESIDENT 1 st VP/LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS 2 nd VP/PROGRAMS SECRETARY TREASURER | PHIL WALSH JIM MULLEN DAVE NORDEAN DONNA EVERAGE RICHARD SEARLES |
| IMMEDIATE PAST PRES/ DIR COMMUNICATIONS | BOB MANNING |

DIRECTORS

| | |
|--|--|
| MEMBERSHIP AUXILIARY SS AFFAIRS SPEAKERS BUREAU PUBLIC AFFAIRS JROTC PROGRAM LVFS REP LCCWEB REP GATHERINGS MEMBER-AT-LARGE | BUDDY EVERAGE BARBARA O'BRIEN JACKIE MULLEN ED POST DON SAARI JOE MILLER HOWARD SCHUE PETER SCOTT BEN ROMERO BILL SUTER |
|--|--|

Our Chapter's "Board of Directors"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, [bverage49@gmail.com](mailto:beverage49@gmail.com)

Mark Carey, Webmaster
markdcarey@hotmail.com



2025 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.



TOP TAKEAWAYS FROM AUGUST BOARD MEETING

- The following vacancies exist for chapter leadership positions: Chapter President, Director, Speakers Bureau, and JROTC Program Director. Phil Walsh will remain in office as President until a successor is identified. Buddy Everage will replace Richard Searles as Treasurer at the end of the year, if needed.
- As of August 21, 2025, there are a total of 193 Chapter members composed of 125 MOAA members and 68 Auxiliary members.
- The Board agreed that members over 100 years old will no longer be required to pay dues.
- Approximately 58% of the military population at Falcons Landing are members of the Chapter or Auxiliary. A survey will be conducted to determine why the other military retirees have not joined.
- Since the beginning of 2025, Loudoun Veterans and Family Support (LVFS) has donated \$5,762.05 to assist 28 cases.
- \$6,000 in JROTC scholarships were awarded to cadets at Chantilly, South Lakes and Loudoun County High Schools. An additional \$1,000 scholarship was gifted to a South Lakes High School cadet.
- Mark Carey has been appointed as the official webmaster for the Falcons Landing MOAA website.
- A motion was made at the August board meeting to have four board meetings and two general meetings annually. A new schedule will be submitted to the board for approval to be effective in January 2026.

UPCOMING EVENTS

GATHERINGS:

October: Blane Ampthour will speak on the end of World War II

SPEAKERS BUREAU:

October 1: Duff Rice will speak on “The Humorous Side of a Marine Career”.

October 28: Gerry Galloway will address ”The 250 years of the Army’s Service to the Nation”.

November 11: Veterans Day Program

November 20: Annual Meeting and Election



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 June 30, 2025. Four new members during 2nd Qtr 2025.

REGULAR CHAPTER MEMBERS (ON/OFF CAMPUS) – 123

CHAPTER AUXILIARY MEMBERS -- 68

Surviving Spouses – 56

Spouses of current chapter members – 12

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

1 JANUARY -- 31 AUGUST 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 | <u>\$ 15,987</u> | |

INCOME

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 2025 DONATIONS AND DUES | <u>5,164</u> | <u>16,000</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|

EXPENDITURES

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| DIRECT SUPPORT | (13,100) | (15,300) |
| PROGRAMS | (605) | (850) |
| ADMINISTRATION | (1,788) | (1,280) |
| TOTAL EXPENDURES | <u>(15,494)</u> | <u>(17,430)</u> |

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| DECREASE IN CASH | <u>(10,330)</u> | <u>(1,430)</u> |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| CASH BALANCE, | 31 AUGUST 2025 | <u>\$ 5,657</u> |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|

THE DETAILED FINANCIAL REPORT MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE
CHAPTER TREASURER, RICHARD SEARLES, AT drsearles3@icloud.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

