



# The Bugle

## Central Virginia Chapter



Volume 53, Issue 1

January 2025

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.

## A Holiday Tradition: Jenn Morris Directs the Albemarle High School Patriot Singers, Earning Smiles from all and a Standing Ovation

The number of attendees for the Annual Holiday Luncheon was the largest in recent memory. Everyone knew what a great show the Albemarle County High School Patriot Singers and All Women's Choir would provide. This year was no exception and under the directorship of Ms. Jenn Morris, the group performed multiple seasonal favorites and finished their repertoire with a joint rendition of *The First Noel*.

As in past years, the choir continued the tradition of singing each of the Military Service Songs (with a promise to add the Public Health Service tune in 2025)! Attendees came to their feet and joined in accordance with their service loyalties.

President John Warnecke presented Ms. Morris with the first-ever CVC MOAA Coffee Mug in appreciation for her long-standing support to the Central Virginia Chapter.



John Warnecke presents Ms. Morris with a special gift in recognition of their performance



Kirk and Bonnie Jones join Terry and Charo Brock for a photograph before lunch is served



Director Jenn Morris leads the AHS Patriot Singers in their holiday tribute to the members of CVC MOAA



**2025  
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**THE BUGLE**  
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**The Bugle**

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

**Editor:** Brion C. Smith

**Contributors:**

John Warnecke – Printing & Distribution



**Professor Don Brown scheduled to speak at  
January Luncheon on *Artificial Intelligence***



Professor Brown is a 1973 graduate of the United States Military Academy, earned two Masters Degrees from UC Berkley and a Doctoral Degree from the University of Michigan. Dr. Brown is Founding Director of the Data Science Institute, the W.S. Calcott Professor in the Systems and Information Engineering Department and Co-Director of the Translational Health Institute of Virginia, University of Virginia. In this presentation he will be helping the CVC MOAA membership better understand the potential applications, as well as cultural and business implications of Artificial Intelligence.

**Community Calendar**

**Wednesday, 8 January:** Board of Directors Meeting at 13:00 with optional lunch at 12:00 at Glenmore Country Club

**Wednesday, 15 January:** 12:00 Noon: Charlottesville Aviation Luncheon Club at Blue Ridge Café, 8315 Seminole Trail in Ruckersville. Topic: History of US Presidential Flight. Our speaker, Bob Ribando, was assigned to the 89<sup>th</sup> at Joint Base Andrews where the Presidents aircraft are based and maintained. This presentation covers the whole history from Roosevelt's short flight in 1910 to the present. All interested are 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](mailto:whmitchell@gmail.com) or by calling him at 703 915 6230.

**Thursday, 23 January:** CVC MOAA Luncheon at The Club at Glenmore, Social hour starts at 11:00 and seating at 12:00 noon. Lunch will be followed by Professor Don Brown of the University of Virginia speaking on Artificial Intelligence (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](mailto:carolynmassie@hotmail.com)

Phone: 540-221-0015



## **NATIONAL MOAA CORNER**

### **NDAA Recap: What's In, and What's Out, of the Final Bill**

**December 24, 2024 By MOAA Staff**

At more than 1,800 pages, the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) will shape the service-earned benefits of those in uniform, and their families, well beyond the fiscal year. The bill, which cleared Congress last week and was signed into law by the president Dec. 23, includes dozens of provisions tracked by MOAA throughout the long lawmaking process ... with several more proposals that did not make the final cut. Some of these MOAA-backed moves – most notably the substantial increase in pay for junior enlisted servicemembers – already have received significant media coverage. Here's a more complete breakdown of the legislation, including areas where MOAA hopes to secure future improvements via advocacy work with the incoming 119th Congress.

#### **Pay and Allowances**

MOAA outlined details of the junior enlisted pay hike and the 4.5% raise affecting nearly all other servicemembers, along with increased eligibility for the Basic Needs Allowance (BNA), shortly after the bill passed the Senate on Dec. 18. DoD must report on the Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS) to Congress – specifically, to determine whether the allowance is enough to cover food costs and whether a servicemembers' number of dependents should factor into rate calculations. Another report requires a review of factors used to calculate both stateside and overseas cost-of-living adjustments (CONUS/OCONUS COLA), and whether changes to the formula are warranted. Junior enlisted members on sea duty may be eligible to receive their Basic Housing Allowance (BAH), and reservists will be eligible for travel-cost reimbursement for inactive duty training and muster duty. MOAA will continue its work to restore BAH to 100% of anticipated housing and utilities costs – provisions authorizing funds for such an increase did not make the final legislation.

