



The Falcon Flyer

July-September 2026



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 nonpartisan 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 (Legislative Action Center) 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 sponsoring a program of distinguished guest speakers for monthly presentations on current and past world and government affairs..



**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 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, 1400 WC
April 16	Board Meeting, 1000 WC
May 25	Memorial Day Program, 1030 BR
July 24	General Membership Mtg, 1500 BR
August 20	Board Meeting, 1000 WC
October 2	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

BR=Ballroom WC=Wellness Center



CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 2026

In the last quarterly Falcon Flyer, I discussed the need for *more effective communication* with our members and also with all Falcons Landing residents. The most notable aspect of this effort to improve our ability to communicate with you and all Falcons Landing residents was our General Membership Meeting where we had two outside speakers, one from MOAA National Headquarters and one of the Junior ROTC instructors. They were well received. I say that, in part, because one non-MOAA member shortly after the meeting donated \$250 to help support our various outreach efforts.

Of equal importance we had an increase in attendance over the previous general membership meeting. One estimate was approximately a 25 percent increase in attendance. Why was that? I believe that was a direct result of an aggressive outreach program. Hopefully you saw the poster board that displayed the three awards that we received from MOAA National. In addition, we were notifying all Falcon Landing residents by email of the general meeting, and we placed flyers in everyone's mailbox. We plan to continue this type of outreach!

Effective communication is a two-way street. In a few days you will receive by email, by flyers, etc. a one-page document. That document will request that you make a donation to fund our/your MOAA Chapters outreach programs. These donations primarily fund our support of veterans in need, support three Junior ROTC programs with scholarships, and support our troops via Adopt a Platoon charity. *Our object is to raise \$20,000. We need your help!*

Finally, I commend to you an excellent article by Jim Fontana. It is on protecting veterans from "claim sharks". You will find it on page 8 of The Falcon Flyer.



Ken Evans, President

SAVE THE DATE

CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 19, 2026

FALCONS LANDING BALLROOM



2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	KEN EVANS	MEMBERSHIP	BUDDY EVERAGE
1 st VP/LEGATIVE	JIM FONTANA	AUXILIARY	CAROL BELL
AFFAIRS		SS AFFAIRS	JACKIE MULLEN
2 nd VP/PROGRAMS	DAVE NORDEAN	COMMUNICATIONS	BOB MANNING
SECRETARY	DONNA EVERAGE	JROTC PROGRAM	DENNY MORIN
TREASURER	GEORGE DEFILIPPI	LVFS REP	HOWARD SCHUE
IMMEDIATE PAST PRES	PHIL WALSH	LCCVEB REP	PETER SCOTT
WEBMASTER	MARK CAREY	GATHERINGS	BEN ROMERO
		MEMBER-AT-LARGE	BILL SUTER

DIRECTORS

NEWSLETTER

The chapter newsletter (*The Falcon Flyer*) is published quarterly and distributed electronically via email and may also be viewed on the chapter website. Members may receive a paper copy by contacting the Director of Membership

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@gmail.com



HELP SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMS



PROGRAMS



FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA)

SPEAKERS
DIRECTORY



AUXILLIARY
PERSONAL AFFAIRS



LOUDOUN COUNTY
COMMUNITY VETERANS
ENGAGEMENT BOARD

LOUDOUN VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT



JUNIOR
ROTC



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," "AdoptaPlatoon," or "general" (meaning expenses consistent with our mission). Our goal is to raise \$20,000 with 75+% participation. *Checks should be made out to the "Falcons Landing Chapter of MOAA"* and placed in the mail slot of our Treasurer, Col (ret) George DeFilippi, 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 and MOAA JROTC Leadership Awards 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 September 26, 2026, there were 111 Premium Members and 62 Auxiliary Chapter Members for a total of 173 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 AdoptaPlatoon 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.



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 September 26, 2026:

REGULAR CHAPTER MEMBERS (ON/OFF CAMPUS) – 111

CHAPTER AUXILIARY MEMBERS -- 62

Surviving Spouses – 49

Spouses of current chapter members – 13

Others - 0

TOTAL CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP—173

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/membership.



PROTECTING VETERANS: MOAA ACTION AGAINST "CLAIM SHARKS"

BY JIM FONTANA

Both MOAA National and MOAA Chapters across Virginia have been pursuing legislative action to rein in unaccredited "claim sharks"—predatory, for-profit entities targeting veterans who seek service-connected disability benefits.