MAIJA KUSPA

OCTOBER 16, 1946-JUNE 29, 2025
SURVIVING SPOUSE OF JOHN KUSPA
UNITED STATES ARMY

ANNE LACKMAN

MARCH 8, 1931-JULY 11, 2025
SURVIVING SPOUSE OF BILL LACKMAN
UNITED STATES ARMY

BARBARA BRIDEBAUGH

1931-JULY 30, 2025
SURVIVING SPOUSE OF ROGER COYE
UNITED STATES ARMY

DAVID HOPKINS

SEPTEMBER 17, 1931-SEPTEMBER 1, 2025
UNITED STATES NAVY

JANE KALISCH

SEPTEMBER 13-AUGUST 30, 2025
SURVIVING SPOUSE OF BOB KALISCH
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE





MOAA'S PRIORITIES FOR THE 119TH CONGRESS

MOAA's priorities for the 119th Congress reflect our commitment to protect compensation and benefits, ensure access to top-tier DoD and VA health care, and address the unique challenges military families and veterans face. These efforts underscore MOAA's unwavering dedication to those who serve and have served.

Our Chapter periodically publishes Legislative Updates for all members and works with MOAA to recommend to members that they support MOAA legislative initiatives by contacting their legislators. You may review important MOAA legislative issues and activities on the MOAA website by visiting the Take Action section at www.moaa.org/takeaction.

KEY CHAPTER LEGISLATIVE ACTION ITEMS

Support the Major Richard Star Act, which would authorize combat-injured veterans to receive their earned DoD retirement pay for years of service and their VA disability compensation for lifelong injury.

Stop the 34-Year Wait - Deliver Toxic-Exposed Veterans the Care They've Earned: Veterans exposed to toxic substances like Agent Orange, chemicals released by burn pits, and radiation should not have to fight for decades to prove their illnesses are service-connected. Yet according to a recent report from MOAA and DAV, toxic-exposed veterans wait over 34 years on average before receiving presumptive service connection and the care they've earned. The PACT Act was a historic step forward, but its work is not complete. Read the following report, [*Ending the Wait for Toxic-Exposed Veterans*](#), for more information.

Join Lila Quintiliani, MOAA's Program Director for Financial and Benefits Education/Counseling for an informative webinar on October 14, at 2:00pm, entitled *Long Term Care: What Military Retirees and Families Should Know* (Hold down control key and click enter with your mouse on the title to go to the website).



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

Glenn Youngkin

P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218
Phone: (804) 786-2211
Email: Use the web contact form
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 Marty Martinez

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: Michelle Maldonado

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 GATHERING: “ARE YOUR AFFAIRS IN ORDER?”

~article by Jim Mullen, photo by Alex Hild

The topic for the July Gathering was “Are Your Affairs in Order?” It is a subject that should be of importance to every resident of Falcons Landing. This presentation was sponsored by our Falcons Landing MOAA Chapter with a presentation by our MOAA Chapter Director of Personal Affairs and Surviving Spouse Liaison, Jackie Mullen, with an additional presentation and discussion by MOAA chapter member Peter Scott. We are fortunate that MOAA has a considerable amount of information available for use on the subject.

Jackie opened the discussion with perhaps the most important message to our fellow residents: the fact that life can be unpredictable. A sudden illness could force you into a hospital or the Johnson Center, unable to function independently. Or your death would require immediate action for your family. Have you developed a set of plans for these situations? Have you discussed these plans and your concerns with your spouse and family so that they know your wishes?

The presentation discussed the need to consider subjects including: plans for funeral and burial, the collection and safekeeping of personal data, legal and financial information where required, and such items as birth, marriage and death certificates. For the military that would include the DD214 form or retirement papers.

Does your current planning include a will or trusts, advanced directives, a durable power of attorney, your lawyer’s name or a contact for your financial papers? Add to those data and locations of paperwork related to banks, insurance policies, credit cards, your passwords and account numbers, information or files for tax returns. Also, add to those a contact list for family and loved ones, a chaplain, and contacts for memberships in clubs and associations.

Our meeting included a presentation by Peter Scott based on his own personal experiences with the need to have critical information on hand or perhaps the necessity for discovery of the location of critical information and the impact of not having plans or information needed available from you or your family members. He discussed the personal efforts needed to create plans or actions after the fact and the potential discomfort that creates for the survivors and family.

