



FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER



THE FALCON FLYER

DECEMBER 2024



THE FALCON FLYER is published quarterly by the Falcons Chapter of MOAA and distributed to all members electronically, as well as placed on the Falcons Landing MOAA website, www.falconsmoaa.org. Hard copies may also be requested by contacting the Editor. The POC for the newsletter is the Editor, COL (Ret) Bob Manning, Rmanning@aol.com.

SUPPORT OF MOAA NATIONAL

MOAA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. MOAA's greatest mission is "to improve the lives of those who serve and their families, which is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's capital." Support MOAA's advocacy efforts by going to www.moaa.org/takeaction.

The Falcons Landing Chapter is one of more than 400-plus local organizations affiliated with National MOAA and is a nonpartisan, nonprofit veterans' association. Our chapter provides programs to support those who are serving; those who have served; and those who have survived, while placing special focus on community support.

We support the national organization through support of legislative priorities and "Advocacy in Action" and are active in our community supporting three JROTC programs, helping recovering and needy veterans, supporting surviving spouses in our continuing care facilities and providing speakers to community service organizations.

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CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER 2024

To all our Chapter and Auxiliary members and your families, Happy New Year! The Holidays are over and it's back to work for many – including our Chapter officers and Board members. 2024 was a good year for our Chapter. It began with being awarded the 5-Star Level of Excellence and Harris Awards by MOAA National for our Chapter's activities in 2023 – see page 17 in this Newsletter for additional detail on these two awards. This year we again conducted our annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day programs (both orchestrated by Dave Nordean and Bob Manning) that were well attended and applauded by all our residents at Falcons Landing. We awarded \$9500 in scholarships this year to deserving JROTC cadets and midshipman at our three JROTC schools – Chantilly Academy, Loudoun County High School and South Lakes High School. And our Loudoun Veterans and Family Support (LVFS) program, which is our Chapter's signature program, disbursed over \$11,000 directly to Loudoun County veterans and their families in need – all coordinated by Tom Grant, our Loudoun County Veterans Affairs Coordinator. Importantly, this fall our LVFS program was recognized by MOAA National as a MOAA *Changemaker* program. Howard Schue, our LVFS program director, was interviewed by MOAA National for the January 2025 edition of MOAA's *Officer* magazine. Please, everyone, see that article in *Officer* magazine – and congratulations, Howard.

Of course, 2024 also saw continued exceptional volunteer work in our Health Center under the direction of Barbara O'Brien, our Chapter Auxiliary's President; monthly Gatherings under the supervision of Ben Romero; monthly talks to Loudoun County residents by our Chapter's Speakers Bureau coordinated by Ed Post; JROTC Color Guard appearances coordinated by Joe Miller; legislative affairs activities followed and attended by



CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE DECEMBER 2024 (cont)

Jim Mullen; and surviving spouse affairs administered by Jackie Mullen.

And finally, working diligently throughout the year keeping our membership rolls up to date and our Chapter's finances in good order, are our Membership Chairman, Buddy Everage, and our Chapter Treasurer, Richard Searles, respectively – thank you, Buddy and Richard, for your exceptional dedication to our Chapter. And to Bob Manning, our Newsletter Editor and Chapter Webmaster, your work for our Chapter continues to be truly exemplary – thank you so much.

Yes, our Chapter has been busy in 2024 and 2025 looks to be every bit as busy. As I wrote in the last Newsletter, our Chapter has an acute need for new leadership – so all members, please give serious consideration to

assuming a position on our Board of Directors. **WE NEED YOU!**

And to all my MOAA colleagues, again I personally wish all of you and your families a Happy New Year and may you all enjoy good health and every success in all your endeavors in 2025.

Phil Walsh, President





***THE FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER
OF MOAA WILL ACTIVELY
SUPPORT***

**THOSE WHO
ARE SERVING**

**THOSE WHO
HAVE SERVED**

**THOSE WHO
HAVE
SURVIVED**

**MISSION
STATEMENT**

IMPORTANT CHAPTER EVENTS AND SCHEDULE

THE GATHERING IS OPEN TO ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS AND FALCONS LANDING RESIDENTS. THE GATHERING IS NORMALLY CONDUCTED ONCE A MONTH IN THE FALCONS LANDING BALLROOM.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) MEETS ON THE 3RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 1000 HOURS IN THE WELLNESS CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM OR VIA ZOOM. MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (PRESIDENT, 1ST VP; 2ND VP, SECRETARY, TREASURER) MEETS AS REQUIRED.

COMMITTEES MEET AT DISCRETION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS.

