



The Patriot

Richmond Area Chapter - Military Officers Association of America - October 2025



The President's Corner by COL Vince Cammarata



Hello RAC-MOAA members, friends, family and military colleagues. Exciting times are coming quickly, and I am anxious to share them with you. I have been a RAC-MOAA member since 2005 when I retired from active duty and have enjoyed every single event our chapter has hosted. In those days we had our dinners, lunches, brunches and Holiday Gala at the Bellwood Manor House on the Defense Supply Center Base. When the Bellwood Manor House was undergoing renovations around 2012 or so, RAC-MOAA looked for another venue to host our events. That was when and how the Meadowbrook Country Club came about as an alternative location. Even after the Bellwood Manor House was completed, RAC-MOAA continued to utilize the Meadowbrook County Club, which has served us well. In fact, our November

5th Meeting will be at the Meadowbrook Country Club.

Here we are today, and this year's Holiday Gala will be held at the Grapevine Greek and Italian Restaurant Three Chopt Road in Henrico. I don't want to spoil the article spotlighted in our current newsletter (see page 6), but I'm excited! Please read and make your reservations....

Finally, we are holding our biennial elections at the November meeting (you can vote online at our website). We will have a new slate of Board Members with new energy, new ideals and new spirit.

Looking forward to seeing as many people as possible at our Holiday Gala in December.

All the best, Vince

Virginia Veterans Network (VVN)

The Virginia Veterans Network (VVN) is a free online hub of resources and services consisting of a comprehensive information data base for veterans and service members managed by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services that has been recognized nationally for its content and design.

Visit vvn.dvs.virginia.gov to discover resources available.

They are also on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/virginiaveteransnetwork/>

and Instagram at:

<https://www.instagram.com/virginiaveteransnetwork/#>



Click the TAKE ACTION graphic above to see Active Legislative Campaigns

OUR MAILING ADDRESS

**Richmond Area Chapter—
MOAA**

**P. O. Box 985
Chesterfield, VA 23832-9998**

Next Member Meeting is on

Wednesday, November 5th!

We will be meeting at the Meadowbrook Country Club for a buffet dinner. More details on page 2.

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Read this newsletter on our webpage at: <https://www.racmoaa.org/Newsletter>

November 5th Member Dinner Meeting



Our next RAC-MOAA [Member Dinner Meeting](#) will be held on Wednesday, 5 November 2025 at Meadowbrook Country Club at 3700 Coggill Rd in North Chesterfield, VA 23234. Social hour will begin at 5 PM, with dinner at 6 PM. Our event will also include an informative presentation on counterterrorism and crisis response, the Annual Business Meeting, and installation of Chapter Board Officers for 2026-2027. Dress is business casual and all guests are welcome. The all-inclusive price is \$35 per person for the buffet including garden salad, fried catfish, beef and chicken skewers, rice pilaf, seasonal roasted vegetables, dinner rolls, assorted desserts, coffee and iced tea.

Our featured guest speaker will be Thomas M. Hastings, a former (retired) counterterrorism and crisis management subject matter expert. His 35 plus years of U.S. Government service includes the U.S. Marine Corps, the Department of State, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Hastings worked on important national security matters during seven presidential administrations in both domestic and international settings. After retirement from government service, he provided advisory and subject matter expertise to public and private sector clients on national security, terrorism, continuity of operations, crisis management, and exercise support. Mr. Hastings holds master's degrees in Personnel Management, Central Michigan University (1990) and in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College (1992).

[Payment can be made online at the RAC-MOAA website](#) using credit or debit card or by check mailed to PO Box 985, Chesterfield VA 23832-9998. If paying by check, please also send an email to Treasurer@racmoaa.org or phone 804-796-1113. The reservations deadline is Friday, 31 October 2025.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance 01 January 2025:	\$24,306
Receipts	9,324
Expenses	(14,111)
Ending Balance 13 October 2025:	\$19,519
Encumbered Funds	(8,839)
UNENCUMBERED BALANCE	\$10,680

Membership Report

As Of	Regular	Surviving Spouse	Life/Honorary	TOTAL
06 Oct 2025	164	22	4	190

For membership questions/info, how to join, or if you are willing to learn and work with our Membership Chair, please contact CAPT Mary Lou Wassel at 804-551-1878 or by email at: membership@racmoaa.org.

The Patriot

The Richmond Area Chapter (RAC-MOAA) is an independent nonpartisan affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), a member of the Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC-MOAA), and a non-profit, non-stock corporation registered in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Patriot is published five times each year in January, March, May, September, and November

Send articles or comments to:
Richmond Area Chapter - MOAA
ATTN: Newsletter Editor
P. O. Box 985, Chesterfield, VA 23832-9998
Email: editor@racmoaa.org
Editor: COL Alan Cunningham, USAR (Ret.)

