



Volume 53, Issue 8

The Bugle

Central Virginia Chapter



October 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.

CVC MOAA Celebrates its Autumn Picnic-Casual Luncheon but the Charlottesville Police Department Working Dogs Steal the Show!

As the Central Virginia Chapter of MOAA bid farewell to the summer of 2025, forty-two members and guests dined on BBQ and salads during an indoor rendition of the Annual Picnic-Casual Lunch Buffet. The food was excellent as always, however, the pièce de résistance was served up by members of the Charlottesville Police Department Canine Unit.

Sergeant Eric Thomas introduced his team of handlers, who, in turn, presented their working dogs. Officer James Burnette described the extensive training that Brewster [Explosives, Ordinance and Demolition (EOD) Detection Dog] received through ATF. He provided demonstrations of Brewster's ability to locate items of forensic interest - shell casings in particular! Likewise, Officer Darby described the care, management and "apprehension" skills of his Patrol Dog, Dallas. The rapport and trust between the dogs and their handlers was obvious, reminding many in audience of the strong bonds we all have witnessed with military working dogs and their handlers.



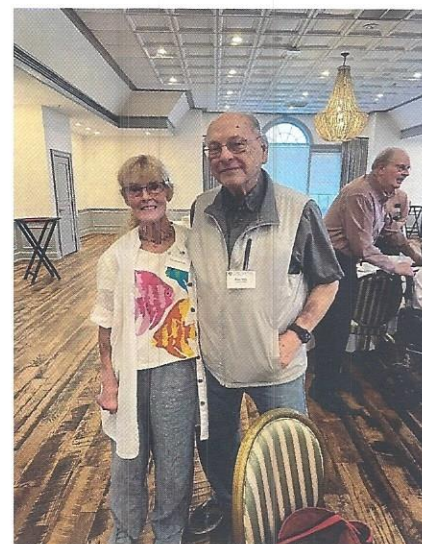
Charlottesville PD Officer and former US Army Combat Engineer James Burnette, introduces "Brewster," an ATF-Trained EOD Detection Dog



Ann Shelton greets Brewster while Hank listens to Officer Burnette (Brewster's Handler) explain the extensive training required by ATF



Terry Brock, Ted Martin, Judy Smith and John Swartzwelder trade jokes at the September Picnic Luncheon



Elizabeth Page and Clay Sisk enjoy the social hour before taking their seats



**2025
Board of Directors
Central Virginia Chapter MOAA**

PRESIDENT & WEBSITE ADMINSTRATOR
CAPT John Warnecke, USN

VICE PRESIDENT
Vacant

SECRETARY
Dr. Lucy Johnson

TREASURER
LTC Paul E. LaBrie, USA

PROGRAMS
Lt Gen Tad Oelstrom, USAF

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
Col Dan Moy, USAF: Committee Chair
Lt Col John Down, USAF: Committee Member

MEMBERSHIP
Dr. Carolyn Still

ROTC LIASON
Col Steve Hiss, USAF

VCOC REPRESENTATIVE
CPT Ruth McWilliams, USA

DIRECTOR
CAPT David Hilty, USN

THE BUGLE
COL Brion C. Smith, USA

Contact Us: Central Virginia Chapter MOAA
P.O. Box 6455
Charlottesville, VA 22906-6455

Email: info@cvmooa.org

Chapter Webpage: cvmooa.org

The Bugle

2024 Col Marvin J. Harris 5-Star
Communications Award Winner

Editor: Brion C. Smith

Contributors:

John Warnecke – Printing & Distribution



Brigadier General Cathy Jumper, Commander of the Virginia Air National Guard to Speak at October Luncheon



General Jumper is Distinguished Graduate of the University of Virginia's ROTC program in 1995 and has served in all three components of the Total Force, including both Operations SOUTHERN and NORTHERN WATCH and launching the first Operation NOBLE EAGLE sorties after the 2001 terrorist attacks. She has commanded at both the Squadron and Group levels and served in various positions at the Wing, Major Command and Headquarters levels. Her notable staff assignments include Secretary of the Air Force Congressional Liaison Officer, and F-15/F-16 Weapons System Team Chief, Air Combat Command., as well as J3, Director of Operations, Joint Staff, Virginia National Guard. She will speak on demands and challenges the ANG is facing today and about the specific operations and events the Guard has been involved in over the past 12 months.

