



# The Bugle

## Central Virginia Chapter



Volume 53, Issue 2

February 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 Dan Brown Mesmerizes his Audience with an *Artificial Intelligence* Tutorial and Leaves Them Hungry for More

The speaker for the January CVC MOAA Luncheon set the "educational bar" quite high for all subsequent presenters for the remainder of 2025. With a large showing of members and curious guests, Professor Brown walked the audience through the history of Artificial Intelligence (AI), starting with the Dawn of the Computer Age and early pioneers such as Charles Babbage ("Analytical Engine" 1833), Ada Lovelace ("Programming" 1843) and Alan Turing's "Universal Machine" in 1936. But it wasn't until the Dartmouth Conference of 1956, that the term *Artificial Intelligence* (AI) was officially coined.

Professor Brown described the series of complicated gaming competitions that were staged, as rival proponents tried to demonstrate that either humans or AI Systems would ultimately dominate. A technical breakthrough occurred when AI developers found that AI Systems "learned" best when they played against themselves, and not imitating human decision-making.

The ethical challenges that AI presents were openly discussed in the Q&A Session, particularly in regard to the traditional approach to education. Professor Brown admitted that it is nearly impossible to distinguish between a research paper written by a student and one authored through AI. When asked how he handles that dilemma at UVA, he said with a smile, "They take my final exam by providing handwritten answers in an old fashion Blue Book with essay-style questions!"



Professor Brown regales the attendees with the nearly unlimited potential of *Artificial Intelligence* while intimating that we don't yet have answers for all the challenges it may also create.



Ben Stoppe, Margie Davenport and Steve Hiss (our new CVC MOAA Director for ROTC Affairs) prepare to take their seats at the January Luncheon.



Charlotte Erickson, Cliff Erickson, Jeb Baker and Larry Bouterie make the most of the pre-luncheon social hour.



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## The Bugle

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

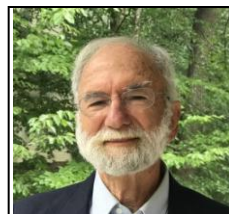
Editor: Brion C. Smith

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## Professor Robert Toplin scheduled to speak at February Luncheon on *Israel at War and the History of Conflict in the Middle East*



Robert Brent Toplin is a well known author living in our midst. He has taught courses for several years at UVA after retirement from professorships at Denison University and the University of North Carolina, Wilmington. He has published several books and articles about history, film and politics, and discussed history in nationally broadcast television and radio programs. Among other activities, he serves as president of the History Club here in Charlottesville and works with OLLI at UVA featuring joint monthly presentations for the public by faculty from UVA's History Department, Politics Department, and the Miller Center. He will speak on Stories about clashes involving Israel and the Palestinians, Hamas, and Hezbollah as well as the nearby nations of Lebanon, Syria, and Iran have been prominent in the headlines for more than a year. Professor Toplin will suggest lessons from history and welcome your thoughts on the topic.

### Community Calendar

**Wednesday February 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](mailto:whmitchell@gmail.com) or by calling him at 703 915 6230.

**Thursday, 27 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 Professor Robert Toplin speaking on the historical origins of modern Israel and its role in shaping the Middle East of today. (Reservation form on page 7)

**Saturday, 1 March:** Orange County High School JROTC Awards Ceremony at 17:00

**Wednesday, 5 March:** Board of Directors Meeting at 13:00 with optional lunch at 12:00 at the Club at Glenmore

### 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



## TRICARE For Life Enrollment Fees, Cost Shares Part of New Budget Report

By: Karen Ruedisueli  
January 15, 2025



The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has once again targeted TRICARE For Life (TFL) in its biennial report outlining options for reducing the deficit. The December 2024 report highlights savings that could be achieved by introducing a TFL enrollment fee or minimum out-of-pocket cost requirements. Similar concepts have been presented in past CBO reports, which are issued every two years to provide information to lawmakers confronting budgetary challenges.

Last year, nearly 200 MOAA members and staff took this issue to Capitol Hill as part of our Advocacy in Action campaign, ensuring elected officials understand the intense opposition to TFL fees. Retirees already have fulfilled all the requirements to earn their health care benefit, and MOAA will fight any attempts to cut it, including fee increases designed to shift costs from DoD to seniors who rely on TFL.