What Are Claim Sharks?

The core distinction between an official Veteran Service Organization (VSO) and a predatory claim shark comes down to cost, system access, legal accreditation, and ethical accountability.

Unaccredited claim sharks frequently:

- **Charge Exorbitant Fees:** Demand massive upfront payments or target high percentages of monthly disability benefits—sometimes totaling \$10,000 or more—for services that accredited VSOs offer completely free.
- **Lack Federal Oversight:** Operate outside federal regulation, rendering them legally unable to access actual VA files or directly represent veterans before the VA.
- **Risk Cybersecurity:** Require veterans to hand over private VA.gov login credentials.
- **Deceive Veterans:** Falsely claim to possess "special access" that bypasses standard processing times.
- **Evade Responsibility:** Bear zero legal accountability for poor, inaccurate, or fraudulent claim submissions.

By federal law, initial disability claim assistance must always be free. The VA does not accredit any firm or individual charging fees for an initial filing. Private representatives and non-governmental entities are only permitted to charge fee structures *after* the VA issues an initial decision, and those fee agreements must strictly comply with VA accreditation rules.

Legislative Action

- **Federal Level:** Among MOAA National's top four priorities is the GUARD VA Benefits Act, which seeks criminal penalties for unaccredited entities charging unauthorized fees. In the U.S. House of Representatives, this measure has been bundled into a larger omnibus bill, the *Take Care of America's Veterans Act*, which remains stalled in committee.



PROTECTING VETERANS: MOAA ACTION AGAINST "CLAIM SHARKS" (CONT)

BY JIM FONTANA

- **State Level (Virginia):** Working through the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC), Virginia MOAA Chapters advocated for state-level protections. This led to the passage of the Safeguarding American Veteran Empowerment (SAVE) Act. While the SAVE Act establishes strict guardrails, transparency, and accountability standards, it stops short of an outright ban and still permits private consulting firms to operate under defined limits.

How to Protect Yourself

Verify the legitimacy of any representative via the VA Office of General Counsel Accreditation website.

The ultimate litmus test: Ask the entity to execute VA Form 21-22 or 21-22e (used to appoint a Veterans Service Organization or Accredited Representative as your legal representative). If a firm refuses or cannot execute these forms, they are unaccredited.

While veterans often turn to for-profit consulting companies in hopes of faster turnaround times or higher ratings, doing so trades away critical legal protections and may forfeit thousands of dollars in earned benefits. Protect your benefits by working exclusively with the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, accredited VSOs, or fully accredited claims agents.

FEDERAL



WASHINGTON

STATE



RICHMOND

LOCAL



LEESBURG



IN MEMORIAM
JULY-SEPTEMBER 2026



SHINCHUAN "SC" WHITEHOUSE
DECEMBER 12, 1941 – JULY 22, 2026
SURVIVING SPOUSE OF JOHN FRANKLIN WHITEHOUSE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

MITZI BRUMMEL MORAN
JANUARY 22, 1933—JULY 24, 2026
SURVIVING SPOUSE OF BILL MORAN
UNITED STATES NAVY

GEORGE PLUMMER
JANUARY 6, 1936—AUGUST 3, 2026
UNITED STATES ARMY

NANCY TRAUERNICHT MCVICAR
FEBRUARY 14, 1932—AUGUST 16, 2026
SURVIVING SPOUSE OF DANIEL MCVICAR
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

ROBERT HAWK
July 11, 1938—AUGUST 23, 2026
UNITED STATES ARMY

CAROLE BUSHEE
DECEMBER 1940—AUGUST 28, 2026
SURVIVING SPOUSE OF JAMES BUSHEE
UNITED STATES ARMY

ANNE MCDONALD
DECEMBER 17, 1924—SEPTEMBER 9, 2026
SURVIVING SPOUSE OF BILL MCDONALD
UNITED STATES NAVY

DARLENE HUMPHRIES
JANUARY 22, 1938—SEPTEMBER 11, 2026
SURVIVING SPOUSE OF NATHANIEL HUMPHRIES
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



CHARLENE GREENER
MAY 27, 1927—SEPTEMBER 13, 2026
SURVIVING SPOUSE OF WILLIAM GREENER
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE





The Gathering

Presidential Power and Its Constitutional Limits

On Thursday, September 17 at 7:00 PM, over 100 chapter members and residents listened to an outstanding presentation by Peter Cohen as he explored how the Framers of the Constitution created the presidency, why they rejected both monarchy and a weak executive, and the structural safeguards they built into the Constitution to limit presidential authority.