2025 MEETING DATES

January 16	Board Meeting, 1000	July	No Board Meeting
February 20	Board Meeting, 1000	August 21	Board Meeting, 1000
March 20	Quarterly Chapter Meeting, 1500	September 18	Quarterly Chapter Meeting, 1500
April 17	Board Meeting, 1000	October 16	Board Meeting, 1000
May 15	Board Meeting, 1000	November 11	Veterans Day Program, 1030
May 26	Memorial Day Program, 1030	November 20	Annual Meeting and Election, 1500
June 19	Quarterly Chapter Meeting, 1500	December	No Board Meeting
		January 15, 2026	Board Meeting, 1000



FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
20540 FALCONS LANDING CIRCLE, #P1
POTOMAC FALLS, VIRGINIA 20165



FACT SHEET 2024

[The Military Officers Association of America \(MOAA\)](#) is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.

[The Falcons Landing Chapter \(FLC\)](#) is one of more than 400-plus local organizations affiliated with National MOAA and is a member of the Virginia Council of Chapters. The Chapter is located at Falcons Landing, a Life Plan Community which is operated by the Air Force Retired Officers Community (AFROC). It is the only MOAA Chapter in Loudoun County. The Chapter is also a member of the [Virginia Council of Chapters, MOAA](#)

The mission of the Chapter is to provide programs to support: *those who are serving; those who have served; and those who have survived*, while placing special focus on community support.

Chapter membership is open to those who hold, or have ever held, a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force, Public Health Service, NOAA, and their surviving spouses.

As of December 31, 2024, there were 126 Premium Members and 50 Auxiliary Chapter Members for a total of 176 Chapter Members.

The most significant, ongoing program for the Chapter is the multifaceted local support to veterans and their families. The Chapter established the [Loudoun Veterans and Family Support \(LVFS\)](#) program in partnership with Community Lutheran Church of Sterling, providing financial and general support to Loudoun County Veterans needing assistance.

The Chapter strongly supports the [Loudoun County Community Veterans Engagement Board \(LCCVEB\)](#), whose purpose is promoting a healthy and enriched lifestyle for Loudoun County veterans and their family members through community outreach and advocacy on Loudoun County veterans' issues.

The Chapter sponsors the *Gathering*, a program of distinguished guest speakers for monthly presentations on current and past world and government affairs.

The Chapter has established a *Speakers' Bureau*. This initiative is in keeping with the chapter's goal of continuing to inform the American public about their military establishment. There are currently 16 topics and speakers available for presentation to the local community.

Four times a year the Chapter supports the *AdoptaPlatoon Soldier Support Effort*® dedicated to serving deployed United States Service Men and Women by providing ongoing care packages to improve quality of life and raising morale for those serving overseas in the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corp, Coast Guard and Special Forces.

The Chapter supports three *Junior ROTC* units in our area of responsibility: the Air Force JROTC unit at Chantilly High School in Fairfax, the Navy JROTC unit at Loudoun County High School in Leesburg, and the Army JROTC unit at South Lakes High School in Reston. The Chapter President and Director of JROTC Programs present scholarships to selected cadets at each school. In addition, the Lieutenant General John Pustay Scholarship is awarded to a selected cadet at Chantilly High School.

Memorial and Veterans Day Programs are presented each year at Falcons Landing.

NEVER STOP SERVING

MOAA MEMBERSHIP

BUDDY EVERAGE



REGULAR CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Per the chapter's bylaws -- the membership of the chapter shall be composed of men and women who are serving or have served on active duty or in one of the reserve components as a commissioned or warrant officer in one of the seven US Uniformed Services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service) or in one of the National Guard or Reserve Components thereof. Membership as of Dec 31, 2024. No new members during 4th Qtr 2024.

REGULAR CHAPTER MEMBERS (ON/OFF CAMPUS) – 126

CHAPTER AUXILIARY MEMBERS -- 50

Surviving Spouses – 48

Spouses of current chapter members – 0

Others -- 2

TOTAL MOAA COMMUNITY AT FALCONS LANDING -- 176!

We invite and encourage you to join the Falcons Landing Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), the preeminent organization protecting the rights and benefits of service members past, current, and future. The local chapters perform similar services at the community and county level, and they educate and inform members on important issues facing veterans and their families. We are proud that our Chapter has been awarded MOAA's highest-level 5-Star Chapter rating – and we ask you to join us in perpetuating that honor. As a member you will receive our newsletter electronically via email. If you don't have email access, we will send a print copy to your mailing address.

When you join our Chapter, the only one in Loudoun County, you'll add your voice to those of the members of the Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC), a statewide network of Virginia chapters.

