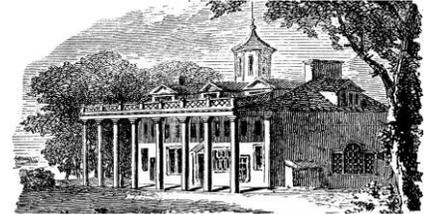


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The Despatch



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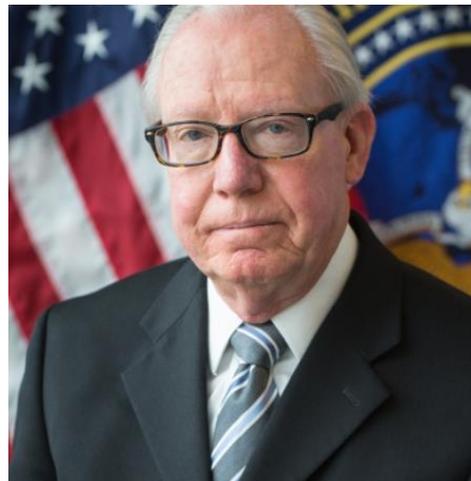
MVC MOAA Director and Former Despatch Editor Passed Away

MAJ Peter Chen, USA (Ret), Despatch Editor

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Commander John E. Prevar, USN (Ret), on February 23, 2026. John was a long-time MVC MOAA member and friend whose impact will never be forgotten. John joined the United States Navy during the Vietnam era, ultimately retiring with the rank of Commander. Following his military career, John began a second career with the federal government, continuing his commitment to the nation he valued so deeply. John is survived by his wife Pamela. He was a devoted and loving husband and a caring stepfather to Franz. For more information about the arrangements, please see the memorial website at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/alexandria-va/john-prevar-12758395>

In This Issue

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America Turns 250

With America's 250th Independence Day less than six months away, it is time to start planning the celebration. Here are highlights of key upcoming 2026 America events in our area:

(Continues in Page 3)

Volume 54 Number 3
March 2026

Smash on Station



Esteemed colleagues,

The Community of Veterans in Virginia lost an esteemed man in John Prevar on the 23rd of February 2026. Since I have been a part of MOAA, John has been fully engaged in the Mount Vernon Chapter and the Virginia Council of Chapters. John was a soft spoken man of great intellectual capacity who possessed highly developed writing skills. As many will do, I will also miss him. Fair winds and following seas, shipmate.

March Observances –

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday the 8th, and for you so inclined as I am, six days later is PI Day (3.14159265 or 22/7ths).

The Luck of the Irish and St Patrick's Day on the 17th, where everyone wears green. (Most of us wore green for the majority of our military careers.)

The First Day of Spring is on the 20th. On the 25th of March, we salute all heroes with Congressional Medal of Honor Day. National Medal of Honor Day was established by Congress to "foster public appreciation and recognition of Medal of Honor Recipients." The first National Medal of Honor Day was celebrated on 1991. The holiday was chosen to honor the first Medals of Honor that were presented to six members of Andrews Raiders, on March 25th 1863.

March 29th is National Vietnam War Veterans Day - We commemorate those who fought in the Vietnam War on National Vietnam War Veterans Day. This year marks the 51st Year Commemoration of the Vietnam War.

"If we are to guard against ignorance and remain free, it is the responsibility of every American to be informed." – Thomas Jefferson.

Never stop serving our great Nation.
Semper Fidelis,

Smash

NEVER STOP SERVING



3. *America Turns 250, Continues from Page 1*

America's Semiquincentennial Celebration (Colonial Williamsburg): April 25, 2026, Inspiring A Season of Civic Renewal

Sails on the Potomac (Alexandria, VA): June 12-14, 2026, featuring tall ships and activities. Sails on the Potomac. As the United States commemorates the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, Sails on the Potomac will highlight Alexandria's role in helping construct the foundation of the revolution. From the creation of the Fairfax Resolves to being the hometown of George Washington, Alexandria played a unique role in the birth of our new nation.

Pen to Paper: The Civic Gospel of the Declaration of Independence Saturday, May 2, 2026, at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello

The Flame of Revolution: 250 Anniversary of the 5th Virginia Convention th AMERICA. MADE IN VIRGINIA. Friday, May 15, 2026 - Saturday, May 16, 2026 at Colonial Williamsburg

In the Eyes of the World: Celebrating 250 Years of American Independence Thursday, June 11, 2026
George Washington's Mount Vernon

Virginia Resolved: A Commemoration of Independence: 250 Anniversary of the Lee Resolution for Independence th Sunday, June 7, 2026 Stratford Hall

Virginia 250 Events: Includes the 250th Anniversary of the Virginia Declaration of Rights (June 2026).
<https://va250.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/AMIVEventSeriesOnePager.pdf>

DC250 Events: Community festivals at the National Portrait Gallery and more throughout the year.
<https://dc250.us/dc250/events/celebrations>

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Membership: CDR George Wallace, USN (Ret)
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Honor Flight Coordinator: Vacant
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MVC MOAA Legislative Corner

Summarized by Desptach Editor

On February 5, 2026, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Mike Bost (R-Ill.), Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity Chairman Rep. Derrick Van Orden (R-Wis.), and Rep. Juan Ciscomani (R-Ariz.), released the following statements after the House passed two key, bipartisan bills: H.R. 980, The Veterans Readiness and Employment Improvement Act, and H.R. 1458, The VETS Opportunity Act, both bills which would reform, expand, and modernize certain Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) GI Bill education and workforce programs, including the Veterans Readiness & Employment (VR&E) program.

