



# The Bugle

## Central Virginia Chapter

Volume 54, Issue 2



February 2026

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.

## Luncheon Speaker, Pat Kelly, Shares Southwestern Virginia Family History and the Story of "Virginia's Other Revolution"

Forty-Seven CVC MOAA members, friends and guests attended the January luncheon to hear long-time member and historian, Pat Kelly, discuss a piece of Virginia history that most of us never knew – the Indian Wars in Southwest Virginia, which lasted from 1754 to 1791. The conflict essentially began with the French and Indian War but continued for almost 10 years after the British surrender at Yorktown.

Kelly's ancestors were frontiersmen who settled in the contested territory defending their homesteads at a time when no government entity was capable of doing so. Shawnee, Wyandot, Cherokee and Mingo were all involved at times. British, French and Spanish military activities wove in and out of the brutal warfare, sometimes complicating the conflict further.



Pat Kelly shares his in-depth knowledge of the American Revolution (above) to a packed room (below)



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2025

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## The Bugle

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

**Editor:** Brion C. Smith

**Contributors:**

John Warnecke – Printing & Distribution



**Our February Speaker will be  
Dr. Michael Balazs, Technology Integrator,  
Global Operations and Intelligence Programs,  
MITRE Corporation**



Dr. Michael A. Balazs serves as the Technology Integrator (TI) for MITRE's Joint Staff, Combatant Commands, and Defense Intelligence programs. In this role, he coordinates research needs and technology transition between MITRE IR&D programs and its sponsors. He co-coordinates a portfolio of small Unmanned Aerial System programs ranging from the Commercial off-the-shelf Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) work program to the MITRE Challenge for Countering Unauthorized Aerial Systems. Additionally, he leads research in the area of non-traditional computational clusters. A perennial favorite with our membership, he spoke to CVC MOAA in 2018, 2019, 2020 and now again in 2026!

## Community Calendar

**Wednesday, 4 February at 1300 at the Club at Glenmore:**  
CVC MOAA Board of Directors Meeting

**Thursday, 26 February:** 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 Dr. Michael Balazs of MITRE Corporation (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



# MOAA NATIONAL CORNER

## MOAA's TRICARE Guide: TRICARE Adds Coverage for Test That Detects Dozens of Cancers

By: Karen Ruedisueli



*(The digital version of this document contains active hyperlinks to primary sources)*

TRICARE has joined hundreds of leading health systems and employers by covering Galleri, a multi-cancer early detection test, for beneficiaries age 50 and over with an elevated risk of cancer. The Defense Health Agency authorized Galleri coverage using the [Lab Developed Test \(LDT\) Demonstration Program](#), a MOAA advocacy win from more than a decade ago that continues to provide benefits for servicemembers, retirees, their families, and survivors.

### What Is Galleri, and How Does It Work?

Galleri is a multi-cancer early detection test that screens for many aggressive cancers before symptoms appear. Using a blood sample, it looks for a unique “fingerprint” of cancer from DNA fragments shed from cancer cells into the bloodstream. Galleri can screen for [more than 50 cancers](#), including many that have no recommended screening available. Galleri results also provide direction to your doctor on the cancer’s origin to help guide the next steps in diagnosis.

Only five cancer screening tests are recommended by the [U.S. Preventive Services Task Force](#) – breast, cervical, colorectal, lung (for those at risk), and prostate. Most other cancers do not have recommended screening tests and are often diagnosed at a later stage. Early detection is important because it can significantly improve cancer survival rates.

### Galleri Ordering Process

If your provider agrees that the Galleri test is appropriate for you, they will submit an authorization – subject to approval by TRICARE – and give you an order for the test. You will have a blood draw done, and results will be available [about two weeks](#) after your blood sample is received at the lab. There are two possible results: No Cancer Signal Detected or Cancer Signal Detected. Nearly 99% of people who use the Galleri test will screen negative with No Cancer Signal Detected. Continue with routine cancer screening tests your healthcare provider recommends. Around 1% of people ages 50-79 are expected to receive a Cancer Signal Detected test result. This result will include the predicted tissue type or organ associated with the signal, called a Cancer Signal Origin (CSO) – information that can help guide your healthcare provider with next steps. After diagnostic evaluation, around 40% of people with a Cancer Signal Detected result are expected to have a confirmed cancer diagnosis.

