



The Bugle

Central Virginia Chapter



Volume 52, Issue 9

November-December 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.

Dr. Michael Dickens Exams Historic Disabilities in American Presidents and the Potential for Early Detection with Modern Medicine

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. After two years of active service as a Medical Officer in the U.S. Navy, he practiced with Pediatric Associates of Charlottesville for 35 years. In retirement, he served as Chairman of the Board of the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library as well as an Interpreter at both Montpelier and Highland. He taught OLLI courses on disabilities in American Presidents and lectures for Road Scholar courses on Virginia's Presidents.

His topic was extremely timely this election year with the national concern with age and its potential impact on the fitness of candidates to hold office. This is an area of expertise in which Dr. Dicken's experience in both medicine and history converge with his research of Woodrow Wilson's Presidency and the substantial evidence that he suffered from multiple strokes before he took office and then a more obvious mental decline thereafter.

Dr. Dickens cited other Presidents whose physical ailments may have impacted their mental status including Franklin Roosevelt, John Kennedy, Richard Nixon and detailed Ronald Reagan's cognitive decline. He further described the mental and emotional functions that are critical executive decision-making. He ended with a detailed description of the relevant parts of the 25th Amendment and the untested vagueness of the process in which the removal of a sitting President might occur. He also detailed the increasing predictive power of medical diagnostics to forecast years in advance, the likelihood of a patient's physical or cognitive impairment. All of this begged the question: "How do we reconcile a potential candidate's right to medical privacy with the over-arching interests of the voting public?"



Guest speaker Michael Dickens (seated) shares a professional topic with chapter member Clay Sisk before stepping to the podium for his presentation



Henry and Ann Shelton find their seats with Tom Boyd and Jack Cann before the first course is served.



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The Bugle

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

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John Warnecke – Printing & Distribution



**Albemarle High School Choir to Perform
Again for Holiday Luncheon**



On 12 December 2024, CVC MOAA will host our annual Holiday Luncheon with the Albemarle High School Choir as our guests. This most likely will be the final time we will see Jenn Morris in the Director's role – as she is planning this to be her last year.

Community Calendar

Wednesday, 20 November: Charlottesville Aviation Luncheon Club (CALClub) will meet on Wednesday, 20 November at the Blue Ridge Café, 8315 Seminole Trail in Ruckersville. Topic: "Are We Alone?" Using the world's most powerful astronomy tools designed to discover exoplanets orbiting other stars and to search for another 'Earth,' our speaker, Jeff Volosin, NASA GODDARD, will try to address this question. The public is invited to a luncheon buffet before the presentation, served at noon. Cost is \$20.00 cash. Reservations are required and available from Bill Mitchell at whmitchell@gmail.com or by calling him at 703 915 6230.

Wednesday, 4 December: Board of Directors Meeting at 13:00 with optional lunch at 12:00 at Glenmore Country Club

Thursday, 12 December: CVC MOAA Luncheon at The Club at Glenmore, Social hour starts at 11:00 and seating at 12:00 noon. Lunch will be followed Jenn Morris directing the Albemarle High School Choir in a holiday musical extravaganza. (Reservation form on page 7)

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





White McKenzie Wallenborn (Ken) was born in Salisbury, North Carolina, the son of Peter Ambrose Wallenborn and Elizabeth McKenzie Wallenborn. Ken was predeceased by his sister Alice Lorraine; his brother Peter Ambrose Jr. and his brother Roberdeau Wheat. He is survived by his wife of seventy years Lucy Henderson (Poochie), sons White McK. Jr. (Liz); Charles Abbot (Patsy) and daughter Sarah Howard (Jack); grandson Charles Abbot Jr. (Jenna); granddaughters Faris McKenzie Donnelly (Will), Ruthie Josselyn Wallenborn and great grandson Wilson Cruz Donnelly.

Ken's family moved to Charlottesville in 1938. After attending local schools, Ken graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1951 and the UVA School of Medicine in 1955. Upon graduating from medical school he was called to active duty in the Air Force and was stationed at Homestead Air Force Base in Homestead, Florida. Ken served as flight surgeon for the 19th and 379th bomb wings in the SAC. After his discharge, Ken completed a residency in Otolaryngology at UVA School of Medicine. He was on the clinical surgery staff at UVA and had a private practice at Martha Jefferson Hospital. Ken retired in 1994 after 33 years in practice.