#### **Health Care**

The bill includes reforms designed to improve beneficiary access to health care, such as allowing tele-mental health providers to offer services across state lines; a waiver for the referral requirement for some types of care for servicemembers under TRICARE Prime; and the end of copays for TRICARE contraception coverage. Existing rules made it difficult for military treatment facilities to retain skilled, experienced civilian nurses seeking to take on new positions. The NDAA includes language from the MOAA-backed REWARD Experience Act that would waive such regulations and allow for talented medical personnel to remain part of the DoD health care system. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) will look into the performance of providers under the new "T-5" TRICARE contracts, and DoD will brief Congress on TRICARE's non-coverage of monoclonal antibodies as part of Alzheimer's treatment. Both of these measures were included in a report accompanying the final bill, not the NDAA itself. MOAA will advocate for a number of improvements left out of the NDAA late in the process, such as: 1) A pilot program to treat pregnancy as a qualifying life event under TRICARE, 2) Expanding coverage of hearing aids to children of retirees using TRICARE Select (a recent change covered children under TRICARE Prime), 3) Creation of a TRICARE dental plan for Selected Reserve members. 4) A report on the TRICARE retail pharmacy network, to ensure beneficiaries, especially those in rural areas, can access the care they need.

#### **Spouse and Family Support**

A full breakdown of MOAA priorities in this bill touches on spouse employment improvements, upgrades to military housing, and improvements to military child care. MOAA sought expanded flexibility for military spouses who work for the federal government and face career challenges brought on by PCS moves – a provision that did not reach the final legislation. Other unfilled priorities included reports and studies on several programs, such as the Exceptional Family Member Program, DoD child care services, and home-based businesses on military installations.

#### **Retirees, Survivors, and Veterans**

Several sections of the bill provide for the restoration of caisson services at Arlington National Cemetery, which have been suspended since May 2023. The NDAA provides an extension for minor dependents to file death gratuity claims. It also opens enrollment in DoD-run elementary and secondary schools to some dependents of fallen servicemembers. MOAA will continue its work to remove hiring restrictions faced by retired servicemembers seeking some DoD civilian positions – removing the so-called "180-day rule."

## **SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER:**

### **We Need Your Voice on Legislative Issues**

**By: Kathy Thorp**

There is a quote from Helen Keller: “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

This sums up the vital importance of each of us taking the time to contact our members of Congress to share our testimony and our personal stories on the current issues relating to surviving spouses as well as other veterans’ and military family issues. National MOAA advocates on the Hill monthly, and once a year, council and chapter leaders come to Washington, D.C., for Advocacy in Action, focusing on several key issues.

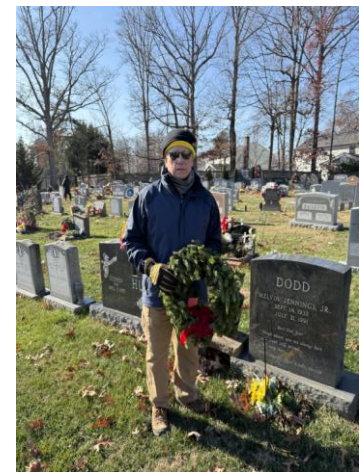
What can you do to be a part of this excitement of advocacy? You can get involved very easily, from the comfort of your home. Often due to where we live, our physical limitations, and our work and family schedule, it’s nearly impossible to travel to Washington, D.C., to meet with lawmakers. The good news is MOAA has a valuable resource to make it easier for us to advocate throughout the year: the Legislative Action Center.

<https://moaa.quorum.us/>

In the action center, MOAA posts top issues with a description of each. You can pick and choose what affects you the most, or you can select all the issues that are listed. Once you register for the Legislative Action Center, you can send a pre-formatted letter to your representative and senators on the issue. All you need to do is either add your personal story or just add your signature. Once it’s completed, hit the send button, and the letter is automatically sent to your lawmakers.

