

Dedicated to the memory of
General George Washington



Mount Vernon Chapter

The Despatch



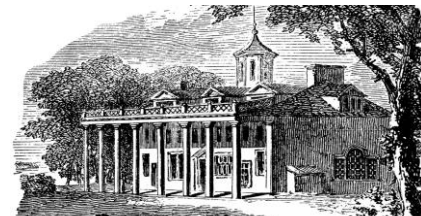
Mount Vernon, Virginia Chapter - MOAA

www.mvmoaa.org

5 Star Level of Excellence



Awards (2003-2024)



Secretary of War Announces Establishment of America's Corps of Cadets

MAJ Peter Chen, USA (Ret), Despatch Editor

Secretary of War Peter Hegseth announced the establishment of "America's Corps of Cadet" on September 30th, 2026. The initiative grants participating schools "Honor School" status and the restored title of Distinguished Military Colleges (DMC). This designation provides these colleges' and universities' students with priority in officer commissioning. The ultimate goal is to broaden the pipeline of commissioned officers. This will be accomplished by:

- Building on the success of the Senior Military Colleges (SMC). Secretary Hegseth stated that *"the six SMC established in law have carried these traditions with excellence through their Corps of Cadets. We are building on the successes of Texas A&M University, Norwich University, the Virginia Military Institute, the Citadel, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and North Georgia College and State University by raising additional Corps of Cadets."*
- Restoring the title of DMC. The initial cohort of participating universities and colleges will be granted the title as they create their own Corps of Cadets. The DMC title establishes a pathway towards becoming an SMC.
- By joining America's Corps of Cadets, these colleges and universities can earn priority in officer commissioning.

- The following colleges and universities have been granted the DMC title: Louisiana State University, Hillsdale College, Liberty University, Mississippi State University, and Tuskegee University.

The Office of the Secretary of War will begin implementation within 30 days. The Under Secretary of War for Personnel and Readiness has been directed as the lead office. Secretary Hegseth stated the initiative is necessary because *'We must be postured to meet the demands of a complex, modern battlefield and beyond by ensuring we have produced leaders prepared for every challenge. Growing America's Corps of Cadets puts our Nation on a path to achieve it.'*

As a veterans organization that grants scholarships for high school students aspiring to be officers in the Uniform Services, this will provide new opportunities for the students that we support.

Sources: US Department of War; the Oxford Eagle; www.wbrz.com

In This Issue

1 Sec War Announces
Establishment of America's
Corps of Cadets

2 Smash on Station

3 Chapter Officers

4 Legislative Corner

5 Wreaths Across America

6 Upcoming Events

7 More from our Sponsors

Volume 54 Number 8
October 2026

Smash on Station



Esteemed colleagues,

In accordance with our bylaws, this month establishes the slate of officers that will be elected at the annual business meeting on Saturday, 21 November, location TBD. We need your assistance! There are opportunities to serve the award winning Mount Vernon Chapter on the Board of Directors as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, as well as Directors for 2027-2028. The members of MVC MOAA, including myself are very thankful to all those who have volunteered and have led the Mount Vernon Chapter to this position with their hard work and dedication over so many years.

I ask that you consider serving our Chapter to continue the legacy past Mount Vernon members have established.

Fort Belvoir Retiree Appreciation Day

On Friday, Oct 30th from 0800 to 1300 at the Wells Field House (BLDG 1810) 2104 Goethals Rd on Ft Belvoir.

- 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).

Wreaths Across America (WAA) – Again this year, the Mount Vernon Chapter, MOAA is participating in the Wreaths Across America Project, the national effort that remembers and honors our veterans and educates all generations about their sacrifice. We are supporting **WAA** with the purchase of wreaths in the coming months and their placement at Alexandria National Cemetery on Saturday, December 13th, 2026, tentative times; 09:30 – 1500. The Chapter goal this year is **100** wreaths. Last year we contributed 99 wreaths. Please help reach this milestone with your contributions!

As this is open to anyone, please feel free to share this information with your families, neighbors and friends.

October Observances – October 13th Birthday of the US Navy, the 251ST, Anchors Aweigh, haze, grey and underway or underwater! October 26th is the National Day of the Deployed – A day set aside to honor all of the brave men and woman who have been deployed and are sacrificing, or have sacrificed, their lives to fight for our country and acknowledges their families that they are separated from.

