

Dedicated to the memory of  
General George Washington



Mount Vernon Chapter

# The Despatch



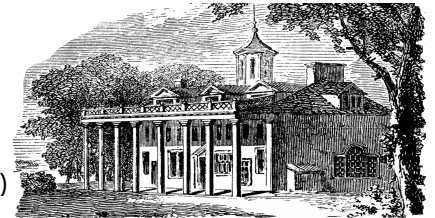
Mount Vernon, Virginia Chapter - MOAA

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

5 Star Level of Excellence



Awards (2003-2024)



## Never Stop Serving. Be An Inspiration

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

On January 11, 2025, I lost my friend Sergeant Major David Davis (USA Ret). Born in Portsmouth, VA, on 1947, he was the son of a Navy CPO. Drafted into the Army and fought in Vietnam, he elected to stay in the Army and became a career Soldier. He became the acting Command Sergeant Major of 2-8 CAV during Operation Desert Storm. He was a retiring SGM serving as the President of Texas Military Historical Society, when I met him while I was a young Lance Corporal in the Marine Corps Reserve. As the military was going through the post-Desert Storm RIF, it became obvious that my chance of getting into Marine Corps PLC wasn't very good. Dave encouraged me to join the Army ROTC at Sam Houston State University, where I eventually was commissioned.

Years later after my time as a tank platoon leader at Ft Lewis and Transportation Corps officer in Germany, I was assigned to Ft Hood, Texas, where he retired. By this time I was married, and our wives became friends as well. Maria as a school principal was a source of knowledge for my wife. While I was deployed to Iraq, they took my wife in and treated her as their own daughter. Being a retired SGM, he was more than just a mentor in a military sense. My wife and I are both immigrants, and the world of US military was completely alien to our parents. Dave and his wife Maria became our guides in ways that our parents couldn't. In addition to what you expect a senior NCO to advise you on, Dave shared with me long forgotten knowledge like what my options were going through another RIF and my own retirement.

Eventually reassignment took us away once again, but Dave and Maria never stopped being inspirations to us. As Dave's health declined over the years, I saw how well he planned for the final days of his life, compared to most people I know. The last time I spoke to him on the phone, he said he was involved with a program that takes younger wounded veterans hunting. Dave complained that many older veterans to include himself are getting too old to take the younger vets to go hunting, and he didn't know what to do. Even in his last days, his thought was never far away from the troops and the veterans.

Among our ranks in MVC, we have no shortage of veterans with distinguished military careers who are inspirations to countless young people like my friend SGM Davis. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for being inspirations and never stop serving.

### *In This Issue*

- 1 Never Stop Serving
- 2 Smash on Station
- 3 Chapter Officers
- 4 Legislative Corner
- 5 Virginia Council of Chapters
- 6 Upcoming Events
- 7 More from our Sponsors

**Volume 53 Number 4**  
**April 2025**

## Smash on Station



### Esteemed colleagues,

We have scheduled our JROTC Candidate Scholarship Interviews on the 26th of April at the Richard Byrd Library in Springfield. If you wish to participate, please contact Marty Schaller 703-346-8347 or [mandmschaller@gmail.com](mailto:mandmschaller@gmail.com).

**Awards** – Our chapter has received a 2024 Five Star Level of Excellence Award – our 25<sup>th</sup> straight – and Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Awards for our newsletter and website. Congratulations!

**Member Spotlight** – Weve had a few members who have submitted their stories in the past, and I'd like to see us start anew. Send your stories with photos to Peter Chen, John Prevar or me for inclusion in a future *Despatch*.

### Final Thoughts:

In these days of divide attention and divided intentions across the Nation, I am reminded of: “I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, that I will bear truth faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without and mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office upon which I am about to enter; SO HELP ME GOD.”