Galleri is a new technology, and some health care providers may not be familiar with it. If you are interested in discussing the Galleri test with your medical provider, you can download a [discussion guide](#) that includes instructions on ordering the screening test from the Galleri website.

### Out-of-Pocket Costs

The Galleri screening test is subject to TRICARE cost sharing. Medicare does not cover the Galleri test, so beneficiaries on TRICARE For Life who get the Galleri screening should expect to be billed for the TRICARE annual deductible (\$150 per individual for most retiree families) and the applicable [cost share](#).

MOAA appreciates TRICARE’s leadership on Galleri multi-cancer early detection screening. In an April 2025 [post on X](#), during Cancer Control Month, Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-Okla.) highlighted this “major breakthrough for military health” and thanked DoD leadership for “making sure TRICARE beneficiaries have access to cutting-edge tools to catch cancer early – when it’s most treatable – and save lives.”

# 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 2026 legislative session is now off and running through mid-March. MOAA and our partners among the commonwealth's Joint Leadership Council (JLC) have been at work advancing our 5 top-ranked veterans initiatives, seeking to gain traction in the House and Senate deliberations over the next 60-day period.

On January 15th, JLC members assembled in small teams in Richmond for "JLC Day on the Hill" and John Down was among those who participated in this annual one-day push to meet with law makers. In many cases, this advocacy effort reflects the culmination of several months of investment in meeting with delegates, senators, and their staff members. Some bills have already been pre-filed before the session begins.

Notably, among the several meetings held on the 15th, John Down and Dan Bianco met with staffers from Delegate David Reid's office (28th District, Loudon) on the effort to recognize veterans of the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) with respect to Virginia's income tax benefit currently granted to service members from the other service branches. In support of this initiative, Delegate Reid is now ready to serve as Chief Patron on HB47 and is now seeking a Chief Co-Patron. Thanks to the advocacy efforts of Monti Zimmerman, VCOC 3rd VP for Legislative Affairs, Senator Jeremy McPike (29th District, Quantico-Nokesville) is the Senate Chief Co-

Patron SB148 on the USPHS-NOAA initiative. Financial Impact Statements were filed on January 19th, so now the "fun" begins.

John Down, in concert with our other JLC partners, held meetings with six delegates and their staffers on the 15th. One highlight was the meeting John held with Abigail Hendrickson from Delegate Amy Laufer's office (55th District, Albemarle) to advocate for all 5 of our legislative priorities. Much discussion focused on the JLC's "claim shark" initiative (preventing unauthorized individuals from soliciting veterans, requiring payment to file claims with the VA). In the commonwealth, we have over 100 VSO members who can provide this service for free, but veterans are often unaware of this and fall prey to these "claim sharks." The JLC's initiative seeks to impose a penalty on the claim shark process to prevent this kind of exploitative activity. Delegate Laufer's bill is HB1268 and she is currently seeking a Chief Co-Patron. Delegate Charniele Herring (4th District, Fairfax) has put forward a similar bill, HB398, but the language lacks the enforcement aspect of the JLC's effort on the issue, and so we are thankful for Delegate Laufer's leadership on this initiative. Senator Adam Ebbin (39th District, Alexandria-Fairfax) and other Chief Co-Patrons have proffered a companion bill SB315. Delegate Laufer remains committed to her bill and is asking for letters of support. The JLC sponsor on the claim shark initiative, the VFW, is leading that effort and John Down has asked the JLC chairman to do likewise on behalf of the entire JLC. Competing bills and the tensions surrounding those are all part of the legislative "sausage making" that goes on every year at the General Assembly.

Stay tuned for further updates, and 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](mailto:danmoy@mac.com).