"We must continue to modernize the GI Bill to meet veterans' needs so that today and tomorrow's veterans can get high-paying jobs in in-demand fields across the country. I am proud of the two key education and workforce opportunity bills we passed out of the House this week, led by my friends and colleagues, Rep. Van Orden and Rep. Ciscomani, both with bipartisan support to accomplish that goal," said Chairman Bost. "House Republicans will continue to advance policies that makes a real difference in veterans' day-to-day lives by boosting the programs veterans, active-duty service members, Nation Guardsmen, Reservists, and their families use to get the education and job training they want – where they want it, and when they want it – without a bunch of bureaucracy standing in the way."

"As a retired Navy SEAL, taking care of veterans is personal to me. No veteran should wait months for answers or fight through red tape to use the benefits they earned. Too many veterans get stuck waiting on paperwork and chasing answers just to access benefits they've already earned. My bill strengthens the Veterans Readiness and Employment program by putting more counselors on the ground, standing up a direct support hotline, and expanding training opportunities so veterans can transition faster and with confidence," said Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity Chairman Van Orden.

Source:<https://veterans.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=7849>

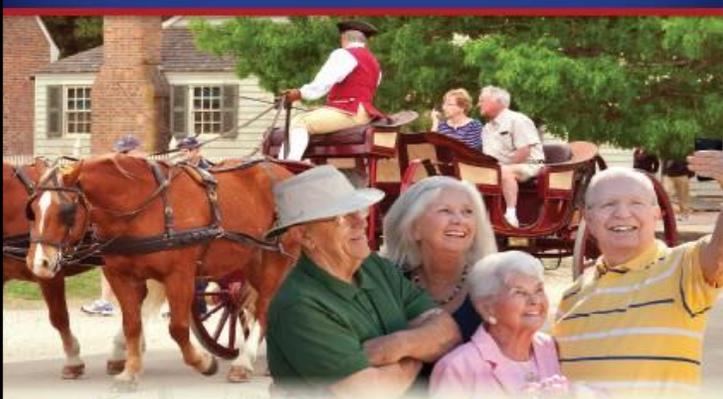


MVC-MOAA 2026 Events-Calendar



DATE	LOCATION	EVENT / SPEAKER / TOPIC
Wed. Mar 4 7pm-9pm	Virtual	BOD Meeting: EOY-audit results; start LOE award pkg-submit May 1; non-renewal letters/drop from rolls; Apr VCOC meeting/report; JROTC medals.
Sat. Apr 11 Time TBD	Ary Byrd Library (Tentative)	Scholarship Candidate Interviews.
Wed. Apr 29 5pm-7pm	Kilroy's	Meet & Greet/Happy Hour at Kilroy's restaurant with MVC/MOAA. All MOAA members and guests are invited. We will be at the covered patio at the back of the restaurant.
Wed. May 6 7pm-9pm	Virtual	BOD Meeting: IRS reports due; scholarship certificates/checks, JROTC medal presentations; 2 nd QTRVCOC Report; VA Corp. Commission fee; renew PO box rental.
Wed. Sep 2 7pm-9pm	Virtual	BOD Meeting: Appoint Nomination Cmte for Nov Officer election; need volunteers for Ft. Belvoir Retirees Activities Day in Sep; confirm speakers.
Wed. Sep 23 (Tentative) 6pm-9pm	TBD	Dinner. Speaker TBD. Social Hour (Cash Bar) 6-7 pm. Buffet served at 7pm, Speaker at 8pm.
Wed. Oct 7 7pm-9pm	Virtual	BOD Meeting. 4 th QTR VCOC report; Legislative Cmte proposes Natl objectives;
Sat. Nov 18 11am-1pm	TBD	Lunch/Brunch. Annual Business Meeting. Speaker TBD. <i>Lunch served at 11:30 am. Officer Installation and Speaker to follow.</i>
Sat. Dec 12 9:30am-3pm	Alexandria Natl Cemetery; Social location Whiskey and Oysters	 Wreath Laying  Holiday Social This is becoming an annual tradition for the Mount Vernon Chapter. Please join us for the annual Wreaths Across America day at Alexandria National Cemetery. We will be joining veterans from local VSOs, Boy Scouts, various military affiliated youth organizations, and numerous supporters from around the community. Following the wreath laying, we will conduct our holiday social at Whiskey and Oysters.

...and more from our much-appreciated sponsors



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