3 September 2025 Dinner Meeting Recap

The well-attended September 2025 dinner meeting at Meadowbrook Country Club included presentations from four guest speakers, plus the presentation of two contribution checks, from the Chapter's Military Community Assistance Program, to support the Chesterfield County Veterans Treatment Docket and Liberation Veteran Services. Pictures from the meeting include:

1. LtCol Curt Powell, USMC, Ret, provided a briefing on the Chesterfield County Veterans Treatment Docket (VTD).
2. Chesterfield County Sheriff Karl Leonard (CAPT, USCG, Ret) provided an update on his highly successful Chesterfield County Jail's Helping Addicts Recover Progressively (HARP) program.
3. A successful participant in Sheriff Leonard's HARP program, Guillermo Laursen, provided testimony on how the HARP program helped him turn his life around.
4. Fletcher Johnson, of Liberation Veteran Services (lvsva.org), provided a moving update on the work that his organization does to assist homeless veterans in Richmond.
5. Chapter Treasurer, LTC Owen Waltman, presented a contribution check to LtCol Curt Powell in support of the Chesterfield County Veterans Treatment Docket.
6. Chapter Treasurer, LTC Owen Waltman, presented a contribution check to Fletcher Johnson in support of Liberation Veteran Services.



LtCol Curt Powell



Sheriff Karl Leonard



Guillermo Laursen



Fletcher Johnson



LtCol Curt Powell & LTC Owen Waltman



LTC Owen Waltman & Fletcher Johnson

Chapter News

Chapter Contacts - 2025

Elected Officers & Directors

President	COL Vincent Cammarata	804-338-8975
1st Vice-President	CAPT Mary Lou Wassel	804-551-1878
2nd Vice-president	LTC Craig Pinsker	804-301-1222
Past President	COL Mark Rich	804-706-6650
Secretary	LTC Terry Moore	804-739-8112
Treasurer	LTC Owen Waltman	804-796-1113
Director-at-Large	MAJ John Nahm	804-839-5635
Director-at-Large	CDR Cliff Noe	804-931-7894
Director-at-Large	LtCol Curt Powell	703-999-5816
Appointed Editor	COL Alan Cunningham	804-307-7815

Appointed Directors

Member Services	CAPT Mary Lou Wassel	804-551-1878
Legislative Affairs	LCDR Wayne Sine	804-363-5406
Youth Programs	LCDR Wayne Sine	804-363-5406
Personal Affairs	Vacant	
Transition Services	CAPT Hardy Josephson	804-883-5955
Publicity	MAJ John Nahm	804-839-5635
Surviving Spouse	Mrs. Rosemary Salcedo	804-938-9945
Hospitality	LTC Terry Moore	804-739-8112
Special Programs	LTC Owen Waltman	804-796-1113
Chaplain	LTC Ken Rupp	804-639-0179
Webmaster	MAJ John Nahm	804-839-5635

Chapter Database or E-mail Address Corrections ([Login to the Website](#) to make Updates is Preferred)

Please make the following changes to the RAC-MOAA Membership Database and/or my e-mail address:

Request you add Zip Code Plus 4. The Plus 4 is needed by the Postal Service and gives you faster mail delivery. It saves the editor time having to look it up for mailings. Thanks, keeping us informed of address changes saves money.

Reservations for the 5 November Dinner Buffet Meeting at the Meadowbrook CC

Please make reservations for ____ persons for the buffet Dinner on Wednesday, **5 Nov 25, social at 1700, dinner at 1800.**

My check for \$_____ (**\$35.00 per person**) payable to "**RAC-MOAA**" is enclosed. **Please respond by 31 Oct!**

Rank and name: _____

Guest(s): _____

Are you attending a RAC-MOAA Event for the first time? _____

If you are mailing a check, please call 804-796-1113, or email the Treasurer (treasurer@racmoaa.org) to let him know to expect your check. Registration on web page is preferred method.

GOAL!!!

ALMOST THERE!

KEEP GOING!

WE CAN DO IT!

ACCELERATE!

START!

COL Mel Drisko Leader-Scholar Award

Goal \$4,000

By 30 Apr 2026

Achieved \$2,416

As Of 13 Oct 2025

Achieved 60% of Goal

COL Mel Drisko Leader-Scholar Awards Contribution

I wish to contribute \$_____ to support the *Drisko Memorial Leader-Scholar Awards Fund*. This fund provides monetary awards for senior-year JROTC cadets who have demonstrated the leadership and scholastic ability to pursue collegiate degrees and careers as military officers.

Enclose check payable to RAC-MOAA & put Leader-Scholar in comments. *All contributions are tax-deductible.*

Print Name and Rank: _____

GOAL!!!

ALMOST THERE!

KEEP GOING!

