

Dedicated to the memory of  
General George Washington



Mount Vernon Chapter

# The Despatch

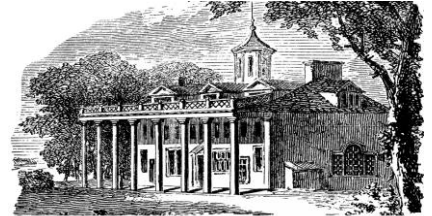


Mount Vernon, Virginia Chapter - MOAA  
[www.mvmoaa.org](http://www.mvmoaa.org)

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## MVC MOAA Meets New Members

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

We realized that we have many MOAA national members and potential members living in this area. As a MOAA chapter, we are always looking for more current and retired officers and spouses to join our ranks. Building on the success we had the previous years, on April 29<sup>th</sup>, we conducted our second meet and greet event at Kilroy's.

On the day of the event, I was involved in a minor traffic incident, so I arrived a little late. By the time I arrived, the social was well underway. With 31 new members, family members, friends, and current members, our area at Kilroy was jammed pack with activities. I was soon surrounded by first time visitors with all sorts of questions about our chapter. Instead of a pre-prepared sales pitch like many networking events, I talked about with why I joined, where our organization is currently, and our visions for the future. I did not shy away from talking about our current challenges. I explained that our organization isn't just looking for new recruits, merely to maintain active membership, but we want new members coming with new ideas. We need new members willing to take charge, help us to continue building the organization, meet the challenges of the future, and better serve the veterans community and our local community. Based on the response, we are making great progress towards those goals.

### In This Issue

- 1 MVC MOAA Meets New Members
- 2 Smash on Station
- 3 Chapter Officers
- 4 Legislative Corner
- 5 Upcoming Events
- 6 More from our Sponsors

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## Smash on Station



Esteemed colleagues,

Welcome to all the new members to the Chapter! The Chapter sponsored Social at Kilroy's on the 29th of April brought the Chapter 31 new members! I am in the process of sending each new member a welcome aboard email.

The Mount Vernon MOAA is in the JROTC award presentation season! Award photos will be presented in future Despatch issues. Please consider volunteering to present an award. Thank you to all the presenters who have volunteered in the past!

Members of the Mount Vernon Chapter will interview candidates for Mount Vernon MOAA Scholarships on Saturday the 9th of May at the Pohick Regional Library at 6450 Sydenstricker Road from 1200-1300. As a member, consider attending and meeting this year's candidates.

**May Observances** – The 1st of May it is National Day of Prayer.

We remember our Mothers on the 10th !

May is Military Appreciation Month and the 16th is National Armed Forces Day.

A fitting end to Military Appreciation Month is Memorial Day and this year the Memorial Day Parade is back, on the 25th of May as is Rolling to Remember in DC on Sunday the 24th of May!

**Final Thoughts:**

**“Where there is no law, there is no liberty.” Benjamin Rush**



**Take unto Thyself, O Lord, the souls of the valiant!**

**Never stop serving our great Nation.**

**Semper Fidelis,**

**Smash**



## Mount Vernon Chapter

### Chapter Officers

President: Col Douglas Yurovich, USMC (Ret)  
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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

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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  
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### Directors (2025-2026)

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### Other Duties

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# MVC MVC MOAA Legislative Corner

MAJ Peter Chen, USA (Ret), Despatch Editor

## U.S. Congress Key Bills Introduced/Pending in 2026

**H.R. 6047 (Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act of 2026):** Proposes increasing DIC and other monthly benefits, along with VA home loan fee changes.

**Update:** *In the House: The bill was officially reported with an amendment on April 2, 2026, moving it to the Union Calendar for potential floor action. If enacted, major benefit increases are scheduled to take effect on December 1, 2026*

**HR.R.70012/S.3653 (Veterans' Bill of Rights Act of 2026):** Aims to establish a set of rights for veterans regarding their VA benefits.

**Update:** *As of April 2026, the legislation remains in the early stages of the legislative process, having been referred to the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and the House Committee on Veterans Affairs.*

**H.R.8224/S.3726 (National Veterans Strategy Act of 2026):** Requires the development of a National Veterans Strategy to define veteran success.