Community Calendar

Wednesday, 1 October: CVC MOAA Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, 14 October: In-person VCOC Meeting at Virginia War Memorial in Richmond. All interested members are welcomed.

Wednesday, 15 October at Noon: Charlottesville Aviation Luncheon Club (CALClub) open to all, will meet at the Blue Ridge Café, Ruckersville. Doors open at 11:00 and buffet lunch will begin at noon; price is \$20.00 cash per person. Make reservations with Bill Mitchell whmitchell6@gmail.com or 703 915 6230. Military Artifacts Expert Art Beltrone will discuss his two books: *A Wartime Log* and *Vietnam Graffiti Messages from a Forgotten Troopship*.

Thursday, 23 October: 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 a presentation by Brigadier General Cathy Jumper, Commander of the Virginia Air National Guard (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



MOAA NATIONAL CORNER: VA Hospital Ratings Show Gains, But Challenges Remain

By: René Campos, September 2025

The VA is reporting strong results in the latest Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) hospital quality ratings, underscoring the important role the VA direct health care system plays in serving those who have worn the uniform. More than 75% of VA hospitals earned four or five stars in the top performance categories, according to the August 29 CMS report. No VA hospital received the lowest rating, and over 90% either maintained or improved their score from last year. “These ratings highlight the excellent care VA hospitals provide,” said VA Secretary Doug Collins in the department’s announcement of the scores. “Our job is to continue raising the bar for customer service and convenience throughout the department, so VA works better for the veterans, families, caregivers and survivors we are charged with serving.” The CMS ratings measure performance across five categories: mortality, safety of care, readmission, patient experience, and timely and effective care.

Progress and Challenges

The VA announcement also pointed to several improvements across the department, including expanding access through the opening of new health care clinics, record processing of disability claims, and increasing investment in infrastructure. The department also continues to accelerate deployment of a modernized electronic health record system to improve care coordination across VA and community providers. However, important challenges remain. Veterans still face long waits for some specialty care, limited access in rural areas, and persistent staffing shortages across the system. And while expanding community care options can improve access and convenience, it also raises concerns about how to preserve VA’s role as the primary coordinator of veteran-focused health care.

MOAA Priorities

MOAA applauds the progress reflected in these ratings and VA’s commitment to raising the quality of care. But lasting improvements require sustained investment, with support from both the department and lawmakers. MOAA urges lawmakers in the 119th Congress to:

- Provide timely, full-year funding so the VA can carry out its mission without disruptive stopgap measures.
- Invest in the workforce, human resources, and facility infrastructure needed to meet current and future demands.
- Reserve VA’s direct care system and specialized services that remain the foundation of veteran-focused health care.

The latest CMS ratings are an encouraging sign that VA health care is on the right track. But progress must be sustained and expanded. MOAA will continue to advocate for policies and resources to ensure the VA remains strong, modern, and capable of delivering the care and support services veterans have earned — today and for generations to come.



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.

In preparation for the 2026 General Assembly, your legislative committee recently held virtual meetings with two members of the House of Delegates, Amy Laufer (55th District—Albemarle, Fluvanna, Louisa, and Nelson counties) and Katrina Callsen (54th District, Charlottesville City).

The Joint Leadership Council (JLC) is encouraging each of the Veteran Service Organizations to begin working ahead of schedule this cycle to help inform the legislative topics and priorities the JLC will advocate for in 2026. Unlike previous years, rather than waiting until after the JLC has finalized its legislative agenda, we are engaging with representatives like Delegates Laufer and Callsen now to help inform the JLC's deliberative process. We are inviting our representatives to help us understand, from their view, and based on what they're hearing from their constituents, what issues are of greatest concern to servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

During these early conversations, we are also highlighting a top MOAA priority—namely, amending and reenacting § 58.1-322.02 (Virginia Taxable Income; Subtractions) to expand eligibility to all uniformed services, including veterans of the commissioned corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) commissioned officer corps. This initiative calls for delivering the same state income tax exclusion benefits provided to veterans of the armed forces. Federal law currently defines eight uniformed services of the U.S. Government—five within DoD (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Space Force), the Coast Guard (Homeland Security), and two additional—USPHS and NOAA. Like the other services, USPHS and NO-

AA are uniformed and deployable worldwide. Of note, Delegate Laufer, who sits on the House Finance Committee, expressed her concern with the fiscal priorities across the board, indicating that such an initiative will be closely examined for cost impact in 2026.