While no current legislation proposes TRICARE fee increases, MOAA takes these threats seriously given pressures on the DoD budget and precedent for such proposals. From FY 2013 to FY 2017, MOAA's efforts helped to block five consecutive administration budget request proposals for TFL enrollment fees. Some details on the options included in the CBO report:

### TFL Enrollment Fee

TFL enrollment is automatic once a beneficiary starts paying Medicare Part B premiums. There is no enrollment fee or monthly premium for TFL coverage. A CBO proposal would require Medicare-eligible beneficiaries who choose to enroll in TFL to pay ***an annual enrollment fee of \$610 for individual coverage or \$1,220 for family coverage***. The enrollment fees would be indexed to grow at the same rate as average Medicare costs in later years.

### TFL Cost Sharing

The other CBO measure affecting TFL would introduce minimum out-of-pocket requirements, including an \$850 deductible – TFL would not cover any of the first \$850 of a beneficiary's Medicare cost-sharing. For the first \$4,250 in total medical expenses each year, Medicare would pay its 80% (or \$3,400) while the TFL beneficiary would be responsible for the full \$850 not covered by Medicare. After the deductible was satisfied, TFL would cover only 50% of the next \$7,650 in Medicare cost-sharing. This means TFL beneficiaries could face ***up to \$4,675 in cost-sharing per year***. Similar to the enrollment fee proposal, cost-sharing requirements would increase annually at the rate of Medicare cost increases.

### Protecting Your Earned Benefit

The options outlined in the CBO report come from various sources including past proposed legislation or budget proposals, congressional offices, federal agencies, and the private sector. "As a collection, the options are intended to reflect a range of possibilities, not a ranking of priorities or an exhaustive list," the report states. "Inclusion or exclusion of any particular option does not imply approval or disapproval by CBO, and the report makes no recommendations."

MOAA appreciates the importance of addressing the deficit, but our nation must fulfill obligations to those who serve a full career in uniform. We will fight any proposal that increases costs to seniors who rely on TFL for their health care. The TFL benefit was a key component of the compensation and benefits package that sustained the all-volunteer force throughout two decades of war – MOAA will also protect the future of TFL for current working-age retirees and career servicemembers who are counting on TFL as a critical part of their future retirement plans. We will be monitoring for any signs that CBO's concepts have gotten traction. The administration budget request, due in February but sometimes delayed during the first year of a new administration, will likely give us our first glimpse at any potential proposals to increase TRICARE fees. Look for updates on these and other legislative issues in *The MOAA Newsletter* and at MOAA.org, and register at our Legislative Action Center so you can take part in upcoming grassroots efforts designed to preserve service-earned benefits.





## Yvette Graham Obituary

January 24, 1930 - November 24, 2024

Yvette LaVarre Graham passed away peacefully amongst family and friends on November 24, 2024 in Charlottesville, Va at 94 years of age. She was born on January 24, 1930, to William Johanne LaVarre and Alice Elliott LaVarre, professional explorers and authors. She grew up in Long Island, New York and at 18, married Army Officer James Cornelius Ruddell, who was subsequently captured in the Korean War and died in a POW camp. With him she had one son, James. In 1954, she married William Worth Graham III, a World War 2 bomber pilot, and they had two children, Elliott and William. Her second husband, William, died in 2002. In 1960 the family bought Paradise Farm in Bel Air, Maryland, and started a successful Christmas tree business, which they ran for many years. In addition to the Christmas trees, they raised sheep, horses and various other animals, and Yvette knitted sweaters, socks, and hats with the wool from their sheep, almost nonstop. Yvette was an avid gardener, bird watcher, sailor, and tennis player, as well as an active member of many organizations including her local garden club, church, Master Gardeners Association, and Coast Guard Auxiliary. In later years, she was an 11th hour volunteer with Hospice of the Piedmont.

In addition to her three children, she is survived by seven grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. She lived a long and meaningful life that touched many, and she will be missed dearly by friends and loved ones.

There were two celebrations of her life, one at Saint David's Anglican Church on January 24, 2025 and a second at Saint Mary's Episcopal Church in Abingdon, MD on January 25, 2025. In lieu of flowers, anyone who wishes to pay tribute to Yvette's life works may make a donation to Hospice of the Piedmont, 501 Park Street, Charlottesville, VA 22902, memo Yvette Graham - Hospice House.