OK you have the message! Are you ready? What planning actions do you still need to accomplish? When will you work on your plan? How about NOW? If you have no complete plans, start the list. If you have your plans in place, then perhaps it is time for a review to accommodate any changes that need to be made.

The Falcons Landing MOAA Board is prepared to help you address your personal affairs summary by assisting you with specific questions or directing you to expert advice with the ground rules that a personal affairs summary is private to you for your needs.



Peter Scott and Jackie Mullen



THE GATHERING: DARK SKIES

~ by Jim Mullen

The guest speakers for the Falcons Landing June Gathering, Eileen Kragie and Tom Reinert are members of DarkSky International. It is an organization of more than 70 chapters in over 30 countries with a worldwide multi-purpose: reducing light pollution worldwide; meeting the needs of those who must see at night; conserving energy and operational costs globally; avoiding the harmful effects of light pollution on the environment; protecting the night sky; and educating the public concerning the effects of light pollution. Both Eileen Kragie and Tom Reinert are heavily involved in these issues. Eileen has also created the Northern Virginia Chapter of DarkSky NOVA. Tom is a member, and former President, of the Board of DarkSky International.

We learned that light pollution doubles every eight years and that eight of every ten people live in an area of polluted or excess light. That seems clear when we consider street and highway lighting plus all the lighting in urban areas. If it were just the light, perhaps we could withstand the issue, but we also have learned of the impact of light on wildlife. It impacts the biorhythms of insects and birds. It even affects the productivity of plants and food products, when the normal light cycle of day and night is disrupted by artificial lighting. Human health can also be affected by sleep disorders.

When we consider the light cycle of day/night, we recognize that the requirement for light is also tied to our life cycle of daylight activities vs night outdoor activities. A high percentage of the outdoor lighting is wasted. Why are all streetlights on all night? What are we doing about the design of vehicle lights? Yet we need to balance the lighting design with issues like security and safety.

Part of the activity of groups like Dark Sky includes consideration of lighting design to find ways to reduce operating costs for public and for private needs. This could involve such items as light bulb design in regard to such things as the impact of using an outside light designed with materials that have a lower temperature of the bulbs emission. This could impact the ambient temperature of the community as well as the life cycle of the bulb. (Actually, there has been quite a bit of design and execution in that area!) Consider the lowly light-bulb in our homes today versus say 20 years ago or the design for lights in vehicles. Light emitting diodes (LED) did not even exist.

Today's world of lighting involves not only the design engineers for lighting but also the planning of local governments for operation of outdoor facilities and utilities, as well as decisions for operation of individual businesses and even households. It will be interesting to see the likely changes in outdoor lighting equipment designs over the coming years, just we have seen design changes in so much of every aspect of personal, business and public life. AI anyone?

DarkSkies P.S.

Many years ago Jackie and I wintered in Tucson, Arizona and had the opportunity to visit Kitt Peak National Observatory on the Quinlan Mountains in the Sonoran Mountains of Arizona on the Tohono D'Odham Nation. Returning to our car from the visit with an Observatory staff member, he explained that our headlights were covered with red paper taped to the headlights. He explained that the car lights would affect the scientist working with the Observatory telescopes. We could remove the covers after leaving the mountain hilltop area. Even then the scientists were concerned with man-made light pollution.



Tom Reinert, Eileen Kragie,
and Ben Romero



MOAA AFFILIATED COUNCILS & CHAPTERS VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

~ summarized and edited by Bob Manning

MOAA National conducted its Annual Affiliated Council and Chapter Leaders Virtual Workshop in August. In addition to the Plenary Session there were three breakout sessions conducted which are summarized below. Bob Manning participated in the Chapter Management Workshop, while Jim Mullen participated in the Legislative Update Workshop and Jackie Mullen represented our Chapter in the Surviving Spouse Liaison Workshop

Presentation slides from all the workshops can be found at <https://www.moaa.org/content/chapters-and-councils/chapter-and-council-webinars/august-2025-acc-workshop-plenary/>

CHAPTER MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

MOAA convened a pivotal training session focused on revitalizing chapter management across its national network. With 322 geographic chapters—down 23 from the previous report—and 60 classified as “ailing,” the urgency to address leadership gaps, stagnant membership, and aging demographics was front and center.