Final Thoughts:

A lot has been written lately about speaking truth to power and accountable leadership. The best way I know to do that is to exercise your right as an American and as a Veteran and vote in November for local, state and national representation. An old adage states, “if you don’t put your two cents in, how can you expect to get change?” Get your vote in! Early voting has already started! “The People are the government, administering it by their agents; they are the government, The Sovereign Power.” Andrew Jackson

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: CAPT Brian Q. Haller, USN (Ret)
(703) 298-8687
Past President: LTC Cerie Kimball, USA (Ret)
703-310-4605

Standing Committees

Arrangements:
Legislative: Vacant
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

Directors (2025-2026)

LCDR Marty Schaller, USN (Ret)
703-346-8347
CDR John Prevar, USN (Ret)

Directors (2026-2027)

MAJ Peter Chen, USA (Ret)
703-402-2184
Lt Col Jeff Banks, USAF (Ret)
703-559-1957
COL Jerry Krueger, USA (Ret)
703-850-6397

Other Duties

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

PISTON²JET
Flight Training and Aviation Solutions

Doug Yurovich, PhD

Chief Test Pilot, Assistant Chief Flight Instructor, Safety Director

dyurovich@piston2jet.com | 703-361-9200 (O) | 10600 Observation Rd
www.piston2jet.com | 571-643-6019 (M) | Manassas, VA 20110

Law Office
ARQUILLA LAW, PLC

A Professional Corporation



Fred Arquilla, Col. (Ret.), U.S. Army



Representing service members and their
families in Virginia since 1997

Family Law – Military Law – Trusts & Estates – Probate

Tel: 703-719-9292 E-Mail: firm@aalaw.com Web Site: www.aalaw.com

6078 Franconia Rd., Alexandria, VA 22310

4.

MVC MOAA Legislative Corner

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

September saw intense gridlock on Capitol Hill over H.R. 9237: Take Care of America's Veterans Act, an legislative package combining 62 separate veterans bills. The bill stalled just before the midterms due to a bitter funding dispute:

- **The Core Expansion:** The bill features the highly popular **Major Richard Star Act**, which allows combat-injured veterans medically retired before completing 20 years of service to receive both their full military retirement pension and VA disability compensation concurrently (ending the dollar-for-dollar offset often called the "wounded warrior tax"). It also contains the **Love Lives On Act** to eliminate the remarriage penalty for surviving active-duty spouses.
- **The Funding Conflict:** To cover the massive \$9.4 billion price tag of the Richard Star Act, Section 108 of the bill proposes legally locking in stricter VA rating criteria for sleep apnea and tinnitus to yield billions in long-term savings.
- **The Backlash & Discharge Petition:** Major veteran service organizations like the VFW and DAV opposed the sleep apnea and tinnitus offsets, arguing it pits different eras of veterans against one another. Meanwhile, MOAA, American Legion, and other organization stated the VA's cut is inevitable and it is essential to get H.R. 9237 passed, since so many other veterans benefits are tied to it. In response, advocacy groups and lawmakers successfully bypassed house leadership by securing 218 signatures on a discharge petition. This forces the Major Richard Star Act out of committee for a guaranteed floor vote when Congress returns after the November elections.

The following are actions of the Executive Branch, rather than legislations. However, they are important because they affect the veterans' community as well:

1. Executive Order 14426: Accelerating Access to Veterans' Benefits

On September 8, 2026, President Donald Trump signed Executive Order 14426, titled *Accelerating Access to Veterans' Benefits and Employment Opportunities*.

- **Modernizing Record Sharing:** The order directs the Department of War and the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish continuous, automatic sharing of Official Military Personnel Files and Service Treatment Records from the day a service member enlists through their discharge.
- **Mandates the deployment of secure, AI-assisted digital tools** within a single platform to streamline applications and eliminate manual data delays. The White House expects the processing timelines to VA health and other benefits to decrease by 20-30 days.
- **Transition and Employment Support:** Update the Transition Assistance Program to better align separating service members with civilian job opportunities

2. Key Non-Legislative VA Updates

- **VGLI Premium Holiday:** The VA announced a three-month premium holiday for **Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI)** policyholders. Eligible veterans will pay zero premiums from November 2026 through January 2027, yielding an average savings of \$330 per veteran.

