

Dedicated to the memory of
General George Washington



Mount Vernon Chapter

The Despatch

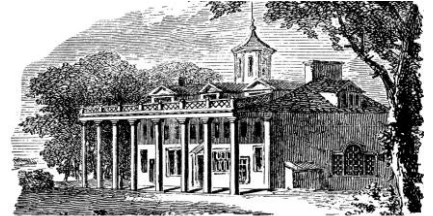


Mount Vernon, Virginia Chapter - MOAA
www.mvmoaa.org

5 Star Level of Excellence



Awards (2003-2024)



JROTC Cadets Received Awards from MVC MOAA

MAJ Peter Chen, USA (Ret), Despatch Editor

As the 2025-2026 school year comes to an end, MVC MOAA is busy interviewing several JROTC for the Commander Rex Maddox Scholarship and the MOAA NJROTC Medal.

On May 22, 2026, MG George A. Alexander, USA(Ret.) presented the Mount Vernon Chapter, Military Officers Association of America's Navy Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Medal and certificate to Cadet Commander Vanessa Kane at Herndon High School. MG Alexander stated "Cadet Kane demonstrated strong leadership ability, selfless service, and exceptional potential for military leadership. She demonstrated commendable loyalty to the unit, school, and community. I was honored to present this recognition to this outstanding cadet."

On May 9, 2026, COL Robert Patrick, USA (Ret), LCDR Marty Schaller, USN (Ret) and I interviewed Cadet 1LT Naomi Hernandez -Escoto from Battlefield High School, and Cadet LTC London Romero Gomez from Alexandria City High. School for the Commander Rex Maddox Scholarship at the Pohick Library. As a former college Army ROTC Assistant Professor of Military Science, there were times that I had to remind myself that I was teaching students, not Soldiers. However, these young ladies were very confident and articulate, in the ways that we expect from current serving junior officers. All of us were very impressed, and were in agreement that they deserve the scholarship named in the honor of our past president and departed friend Rex Maddox.

In This Issue

- 1 JROTC Awards
- 2 Smash on Station
- 3 Chapter Officers
- 4 Legislative Corner
- 6 Upcoming Events
- 7 More from our Sponsors



Left: MG Alexander with Cadet CDR Kane; Right: COL Patrick, Cadet 1st LT Hernandez -Escoto, and LCDR Schaller; Continues on Page 5

Volume 54 Number 6
June 2026

Smash on Station



Esteemed colleagues,

Very similar to last, I always take time to watch and record the Memorial Day concert from the Capital. This event give viewers chance to reflect on the cost of freedom, and I remember the sailors and Marines I knew that have passed. Lest we forget, freedom isn't free, "we all gave some, and some gave all." As time's arrow continues, Memorial Day gives way to June, the pools have opened and school is almost completed. As summer approaches children will be enjoying the freedom to play. May we all come together and enjoy the freedoms made possible by those

Who came before us and made the ultimate sacrifice for this Great Nation.

We will soon celebrate the 4th of July, the founding of this great country. On the 4th of July 1776, the Second Continental Congress voted to approve the Declaration of Independence. Courageous actions brought about this country and have maintained this great country. On the 4th of July, we celebrate our heritage and our freedom and our America!

June Observances –

On Thursday, June 6 we Observe D-Day when 160,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy, France, to fight Nazi soldiers in 1944. General Dwight D. Eisenhower called the operation a crusade in which "we will accept nothing less than full victory." June 14 is the 251st birthday of the United States Army, founded in 1775 and is the senior service. Flag Day is also the 14th of June and falls within National Flag Week, a time when Americans reflect on the foundations of the nation's freedom. June 21st we remember all our Fathers and their contributions to our lives. American Eagle Day is celebrated annually on June 20th, followed by the first day of Summer on the 21st . The American Eagle Day observance commemorates the day in 1782, when the majestic bird was added to the official Seal of the United States.

Final Thoughts:

"We're blessed with the opportunity to stand for something — for liberty and freedom and fairness. And these are things worth fighting for, worth devoting our lives to. And we have good reason to be hopeful and Optimistic." — Ronald Reagan

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
Lt Col Jose Harris, USAF (Ret)
402-943-9722
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 MVC MOAA Legislative Corner

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

Virginia's most significant recent veterans legislation is the Safeguarding American Veteran Empowerment (SAVE) Act (SB 315/HB 398), which takes 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.

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.
- **Veterans Business Procurement (SB 263):** A measure requiring public bodies to annually award at least 1% of their contract dollars to service-disabled veteran-owned and veteran-owned businesses, updating the state procurement portal by late 2026.
- **Benefits Protection Act (HB 1268):** Ongoing legislation to further define and restrict prohibited practices regarding paid-for consulting on veterans' benefits matters, currently continued for further study into 2027.
- **Statewide Strategic Planning (HB 1018):** A measure to convene working groups to establish a comprehensive statewide strategic plan for veteran-specific legislation and budget decisions.

Source: Virginia.gov

5.

JROTC Cadets Received Awards from MVC MOAA (Continues from Pg 1)

Cadet London Romero Gomez has been accepted to attend Christopher Newport University as a member of the Army ROTC. She has been awarded a college scholarship as well. While maintaining a 3.1 GPA, she played basketball and is involved with many extracurricular and community services. She tutors and volunteers at the local animal shelter.

During the interview, Cadet Naomi Hernandez-Escoto stated “The skills I had already developed were strengthened through my high school experience; academics, athletics, and a new factor: JROTC. Rigorous courses tested my time management and discipline; where choices defined outcomes, I learned balance between my personal and scholastic life.” Naomi will attend Virginia Tech as a member of AFROTC.

COL Patrick, LCDR Schaller and I were enthralled with how these young ladies presented themselves. We wish them the best with their endeavors.



Cadet Naomi Hernandez-Escoto



Cadet London Romero Gomez



MVC-MOAA 2026 Events-Calendar



DATE	LOCATION	EVENT / SPEAKER / TOPIC
Wed. Jul 15 7 pm-9pm	Virtual	BOD Meeting: Planning and coordinating details for Fall and Winter events.
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 (Tentative) 6pm-9pm	TBD	Dinner. Speaker TBD. Social Hour (Cash Bar) 6-7pm. Buffet served at 7pm, Speaker at 8pm.
Wed. Oct 7 7pm-9pm	Virtual	BOD Meeting. 4 th QTR VCOC report; Legislative Cmte proposes Natl objectives
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 12 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.

...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.patricscolony.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@RML.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.