## Carl Huebner Obituary

October 17, 1942 - January 25, 2025

Carl R. Huebner, 82, a retired Air Force Colonel and business executive, died of cancer on January 25, 2025 at UVa hospital in Charlottesville, Virginia.

He graduated from Rutgers, the State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering and a Bachelor of Arts degree in the humanities. He also earned a Masters Degree in personnel management from Webster College. While at Rutgers, Colonel Huebner was a Distinguished Air Force ROTC cadet and upon graduation, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force Reserves and two years later was tendered a Regular Air Force Commission.

During the Vietnam era Colonel Huebner was assigned as a telecommunications officer at Clark Air Base in the Philippines overseeing the U.S. military's primary data and message system for critical operational, intelligence and logistics information. Subsequent assignments included Los Angeles Air Force Station, where he was responsible for the terrestrial tracking communications of the U.S. space program. He served as Chief of Staff for the USAF Information Systems European Headquarters and the Defense Information Systems Agency in Arlington, Va.

After his retirement from the Air Force in 1991, he held executive positions in several companies in Virginia. During this time he was extremely active in the CVC MOAA, serving as President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, and Director. He managed changes to the Chapter By-Laws, and coordinated the committee search for new chapter officers and directors. He was the Editor of the chapter newsletter, *The Bugle* for 10 years. He is survived by his beloved wife and best friend of 54 years, Maria Colom Huebner and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A mass of Christian burial was celebrated at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Charlottesville on 7 February. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in memory of Colonel Huebner to the Virginia Veterans Services Foundation (<http://virginiaVeteransServicesFoundation.org/>).

# 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 (GA) that kicked off on January 8<sup>th</sup> is scheduled to conclude on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Over the course of this shortened 30-day session, the GA has been a "beehive" of activity and I am most grateful to John Down, our MOAA state-wide representative on the Joint Leadership Council (JLC) who has really carried the water for us in Richmond. In conjunction with the JLC's "Day on the Hill" advocacy program, John personally met with Delegate Tom Garrett (56<sup>th</sup> HOD, Buckingham, Appomattox) to discuss each of the JLC's top five initiatives for this cycle. John was also able to meet with two other delegates, including a committee chair. Later, in the Senate Gallery, Senator Tara Durant (Fredericksburg) paid tribute to John and the other JLC members present, recognizing the work of the JLC on behalf of the Commonwealth's 800,000 veterans and servicemembers.

In addition to our direct engagement in Richmond, your Legislative Committee has met virtually with Delegate Amy Laufer (55<sup>th</sup> HOD, Albemarle) and staff from the office of Katrina Callsen (54<sup>th</sup> HOD, Charlottesville). Delegate Laufer has been especially supportive, indicating her readiness to co-patron one of our legislative initiatives (JLC 2025-03).

Here is the most current status of the JLC's five initiatives as of February 7<sup>th</sup>:

**- 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 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Veterans Re-Entry Search Services system. SB1251 (Chief Patron Durant) passed both the House and Senate and went back to the House as part of cross-over where it is currently assigned to the Committee on Public Safety.

**- 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 viola-

tion of its provisions constitutes a prohibited practice under the Virginia Consumer Protection Act. Initial bill was struck by the Chief Patron, Senator Aird. House versions faced some difficulties. Senator Reeves' SB1222 passed the Senate and the bill now resides in the House subcommittee on Labor and Commerce. The bill has been facing headwinds, so its future remains uncertain.

**- JLC 2025-03: Virginia National Guard Tuition.**

Makes several changes to the Virginia National 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. Delegate Feggans' HB1595 and Senator Hashmi's SB 1106 passed their respective bodies, with the latter bill now passed to the House Higher Education subcommittee.

**- JLC 2025-04: Suffolk State Veterans Cemetery - Land Acquisition.**

Delegate Ennis is the lead on this one. The expansion is now part of the Governor's budget as Item C-52.20 with a value of \$1M. The cemetery may run out of land within the next 20 years. Adjacent landowner is willing to sell to the Department of Veterans Services but needs to sell within the year or the land will be otherwise sold.

**- JLC 2025-05: Women Veterans Day.** The Governor signed a proclamation declaring June 12, 2024, as Women Veterans Day. Bill SJ250 (Chief Patron Senator Carroll Foy), has been agreed to by voice vote in the Senate and the bill now resides in the House Committee on Rules. This bill establishes June 12<sup>th</sup> annually to recognize women veterans in Virginia.