Source: US Congress, the White House, and VA



Wreaths across America

Again, this year the Mount Vernon Chapter, MOAA is participating in the Wreaths across America Project, the national effort that remembers and honors our veterans and educates all generations about their sacrifice. We are supporting them with the purchase of wreaths in the coming months for their placement at Alexandria National Cemetery on December 19, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. Mount Vernon Chapter also uses this as a fundraising effort that helps service members and their families in the Fort Belvoir Community.

To learn more about Wreaths across America, go online to www.wreathscrossamerica.org. To order Mount Vernon Chapter, MOAA sponsored wreaths for Alexandria National Cemetery go online to www.wreathscrossamerica.org/VA0020P. This provides the easy steps to order wreaths.

This year Mount Vernon Chapter, MOAA has a goal of sponsoring 100 wreaths for Alexander National Cemetery. Please feel free to share this information with family members and friends so they too can participate in this very special effort.

If you need additional information, contact Bob Patrick, MVC Wreaths across America representative, at patbobval@verizon.net, or call at (703)964-6022.



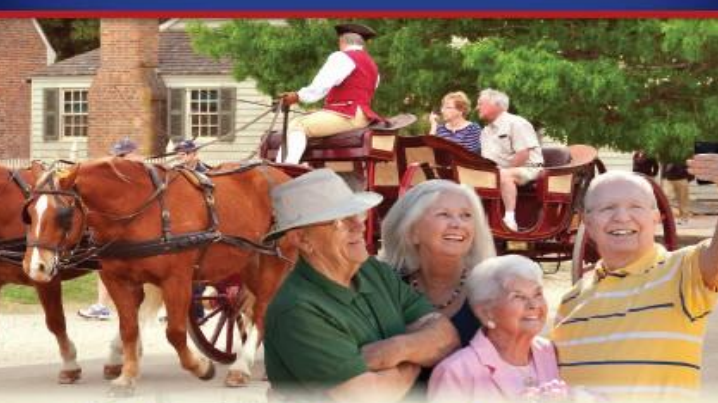


MVC-MOAA 2026 Events-Calendar



DATE	LOCATION	EVENT / SPEAKER / TOPIC
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 location TBD.

...and more from our much-appreciated sponsors



Picture Yourself Here.

Experience the Camaraderie at Patriots Colony with a Complimentary Two Night Stay! Call 855-258-0520 or Email us at regina.thompson@rivhs.com.

- Experience the story of America in the place where it all began, Colonial Williamsburg.
- Play at Williamsburg National Golf Club, a Jack Nicklaus designed course.
- Enjoy Virginia Capital Trail, a dedicated, paved pedestrian and bicycle trail connecting past and present capitals of Jamestown and Richmond along the Scenic Route 5 corridor.
- Explore College of William and Mary, the second oldest college in the nation.
- Savor hand-crafted cocktails, appetizers and pub fare at Archie's Tavern.
- Discover past friends and relive great memories.

PATRIOTS COLONY
At Williamsburg
www.patriotscolony.com

Patriots Colony, sponsored by Riverside Health System, is a LifeCare community exclusively for retired and former military officers retired and former federal civil employees and their spouses.

GEORGE WALLACE
CDR USN (RET)

USSVI LIFE MEMBER***NSL SPONSOR

LIFE MEMBER MOAA***BUCKEYE FOR LIFE

CELL (415) 672-0517 GEORGEW@RMI.NET



Amazon, Kindle, Audible





**Mount Vernon Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 97, Mt Vernon VA 22121-0097**

Address Service Request

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 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

Bob's Printing

Family Owned & Operated Since 1979



Robert M. Beach
SKC, USN Retired



8403-D Richmond Highway
Alexandria, Virginia 22309

(703) 360-7284
Fax (703) 360-3825
flagbike@aol.com

Now and Always We'll be There.



1-800-247-2192 • www.moaainsurance.com

**The Mount Vernon Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and national MOAA provide their advocacy in a nonpartisan manner.
Any conveyance of partisanship is unintended.**