The session emphasized the distinction between *healthy* chapters, which sustain themselves over time, and *effective* chapters, which actively advance MOAA’s mission. Councils were encouraged to mentor chapter leaders, facilitate legislative advocacy, and foster collaboration through virtual and in-person engagement.

A key theme was *succession planning*: building a leadership pipeline, creating job descriptions, and involving surviving spouses to ensure continuity. Chapters were urged to connect with local VSOs, sponsor community events, and engage younger members through targeted outreach—like job fairs and farmer’s markets.

The training also spotlighted tools for leaders—manuals, workshops, grants, and digital assets—to support chapter operations. Recognition programs, including individual awards and organizational honors, were highlighted as morale boosters and retention strategies. Looking ahead, councils are tasked with assessing chapter health, contacting dormant affiliates, and participating in mentoring roundtables. The overarching message: revitalization is possible when chapters are equipped, connected, and inspired to lead with purpose.

LEGSLATIVE UPDATE WORKSHOP

In 2025, MOAA continues to champion the needs of servicemembers, veterans, and their families through strategic legislative advocacy. With fewer veterans serving in Congress than ever before—just 93 compared to 389 in 1969—the importance of grassroots engagement has never been greater. MOAA’s mission is clear: sustain the all-volunteer force, protect earned benefits, and ensure military voices are heard in Washington.

The legislative landscape this year is shaped by five Tier 1 priorities. These include improving unaccompanied housing conditions for junior servicemembers, streamlining care for toxic-exposed veterans, advancing the Military Spouse Hiring Act, enhancing TRICARE access



MOAA AFFILIATED COUNCILS &CHAPTERS VIRTUAL WORKSHOP (continued)

through digital tools, and passing the 3R Bill to support veteran caregivers transitioning to work or retirement. Each initiative reflects MOAA's commitment to readiness, dignity, and long-term support for the military community.

Progress in the 119th Congress has been mixed. Wins in the recent reconciliation bill protected key benefits like BAH and spouse licensure, but differences in the NDAA remain unresolved. A continuing resolution is likely before October 1, making MOAA's advocacy efforts urgent.

To meet this moment, MOAA launched its Summer Advocacy in Action (AiA) campaign on August 5. Timed with the NDAA and congressional recess, AiA focuses on three high-impact issues: the Military Spouse Hiring Act, the Major Richard Star Act (which seeks concurrent receipt for medically retired veterans), and two TRICARE access bills aimed at improving prenatal care and eliminating OB-GYN referral requirements.

Supporting these efforts are revamped chapter resources. The Legislative Action Center now offers streamlined access to campaigns, news, and tech support, while the Legislative Leaders Page provides quarterly data and advocacy tools to empower local chapters.

SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON WORKSHOP

This workshop spotlighted the vital role of surviving spouse liaisons—those who serve as compassionate connectors between grieving families and the broader military community. These liaisons are more than messengers; they are advocates, event organizers, and trusted confidants. Their mission is to ensure surviving spouses remain engaged, informed, and supported through personal outreach, newsletters, and tailored events.

The workshop emphasized three key legislative priorities: the Major Richard Star Act, which seeks full compensation for combat-injured veterans; improvements to TRICARE access; and the Military Spouse Hiring Act, designed to boost employment opportunities by extending tax credits to businesses that hire military spouses.

A major focus was also placed on caregivers who provide daily support to veterans. Thanks to the newly enacted Elizabeth Dole Caregiver Act, caregivers now have access to expanded benefits, including home nursing coverage, mental health grants, and streamlined application processes.