Best, Dan

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**Bobbie and Peyton Williams visit with Bill Adams at the January Luncheon**



**Ted Martin and Bill O'Hara swap stories at the social hour.**



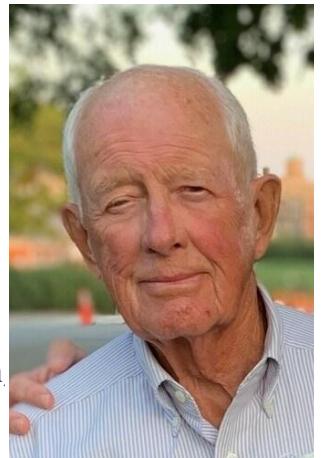
**MOAA Central Virginia Chapter Board of Directors for 2026 are sworn into office.**

**Left to Right: Brion Smith, Dan Moy, David Hilty, Carolyn Still, Paul LaBrie, Lucy Johnson, and John Warnecke.**  
**Not pictured are Steve Hiss and Ruth McWilliams. Most directors have served for multiple years on the board.**  
**(Photograph is courtesy of Dr. Michael McKee)**

# William Sams Tunner, MD

## November 14, 1933 - December 18, 2025

William Sams Tunner, MD died on December 18, 2025. Bill was born on November 14, 1933, in San Antonio, Texas to Margaret Sams Tunner and Lt. General William Henry Tunner. His father's military service and the premature death of his mother resulted in Bill and his younger brother Joseph spending much of their childhood with Sams relatives in Mississippi. Bill graduated from the Taft School in Watertown, Connecticut in 1952, and matriculated to Washington and Lee University, where he was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.



In 1955, Bill began his rigorous medical training at The University of Virginia, where he completed a U.S.P.H.S. fellowship in microbiology and graduated with his medical degree in 1960. Bill completed surgical training at Duke University Medical Center and the National Cancer Institute of NIH in Bethesda, Maryland. He was a resident in the Division of Urology at The New York Hospital, Cornell Medical Center from 1964-1966, and served as chief resident from 1966 to 1968. He met his wife Sallie Berry Woodul while performing his residency at New York Hospital. They married on December 4, 1965, in New York City.

Upon completion of his residency in New York, Bill accepted a faculty position with the University of Texas, San Antonio, heading up its kidney transplant team. In 1972, Bill and Sallie moved with their two sons, Billy and Jonathan, to Richmond, Virginia, to be near Bill's father and his wife Ann and his younger sister Suzanne who lived at Hockley Farm in Ware Neck, Virginia. Bill served as Chief of Urology at St. Mary's Hospital where he was a member of the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, and the Member Foundation Board. He was one of the founding members of the Virginia Urology Center. His many professional appointments included serving as President of the Virginia Chapter of the American College of Surgeons and President of the Virginia State Urological Society. Throughout his career, he received numerous accolades and awards, published extensively in medical journals and presented internationally and across the U.S.

After his retirement, Bill spent his time outside, actively maintaining his farm. Bill was an avid horseman and rode until his early 80s, earning his colors with Deep Run and Farmington hunt clubs. Bill enjoyed skiing and took his family on many memorable ski trips in the US, Europe, and Canada. Like his father who commanded the Military Air Transport Service during the Berlin Airlift, Bill was an extraordinarily organized and competent leader. Those skills along with his patriotism and love of community led him to accept leadership positions with various organizations, including serving as president of the Virginia Chapter of the Sons of the Revolution, president of the Central Virginia Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, and as an active member of the Jamestown Society. Bill was a past member of the Country Club of Virginia, the Ware River Yacht Club, St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Goochland and Grace Episcopal Church in Keswick.

Bill is predeceased by his mother, father, and brother. He is survived by his cherished wife Sallie, devoted sons Billy (Ashley) and Jonathan of Richmond and four beloved grandchildren, William Keesee Tunner, Celia Sams Tunner, Caroline Elyzabeth Tunner and Catherine Edelen Tunner and his loving sister Suzanne Hudson (David) and his four nephews Wood, Tucker, Jesse and Connor Hudson and their wives and children. A memorial service was held January 5, 2026, at 11 a.m., at St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 6000 Grove Avenue.

## 2026 Membership Dues

Our Annual Chapter Dues did not increase this year and remains \$40 for regular members and \$25 for Surviving Spouses.

Checks can be mailed to:  
CVC MOAA, PO Box 6455,  
Charlottesville, VA 22906-6455.