Both delegates expressed their interest in working with MOAA and the JLC in the coming months to address the needs of military service members and veterans in their districts. One item on their shared radar for the local area—the ongoing problem of accessibility to the Dogwood Vietnam Memorial in Charlottesville. Both are interested in supporting improvements to parking and site improvements to make the memorial accessible to all. Your legislative committee will follow up with both house members on this topic to see if state legislation may be in order to help advance the effort.

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

Best,

Dan



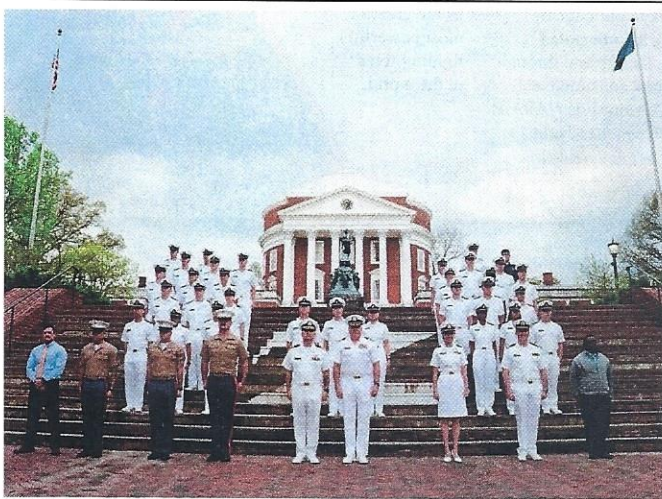
On 18 September at the Virginia War Memorial, Richmond. Sen. DeSteph honored as "State Legislator of the Year" by the Virginia Council of Chapters. Left to right: VCOC President Diana Kupchella, Sen. Bill DeSteph, and John Down, CVC Legislative Affairs Committee Member and MOAA JLC Representative.

WINGS OF GOLD

The Voice of Naval Aviation Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Summer 2025

University of Virginia Naval ROTC forging Leaders at Sea and Ashore



UVA Naval ROTC Midshipmen and Staff led by Commanding Officer, CAPT Michael "Chopper" Rovenolt, USN gather for their 2025 unit photo on the historic steps of the Rotunda (Photo by Dao Tran)



UVA Naval ROTC Midshipmen stand alongside Army and Air Force ROTC cadets during the annual POW/MIA vigil held on UVA grounds for Veterans Day (Photo by MIDN3/C Kyle Nguyen)

The Summer 2025 issue of *Wings of Gold* featured an excellent article on our own University of Virginia Naval ROTC Unit, written by LT Josh Hartman and ENS Aiden Loughran. The original article is available for review at <https://www.anahq.org/members/wings-of-gold-archives> for members of the Association of Naval Aviation but the key points are as follows:

Developing Leaders of Character: The UVA NROTC Unit has trained generations of officers for the United States Navy and Marine Corps. Midshipmen participate in early morning physical training sessions, leadership laboratories, and courses in the Naval Sciences including ethics, navigation, ship systems and naval history.