The program also examined the Supreme Court's vital role in defining and enforcing those constitutional limits through landmark decisions spanning more than two centuries, to the present time.

Peter Cohen stated *"The Framers of the Constitution gave the Supreme Court neither the purse nor the sword-but gave it something no less vital: the power of judgement, the authority to declare what the law is, and the responsibility to defend the structure of the republic against its subversion."*



Peter Cohen is a retired attorney with more than forty years of experience as a first-chair civil litigator, appellate advocate, and legal writer. He has authored and edited over a thousand legal briefs and has taught constitutional law, separation of powers, and judicial review as an adjunct law professor. His work draws on decades of professional engagement with U.S.

Supreme Court jurisprudence, including its role in checking executive power and upholding the principles of constitutional government.



The Gathering Presents...

Are You Prepared? Survivor Benefits

With MOAA Member/Resident Jackie Mullen

The Gathering presented two important programs in July, each focused on helping participants prepare for difficult life events with clarity, compassion, and practical guidance. Together, the sessions addressed both immediate steps following the death of a veteran and the broader importance of keeping personal affairs, estate plans, and letters of instruction current.

PROGRAM ONE: WHAT TO DO WHEN A VETERAN PASSES

Christopher Tamayo, Chief of the Casualty Assistance Center at Joint Base

Myer-Henderson Hall, spoke about the steps families should consider when a veteran passes away.

His presentation offered guidance on available support, key contacts, and the importance of knowing what actions may need to happen soon after a veteran's death. His contact number is: 703 696-8899

PROGRAM TWO: ARE YOUR PERSONAL AFFAIRS IN ORDER?

The second program encouraged participants to review whether their personal affairs are organized and whether their estate plans remain current.

Topics included the value of maintaining an updated letter of instruction, reviewing important documents, and making sure family members or trusted contacts know where essential information can be found.

This session was presented by Jackie Mullen, Falcons Landing Chapter Liaison for Surviving Spouses.

WHY THESE PROGRAMS MATTER

By learning what to do when a veteran passes and by keeping personal affairs in order, families can reduce confusion, preserve important benefits and records, and make difficult moments easier to navigate. The video of the presentation may be viewed at [YoutubePlayer.jsp?v=bPc_gGlv45s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPc_gGlv45s)



NEWS UPDATE

TOM GRANT RETIREMENT

Tom Grant, the Loudoun County Veterans Services Officer and a member of our chapter, is retiring effective 30 September. He elevated our Loudoun Veterans and Family Support (LVFS) financial assistance model to County level tapping the thirty-plus veterans' services organizations in Loudoun County to provide emergency financial assistance to needy veterans and their families. Tom has done a splendid job for ten years. We will miss his service. Loudoun County is soon to begin the hiring process for his replacement. In the meantime, the Loudoun County Community Veterans Engagement Board (founded by our chapter), a capstone organization of the thirty-plus veterans' services organizations in Loudoun County, is working to establish an interim process to continue financial assistance for deserving veterans.

UPCOMING GATHERINGS

October: Dick Polen – “The Most Dominant Hitters in Baseball History”

November: Dr. Donald J. Boudreaux - “Trump Tariffs and the Economy”

December: Shaun Chittick – “Operation Thunderhead”

LOUDOUN VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

From January 1 through September 26, 2026, we assisted veterans and their family members 36 times – 5 times in September. Some of these veterans we have helped previously. A total of \$10,503.88 was allocated to assist these veterans, for an average of \$338.84 per assistance. The MOAA Grant Funds have been fully expended leaving a LVFS Fund Balance of \$4835.04.



5-Star Newsletter

CHAPTER



5-Star Level Of Excellence

AWARDS



5-Star Website



**ALL FALCONS LANDING RESIDENTS AND STAFF ARE
INVITED TO JOIN TOGETHER IN REFLECTION, PRAYER,
AND SONG AS WE CELEBRATE VETERANS DAY ON
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2026, 10:30 AM, LIVE IN
THE BALLROOM AND ON CHANNEL 970.**

