



The Bugle

Central Virginia Chapter



Volume 52, Issue 8

October 2024

MOAA, including the Central Virginia Chapter, is a nonprofit nonpartisan veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and to preserving the earned entitlements of members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. Membership is open to those who hold or have ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the U.S. Army, USMC, USN, USAF, USCG, USPHS, USSF or NOAA and their surviving spouse.

General Richard Myers, 15th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, takes all questions from a large audience at September Luncheon

The CVC MOAA September Luncheon was noteworthy for its high attendance (58) and the unusually large number of guests that chose to join the regular members. The food and fellowship are always good of course, but the attraction this month was obviously the speaker. General Richard Myers spent 60 years in the national security arena, spanning the Vietnam War, Cold War, Global War on Terrorism, and after retiring in 2005, continued to serve his nation by participating on boards and special commissions. He also served as President of Kansas State University.

Although he made some introductory remarks regarding topics he would gladly address, he also encouraged participants to voice their own thoughts when posing a question. Hands among the audience went up immediately and the General took time to respond to them all. His comments were measured and thoughtful but he did not shy from definitive answers and taking a firm stance on the toughest problems facing the United States. Space limitations preclude providing his comments in detail here, but it was easily one of the best discussions in recent memory. A sampling of the topics he addressed included the war in Ukraine, conflicts in the Middle East, U.S. and Chinese relations, military retirees' involvement in American politics, Russia's threat to use nuclear weapons and need for a comprehensive long-term National Defense Industrial Strategy.



Chapter President John Warnecke, Guest Speaker General Richard Myers and Chapter Vice President Tad Oelstrom stand-by to cut the Annual CVC MOAA Cake to celebrate another successful year of "Never Stop Serving"



George Moore, Steven Hiss and Greg Frederick wait for lunch to be served at Glenmore Country Club



Carol O'Leksy, Dr. Lucy Johnson (Chapter Secretary), Gail Barber and Ruthann Brown enjoy the social hour at the luncheon





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2023 Col Marvin J. Harris 5-Star
Communications Award Winner

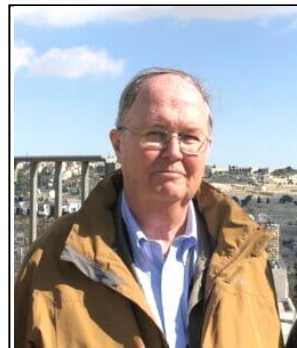
Editor: Brion C. Smith

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John Warnecke – Printing & Distribution



Dr. Dickens to speak at October Luncheon



Dr. Michael Dickens graduated with honors from Princeton University and received his Doctor of Medicine degree from Columbia University. He trained in Pediatrics at UVA where he served as Chief Resident and after two years of active service as a Medical Officer in the U.S. Navy, practiced with Pediatric Associates of Charlottesville for 35 years. He was President of the Virginia Pediatric Society and recipient of the Arthur Bender Award from Martha Jefferson Hospital. In retirement he served as Chairman of the Board of the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library, as an Interpreter at both Montpelier and Highland, and authored *Like An Evening Gone*, a history of Christ Episcopal Church in Charlottesville. He has taught OLLI courses on disability in American Presidents and lectures for Road Scholar courses on Virginia's presidents. He currently is a volunteer at the Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society library and leads tours of historic Charlottesville.

Community Calendar

Thursday, 24 October: CVC MOAA Luncheon. Dr. Michael Dickens will be speaking on *Predicting Presidential Disabilities and Modern Medical Advances*. (Reservation form on page 5)

Thursday, 24 October: Charlottesville's 4th Annual Military Service Awards, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM at North Fork, Town Center Four, 994 Research Park Boulevard, Charlottesville, VA. Keynote speaker will be Colonel Jonathan E. Velasquez, current National Security Programs Manager at UVA's Office of Research Security.

Wednesday, 6 November: Board of Directors Meeting at 13:00 with optional lunch at 12:00

Join MOAA's Central Virginia Chapter

To learn more about the nationally recognized
Central Virginia Chapter



contact

**Membership Director
Carolyn Still**

Email: carolynmassie@hotmail.com

Phone: 540-221-0015





Long time Chapter Photographer, Dr. Mike McKee receives a "surprise" award recognizing his many years of selfless and highly professional service



Bill O'Lecky and A.B. Brown prepare to take their seats before General Myers speaks



Marilyn LaBrie, Margie Davenport and Paul LaBrie (Chapter Treasurer) arrive for the luncheon

National MOAA Corner: 2025 COLA Adjustment



Unlike recent years, the monthly figures used to calculate the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for military retirees, Social Security recipients, and others receiving certain federal benefits have stabilized as the fiscal year nears its end.

This makes the final adjustment – set to be determined the morning of Oct. 10 – less of a mystery. **Experts predict a 2.5% boost, less than last year's 3.2% increase and far short of the 8.7% hike from the year before that.** The final figure will be available at MOAA's COLA Watch page shortly after its release.

MOAA provides COLA details to help retirees and other beneficiaries plan their finances in the coming year, but tracking the adjustment goes beyond money management – it's critical to the core MOAA mission of protecting the value of service-earned compensation.

Without these adjustments, the purchasing power of retirement pay would drop dramatically in the years after service. That's why MOAA has taken a leading role in establishing the present calculation, and in ensuring it remains safe from lawmakers seeking ways to solve ongoing budget problems.

Past attacks on the benefit have included plans to remove the adjustment entirely, or to reduce it for military retirees. Recent threats have been less direct – the Congressional Budget Office's 2022 report to the incoming 118th Congress offering budget-cutting options, for example, outlined a new COLA metric that would save the government more than \$250 billion over 10 years thanks to a lower adjustment.

