

Dedicated to the memory of
General George Washington

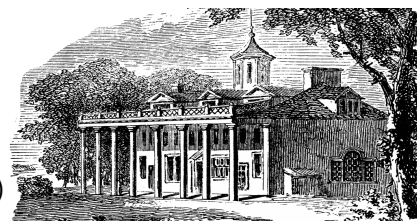


Mount Vernon Chapter

The Despatch



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



5 Star Level of Excellence



Awards (2003-2025)

Membership Appreciation Dinner A Smashing Success

MAJ Peter Chen, USA (Ret), Despatch Editor

A night of reconnecting with old friends, meeting new friends, over great food and drinks served by the Laurel Hill Golf Club. I can't imagine a better way to end the summer with the Mount Vernon Chapter MOAA.

I had been busy the past few months with the passing of my father, and I wasn't involved with the planning of this dinner. I have never been to the Laurel Hill Golf Club. I really didn't know what to expect. The first thing I noticed was the beautiful flowers for the ladies. My wife is a contracting officer with the Army Corps of Engineers, so instead of accompanying me, she was working overtime. However, when I returned home with them, she smiled from ear to ear. I am sure other ladies enjoyed them as well. I would to thank our chapter secretary, LTC Elmontenal Allens, for making this happen. The club house of Laurel Hill offered us an excellent venue for this great gather.

After we enjoyed a fine meal, our speaker for the event was our own chapter president, Col Douglas Yurovich. The topic of his presentation was about surviving a crash in his F-18B as a test pilot at Patuxent River. Since I

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Volume 53 Number 8
October 2025

am not an aviator, what I took away was that as he approached for landing, the aircraft suddenly turned hard, upside down, and nose dived. When he ejected from the aircraft, the ejection seat shot him into the ground. Later it was discovered that one of the

verticle stablizers had malfunctioned. Before the flight, the aircraft's electronic self check system didn't recycle through the checks completely, and it missed the malfnction. Since the aircraft was fairly new at the time, it was the first incident of this kind. As the result, although the investigator didn't find Col Yurovich negligent, but stated "a more prudent pilot would have reacted differently". Further investigation showed that Col Yurovich was correct that the equipment indeed malfunctioned and was completely at fault for the crash. Col Yurovich said he re-told the story to young people, as an inspiration not to get discouraged by adversity. I listened in awe. Many of our members had done things during their long and dintinguished careers. **(Continued on Page 5)**



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, 15 November. 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 2026-2027. 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.

Chapter News

I want to thank those members who assisted in the MOAA Membership Appreciation dinner in September. Well attended, and the responses I received from emails were very complimentary! Thanks again!

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, 2025, tentative times; 9:30 - 1500. The Chapter goal this year is **100 wreaths**. Last year we contributed 99 wreaths. Please help reach this milestone with your contributions! See the article in this Despatch for more information. 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 250th, Anchors Aweigh, haze, grey and underway! 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.

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

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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)
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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

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

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703-346-8347
Lt Col Jose Harris, USAF (Ret)
402-943-9722
CDR John Prevar, USN (Ret)
703-340-9587

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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)
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MVC MOAA Legislative Corner

From MOAA National HQ, summarized by Despatch Editor

What the Shutdown Means for Troops, Retirees, Veterans, and Families

By: Kevin Lilley, MOAA Staff

Currently Serving and Families

Service members will report to duty during the shutdown but won't be paid until funding is restored. Oct. 1 paychecks, drawn from funds budgeted for last fiscal year, were processed, but Oct. 15 checks won't be without funding or other legislation.

Retirees and Survivors

- Armed services retirees, to include Coast Guard retirees, will continue to receive retiree pay during the funding lapse. Officers who retired from the U.S. Public Health Service or NOAA would not receive their next paycheck (Oct. 1 checks, covering pay from September, were processed).
- Commissaries and exchanges will remain open.
- Elective and routine medical procedures at military facilities may be canceled or postponed; contact your provider to confirm your appointment. The shutdown will not affect retirees using TRICARE or TRICARE For Life benefits in the private sector.
- Military pharmacies will remain open, but hours may change.
- Survivor Benefit Plan payments will continue.
- Retirees and survivors covered under the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) won't be affected. Federal employees whose FEDVIP premiums are deducted from their federal pay will retain coverage; their premiums will be deducted from retroactive pay when posted.

Veterans/VA

The VA's contingency planning website contains full updates on the department's status during the funding lapse. Some key points:

- Health care facilities will remain open.
- Education, housing, disability, and other VA benefits will continue.
- Burials will continue at VA cemeteries, as will applications and related processing (except for pre-need burial applications). Grounds maintenance and headstone placement will be delayed.
- Transition and career counseling services will stop, and regional benefits offices will close.
- The primary call center (1-800-MyVA411), crisis line (988, press 1), and VA benefit hotline (1-800-827-1000) will remain open. GI bill and cemetery-applicant assistance lines will close.

Please see MOAA's website for further details. <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/health-care-and-earned-benefits/what-the-shutdown-means-for-troops,-retirees,-veterans,-and-families/>

They don't always talk about it, since often in our careers we have done things very difficult to explain to civilians, and sometimes even to fellow service members. I was once again reminded that I was in the company of great people.

