

Dedicated to the memory of
General George Washington



Mount Vernon Chapter

The Despatch



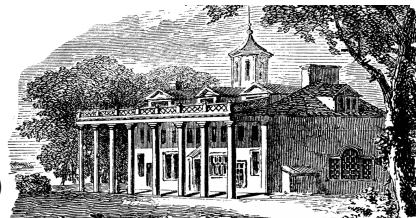
Mount Vernon, Virginia Chapter - MOAA

www.mvmoaa.org

5 Star Level of Excellence



Awards (2003-2025)



Wreaths Across America 2025

MAJ Peter Chen, USA (Ret), Despatch Editor

This year marks the fifth year that Mount Vernon Chapter MOAA participated in Wreaths Across America at the Alexandria National Cemetery. As usual, when my family and I arrived at 9am, there was a sizable crowd already despite of the cold weather. Like the previous years, many veterans organizations, youth organizations, and people from all walks of life were present. Luckily the snow didn't arrive until early Sunday morning. However, the slight breeze made the Saturday morning chilly. We were greeted by our MVC Secretary LTC Elmontenal Allens and Mrs. Jessica Krueger. Soon we were joined by MG George Alexander and CDR George Wallace and Penny Wallace. Like previous years, VFW Post 609 Commander and MVC MOAA board member COL Jerry Krueger gave a short opening remark, and the gates opened. We all got into files of two, received the wreaths from the Scouts, and proceeded to place the wreaths on the graves. The names of the deceased veterans were read aloud, and salutes rendered. With excellent public participation as usual, it didn't take very long to place all the wreaths. We met up at Whisky and Oysters afterward. It was a great day and a great way to wrap up the year for our chapter.

Membership Dues Reminder: Just a friendly reminder, yes it is that time of the year again. Please see last page.

In This Issue

1 Wreaths Across America
2025

2 Smash on Station

3 Chapter Officers

4-5 Legislative Corner

6 Upcoming Events

7 More from our Sponsors

Volume 54 Number 1
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Smash on Station



Esteemed colleagues,

Each January we look for new beginnings and maybe a fresh new start. I would offer that spending some time on the MOAA.ORG website to review our mission, our purpose and our history can provide a basis for our organizational efforts for 2026, there have been some changes. Each of us should look to engage a veteran neighbor or two, and discuss with them becoming a MOAA member and provide them with the “why they should become a member” information. Follow up that engagement in a couple of weeks to check the status. Engagement should be our strategy for increasing membership in the first quarter of 2026. Also this month dues are due and if you can see fit, please consider a donation to the MVC-

MOAA Scholarship Fund.

December 2025 Event:

Wreaths Across America (WAA): MVC MOAA Members donated 72(?) wreaths for the event held at Alexandria National Cemetery last month. There were enough wreaths donated to place a wreath on every headstone and there were many volunteers there to place the wreaths. Thank you to all who donated to this worthy effort for those who have gone before us, and those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

January observance:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is 19 January 2026, a day that is set aside to celebrate the life and achievements of MLK, an influential civil rights leader. He is well known for his efforts to end racial segregation and establish racial equality in the United States.

Final comments:

With the theme of adapt, improvise and overcome, 2026 will continue to be a unique effort with respect to outreach and engagement through our individual efforts.

My best wishes for you and your families in 2026!

I also want to thank all those members who have and will provide the leadership and effort necessary to keep the Mount Vernon MOAA Chapter a Five Star Award winning chapter in 2026! The award write ups are due 31 Jan 2026, and they are already in work.

Continuing to Serve,

Smash

NEVER STOP SERVING



Mount Vernon Chapter

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President: Col Douglas Yurovich, USMC (Ret)
703-690-7113
1st VP: CDR George Wallace, USN (Ret)
703-354-4647
Secretary: LTC Elmontenal Allens, USA (Ret)
703-919-4381
Treasurer: Vacant
Past President: LTC Cerie Kimball, USA (Ret)
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JROTC Scholarship: LCDR Marty Schaller, USN (Ret)
Honor Flight Coordinator: LTC Carl Jurison, USA (Ret) 703-399-6602
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703-340-9587

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VCOC Representative: CDR John Prevar, USN (Ret)
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MVC MOAA Legislative Corner

Originally published in Military.com by Nick Mordowanec. Summarized and edited by Desptach Editor

\$900 Billion NDAA: What Is In, What Was Left Out of Major Defense Spending Bill

The \$900 billion National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2026 passed the House of Representatives in bipartisan fashion on 10 December. The 3,086-page bill passed the House on a 312-112 vote (115 Democrats, 197 Republicans voted in favor) with Republicans and Democrats finding enough common ground to forward the legislation to the Senate—**[ed. where it was passed by the GOP-controlled chamber and then signed by President Donald Trump.]**

NDAA's Major Inclusions

Some of the NDAA's major highlights are as follows:

- A 3.8% pay raise for all military servicemembers, in addition to reauthorizing and expanding military bonuses and special pays; increases family separation allowance for deployed servicemembers; and requires a study to improve the calculation of Basic Allowance for Housing to ensure it keeps up with rising rental costs.
- \$400 million for Ukraine security assistance.
- It extends the Pacific Deterrence Initiative (PDI) to improve U.S. posture in the Indo-Pacific region, including funding increases for new technologies needed to deter China such as hypersonic missiles, AI, autonomous systems, cyber, mobile micronuclear reactors, and high energy lasers. That includes over \$2.7 billion in essential military construction projects and expands in that region.
- \$1 billion towards the Taiwan Security Cooperation Initiative.
- \$1.5 billion in new security assistance for the Philippines.
- \$175 million for the Baltic Security Initiative to strengthen the defensive capability and interoperability of the Baltic states.
- Full funding for the deployment of National Guard and active-duty troops in support of border patrol at the United States' southwest border, including over \$1 billion to fight drug trafficking (\$398 million for Defense Department support of counter-narcotics operations and \$216 million for National Guard counter-drug programs—\$100 million over the budget request).
- Reforms to military construction that costs 35% more on average than commercial construction,
- Oversight of Defense Department spending by way of fully funding the department's Inspector General audit activities and requiring the department to submit quarterly reports to Congress on the status of balances and activities of funds previously approved within the One Big Beautiful Bill Act earlier this year.
- More than \$131 million for the construction of new military dining facilities and over \$1.5 billion for new construction of barracks and family housing.
- More than \$335 million to renovate military hospitals and build new medical facilities, which includes better access to specialty care by lowering the threshold for travel reimbursement for medical appointments from 100 to 75 miles.
- More than \$491 million to design and build new childcare centers, including annual reviews of childcare costs and a pilot program to increase childcare financial assistance in high-cost areas.
- More than \$206 million to build new schools for children of servicemembers and allows National Guard and reserve members called to active duty to enroll their children in Defense Department schools. It also authorizes \$50 million in Impact Aid assistance to public schools with military dependent students, and an additional \$20 million in assistance to local schools teaching children with severe disabilities.
- Extends military recruitment bonuses.
- Prohibits the retirement of certain F-15E, A-10, C-130, E-3, RQ-4, and Grey Eagle aircraft, as well as the closure of the E-7A Wedgetail production line.

Continued on p. 5

Continued from p. 4

- \$26 billion in shipbuilding funding for the construction and support of numerous vessels including the third Columbia-class Ballistic Missile Submarine, one Virginia-class Submarine, one anti-submarine warfare auxiliary ship, and future procurements.
- More than \$38 billion for the development, procurement or modification of aircraft including full funding for the U.S. Air Force's F-47 and Navy's F/A-XX 6th Generation Aircraft programs.
- Builds the "Golden Dome" to update national missile defense policy.

What's Not in the Bill

Some of what was excluded in the final version are as follows:

- Health care coverage for assisted reproductive technology, including in vitro fertilization (IVF), for all active-duty service members.
- Permanently repeals all existing Defense Department diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) offices, programs, training and activities, as well as future DEI-related endeavors.
- Cuts climate change-related programs at the Defense Department.
- Removes Section 1110, collective bargaining rights for the Defense Department's civilian workforce.

Source: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2025/12/11/900-billion-ndaa-what-what-was-left-out-of-major-defense-spending-bill.html>



And please see MOAA's website for current action items: <https://moaa.quorum.us>





MVC-MOAA 2026 Events-Calendar



DATE	LOCATION	EVENT / SPEAKER / TOPIC
Wed. Jan 21 (Tentative) 7 pm-9 pm	Virtual	Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting: submissions due soon to Natl on Membership; Marvin A. Harris Communications Award due Feb 1; VCOC report due, 1st QTR meeting; Legislative Cmte submits State/Natl objectives to VCOC/local Congressional Delegation; chapter and scholarship audits; review 2026 calendar/goals.
Wed. Mar 4 7 pm-9 pm	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 Date & Time TBD	TBD	Scholarship Candidate Interviews.
Wed. May 6 7 pm-9 pm	Virtual	BOD Meeting: IRS reports due; Scholarship certificates/checks, JROTC medal presentations; 2nd QTR VCOC Report; VA Corp. Commission fee; renew PO box rental.
Sat. May 9 (Tentative) 11 am-1 pm	LaFiamma Restaurant 6124 Franconia Rd, Alexandria	Lunch brunch. (Speaker TBD) <i>Lunch served at 11:30 am, Speaker to follow.</i>
Wed. Sep 2 7 pm-9 pm	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) 6 pm-9 pm	TBD	Dinner. Speaker TBD. <i>Social Hour (Cash Bar) 6-7 pm. Buffet served at 7 pm, Speaker at 8 pm.</i>
Wed. Oct 7 7 pm-9 pm	Virtual	BOD Meeting. 4 th QTR VCOC report; Legislative Cmte proposes Natl objectives;
Sat. Nov 18 11 am-1 pm	Glory Days 3141 Duke St Alexandria Commons Shopping Mall	Lunch/Brunch. Annual Business Meeting. Speaker TBD. <i>Lunch served at 11:30 am. Officer Installation and Speaker to follow.</i>
Sat. Dec12 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.

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1. By Mail: Send your check payable to MVC-MOAA to 2026 CHAPTER Membership Dues, Mount Vernon Chapter, Military Officers Association of America, P.O. Box 97, Mount Vernon, VA 22121-0097
2. Pay online through the national MOAA website at <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/membership.aspx>
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