**Update:** *House Version (H.R. 8224): Introduced by Rep. Barry Moore (AL-01) on April 9, 2026. It has been referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs and the Committee on Rules.*

**H.R. 2102/S.1032 Major Richard Star Act:** The Major Richard Star Act would end the unjust offset for veterans who were medically retired, sustained combat or combat related injuries, and are eligible for Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC).

**Status:** *Introduced in Senate 3/13/2026; Introduced in House 3/14/2026*

**H.R. 8115/S.800 Precision Brain Health Research Act:** Expands biomarker research to include low-level blast exposure, alongside TBI, posttraumatic stress disorder, depression, and anxiety.

**Status:** *Introduced in Senate 2/25/2025; Introduced in House 3/26/2026*

Source: U.S. Congressional Budget Office [www.cbo.gov](http://www.cbo.gov)

## 2026 Virginia Veterans' Legislations Status

I have stated in the previous months, the JLC's priorities for 2026 are: Secure the Virginia Military Survivors & Dependents Education Program; Stop Unscrupulous Firms from Exploiting Veterans; Veteran Suicide Death Certificate Access; Veteran Textbook Support Grant; Exempt 501(c)(19) VSOs from Limits on Use of Proceeds from Charitable Gaming; Inclusion of USPHS and NOAA in Income Tax Subtraction.

As of April 2026, the Virginia General Assembly has passed significant legislation to protect veterans from predatory practices and ease burdens, including the passed Safeguarding American Veteran Empowerment Act (SB315) and expanded vehicle registration exemptions (HB94). Key focus areas in 2026 include regulating benefit assistance, improving online resources, and enhancing procurement opportunities. Other key veterans related bills are:

**Online Portal Development (HB354):** Requires the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services to develop a new online portal to connect veterans with services.



**Veterans' Services Protection Act (HB1268):** Continued to 2027, this proposal aimed to create strict penalties for fraudulent practices in veteran benefits counseling.

**Procurement Opportunities (SB263):** Focuses on increasing contract awards to service-disabled veteran-owned businesses.

Sources: [virginia.dvs.gov](http://virginia.dvs.gov); [virginialis.gov](http://virginialis.gov); [virginia.gov](http://virginia.gov)



## MVC-MOAA 2026 Events-Calendar

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT / SPEAKER / TOPIC
<b>Wed. May 6</b> 7pm-9pm	<b>Virtual</b>	<b>BOD Meeting:</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>Sat. May 9</b> 12pm-1:30pm	<b>Pohick Library</b>	Scholarship Candidate Interviews.
<b>Wed. Jul 15</b> 7 pm-9pm	<b>Virtual</b>	<b>BOD Meeting:</b> Planning and coordinating details for Fall and Winter events.
<b>Wed. Sep 2</b> 7pm-9pm	<b>Virtual</b>	<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. Sep 23</b> (Tentative) 6pm-9pm	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Dinner. Speaker TBD.</b> <i>Social Hour (Cash Bar) 6-7pm. Buffet served at 7pm, Speaker at 8pm.</i>
<b>Wed. Oct 7</b> 7pm-9pm	<b>Virtual</b>	<b>BOD Meeting.</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> QTR VCOC report; Legislative Cmte proposes Natl objectives
<b>Sat. Nov 18</b> 11am-1pm	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Lunch/Brunch. Annual Business Meeting. Speaker TBD.</b> <i>Lunch served at 11:30 am. Officer Installation and Speaker to follow.</i>
<b>Sat. Dec 12</b> 9:30am-3pm	<b>Alexandria Natl Cemetery;</b> <b>Social location</b> <b>Whiskey and Oysters</b>	 <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.

...and more from our much-appreciated sponsors

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Comments or letters to the editor may be sent to the above address or email: [peter.chen2282015@gmail.com](mailto:peter.chen2282015@gmail.com)

To join the MOAA Mount Vernon Chapter, please go to:  
[www.mvmoaa.com](http://www.mvmoaa.com)

### **Mount Vernon Chapter Membership**

**Regular Membership \$25 Surviving Spouse \$10**

1. By Mail: Send your check payable to MVC-MOAA to 2026CHAPTER 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>
3. Pay online at the Mount Vernon website: [www.mvmoaa.org](http://www.mvmoaa.org) Click on "Join MVMOAA" (will require you to logon) in the lower right corner or logon first and click "Renew"

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