Ken was a Life Member of the Charlottesville Albemarle Rescue Squad and served as the squad surgeon for ten years. He served on the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America and was a recipient of the Silver Beaver and Distinguished Eagle Scout awards; he served on the Charlottesville Albemarle Airport Joint Airport Commission for fifteen years; he was the Charlottesville city medical examiner for six years; the founder of the Jeffersonland Barbershop Chorus; a founder of the Charlottesville Free Clinic; a member of the Sons of the American Revolution; a member of the Charlottesville Aviation Luncheon Club; and a member of the Central Virginia Chapter, Military Officers Association of America. Ken was a private pilot for forty years and served with the Civil Air Patrol.

A graveside service for Ken Wallenborn was held at October 11, 2024 at the UVA Cemetery and Columbarium. Memorial donations may be made to the Charlottesville Albemarle Rescue Squad.



Carolyn Still, our CVC MOAA Membership Director, starred again in her annual and charitable performance as the *University of Virginia Witch-on-the-Lawn*. She donated her time and talent in coordination with the University of Virginia Women's Club, who jointly purchased and delivered over \$600 worth of individually wrapped candy to "lift the spirits" of UVA Lawn Residents for Halloween. Carolyn also partnered with LTC Liz Eaton-Ferenzi and the cadets of the UVA Army ROTC Program to assist with the delivery of the treats to the Head Lawn Resident so he could distribute them to the rooms along The Lawn.

However, Carolyn did not stop there, and her charitable energies extended beyond October and well into November and December as she led the collection of food for the *New Directions Women's Shelter* holiday meal drive. These donations provide both Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for central Virginia's economically disadvantaged families. *From Witch to Angel, our Chapter is duly proud of her charitable leadership in the community!*



CVC MOAA Supports 2024 Veteran's Day Ceremonies in Albemarle County



The Color Guard forms for the UVA Joint Services ROTC Veteran's Day Ceremony



John Warnecke, Chapter President presents the CVC MOAA wreath at the Albemarle County/American Legion Veteran's Day Ceremony



Vietnam War USMC Combat Veteran and long time CVC MOAA member, Col James O'Kelley addresses attendees at Veteran's Day Ceremony



Attendees gather at the Rotunda before the ceremony begins

Surviving Spouse Corner: A Season to Be Grateful. *By Susan Collins, Surviving Spouse Advisory Council member; November 05, 2024* The holidays are filled with special family times that include beautiful memories. These memories can be sweet and make you all warm inside, but they also can cause sad emotions relating to the loss of a loved one. As Thanksgiving approaches, it can be beneficial to focus effort and energy on what you are grateful for in your "new life" since the loss of a loved one. I am grateful for:

- The enduring and unwavering support of my family, friends, and community — as a military surviving spouse, these are near and far.
- My good health that allows me to support my family and grandchildren as they grieve and help others as well.
- Being able to enjoy every new day. To be able to walk daily and enjoy meeting people, nature, trails, lakes, the ocean, sunrises, and sunsets.
- Beautiful memories and our legacy that I can pass down to my children and grandchildren.
- The strength and all the beauty life has to offer.
- My resilience to persevere.
- My faith. I look forward to meeting my spouse again.
- All life's experiences. These experiences, whether they are good or bad, shape us throughout this life. They keep us alive.

As the holiday season approaches, I wish everyone good health and happiness and a wonderful Thanksgiving that is shared with family, friends, and great memories.

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.

Virginia voters going to the polls on November 5th, otherwise focused on the federal races, may have been surprised by the proposed constitutional amendment at the bottom of the ballot. The amendment, expanding a property tax exemption for surviving spouses of military members, would make the benefit available to all surviving spouses—for servicemembers not only “killed in action” (in combat) but for all those killed in the line of duty.

The amendment passed overwhelmingly—93% of voters approved the measure.

For those following the Joint Leadership Council (JLC) agenda over the past couple years, the amendment stood at the top of MOAA’s legislative priorities in Virginia—a call to correct existing language (codified in 2015) that had inadvertently excluded the tax benefit from some 100 veteran spouses and their families.

Despite our frequent discussion of the proposed amendment, many may not know the backstory that helped inspired state senators like Jeremy McPike (D-Woodbridge) and Bryce Reeves (R-Spotsylvania) to advocate for the referendum.

One of the approximately 100 Virginia families affected by the errant language was Traci Voelke of Fairfax, the widowed spouse of U.S. Army Major Paul C. Voelke who was killed in Afghanistan during an MRAP (Mine Resistant, Ambush Protected) armored vehicle accident in 2012.¹ Traci initially applied for and received the property tax benefit after 2015 to help herself and her two boys make ends meet. However, three years later, Fairfax

County notified Traci that she owed the tax payments after all because Paul’s death did not qualify as “killed in action.”²

Traci’s story helped move legislators in Richmond to address the problem. The 2023 and 2024 sessions voted unanimously to pass the proposed amendment, leading to the ballot referendum on November 5th. A key part of that process was the tireless advocacy of state MOAA leaders like retired Army Colonel Monti Zimmerman and the work of our very own John Down on the JLC.³

