

Dedicated to the memory of  
General George Washington



Mount Vernon Chapter

# The Despatch

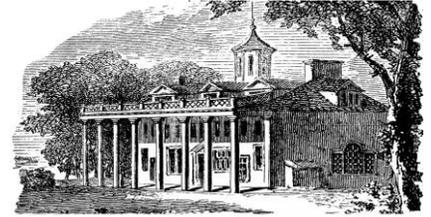


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[www.mvmoaa.org](http://www.mvmoaa.org)

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Awards (2003-2024)



## Virginia Joint Leadership Council Introduced Six Initiatives for 2026

*MAJ Peter Chen, USA (Ret), Despatch Editor*

2026 is only a month old, and yet our world doesn't stop despite of the weather. Virginia has a new governor, and tons of new legislations are being introduced. While Northern Virginia is still frozen solid from Winter Storm Fern, as I am writing this, we are facing another shut down of the Federal Government. In this environment, MOAA and other veterans service organizations are continuing their missions of serving the military and veterans' community.

The JLC's 2026 initiatives are:

**VMSDEP (Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program):** JLC recommends that the Governor and General Assembly ensure the program is saved and secured indefinitely; supporting a study and report which include recommendations to General Assembly no later than November 1, 2026.

**StopUnscrupulous Firmsfrom Exploiting Veterans:** Recommends that the Governor and General Assembly propose and pass language that prohibits these Claim Shark companies from operating in Virginia.

**Veteran Suicide Death Certificate Access:** The initiative require that the Virginia Department of Veterans Services and the Virginia Department of Health work in partnership with local and state police, funeral directors and the Chief Medical Examiner's office to ensure timely data on veteran death is provided for detailed review and analysis by the SMR Committee. This also requires that the Program, through the Department of Veterans Services provide an annual update to the General Assembly, the Governor's Office as well as statewide outreach to promote suicide prevention and awareness.

**Veteran Textbook Support Grant:** Establishes and funds a Veterans Textbook Support Grant to provide up to \$1,000 per year to eligible student veterans who are currently enrolled in a degree, certificate, or vocational program at an accredited Virginia institution.

**Exempting VSOs from Limits on Use of Proceeds from Charitable Gaming:** 501 (c) (19) organizations be classified as charities in the Virginia Tax Code, thus freeing Veterans Service Organizations from the strict use of proceeds requirements currently imposed or otherwise act to ensure that a VSO may use gaming proceeds for its Federal statutory purposes.

**Inclusion of USPHS/NOAA in Income Tax Subtraction:** Amends the Virginia code to substitute the term "Uniformed Services" to "Armed Forces" in defining the eligibility for subtraction of military retirement income from Virginia taxable income.

These aligned with broader state efforts to boost veteran workforce participation, improve transition services, and enhancing overall services for Virginia's veterans through advocacy and legislative actions. The initiatives reflect the JLC's ongoing efforts to address critical needs, build on successful past advocacy, and implement new programs for Virginia's military and veterans community.

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Volume 54 Number 2  
February 2026

## Smash on Station



### Esteemed colleagues,

Only 28 days in February this year, again. The Mount Vernon Chapter MOAA awards for the Dispatch, Website and Level of Effort for 2025 were submitted at the end of January. They will be evaluated in March and in April the announcement for Chapter Awards will be released.

**February Observances** – February came in as a wild lion with a RECORD SETTING snow and ice storm that still has us shoveling snow and ice. Phil did see his shadow and Sonny and Cher was on my radio, so more winter as the story goes. Statistically in the last 10 years, he was right only 40% of the time according to NOAA. Just about a coin toss, I guess.

February is Black History Month. During February the contributions and achievements of African-Americans are celebrated and commemorated.

We also observe President's Day on February 16th honoring George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. You better not forget Valentine's Day on Saturday the 14th.

The 23rd of February is the 81st anniversary of the Iwo Jima flag raising in 1945.