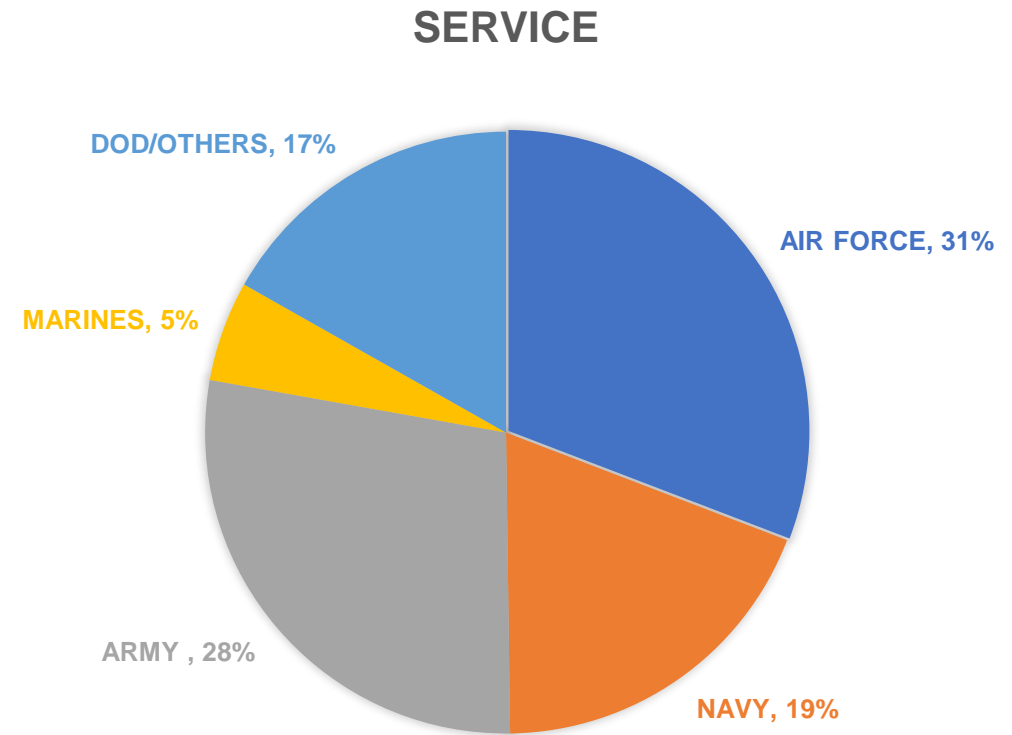
If you have interest in or questions about joining MOAA's select group of professionals at the national and/or chapter levels, please contact CDR (Ret) Buddy Everage, (703) 822-1201, beverage49@gmail.com, or fill out the Contact Form in the Contact Tab of the Falcons Landing Chapter website at falconsmoaa.org. You can also find the membership application for MOAA National/Chapter at www.falconsmoaa.org/membership

FALCONS LANDING RESIDENT POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY SERVICE AFFILIATION

As of 12/31/24

SERVICE	NUMBER
AIR FORCE	143
ARMY	130
NAVY	88
MARINE CORPS	25
DOD/OTHERS	76
TOTAL	462

386



APPROXIMATELY 44% OF THE TOTAL POPULATION ARE MEMBERS OF OUR CHAPTER/AUXILIARY; APPROXIMATELY 52% OF THE MILITARY POPULATION.

IN MEMORIUM



JEFFERY LEVY
1941 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2024
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



JAMES UEHLING
APRIL 4, 1935 – DECEMBER 6, 2024
UNITED STATES ARMY

MICHAEL NELSON
OCTOBER 8, 1937 – OCTOBER 8, 2024
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

LORETTA STUTZMAN
NOVEMBER 9, 1937 – DECEMBER 11, 2024
SURVIVING SPOUSE OF RAY STUTZMAN

HAROLD MOTSINGER
DECEMBER 1, 1931 – OCTOBER 10, 2024
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

JOHN KUSPA
JANUARY 13, 1946 – DECEMBER 12, 2024
UNITED STATES ARMY

BARBARA CARLIN
APRIL 1, 1929 – DECEMBER 3, 2024
AUXILIARY CHAPTER MEMBER

MARGARET HURST
FEBRUARY 19, 1934 – DECEMBER 22, 2024
SURVIVING SPOUSE OF HARRY HURST

FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER MOAA SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT 1 JANUARY -- 31 DECEMBER 2024