**Never stop serving our great Nation.**

**Semper Fidelis,**

**Smash**

**NEVER STOP SERVING**



## 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: LTC Cerie Kimball, USA (Ret)  
Legislative: CDR John Prevar, USN (Ret)  
Membership: LTC Elmontenal Allens, USA (Ret)  
Personal Affairs: Vacant  
Program Speakers: LTC Cerie Kimball, USA (Ret)  
Public Affairs: LTC Cerie Kimball, USA (Ret)  
HS JROTC Awards: Lt Col Bill Kehoe, USAF (Ret)  
703-751-6416  
JROTC Scholarship: LCDR Marty Schaller, USN (Ret)  
Honor Flight Coordinator: LTC Carl Jurison, USA (Ret)  
703-399-6602  
Wreaths Across America: COL Robert Patrick, USA (Ret)  
703-690-9336

### Directors (2024-2025)

MAJ Peter Chen, USA (Ret)  
703-402-2184  
Lt Col Jeff Banks, USAF (Ret)  
703-559-1957  
2nd LT Abigail Staggemeier, USAR  
714-794-4273

### 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)  
703-340-9587

### Other Duties

Surviving Spouse Coordinator: Vacant  
TOPS Liaison: Lt Col Jose Harris, USAF (Ret)  
VCOC Representative: CDR John Prevar, USN (Ret)  
Chaplain: Col Arnie Porter, USAF (Ret)  
703-780-4310  
Despatch Editor: MAJ Peter Chen, USA (Ret)  
Webmaster: Joe Leonard, 843-278-1240

**ARQUILLA & POE, PLC**



**Fred Arquilla &  
Joyce Peters**  
Ret. Army JAG Colonels

Wills, Revocable Trusts & Probate,  
Family Law & Personal Injury  
Free 30- Min. Initial Consultation  
**703-719-9292**

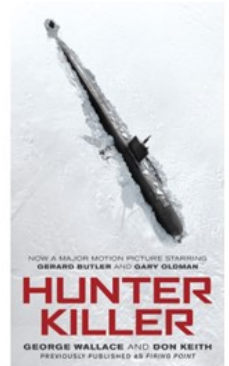
Email: [firm@aallaw.com](mailto:firm@aallaw.com)    [WWW.AALLAW.COM](http://WWW.AALLAW.COM)

**GEORGE WALLACE**  
CDR USN (RET)

USSVI LIFE MEMBER\*\*\*NSL SPONSOR

LIFE MEMBER MOAA\*\*\*BUCKEYE FOR LIFE

CELL (415) 672-0517    [GEORGEW@RMT.NET](mailto:GEORGEW@RMT.NET)



**PISTON2JET**  
Flight Training and Aviation Solutions

Doug Yurovich, PhD

Chief Test Pilot, Assistant Chief Flight Instructor, Safety Director

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

*Amazon, Kindle, Audible*

# MVC MOAA Legislative Corner

Despatch Editor

## MOAA Aims to Improve Unaccompanied Housing

Recently all branches of the military have seen a spike of enlistment rates. We know that importance of quality of life for the troops, and the importance of quality housing. We simply can't continue to attract and retain quality service members without addressing the issue. Although billions were spent over the years on the construction of these housing, we also know the importance of maintenance. Sadly, the current state of unaccompanied housing (UH) across the board has deteriorated to the point that it made MOAA's legislative priorities for this year.