Or, you can attend the 26 February 2026 luncheon at The Club at Glenmore and bring a check. Dr. Carolyn Still (Membership Chair) and Dr. Lucy Johnson (Chapter Secretary) will greet you in the foyer!



Catching-up at the January Luncheon. Left: John Down and Roman Cybak, Center: George Moore and Dan Moy, Right: Joanne and David Hilty

# Surviving Spouse Corner: Making a VA Benefits Compensation Claim

By: Nora Durham,

*(This digital version of this document contains active hyperlinks to primary sources)*



I have been a surviving spouse for 24 years. My husband, a 33-year veteran of the Marine Corps and a naval aviator, died in 2001 from heart disease. He was never a member of MOAA.

I became acquainted with MOAA in 2019 during a visit to Washington, D.C. It was a chance meeting during [Advocacy in Action](#), at which time some in the group learned I was the widow of a Marine Corps officer. I was led to the registration booth and immediately became a MOAA member. I learned there are approximately 47,000 surviving spouse members of MOAA — representing about 12% of the association's members. I'm now a proud Life member.

This brief encounter started a journey for me to be as active as possible. I became my local chapter's surviving spouse liaison and then a member of the Surviving Spouse Advisory Council (SSAC).

Through my involvement with MOAA, I learned about [VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation \(DIC\)](#). As my husband served in Vietnam and was exposed to Agent Orange, it was determined his exposure subsequently caused the heart disease that contributed to his death. This qualified me to receive this benefit. With the help of a local veterans service officer (VSO) and the [VA Office of Survivor Assistance](#), I will receive this tax-free monthly compensation for the rest of my life.

Suppose you are the surviving spouse, child, or parent of a servicemember who died in the line of duty, or the survivor of a veteran who died from a service-related injury or illness. In that case, you might be eligible to receive this tax-free monetary benefit. [Visit the VA's website to learn more.](#)

For additional information and support, contact a local VSO if one is available in your community. For those in the Central Virginia Area, please see <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/>

To prepare for opening a VA claim for disability or other benefits compensation, applicants must possess the following documents:

**Military discharge (DD Form 214)** — original or certified copy is best

Other military service information (branch, dates of service, Reserve or National Guard service dates, etc.)

**Medical records (military and/or civilian)** if available, and if applying for a service-connected disability, contact information for civilian medical providers who treated the veteran for military-related illnesses or injuries (i.e., doctors, specialists, hospitals, etc.)

**Bank deposit information (i.e., voided check)** — the VA will automatically deposit into this account if benefits are awarded

If the above documents are not available, veterans or surviving kin can request them online at [www.archives.gov/veterans](http://www.archives.gov/veterans).

For additional information and support, review [news articles, publications, and resources](#) related to survivor benefits at MOAA.org, as well as [VA.gov](http://VA.gov).

**LUNCHEON MEETING RESERVATION FORM**  
**Thursday, 26 February 2026**

**11:00 a.m. Social Hour, 12:00 Noon Lunch**  
**The Club at Glenmore**

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Michael Balazs**  
**Technology Integrator, Global Operations and Intelligence Programs, MITRE Corporation**

*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**

Hummus & Vegetable Salad



**Choice of entrée:**

**A. Roasted Pork Loin**

**or**

**B. Buttered Tilefish**

**or**

**C. Vegetable Vol au Vent**

**\***

Herb Risotto

Vegetable Medley

**\***

Pound Cake with Strawberries

**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.**

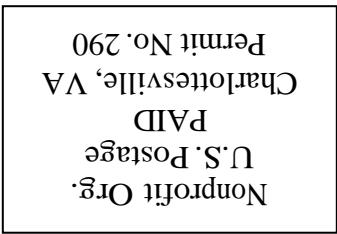
My current email address (if changed) is: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please remit with check payable to CVC MOAA. Reservations must be received  
NO LATER THAN Friday, 20 February 2026.**

**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 20 February 2026  
via email ([warneckeva@comcast.net](mailto:warneckeva@comcast.net)) or phone (434) 981-8554.**

## ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



Central Virginia Chapter  
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