WE CAN DO IT!

ACCELERATE!

START!

Military Community Assistance Program (MCAP)

Goal \$4,000

By 31 Dec 2025

Raised \$3,398

As of 13 Oct 2025

85% of Goal Achieved!

Military Community Assistance Program (MCAP) Contribution

I wish to contribute \$_____ to support the Military Community Assistance Program (MCAP). This fund provides money to support one or more of the following initiatives: Virginia Veterans Services Foundation; the VA National Guard Foundation; The Fisher House at Richmond VAMC and Sitter-Barfoot Veterans Care Center; The Spinal Cord Injury Unit Recreation Services; USO; and other worthwhile military and veterans' organizations of Virginia.

Enclose check payable to RAC-MOAA & put MCAP in comments. *All contributions are tax-deductible.*

Print Name and Rank: _____

RAC-MOAA Legislative Update

On December 4, 2025, the RAC-MOAA will hold its 18th Annual Virtual Legislative Forum. The Forum will be held at 7:30 AM and again at 3:00 PM via Zoom. The Forum will focus on the five legislative initiatives for the 2026 General Assembly, as developed by Virginia's Joint Leadership Council (JLC) of Veterans Service Organizations. The Five Legislative Initiatives for this year's Forum include:

1. Prohibit Companies from Preying on veterans Seeking to Obtain or Modify their VA Entitlements
2. Veteran Suicide Death Information Access
3. Veteran Textbook Support Grant
4. Exempt Veterans Service Organizations from Use of Gaming Proceed Requirements
5. Inclusion of USPHS and NOAA in Income Tax Subtraction

Position papers, with detailed descriptions of the initiatives will be posted on the JLC website at a future date. A link to the JLC website follows: <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/about-us/boards-foundations/joint-leadership-council-of-veterans-service-organizations>. The JLC initiatives will be available near the bottom of the webpage.

Format for the Forum: Members of the 2026 General Assembly (from districts within RAC-MOAA's territory) will be invited to learn more about the JLC's top legislative priorities for the 2026 Session. For the convenience of General Assembly members, Forum sessions will be held at 0730 and again at 1500 so they can choose the time that works best for their schedules. Additional information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the December 4th Forum date.

If you would like to learn more about the Forum or participate in this important annual Chapter event, contact LCDR Wayne Sine at wsine72@gmail.com

Events at the Virginia War Memorial

- **Marine Corps 250th Birthday Celebration**
Date: 11/07/2025 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
- **69th Annual Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony**
Date: 11/11/2025 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Join us for the 69th annual Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony at the Virginia War Memorial, honoring Virginia's men and women who have served and who are currently serving in the United States Armed Forces. There will be guest speakers, patriotic music and recognition of the winners of the Virginia War Memorial's Veterans Day Student Essay Contest.

The ceremony will be held in the Virginia War Memorial's E. Bruce Heilman Amphitheater, rain or shine.

Location: Virginia War Memorial, 621 S. Belvidere Street, Richmond, Virginia 23220

Reminders - Elections and Donations

- **Elections at the November Mtg**—If you have not already voted, please go fill out the ballot on our website: <http://www.racmoaa.org>
- **MCAP really needs your support.** Please donate now at: <https://www.racmoaa.org/Donations>



*The Richmond Area Chapter-MOAA
Holiday Gala*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

Saturday, December 13th, 4 to 7 pm

The Grapevine Greek & Italian Restaurant

11055 Three Chopt Rd, Richmond, VA 23233

Valet parking available

Festivities will begin with a social/cocktail hour from 4 to 5 pm with Grapevine combo platter appetizers on each table. Please note earlier start time. The dinner buffet will follow from 5 to 7 pm and includes Garden Salad Bowl with Greek Option, Baked Meat Lasagna, Eggplant Parmigiana, Souvlaki Mi Mi Served Loose Over Rice (Pork), Piccata Rita (Chicken), Chicken Marsala, Sodas, Iced Tea and Coffee & Chef Michael's Homemade Rolls. Featured desserts include Limoncello Cake and Cannoli. The all-inclusive price is \$60/person. Cash bar available.

Please register using the **online form** (preferred) or fill out the form below and return it with your check to Richmond Area Chapter-MOAA, PO Box 985, Chesterfield VA , 23832-9998, Please allow time for mail if you use this methods. **Reservation deadline is COB Monday, December 8th.**

Dress will be Holiday Festive. All guests are most welcome. Plan to celebrate this season with excellent food, great service, camaraderie with fellow members and friends, plenty of holiday cheer, and caroling lead by our president.

Please make reservations for _____ persons.

Enclosed is my check payable to RAC-MOAA for \$_____ (\$60 per person).

Name _____

Email _____ Phone# _____

Guest _____

Guest _____

Guest _____
