



The Bugle

Central Virginia Chapter



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March 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.

Professor Robert Toplin Explores the Life of Yitzhak Rabin to Unveil the Triumphant and Tragic History of Modern Israel

Our Chapter Director for Programs, retired Lieutenant General Tad Oelstrom, has been unerring in his ability to find world-class luncheon speakers with deep expertise on timely topics of interest to the CVC MOAA membership. In February, 47 members and guests gathered at the Club at Glenmore to hear Professor Robert Toplin explain the complex history of Israel and its impact on the geopolitical outlook for the Middle East - plus a Q&A session - all in less than an hour! A herculean task for the best of scholars but he accomplished it in a comprehensible manner before we had finished our dessert and cups of coffee.

He used the life of Yitzhak Rabin (1922-1995), former Israeli freedom-fighter, general, diplomat, premier and Nobel Prize winner to trace the history of Israel and 100 years of fighting for its survival against external forces. But Rabin's life reflects the nation's internal struggle as well, as his early military record shows a determination to protect his nation at all costs. However, his later territorial concessions and out-reach to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) angered the Israeli far-right and cost him his life by assassination in 1995. Sadly, Professor Toplin admits there is still no clear way forward to a guaranteed and lasting peace.



Tad Oelstrom, CVC MOAA Director for Programs converses with guest speaker Robert Toplin before lunch is served



John Down and Karen Warnecke pose with Bartender Henrique, just one of the many Glenmore employees that make the CVC MOAA Luncheons so successful



Sharon and Lawrence Strauss find their seats and share a smile during the social hour



Bill O'Lecky, Peyton Williams and Tom Boyd trade stories at the February luncheon





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The Bugle

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

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Dr. Gray Heppner, M.D., FACP, FASTMH
National Preparedness and Response Science
Board Member



Dr. Heppner is a vaccinologist and board-certified infectious disease physician with 29 years of research and development experience, including clinical trial design and execution in the US and overseas. His expertise includes preclinical, first-in-human, and field trials of new drug products in tropical medicine and biodefense. He is a Managing Partner and Chief Medical Officer at Crozet BioPharma, LLC. and has held biotechnology leadership positions in government and in the private sector.

His 23-year Army career culminated as Chief Operating Officer (2008-2011) of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, with operations in Africa, Asia and Europe. In 2003, he deployed during Operations Iraqi Freedom & Enduring Freedom as part of a Special Medical Augmentation Response Team to establish medical countermeasures to biowarfare threats at military treatment facilities.

Community Calendar

Wednesday March 19: Charlottesville Aviation Luncheon Club at Blue Ridge Café. CDR Metcalf from UVA's McIntire School of Commerce will be discussing the origins of *China's People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN)*. 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 or by calling him at 703 915 6230.

Thursday, 27 Mar: 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 Dr. Gray Heppner speaking on our *Preparedness for the Next Pandemic*. (Reservation form on page 5)

Sunday, March 16, 2025, at 2:00 PM: Wreath-Laying Ceremony honoring James Madison at Montpelier

Join MOAA's Central Virginia Chapter

To learn more about the nationally recognized

Central Virginia Chapter
contact

MOAA **Membership Director**
Carolyn Still

Email: carolynmassie@hotmail.com

Phone: 540-221-0015





OBITUARY

Nathaniel Joseph Capps

March 10, 2002 – February 17, 2025

Nathaniel Joseph Capps, age 22, died on Monday, February 17, 2025, at UVA Medical Center after a long fight with cancer that began in 2017. Born in Charlottesville on March 10, 2002, Nate had many interests, including art, games, philosophy, opera, and theology, though what he most enjoyed growing up was Scouting.

Nate did not let cancer hold him back. He graduated from high school, earned his Eagle Scout rank, and began his education at Piedmont Virginia Community College, all in 2020. Nate loved his college and, after having to stop classes in 2022 due to the return of his cancer, returned to complete two more semesters in 2023 and 2024.

Nate was a young man of deep faith and made pilgrimages to Rome and Lourdes, supported by the Make-A-Wish Foundation and the Order of Malta, which sponsors pilgrimages for the sick and disabled. He met the challenges of life with a quiet courage and intelligence, a simple heart, and a beloved sense of humor. Nate is dearly missed by his parents, Patricia Sifka and Michael Capps; his sisters, Darcy and Emily Capps; and his dog Jasper, who meant the world to him.

Wake for Nate was held on Monday, February 24, from at Teague Funeral Home in Charlottesville and a Latin Requiem Mass was celebrated on Tuesday, February 25, at Holy Comforter Catholic Church in Charlottesville. He was buried at St. Isidore the Farmer Catholic Church Way, in Orange with a reception afterwards.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Make-A-Wish, the Order of Malta (Federal), or the Emily Couric Cancer Center.