**“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**

## Mount Vernon Chapter

### Chapter Officers

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: Col Mike Broderick, USAF (Ret)  
703-690-4672  
Past President: LTC Cerie Kimball, USA (Ret)  
703-310-4605

### Standing Committees

Arrangements:  
Legislative: CDR John Prevar, USN (Ret)  
703-340-9587  
Membership: CDR George Wallace, USN (Ret)  
703-354-4647  
Personal Affairs: Vacant  
Program Speakers: Vacant  
Public Affairs: Vacant  
HS JROTC Awards: Lt Col Jeff Banks, USAF (Ret)  
703-559-1957  
JROTC Scholarship: LCDR Marty Schaller, USN (Ret)  
Honor Flight Coordinator: Vacant  
Wreaths Across America: COL Robert Patrick, USA  
(Ret) 703-690-9336

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Lt Col Jose Harris, USAF (Ret)  
402-943-9722  
CDR John Prevar, USN (Ret)  
703-340-9587

### Directors (2026-2027)

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703-559-1957  
COL Jerry Krueger, USA (Ret)  
703-850-6397  
CDR John Prevar, USN (Ret)  
703-340-9587

### Other Duties

Surviving Spouse Coordinator: Vacant  
TOPS Liaison: Vacant  
VCOC Representative: CDR John Prevar, USN (Ret)  
Chaplain: **Vanderwoody**  
703-780-4310  
Despatch Editor: MAJ Peter Chen, USA (Ret)  
Webmaster: Joe Leonard  
843-278-1240

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## MVC MOAA Legislative Corner

*Summarized by Desptach Editor*

### Current Virginia Legislative Session

- **HB 354 (Online Portal):** Introduced in January 2026, this bill seeks to mandate the development and maintenance of an online portal to connect veterans, National Guard members, and their families to state resources and services. It also requires the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services to perform annual cost-benefit analyses on all veteran programs. Currently referred to Committee on House-General Laws

### Current Federal Veteran Bills

- **VET Act (New):** In early 2026, Virginia Representative Jen Kiggans championed this act to create hiring pathways for veterans in the energy and manufacturing sectors. Key provisions are:
  - Skill Bridge Program Enhancement: The VET Act enhances the existing Skill Bridge program, which allows servicemembers to gain civilian work experience during their last months of service. The act aims to streamline participation for small businesses and nonprofits, making it easier for them to engage with transitioning servicemembers.
  - Focus on Military Spouses: The legislation also prioritizes access for military spouses, recognizing the unique challenges they face in finding employment due to frequent relocations.
  - Collaboration with Apprenticeship Programs: The act encourages collaboration with registered programs, ensuring that veterans receive the necessary training and support to succeed in their new roles.
- **Major Richard Star Act:** Introduced to both House and Senate on March, 2025
- **Veterans Assuring Critical Care Expansions to Support Servicemembers (ACCESS) Act:** Introduced to both House and Senate on January 28, 2025
- **Improving Menopause Care for Veterans Act:** Introduced in House on January 7, 2025
- **Precision Brain Health Research Act of 2025:** Introduced to Senate on February 27, 2025
- **Aviator Cancers Examination Study (ACES) Act:** Passed and signed by the President
- **Rural Transportation to Care for Veterans Act:** Introduced to both House and Senate on February 27, 2025
- **House Un-housed Disabled Veterans Act:** Passed House on February 10, 2025; Not yet introduced to Senate
- **Veterans SPORT Act:** Introduced to House and March 10, 2025 and to Senate on November 6, 2025
- **Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act:** Introduced to House on March 14, 2025, and Senate on March 6, 2025
- **Building Resources and Access for Veterans Mental Health Engagement (BRAVE) Act:** Introduced to Senate on February 18, 2025. Not introduced to House yet.
- **Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act:** Introduced to both House and Senate on April 1, 2025

Source: <https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/programs/government-affairs/current-legislation>



# MVC-MOAA 2026 Events-Calendar



DATE	LOCATION	EVENT / SPEAKER / TOPIC
<b>Wed.Mar4</b> 7pm-9pm	Virtual	<b>BOD Meeting:</b> EOY-audit results; start LOE award pkg-submit May 1; non-renewal letters/drop from rolls; Apr VCOC meeting/report; JROTC medals.
<b>Sat. Apr 11</b> Time TBD	Ary Byrd Library (Tentative)	Scholarship Candidate Interviews.
<b>Sat. April 29</b>	Kilroy's (Tentative)	Members Meeting and Lunch
<b>Wed.May6</b> 7pm-9pm	Virtual	<b>BODMeeting:</b> IRS reports due; Scholarship certificates/checks, JROTC medal presentations; 2 <sup>nd</sup> QTR VCOC Report; VA Corp. Commission fee; renew PO box rental.
<b>Wed.Sep2</b> 7pm-9pm	Virtual	<b>BOD Meeting:</b> Appoint Nomination Cmte for Nov Officer election; need volunteers for Ft. Belvoir Retirees Activities Day in Sep; confirm speakers.
<b>Wed.Sep23</b> (Tentative) 6pm-9pm	TBD	<b>Dinner. Speaker TBD. Social Hour (Cash Bar) 6-7pm. Buffet served at 7pm, Speaker at 8pm.</b>
<b>Wed.Oct7</b> 7pm-9pm	Virtual	<b>BOD Meeting.</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> QTR VCOC report; Legislative Cmte proposes Natl objectives;
<b>Sat.Nov18</b> 11am-1pm	TBD	<b>Lunch/Brunch. Annual Business Meeting. Speaker TBD.</b> <i>Lunchservedat11:30am.Officer Installation and Speaker to follow.</i>
<b>Sat.Dec12</b> 9:30am-3pm	Alexandria Natl Cemetery; Social location Whiskey and Oysters	 <b>Wreath Laying</b>  <b>Holiday Social</b> 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.