The passing of the amendment underscores a few key lessons moving forward. First, the error of the original language was inadvertent—but also reflects the need for increased military insight among our elected officials, especially at the state and federal level. We need advocates in Richmond who appreciate the nuance and meaning of terms like “line of duty” and “killed in action”—who understand the needs of the military community and are motivated to make corrections when necessary. Second, laws and changes to laws often reflect the hardships of real people, and in that regard, the work of legislative advocacy—the heart of MOAA’s DNA—is a noble calling serving the greater good of our veterans, our active servicemembers, and their families. Finally, much like altering the course of an aircraft carrier, civic engagement takes time—often accomplished in degrees over multiple meetings with representatives across several legislative sessions. Persistence is key. On that score, the good work of the JLC and MOAA at the state level is making a difference where it really counts.

Looking ahead, the 2025 General Assembly will kickoff on 8 January and meet for 30 days (a shorter session in odd-numbered years). The JLC ap-

² Dave Ress, “How an Army major Killed in Afghanistan helped inspire proposed change to the Virginia Constitution,” *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, Oct 23, 2024.
https://dailyprogress.com/news/state-regional/government-politics/elections/virginia-ballot-question-tax-exemption-gold-star-spouses/article_bdbff599-e540-5e3d-bffc-4a33d7c1230f.html

³ Megan Pauly, “Virginians expand tax exemption for select military spouses,” *VPM News*, November 7, 2024.
<https://www.vpm.org/elections/2024-11-07/virginia-constitution-amendment-surviving-spouses-property-tax>

¹ <https://www.herocards.us/hero222>

proved five priority initiatives during its September meeting to tackle a range of issues, from providing services to incarcerated veterans to reduce recidivism rates to improving the tuition assistance benefits for members of the Virginia National Guard. Additional information about the JLC and background papers on the bill proposals can be found at <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/about-us/boards-foundations/joint-leadership-council-of-veterans-service-organizations>

In preparation for January, the Legislative Committee has reached out to house members Katrina Callsen (54th), Amy Laufer (55th), and Tom Garrett

(56th) to request their support and sponsorship on the JLC priorities for 2025. We expect to hold meetings with all three offices by mid-December.

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

National MOAA Corner: *The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act (H.R. 8371) sits stalled in the House, with no corresponding bill in the Senate.* The bipartisan bill is more than a collection of policies – it's a comprehensive package of needed improvements for the veterans, families, caregivers, and survivors who depend on VA health care and benefits.

This 300-plus-page legislation includes:

- **VA Benefits Reforms:** Ensuring veterans receive the benefits they deserve.
- **Expanded Long-Term Care Services:** Providing essential support for aging veterans.
- **Caregiver Program Support Services:** Offering much-needed resources for those who care for our veterans.
- **Resources for Homeless Veterans:** Addressing the critical issue of veteran homelessness.
- **Assistance for Surviving Family Members:** Supporting those who have lost a loved one in service.

MOAA and fellow veterans service organizations have worked diligently over the past two years with the 118th Congress to secure this omnibus legislation. Without it, veterans and their families may face uncertainty and hardship, especially those who rely solely on VA health care and benefits for their livelihood. With the number of congressional working days waning this year, the window to pass significant veterans legislation is rapidly closing. This Congress has yet to pass any major veterans legislation, making the passage of the Dole Act even more critical. Furthermore, a recent RAND report, [*America's Military and Veteran Caregivers: Hidden Heroes Emerging from the Shadows*](#), offered more reasons to ensure these often-overlooked members of the wider military community receive the attention they deserve.

Three-quarters of veteran caregivers support a veteran age 60 or older. Veterans over 60 often face cost as a barrier to their care. Caregivers incur high out-of-pocket costs to provide the necessary care for their veterans. 42% of military/veteran caregivers providing care to those 60 years old or under meet the criteria for depression. These caregivers are unsung heroes who ensure our veterans receive the care they need, often at great personal and financial sacrifice.

Help MOAA drive Congress to take decisive action. [Reach out to your lawmakers](#) today and urge them to pass the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act.

LUNCHEON MEETING RESERVATION FORM
Thursday, 12 December 2024

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

Albemarle High School Choir with Director Jenn Morris
is scheduled to provide holiday entertainment

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

Iceberg Wedge Salad

Choice of entrée:

A. Herb Salmon

or

B. Braised Beef Short Ribs

or

C. Cauliflower Steak

*

Scalloped Potatoes

Buttered Broccoli

*

Apple Crumble



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, 6 December 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 6 December 2024 via email (warneckeja@comcast.net) or phone (434) 981-8554.



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