Surviving Spouse Corner

Engaging Surviving Spouses for Membership Growth

By: Dr. Vivianne Wersel

It is essential to recognize that for Life members of MOAA, their membership transfers to their spouse upon their death, but surviving spouses of military officers can also join MOAA on their own. The advantages of surviving spouses joining MOAA include:

1. A MOAA surviving spouse membership unlocks unique benefits. These include a robust support network tailored to their needs, dedicated advocacy on issues directly impacting surviving spouses, and a wealth of resources designed to guide them through life's challenges after loss. Encouraging a surviving spouse to join MOAA is an excellent source for maintaining and growing chapter membership.

2. As MOAA members, surviving spouses are welcomed into a community of peers who understand their unique journey. They receive updates on benefits and programs, participate in interpersonal and group activities, and find support and commitment. Joining MOAA bridges the knowledge gap that often follows the loss of a military spouse, ensuring all aspects are addressed. It is important to note that many surviving spouses might not know they can join MOAA, even if their military spouses were not members.

3. MOAA surviving spouses gain access to various communication and support channels tailored to their membership level. These include telephone, email, magazines, websites, social media, virtual meetings, and webinars. This comprehensive range of options ensures they can always contact MOAA for assistance regardless of location or specific needs.

4. Research published in *Jeffrey Saltzman's blog* (<https://jeffreysaltzman.wordpress.com/2015/03/26/why-do-people-join-organizations/>) indicates age does not influence why one should join an organization. People join because they seek similarity, regardless of generation gaps. *The MOAA Surviving Spouses and Friends Facebook Group* (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/581427115240904/>) is an example. The group includes military survivors from different war eras, all joined for a common goal. As a MOAA member, surviving spouses can relate to like members with similar backgrounds and be associated with the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. *The MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter*

(<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2021-news-articles/surviving-spouse-corner-join-moas-surviving-spouse-virtual-chapter/>) caters to surviving spouses with monthly Zoom meetings and, every other month, a guest presenter. Email MSSVC02@gmail.com to request membership or for more information.

5. Surviving spouses can also join their local geographic chapter of MOAA, connecting them with other MOAA members and their spouses.

Surviving spouses make up about 13% of MOAA's total membership. Joining MOAA provides surviving spouses with advocacy, community, resources, and practical support, helping them navigate the complexities of life after loss. Speak with a surviving spouse in your network about joining MOAA today, then encourage them to join the MOAA Surviving Spouses Virtual Chapter.

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 the wake of the 2025 General Assembly (GA), here is a brief update on the current status of the Joint Leadership Council's five initiatives. Notably, four of the five initiatives have reached a positive result in the GA:

- JLC 2025-01: Verification of Veterans Status, Jails. Requires the Department of Veterans Services to convene a work group to determine the most effective programmatic structure to assist the Department of Corrections, sheriffs, and local and regional jails in utilizing the USDVA's Veterans Reentry Search Service and other services to record an individual's veteran status at the time of arrest, intake, and during incarceration to enable connecting these veterans to USDVA and community employment, education, and other resources to lower their recidivism rate. *Passed and is pending communication from the Governor. Expect it to be signed.*

- JLC 2025-02: Stop Unscrupulous Firms from Exploiting Veterans. Creates the Safeguarding American Veteran Empowerment Act to regulate the practices of persons seeking to receive compensation for preparing, presenting, prosecuting, advising, consulting, or assisting any individual regarding any veteran's benefits matter, as defined in the bill. The bill provides that a violation of its provisions constitutes a prohibited practice under the Virginia Consumer Protection Act. *Failed in the House Rules Committee. Note that there is a Congressional bill addressing this issue. JLC will possibly consider this bill again as initiative for 2026.*

- JLC 2025-03: Virginia National Guard Tuition. Makes several changes to the Virginia Nation-

al Guard State Tuition Assistance Program by eliminating the requirement for students to satisfy financial obligations with the institution of higher education at the beginning of each semester and simplifying requirements relating to academic performance and good standing. *Passed, decided by House and Senate conference committees and reports agreed to. Original bill language amended to require "good standing" of the Guard member in the school of higher learning.*

- JLC 2025-04: Suffolk State Veterans Cemetery - Land Acquisition. *Has been added to the Governor's budget, Item C-52.20. Will be a DVS responsibility to purchase the land, estimated value \$1M.*

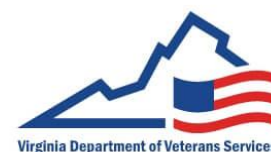
- JLC 2025-05: Women Veterans Day. *Passed by Senate voice vote, effective to recognize June 12th, annually.*

This update reflects an 80% success rate on this year's advocacy for MOAA and the JLC over the course of the session—best we've seen in recent cycles. My thanks to John Down for his leadership on the JLC and advocacy on behalf of our veterans in Richmond.

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, 27 March 2025

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

Dr. Gray Heppner, Infectious Disease Physician
is scheduled to discuss *Preparedness for the Next Pandemic*

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

Citrus Arugula Salad

Choice of entrée:

A. Pan Roasted Salmon Cakes

or

B. Swedish Meatballs

or

C. Wild Mushroom Cakes

Mashed Potatoes and Broccoli

Coconut 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, 21 March 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 21 March 2025 via email (warnecke@comcast.net) or phone (434) 981-8554.



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