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General George Washington



Mount Vernon Chapter

The Despatch



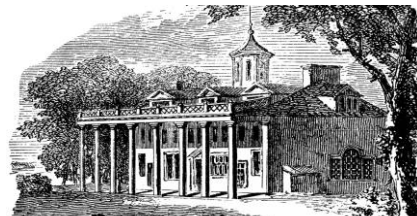
Mount Vernon, Virginia Chapter - MOAA

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Veteran Groups Disagree Over Take Care of America's Veterans Act

MAJ Peter Chen, USA (Ret), Despatch Editor

We are used to Veteran Service Organizations rallying around common cause of taking care of veterans and communities. Rarely do they disagree so publicly. It is therefore important for each of us to understand what the issues are and why such disagreements exist when they do happen. The Take Care of America's Veterans Act (H.R. 9237) turned out to be a controversial bill. It was introduced in the House on June 10, 2026, by Rep. Mike Bost. According to the VFW, the key components of the bill are:

- Combines over 60 individual veteran and survivor provisions into a 500+ page package.
- Includes the Major Richard Star Act regarding concurrent receipt.
- Includes the Love Lives On Act allowing certain surviving spouses to retain benefits after remarrying.
- Proposes adjustments to disability ratings for conditions like tinnitus and sleep apnea

The VFW, DAV and other groups expressed concerns because they:

- Oppose using future disability compensation reductions—estimated at roughly \$57 billion over a decade—as a budget offset or "pay-for"
- Argue that earned benefits should never be traded away or used to fund other initiatives
 - Assert that future disabled veterans are unfairly asked to carry the financial burden of the package

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The American Legion, MOAA, and other groups expressed strong support because they believe:

- The package is a pragmatic, necessary compromise to pass 62 long-strained bills
 - Projected savings from upcoming VA rating adjustments for sleep apnea and tinnitus will happen via the VA regardless, and this bill captures those funds to expand other vital veteran programs rather than letting them revert to the general Treasury
 - Failing to pass this omnibus vehicle means indefinite gridlock for priority legislations

As of July 16, 2026, the Chair of House Veterans' Affairs and Armed Services Committee postponed further proceedings on the bill. This occurred after a congressman made some disparaging public remarks about a veteran's organization, which I won't repeat or mention names because it is not constructive to add fuel to the fire. Hopefully cooler heads will prevail, and mutually acceptable solutions will emerge.

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Sources: US Congress, MOAA, VFW, and American Legion

Smash on Station



Veteran Event on the National Mall

Purple Heart Homes Modular Home Build will occur from 27 September to 5 October 2026 on the National Mall. Purple Heart Homes has asked for MOAA representation for volunteers from the VCOC and specifically our Chapter. As the schedule for the event continues to solidify we will send out more information. Please see <https://www.purplehearthomesusa.org/national-mall> for more information if you are interested in volunteering.

We are still looking for a location for our September 23rd Dinner. Last year's location was not able to support the requested dates.

Chapter Needs Volunteers - We will be selecting a committee for nominations for the November elections this month. Chapter Leaders are important to continue the professional level of performance this award winning Chapter has maintained. If you have a desire to get involved and assist with the Mount Vernon Chapter, please send me an email or give me a call. My information is in the Despatch.

September Observances –

September 7th is Labor Day. More importantly I believe, September 11th, Patriot Day will mark the 25th anniversary honoring the memory of those who were killed in the September 11th terrorist attacks. A moment of silence is observed at 8:46 in the morning. I was at 4E482 in the Pentagon and assisted people in getting out of the Pentagon. The assistance by many in the Pentagon presented a great example of people helping the less fortunate and less capable in their time of need, as did the efforts of so many people in New York City. The 79th birthday of the USAF is on the 18th of September. AIM High! POW/MIA recognition day is also on the 18th of September.

On Sunday the 27th of September, we observe Gold Star Mother's Day, where we express our sympathies and reverence for mothers whose sons and daughters served and died while serving their nation in times of war or conflict.

Final Thoughts:

"America belongs to "We the People." It does not belong to Congress. It doesn't belong to special interest groups. It does not belong to the courts. It belongs to "We the People"..."

-John Jay, American statesman and the First Chief Justice.

Never stop serving our great Nation.