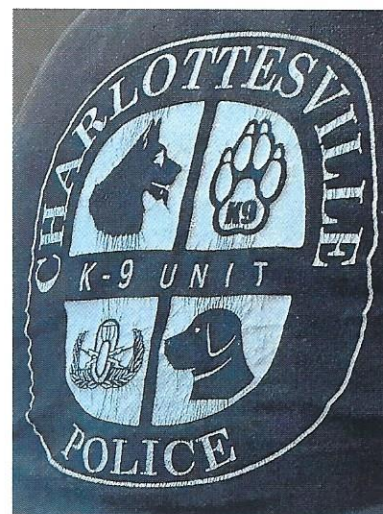
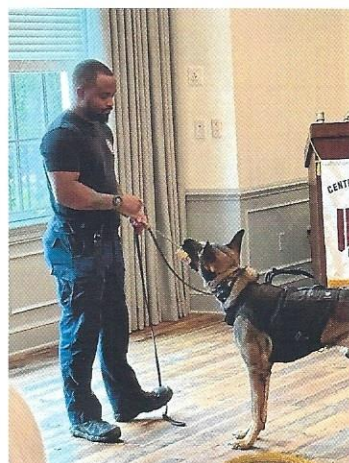
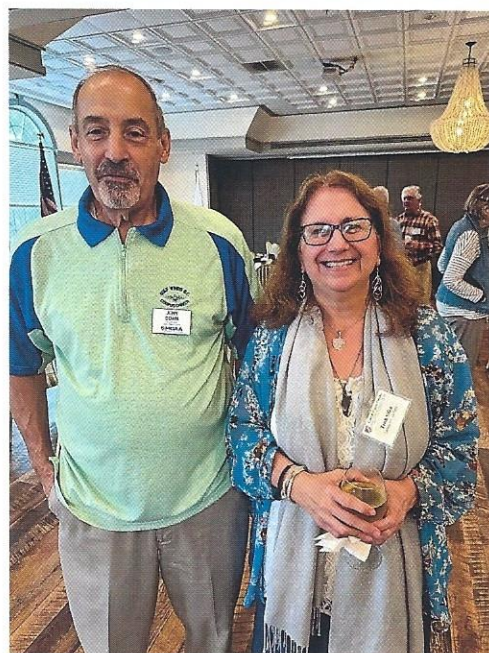
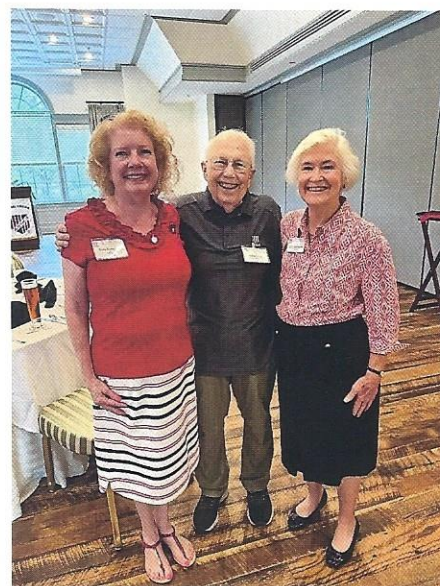
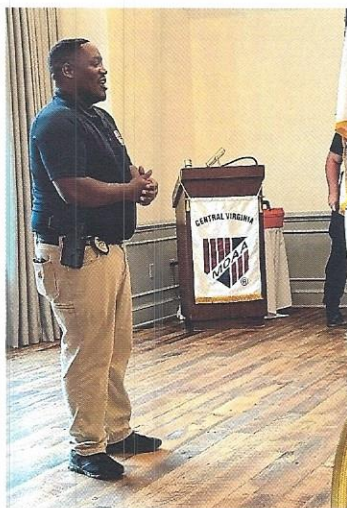
A Balanced College Experience: Midshipmen are fully integrated into the broader university experience with a diverse choice of majors and community volunteer engagement, as well as student government and athletics.

Learning by Doing - Summer Training: Each summer, UVA NROTC Midshipmen participate in operational training with US Navy and Marine Corps units across the globe, building confidence in their ability to lead.

Career Paths and Service Selection: Upon graduation, Midshipmen enter into a variety of warfare specialties – aviation, surface, submarine, and information warfare and Marine ground or aviation career fields.

UVA in Naval Aviation: UVA offers several unique opportunities to expose Midshipmen to Naval Aviation to include visiting pilots and aircrew and summer training with squadrons around the country.

A Long Standing Tradition, A Modern Mission: From World War II until today, the UVA NROTC unit has adapted its program to prepare officers to serve with distinction in this era of strategic competition as highly competent and trusted leaders wherever they are.



Colleagues, Friends, Family and First Responders at the Annual Autumn "Picnic Casual" Buffet Luncheon

LUNCHEON MEETING RESERVATION FORM

Thursday, 23 October 2025

11:00 a.m. Social Hour. 12:00 noon lunch

The Club at Glenmore

**Brigadier General Cathy Jumper,
Commander of the Virginia Air National Guard**

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. White Wine and Garlic Shrimp

or

C. Mushroom Napoleon

*

Herb Roasted Potatoes

Buttered French Beans

*

Black Forest Cake



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 October 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 October 2025
via email (warneckeja@comcast.net) or phone (434) 981-8554.**



Central Virginia Chapter
P.O. Box 6455

Charlottesville, VA 22906-6455

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Charlottesville, VA
Permit No. 290