Try it out today — it only takes five minutes. Every call, every email, and every visit to Congress helps to bring to the forefront issues affecting surviving spouses, veterans, and military families. The more our voices are heard, we CAN make a difference!

## **Chapter Members Support to the Community**



Our Central Virginia Chapter VCOC Representative Ruth McWilliams and her husband David joined thousands of others in laying wreaths on veteran graves as part of the annual *Wreaths Across America* project on 14 December. Ruth and David were part of a large crowd of supporters that participated at the Chestnut Grove Cemetery in Herndon, VA.

# 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.

The 2025 General Assembly kicks off on January 8<sup>th</sup> with legislators deliberating and voting on bills pertinent to our military veterans and National Guardsmen in the House and Senate through end of February. This is a politically active year in the commonwealth with every seat in the House of Delegates up for reelection in November. Additionally, it is the last year of Governor Youngkin's four-year term. Two frontline candidates are running for the Governor's seat: Democratic Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger (VA-07) and Republican Lieutenant Governor Winsome Sears. Both women carry strong national security/military credentials—Spanberger, a former CIA case officer, and Sears, a former “and always” U.S. Marine. The dynamic nature of this session provides an opportunity for veteran advocates to gain an audience with our representatives on our top priority issues.

Prior to each legislative cycle, MOAA, in concert with Virginia's Joint Leadership Council (JLC), a body representing 25 veterans service organizations, determines the top priorities we 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 priorities addressing a range of issues, from providing services to incarcerated veterans to improving tuition assistance for members of the Virginia National Guard. Specifically, the five initiatives include:

1. Identify incarcerated veterans and connect them to state and federal veterans services and resources to support reintegration into the community and reduce re-

cidivism. 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 is now reaching its maximum capacity. This initiative calls the General Assembly to fund expansion of the cemetery.
5. Establish June 12<sup>th</sup> as Women Veterans Day in Virginia commemorating the historic signing of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948. This initiative recognizes the contributions of women veterans and raises awareness of women's past and present military service, calling the General Assembly to designate June 12<sup>th</sup> as Women Veterans Day.

Over the last several weeks, your legislative committee has engaged with local House members Amy Laufer (55<sup>th</sup>) and Tom Garrett (56<sup>th</sup>), as well as with the legislative assistant for Katrina Callsen (54<sup>th</sup>), to request their support and co-patronship on these initiatives. All three offices have indicated a willingness to do so. John Down plans to follow up with each of the three members in person during “JLC Day on the Hill” in Richmond on 9 January. 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>

One final note. In our last Bugle, I discussed the constitutional amendment that Virginia voters approved by over 93% at the ballot box in November. I would like to make a correction to my description of the amendment. The amendment expands the property tax exemption for surviving spouses of members not only “killed in the line of duty” (as

reported), but also for those who “died in the line of duty” (includes non-combat, training, or other loss of life). The nuance in the language is significant. In addition to expanding the tax benefit for families, the measure appropriately recognizes the sacrifices of all those who serve, and that’s the kind of legislation we aim to promote in the coming session.

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](mailto:danmoy@mac.com).

Best,  
Dan



*Why is this lovely lady smiling?*

**In 2025 Chapter Annual dues will increase to \$40 for regular members and \$25 for Surviving Spouses. So far we have 20 members that have already paid. Checks can be mailed to: CVC MOAA, PO Box 6455, Charlottesville, VA 22906-6455 - Or, attend the January 23rd luncheon at The Club at Glenmore and bring a check. Carolyn Still, our Membership Chair, will greet you in the foyer!**

**LUNCHEON MEETING RESERVATION FORM**  
**Thursday, 23 January 2025**

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

**Professor Don Brown, University of Virginia**  
**is scheduled to provide insights into the long-term potential and implications of**  
**Artificial Intelligence**

*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**

Glenmore Greens Salad

**Choice of entrée:**

**A. Southwestern Chicken Penne Pasta**

**or**

**B. Shrimp and Salmon Penne Alfredo**

**or**

**C. Vegetable Primavera in a white wine sauce**

\*

Passion Fruit Panna Cotta

\*



**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, 17 January 2025.**

**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 17 January 2025 via email ([warnecke@comcast.net](mailto:warnecke@comcast.net)) or phone (434) 981-8554.**



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