After the inspirational presentation from Col Yurovich, Col Jerry Krueger, MVC MOAA member and VFW Post 609 Commander, spoke to us on the current status of Alexandria's Monument to the City's War Dead. According to Col Krueger, the Monument was originally established in 1940 to commemorate Alexandrians perished during the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, Spanish American War, and World War I. Until the recent years, there was no effort to update the monument to include the casualties from the subsequent conflicts. As Vietnam Veterans aged, a plaque to honor the 68 Alexandrians perished during the Vietnam War became a priority and funds were raised; it became reality on Memorial Day, May 27th, 2024, then a duplicate plaque was put up at the Gadsby's Tavern on Flag Day, June 14th, 2024. The efforts to honor Alexandrians who died in other conflicts continues. Please see the article below.



Alexandria's Monument to the City's War Dead

COL Jerry Krueger, USA (Ret.)

On March 28th, 2025, Phase 2 of the fund-raising campaign for additional veterans' name plaques honoring those Alexandrians who perished fighting World War II and the Korean War started. The goal is to install the plaque by Memorial Day, 2026, 8 months from now. Planning again is being carried out by the Alexandria City Historian's office (Gretchen Bulova et al.). The timing of next Memorial Day's plaque dedication is offered as one part of our local Veterans' program, offered during the Alexandria City's America 250 Commission's programmed events to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of our country (1776). That is: "semiquincentennial"! We aim again to also present duplicate plaques at the Gadsby's Tavern wall nearest the occasion of June 14th: Flag Day 2026.

All contributions are again to be donated directly to the City's Office of Historic Alexandria. Donation checks should be made out to: City of Alexandria, and mailed to: Office of Historic Alexandria 220 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Attached here for your convenience to permit contributing using a credit card are an associated QR code and an Internet web site URL <https://secure.ggiv.com/event/vfwplaquesalx/>. The Historian's office will issue tax deductible receipts for income tax filing purposes. POC: Jerry & Jessica Krueger, at JerryKrueg@aol.com and Gretchen Bulova (City Historian) Gretchen.bulova@alexandriava.gov



New Plaques



Honoring Alexandrian Heroes

The VFW Post 609, American Legion Post 24, and other veterans service groups are raising funds to memorialize the Alexandria service members who lost their lives in World War II and the Korean War.

MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY!

Help us to reach our goal:

\$15,000

Make your gift online using the QR code or mail a check, made out to 'City of Alexandria', to



Office of Historic Alexandria
220 N. Washington St
Alexandria, VA 22314



<https://secure.qgiv.com/event/vfwplaquesalx/>



VETERANS REGISTER TODAY!

ART of VALOR

VETERANS FREE PAINTING EVENT

Saturday, November 8, 2025 10AM-2PM

All veterans are invited to join us for a fun art experience you won't forget.

Follow us live on Facebook & YouTube channel.

[CLICK FOR MORE INFO & TO REGISTER](#)



- Watch and join renowned artist Mary Whyte as she paints a live Bird of Prey!
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For information and to register, contact the Patriot Art Foundation:
info@patriotartfoundation.org
patriotartfoundation.org; 501(c)(3) non-profit



#68435





MVC-MOAA 2025 Events-Calendar

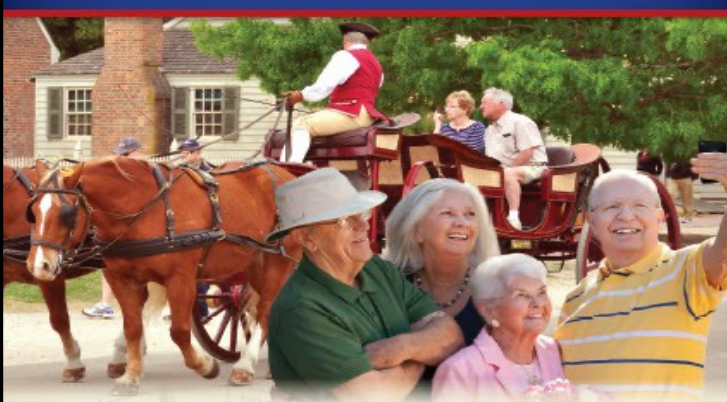


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DATE	LOCATION	EVENT / SPEAKER / TOPIC
Fri. Oct 24 8 am-1pm	Wells Field House, 1814 Goethals Rd, Ft Belvoir	Fort Belvoir Annual Retiree Appreciation Day
Sat. Nov15 11am-1pm	TBD	Lunch/Brunch. Annual Business Meeting. Speaker TBD. <i>Lunch served at 11:30am. Officer Installation and Speaker to follow.</i>
Sat. Dec13 9:30am-3pm	Alexandria Natl Cemetery; Social location TBD	 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 a place to be determined.



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- 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.

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above address or email: peter.chen2282015@gmail.com

To join the MOAA Mount Vernon Chapter, please go to:
www.mvmoaa.org

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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>
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