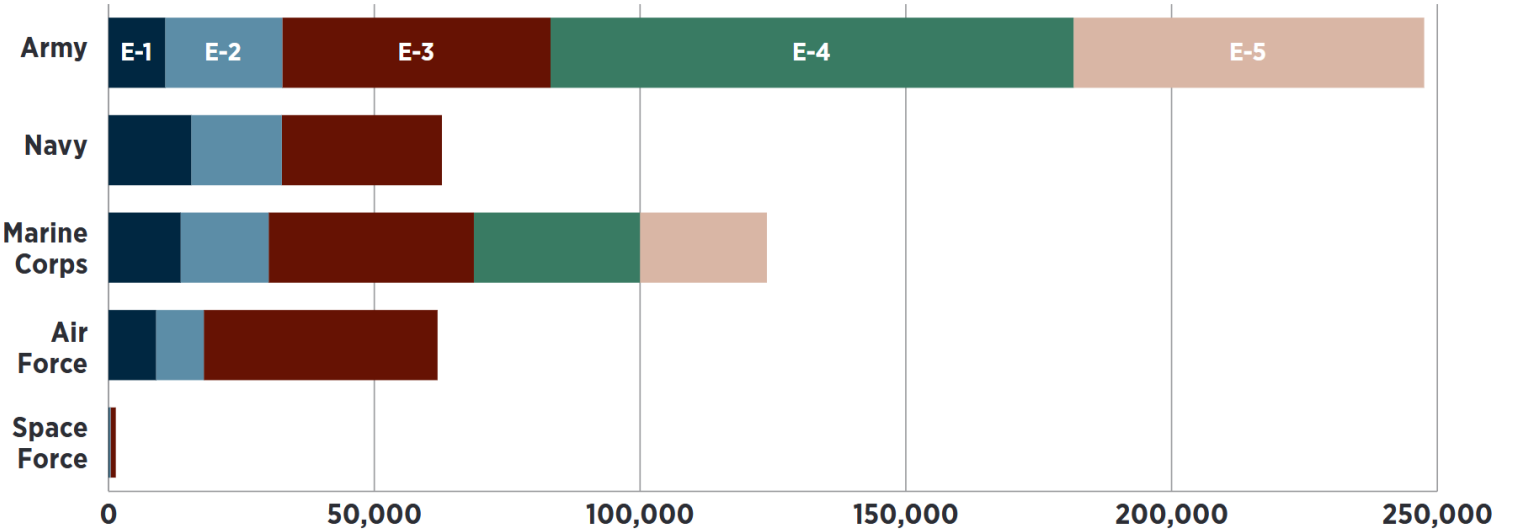
**How bad is the problem?** According to a MOAA's recent publication *"at three of 10 installations, officials told us service members are generally responsible for pest control, or for removing hazardous material from UH, such as mold and sewage."* Such unsanitary living conditions caused pest and rodent infestations, and in term caused even more unsanitary living conditions.

**What is being done.** According to MOAA, FY 2025 NDAA Requirements

- Requires DoD to detail Facilities Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization projects for UH.
- Expands housing complaint database to include UH.
- Creates a digital facilities management system for DoD to track facility conditions. Transparency is essential to solving this problem. MOAA is asking Congress to require DoD to make installation unaccompanied housing conditions publicly available (FY 2024 NDAA, Sec. 2839). These steps will support lawmaker oversight and sustain momentum to fix the \$137 billion maintenance backlog.

### BY THE NUMBERS: UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING

Nearly 500,000 enlisted servicemembers meet requirements to live in unaccompanied housing. Over 70% of active duty junior enlisted servicemembers (E-1 to E-4) report being single with no children.





*Note: DoD personnel data as of September 2024; marriage/children status via DoD's 2023 Demographics Profile. The services generally require enlisted members in certain ranks who are without dependents to live in unaccompanied housing. Requirements vary by service. Army and Marine Corps: E-1 to E-5. Navy: E-1 to E-3, E-4 with fewer than four years of service. Air Force and Space Force: E-1 to E-3, E-4 with fewer than three years of service.*

Link to MOAA's issue paper [https://www.moaa.org/uploadedfiles/content/take\\_action/2025-aia-participant-documents/unaccompaniedhousingimprovements\\_issuepaper.pdf](https://www.moaa.org/uploadedfiles/content/take_action/2025-aia-participant-documents/unaccompaniedhousingimprovements_issuepaper.pdf)