MOAA continues to offer a wealth of resources to help surviving spouses prepare for life's transitions. From estate planning guides and Medicare briefings to survivor checklists and re-marriage advice, the organization equips members with practical tools and emotional support. Planning ahead—organizing documents, reviewing finances, and ensuring access to accounts—is framed not as a burden, but as an act of love and foresight.

The update also encouraged surviving spouses to stay connected through MOAA's website, newsletters, webinars, and virtual chapters. A wide array of external resources—from VA benefits and burial information to support groups like TAPS and Gold Star Wives—were highlighted as essential lifelines.



INAUGURAL TOTALFORCE+ CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 28-29



The following information may be found at <https://totalforceplus.moaa.org/>

On Oct. 28-29, MOAA will host the inaugural Total Force+ at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, Md. This event will comprise decisionmakers from DoD, the VA, industry, and academia as well as servicemembers and their families, who represent the heart of the uniformed services. This conference will center on four enduring pillars:

- **Modernize Talent Management and Innovation:** Ensuring we attract, retain, and maximize the potential of those who serve.
- **Optimize Leadership Development:** Building leaders and improving individual performance to match the demands and complexities of modern service.
- **Advance Quality of Life:** Addressing the holistic needs of servicemembers and their families, from health care to housing.
- **Amplify the Veteran and Retiree Experience:** Creating a continuum of opportunity and care from initial transition and throughout one's post-service years.

Visit www.totalforceplus.org to learn more, sign up for updates, and be the first to hear about speakers and events.

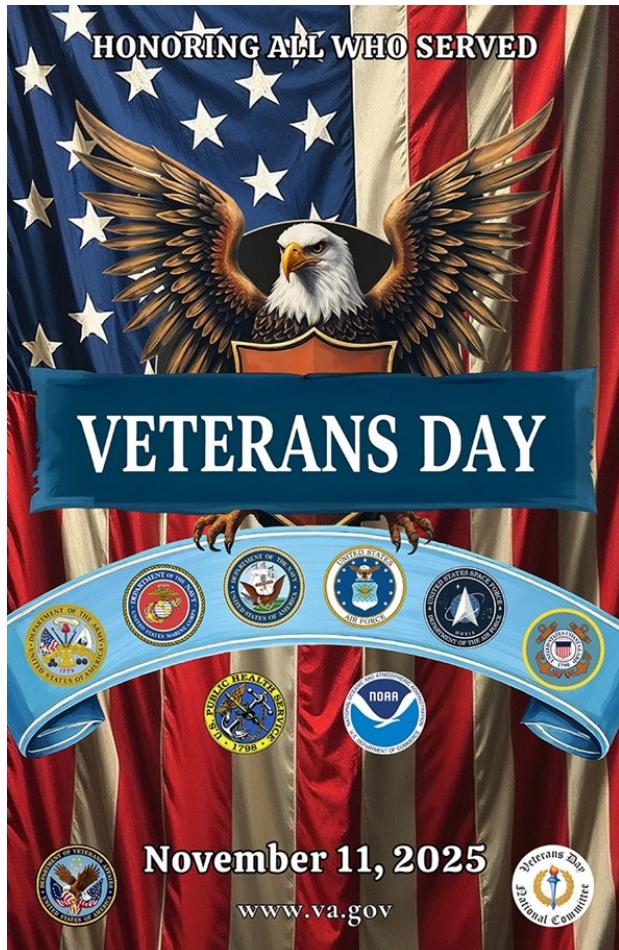
”TotalForce+ creates a vital space for uniformed service leaders, industry experts, and partners to unite, tackle challenges, and connect decision-makers with solution providers. The benefits earned by those who serve reflect their sacrifice, and it's our duty to not only honor that but to find new ways to support all who protect our freedom, including DoD civilians and family members.”

~ Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret)

President & CEO, MOAA



SAVE THE DATE



All Falcons Landing residents, staff, and Falcons Chapter of MOAA members are invited to join together in song, prayer and fellowship as we celebrate Veterans Day at 10am on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, in the Falcons Landing Ballroom