That plan never made it past the drawing board, but it'll likely be part of a similar report expected in 2024 to greet the 119th Congress. MOAA stands ready to engage with lawmakers, as we've done in years past, to ensure they understand the true costs such changes would impose on military retirees.

MOAA members can keep up with the latest on COLA and other key issues by visiting MOAA's news page. And be sure to register with our Legislative Action Center so you can make your voice heard on this issue and others as part of our work with Congress, both at the end of the 118th session and the start of the 119th in January.

For more details on COLA calculations, monthly updates tracking key inflation figures, and more, bookmark MOAA's COLA Watch page. By: Kevin Lilley September 24, 2024 MOAA Newsletter

In memory of our colleagues, friends, brothers and sisters that passed away between September 2023 and September 2024

Commander Pam Batchellor, USN
 Captain Bob Burnett, USA
 Lieutenant Colonel Dwight Cragun, USA
 Captain Bill Greene, USN
 Lieutenant Colonel Bert Page, USA
 Commander Robert Packard, USN

Legislative Review...



The Chapter's Legislative Committee
is chaired by
Dan Moy

For up-to-date information about legislative issues that
affect you, go to the MOAA website
<http://www.moaa.org/takeaction>

Greetings fellow members.

Your Legislative Committee is gearing up for the 2025 General Assembly that will kickoff on 8 January and meet for 30 days (a shorter session in odd-numbered years). Prior to each legislative cycle, MOAA, in concert with Virginia's Joint Leadership Council (JLC), a body representing 24 veterans service organizations, determines the top legislative priorities that we will take to our regional elected officials for sponsorship and support. John Down, our MOAA representative to the JLC, has been instrumental in guiding this effort and I am thankful for his advocacy throughout the process.

In September, the JLC approved five priority initiatives that address a range of issues, from providing services to incarcerated veterans to reduce recidivism rates to improving the tuition assistance benefit for members of the Virginia National Guard.

1. Identify incarcerated veterans and connect them to state and federal veterans services and resources to support reintegration into the community and reduce recidivism. Many Virginia regional incarceration centers do not use the Veterans Reentry Search Service (VRSS) to identify justice-involved veterans. This initiative calls for inmate identification when charged and during incarceration as a first step in connecting these veterans to mental health counseling and other services, as well as helping them return to productive lives after release from incarceration.
2. Stop unscrupulous firms from exploiting veterans. Claim shark companies are preying on veterans by seeking to obtain or modify their VA entitlements, advertising contracts beyond the scope of what the VA actually allows and collecting personal sensitive information to gain access to veteran accounts. This initiative calls the General

Assembly to pass legislation banning such predatory practices.

3. Transition the Virginia National Guard State Tuition Assistance (STAP) to an upfront payment model. STAP is a longstanding benefit in Virginia, however, in 2021, the program shifted to a reimbursement model, requiring members to pay first and get paid later with semester-long delays and significant frustration concerning the process. This initiative calls for returning STAP to an upfront payment model to put the commonwealth on par with other states in our region.
4. Expand the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk to meet the needs of veterans and their families. Horton Memorial is the most heavily used cemetery in Virginia after Arlington National Cemetery and now reaching its maximum capacity. This initiative calls the General Assembly to fund expansion of the cemetery.
5. Establish June 12th as Women Veterans Day in Virginia commemorating the historic signing of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948. This initiative will recognize the contributions of women veterans and raise awareness of women's past and present military service, calling the General Assembly to designate June 12th as Women Veterans Day.

The Legislative Committee will reach out to house members Katrina Callsen (54th), Amy Laufer (55th), and Tom Garrett (56th) as well as Senator John McGuire (10th) requesting virtual or in-person meetings by December to advocate for these initiatives. Additional information about the JLC and background papers on the bill proposals can be found at <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/dvs/joint-leadership-council-veterans-service-organizations-2>

Please feel free to reach out to me at any time for questions concerning MOAA's legislative engagement efforts. You can contact me at danmoy@mac.com.

Best,

Dan

LUNCHEON MEETING RESERVATION FORM
Thursday, 24 October 2024

11:00 a.m. social hour. 12:00 noon lunch
The Club at Glenmore

Dr. Michael D. Dickens, MD
Pediatrician and Local Historian
is scheduled to be our Guest Speaker

Directions from Charlottesville: Route 250 East. One mile past Shadwell turn right into Glenmore. Turn right on Piper Way. If you are not a resident, please tell the gate guard that you are attending the MOAA luncheon. Proceed on Piper Way. The Club is on the right just past the tennis courts. Attire for men is suit/sport coat and tie or military uniform.



Menu Selections

Hearts of Romaine Salad

Choice of entrée:

- A. Grilled Bistro Steak**
- or**
- B. Cornmeal Trout**
- or**
- C. Vegetable Wellington**
- ***
- Rosemary Potatoes
- Buttered French Beans
- ***
- Sweet Potato Pie



Please Circle Entrée Selection

Member Name: _____ **A B C**
Guest Name(s): _____ **A B C**
_____ **A B C**
_____ **A B C**

Please make reservations for ____ @ \$35.00 each.

My current email address (if changed) is: _____

Please remit with check payable to CVC MOAA. Reservations must be received
NO LATER THAN Friday, 18 October 2024.

CVC MOAA
P.O. Box 6455
Charlottesville, VA 22906-6455

Due to mail uncertainties and a need to ensure a timely head count, please confirm your attendance numbers and meal selection with John Warnecke by 18 October 2024
via email (warnecke@comcast.net) or phone (434) 981-8554.



Central Virginia Chapter
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