## MVC-MOAA 2025 Events-Calendar

| DATE   | LOCATION  | EVENT / SPEAKER / TOPIC  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Sat. Apr 26</b><br>1:30pm-3:30pm                      | <b>Byrd Library</b>   | Scholarship Candidate Interviews.  |
| <b>Wed. May 7</b><br>7 pm-9 pm                           | <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 10</b><br>11 am-1 pm                         | <b>TBD</b>  | <b>Lunch brunch. (Speaker TBD)</b><br><br><i>Lunch served at 11:30 am, Speaker to follow.</i>  |
| <b>Wed. Sep 3</b><br>7 pm-9 pm                           | <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 24</b><br><b>(Tentative)</b><br>6 pm-9 pm    | <b>TBD</b>  | <b>Dinner. Speaker TBD.</b> <i>Social Hour (Cash Bar) 6-7 pm. Buffet served at 7 pm, Speaker at 8 pm.</i>  |
| <b>Wed. Oct 1</b><br>7 pm-9 pm                           | <b>Virtual</b>  | <b>BOD Meeting.</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> QTR VCOC report; Legislative Cmte proposes Natl objectives;  |
| <b>Fri. Oct 24</b><br>8 am-1pm                           | <b>Wells Field House, 1814 Goethals Rd, Ft Belvoir</b>                | <b>Fort Belvoir Annual Retiree Appreciation Day</b>  |
| <b>Sat. Nov 15</b><br>11 am-1 pm                         | <b>Glory Days</b><br>3141 Duke St<br>Alexandria Commons Shopping Mall | <b>Lunch/Brunch. Annual Business Meeting. Speaker TBD.</b><br><br><i>Lunch served at 11:30 am. Officer Installation and Speaker to follow.</i>   |
| <b>Sat. Dec 13</b><br><b>(Tentative)</b><br>9:30 am-3 pm | <b>Alexandria Natl Cemetery; Social</b>                               |  <b>Wreath Laying</b>  <b>Holiday Social</b><br>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 a place to be determined. |



**VCOC 2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER MEETING**  
**Wednesday April 15, 2025**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**NOTES**

**President's Report**

- COL Diana Kupchella, USAF (Ret) welcomed everyone. Currently there are still vacant positions including First VP, Secretary, and Chaplain for this current year. A question was asked job descriptions for officer positions, and the President reported these descriptions are on the VCOC website. New nominations for President, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP and Treasurer positions are requested by the July 2025 Q3 Meeting for the 2026-2027 calendar years.
- President Kupchella reported that she and 3<sup>rd</sup> VP COL Monti Zimmerman attended the National MOAA Advocacy in Action Meeting last week in Washington DC. She thanked COL Zimmerman, and he has indicated his intent to step down from the 3<sup>rd</sup> VP at the end of this term/the 2025 calendar year.
- The President reported that the VA Council was well represented with 5 Star MOAA Harris Communication and Level of Excellence (LOE) Awards. Awards will be mailed to the individual chapters.

**Treasurer's Report**

- MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret) reviewed the distributed VCOC Q1 2025 Financial Report highlighting recent activities.
- Income: included \$997.70 in dues collected. She mentioned needing a current contact for the Potomac chapter as she has not been successful in reaching anyone at the chapter. John Down referred her to the last available VCOC Directory. Greg Frederick will provide her with a current dues contact for the George C Marshall chapter. Income also included a \$800 grant was received from National MOAA.
- Expenses: included total of \$452.88 largely for awards/mementos and travel. The annual consulting fee for the website previously paid to Network Solutions not deemed unnecessary for this year.

**Membership and Chapter Affairs**

- CDR John Prevar, USN (Ret) – Reported VCOC 2024 collective chapters' membership was currently 1154 and down 363 members from last year. He urged continued member recruitment efforts and acknowledged related challenges. The bi-annual chapter reports are due the 6<sup>th</sup> of July. Please send all chapter reports to President, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP (membership), and Treasurer.