Semper Fidelis,



Smash

Mount Vernon Chapter

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Program Speakers: Vacant
Public Affairs: Vacant
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JROTC Scholarship: LCDR Marty Schaller, USN (Ret)
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MVC MVC MOAA Legislative Corner

Summarized by MAJ Peter Chen, USA (Ret), Despatch Editor

The Safeguarding American Veteran Empowerment (SAVE) Act (SB 315/HB 398), went into effect on July 1. This law protects nearly one million veterans from predatory, unaccredited benefit-assistance companies by capping fees, prohibiting upfront/non-refundable charges, and mandating transparent written disclosures.

Major Bills Continued to 2027

- **HB1268 Benefits Protection Act**: Proposed Veterans' Services Protection Act; assigned to the House Rules Studies Subcommittee for extended review during the interim.
- **HB1018 Statewide Strategic Planning**: Directs a new statewide strategic plan work group report for veterans' affairs, continued in committee for 2027 action.
- **SB263 Veterans Business Procurement**: Focuses on procurement certifications for service-disabled veteran-owned businesses, carrying a public implementation target on the eVA system by December 1, 2026.

The Commonwealth's ongoing legislative actions include key proposals for expanding tax relief, education waivers, and procurement policies. Important measures include:

- **Military Tax Subtraction (HB 137)**: Legislation to incrementally expand the state income tax subtraction for military benefits, reaching a full subtraction by 2030. Another bill (SB 148) seeks to expand military tax subtractions for additional uniformed services.
- **Tuition Waivers (SB 92)**: An adjustment to the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP), proposing to ease domicile and physical presence requirements for military families who relocate by lawful orders.

Source: Virginia.gov

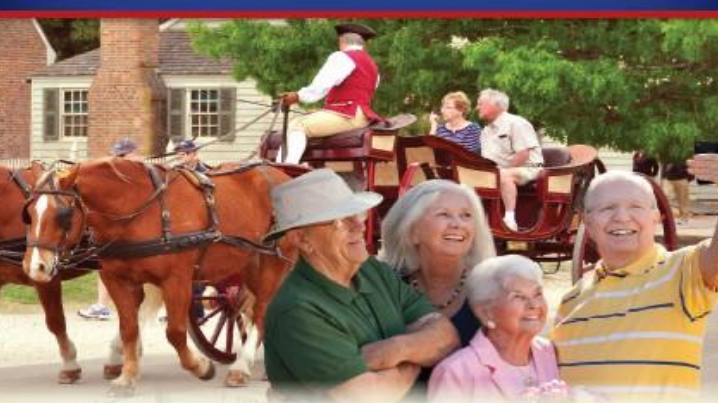


MVC-MOAA 2026 Events-Calendar



DATE	LOCATION	EVENT / SPEAKER / TOPIC
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 6pm-9pm	Fort Belvoir Gulf Club	Fall Social Dinner. <i>More information to follow.</i>
9/27-10/2 10am-4pm	The National Mall Washington, DC	Purple Heart Homes Launches Historic National Mall Veteran Home Build During America's 250th Anniversary. Please see link for details https://www.purplehearthomesusa.org/2026/08/17/32564/purple-heart-homes-launches-historic-national-mall-veteran-home-build-during-americas-250th-anniversary/
Wed. Oct 7 7pm-9pm	Virtual	BOD Meeting. 4 th QTR VCOC report; Legislative Cmte proposes Natl objectives
Fri. Oct 30 8am-13pm	Wells Field House (Bldg. 1810) 2104 Goethals Rd Fort Belvoir	Ft Belvoir Retiree Appreciation Day. Featuring Subject Matter Experts from Delta Dental, TRICARE, AARP, AUSA, Blue Cross/Blue Shield & more. Health Fair: Flu shots & various clinics; Breakfast (light refreshments) & Lunch (bagged lunch).
Sat. Nov 21 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 19 9:30am-3pm	Alexandria National Cemetery; Social location TBD	 Wreath Laying  Holiday Social This is 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.

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2. Pay online at the Mount Vernon website: www.mvmoaa.org
Click on "Join MVMOAA" (will require you to logon) in the lower right corner or logon first and click "Renew Membership"

Comments or letters to the editor may be sent to the above address or email: peter.chen2282015@gmail.com

To join the MOAA Mount Vernon Chapter, please go to:
www.mvmoaa.com

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