**Mount Vernon Chapter**  
of the  
**Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)**  
**P. O. Box 97**  
**Mount Vernon, VA 22121-0097**  
**www.mvmoaa.org**



*Dedicated to the  
memory of  
George  
Washington*

*As an active duty, former or retired military officer, or the surviving spouse of such an individual, we invite you to join or renew your membership to the Mount Vernon Chapter of MOAA*

*2026-dues are from January-December each year and are separate from National MOAA dues*

**\$25 per year for Regular Members **FIRST YEAR WAIVED!!****  
**\$10 per year for Surviving Spouses** (widow/widower, formerly known as Auxiliary Members) **First Year WAIVED!!**

Here are a few good reasons why you should **become a part of your local MOUNT VERNON CHAPTER:**

- We are a 5 Star Chapter - one of the top chapters in all of MOAA.
- Your membership enables MOAA to advocate for the *protection* of our earned pay & health care benefits for both active duty and retired military; *provides insight to legislative goals* on both the national and State level.
- We support local High School JROTC programs with *awards and scholarships*.
- We support the *Fisher House at Fort Belvoir, Wreaths Across America*, and other military charities.
- We keep you informed via the DESPATCH, updates to our website, and by inviting *highly informative speakers*. (some recent topics: Personal Affairs, benefit updates, military history, local base access/construction projects)
- We encourage *opportunities to socialize* with fellow members through dinners, brunches, and service projects.



There are three ways to join the Mount Vernon Chapter.



1. By Mail: Please fill in the box below and return with your check payable to MVC-MOAA.
2. Pay online through the national MOAA website at <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/membership.aspx>
3. Pay online at the Mount Vernon website: [www.mvmoaa.org](http://www.mvmoaa.org). Click on "Join MVMOAA" (will require to logon) in the lower right corner or logon first and click "Renew Membership."

Thank you!  
Membership Committee, MVC/MOAA

**2026 CHAPTER Membership Dues**  
**Mount Vernon MOAA, PO Box 97, Mount Vernon, VA 22121-0097**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (MI) (Rank) (Svc.) (Active/Retired)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*While you have your checkbook out...*

*Please consider also making a tax-deductible contribution to our Chapter Scholarship Fund. Donations are welcome at any time during the year, but this is an excellent opportunity to support our local high school students.*

*Each year, the Mount Vernon Chapter provides financial assistance to area JROTC Cadets who will enter college the next year and enroll in collegiate ROTC programs. Nominated by their respective high school Senior Military Instructors, he/she must submit an application, write a personal essay, and undergo an interview with the chapter scholarship selection committee. Scholarship Awards are presented in May of each year. These top students are making the commitment of becoming our Nation's future officers!*

*Checks should be made payable to MVC/MOAA Scholarship Fund, and must be separate from the check for annual Chapter dues.*

**Scholarship Donation**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (MI) (Rank)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Svc.) (Active/Retired)

Amount of Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

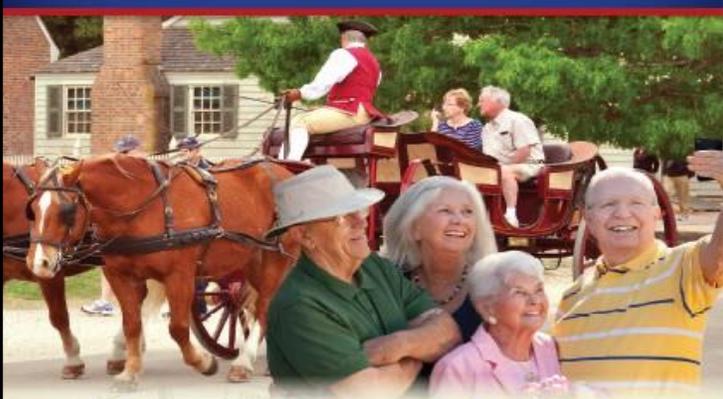
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