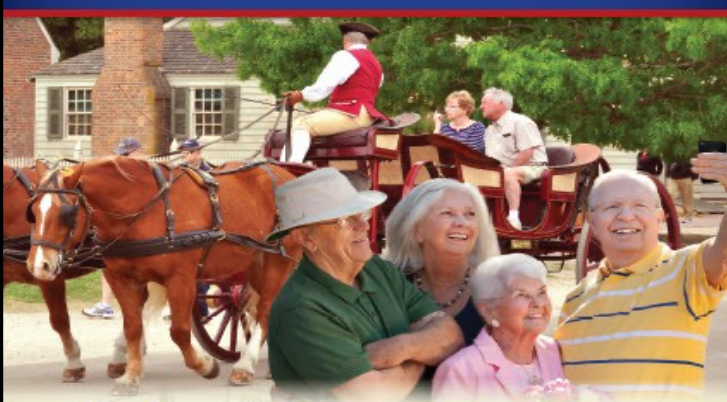
**Legislative Affairs**

- COL Monti Zimmerman, USA (Ret) - Reported on the busy week with Advocacy in Action in DC. MOAA's five main 2025 legislative advocacy issues include: 1) Unaccompanied Housing Improvements, 2) Ending The Wait (Toxic Exposure Coverage) Improvements, 3) Military Spouse Hiring Act, 4) Military Health System Access to Care, and 5) Veterans Caregiver Support Improvements Legislation.

**New Business:** Congressional Luncheon – will not be happening due to focus on Biennial Meeting and other priorities.



...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](mailto: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](http://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.



## Indian River Colony Club

The Place Patriots Call Home  
55+ Community

Call Today! 877-272-5545

**3 Day / 2 Night Getaway Package!**  
Golf, Tennis, Fine Dining and Hotel  
**ONLY \$99\***  
\*per person




- Single Family Homes
- Private Golf Course
- Private Country Club
- Maintenance Free Living

[www.IndianRiverColonyClub.com/usmilitary](http://www.IndianRiverColonyClub.com/usmilitary) **FOUR STAR** real estate

Indian River Colony Club • 1936 Freedom Drive • Melbourne, FL 32940




## TUOMEY TURFGRASS CONSULTING, LLC

### Sean Tuomey

Certified Turfgrass & Horticulture Consultant

P.O. Box 10403  
Alexandria, VA 22310


[info@tuomeyturfgrassconsulting.com](mailto:info@tuomeyturfgrassconsulting.com)  
[www.tuomeyturfgrassconsulting.com](http://www.tuomeyturfgrassconsulting.com) 571-212-4578




**Mid Atlantic**  
Real Estate Professionals, LLC

## Tobin Seven

REALTOR® / Veteran / Eagle Scout  
Licensed in VA, DC & MD

**SOLD By Seven** 

Cell: 703.327.6800  
Email: [Tobin@SoldBySeven.com](mailto:Tobin@SoldBySeven.com)  
Web: [www.SoldBySeven.com](http://www.SoldBySeven.com)

Tobin will give you 0.5% of purchase/sale price back at Settlement. This is real money to you. Licensed in Virginia, Maryland and DC. 34 years' experience and ranked in top 1% of Realtors based on volume. Life Member of MOAA.



**SOLD By Seven** 

**TOBIN SEVEN • REALTOR®**  
[www.SoldBySeven.com](http://www.SoldBySeven.com)  
703.327.6800



## Tuomey Turfgrass Consulting

 **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONALS**

Soil Analysis; soil fertility, soil biology - edaphology and agronomy - to include weed control and pest control  
Certified Nutrient Management Planner  
Turfgrass & Horticulture Solutions For All Seasons

**"Qualified - Confident - Recognized"**



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

**Address Service Request**

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

***Mount Vernon Chapter Membership***

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

1. By Mail: Send your check payable to MVC-MOAA to 2025 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>
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"

**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](mailto:flagbike@aol.com)

**Now and Always  
We'll be There.**



**1-800-247-2192 • [www.moaainsurance.com](http://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.**