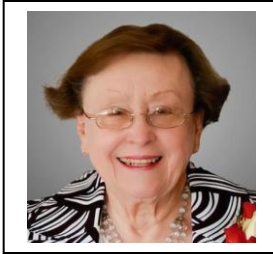
It is too early to predict the outcome on the five initiatives, but MOAA, in its partnership with the JLC, will continue its work to provide advocacy to help secure their passage.

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



CVC MOAA Legislative Affairs Committee Member John Down meets with Tom Garrett Member of the Virginia House of Delegates from the 56<sup>th</sup> District



## Carol O'Leksy Obituary

Carol Lorraine (Colson) O'Leksy, age 91, of Charlottesville, Virginia, left for her eternal reward on January 19, 2025, peacefully holding the hands of her husband of 71 years, William (Bill) O'Leksy. Daughters Mary K. and Ann, with their husbands, were at her side.

Born in Kasota, Minnesota to the late Charles and Clara Colson, Carol and her veteran husband made the last of 25 Army moves before retiring to a very active 32 years in Dhlonega, Georgia, and finally, to Charlottesville senior living. She was preceded in death by her youngest daughter Therese Fox, grand-daughter Katherine Postak, and her older sisters, Delores Krause and Marie Marshall. She is survived by four remaining daughters, Mary (Gary) Thiel of Hilbert Wisconsin, Ann (Jay) Postak in Keswick Virginia, Susan Erickson of Dallas Georgia, and Elisabeth O'Leksy of Dhlonega, Georgia. Her brother, Bob Colson, lives in Freedom, Wisconsin.

Although her body's heart had failed, she took with her a lifetime of guiding and loving a large family progeny of 41 children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Her exemplary and inexhaustible energy also served God's work during 35 years as an Army wife, managing the home fires during Bill's tours in Korea and Vietnam and, when he took on the social responsibilities of a general officer, she set a model example for younger wives. Hired for her Red Cross and hospital volunteer experience when Bill retired, she spent 25 years filling several key positions in Lumpkin County's only hospital. (In her 80's she was coaxed back from retirement three times!) She also continued her habits as an active volunteer, providing valuable assistance to St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church as it grew to meet a growing population in Dhlonega. Her many contributions to the community included a role in the establishment of "No One Alone", a much-needed emergency shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic violence.

A funeral Mass was celebrated at Saint Thomas Aquinas University Parish, 401 Alderman Road, Charlottesville, Virginia, at 11 am on Friday, January 31. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be given to American Red Cross Disaster Relief Funds as her memorial to which Carol and Bill served during their volunteer days.



John McCarthy, Gail Barber and Maurie Roesch are 'all smiles' at the luncheon



Mike McKee and his son, Paul McKee, wait for the speaker to begin



**50% of the membership have paid their 2024 Dues ... and 50% have not.**

**Which half are you in?**

**In 2025 Chapter Annual Dues increased to \$40 for regular members and \$25 for Surviving Spouses. Checks can be mailed to: CVC MOAA, PO Box 6455, Charlottesville, VA 22906-6455 - or, attend the February 27 luncheon at The Club at Glenmore and bring a check. Carolyn Still, our Membership Chair, will greet you in the foyer!**



**GRATITUDE**  
**POKER 4 PATRIOTS TOURNAMENT**  
3.14.2025 | 7pm | The Club at Glenmore  
No Limit Texas Hold'em  
www.gratitudeville.com

**On 14 March 2025 at the Club at Glenmore: *Poker 4 Patriots Tournament*. Just one of the many Veterans and First Responder Charity Events sponsored by *Gratitude Charlottesville***



**LUNCHEON MEETING RESERVATION FORM**  
**Thursday, 27 February 2025**

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

**Professor Robert Toplin, Author and Historian**  
**is scheduled to discuss *Israel at War and the History of Conflict in the Middle East***

*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 and Vegetable Salad

**Choice of entrée:**

**A. Roasted Pork Loin**

**or**

**B. Buttered Tilefish**

**or**

**C. Mushroom and Vegetable Potato Bowl**

**\***

Herb Risotto and Roasted Asparagus

**\***

Flourless Chocolate Torte



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



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