FINANCIAL
REPORT

RICHARD
SEARLES

	<u>YTD ACTUAL</u>	<u>2024 BUDGET TOTAL</u>
CASH BALANCE, 1 JANUARY 2024	<u>\$ 17,675</u>	
INCOME		
DONATIONS AND DUES	<u>15,974</u>	<u>22,450</u>
EXPENDITURES		
DIRECT SUPPORT	(15,700)	(15,800)
PROGRAMS	(800)	(1,450)
ADMINISTRATION	<u>(1,162)</u>	<u>(1,460)</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>(17,662)</u>	<u>(18,710)</u>
DECREASE IN CASH	<u>(1,688)</u>	<u>3,740</u>
CASH BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER 2024	<u><u>\$ 15,987</u></u>	

**THE DETAILED FINANCIAL REPORT MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE
CHAPTER TREASURER, RICHARD SEARLES, AT drsearles3@icloud.com**

FALCONS LANDING MOAA CHAPTER AUXILIARY

BARBARA O'BRIEN

THE CHAPTER AUXILIARY IS ESTABLISHED TO ASSIST THE CHAPTER IN EXECUTING ITS PURPOSE. AS STATED IN THE CHAPTER BYLAWS, THE PURPOSE OF THE MOAA CHAPTER IS TO PROMOTE THE PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES OF MOAA AND, SPECIFICALLY, TO ACTIVELY SUPPORT:

- THOSE WHO ARE SERVING
- THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED
- THOSE WHO HAVE SURVIVED

FURTHER, WHILE THE AUXILIARY IS A SEPARATE, SELF-GOVERNED ORGANIZATION THAT SHARES THE SAME PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CHAPTER, IT IS ESTABLISHED SPECIFICALLY TO DIRECTLY SUPPORT THE CHAPTER'S PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES.

***The MOAA Chapter Auxiliary is the Go-To
Volunteer Organization at Falcons Landing***

FALCONS LANDING MOAA CHAPTER AUXILIARY CONTINUED

MEMBERSHIP IN THE AUXILIARY

THREE CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP ARE SPECIFIED IN THE BYLAWS:

- SURVIVING SPOUSES OF REGULAR CHAPTER MEMBERS – AUTOMATIC MEMBERSHIP ON THE PASSING OF A REGULAR CHAPTER MEMBER
- SPOUSES OF REGULAR CHAPTER MEMBERS – UPON REQUEST/APPLICATION FROM A SPOUSE OF A LIVING REGULAR CHAPTER MEMBER
- OTHER INTERESTED RESIDENTS OF FALCONS LANDING – UPON REQUEST/APPLICATION FROM A NON-MOAA AFFILIATED RESIDENT OF FALCONS LANDING WHO IS INTERESTED IN ASSISTING WITH THE AUXILIARY'S PROGRAM OF VOLUNTEER WORK.

MORE ABOUT THE AUXILIARY

AUXILIARY MEMBERS PAY NO CHAPTER DUES

AUXILIARY RECRUITMENT LETTERS SENT OUT TWICE YEARLY

VOLUNTEER OUTREACH AVAILABLE IN INDEPENDENT LIVING, THE JOHNSON CENTER, D WEST FALLS CENTER, AND HILLSIDE HOUSE TO INCLUDE: VISITATION, COFFEE/MEAL VISITS, EXERCISE, BINGO, MAIL DELIVERY, NEWSPAPER DELIVERY, ASSISTANCE IN 2L INTERACTIVE PROGRAMS, HAPPY HOURS, MUSIC, WEEKEND COVERAGE OF RECEPTION DESK IN TJC WHEN REQUESTED.

TYPICAL ON-SITE VOLUNTEER EFFORT – APPROXIMATELY 150-200 HOURS/MONTH.



VCOC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

IMPROVE LEGISLATIVE EFFECTIVENESS,
NATIONAL AND STATE

IMPROVE RECRUITING - MEMBERS AND
LEADERS. WHAT IS IN IT FOR THE MEMBER?

ACTIVE PUBLIC AFFAIRS - SEEKING TO HOW
WE COMMUNICATE INTERNALLY AND
EXTERNALLY WITH ALL MEMBERS,
IRRESPECTIVE OF GENERATION.

IMPROVE VITALITY AND EXCELLENCE OF
CHAPTERS

THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS (VCOC) OF THE
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA)
CONSISTS OF 15 MOAA CHAPTERS.

THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS MEETS QUARTERLY
IN 2025: JANUARY, APRIL, JULY AND OCTOBER.

CHECK OUT THE *CRIER NEWSLETTER* AT
MOAAVCOC.ORG

LEGISLATIVE REPORT INFORMATION AND PRIORITIES

Periodically, MOAA will lobby Congress to take legislative action to preserve our retiree benefits. The probability of favorable legislative action is in direct proportion to the number of voters who register support. MOAA sometimes includes postcards and letters in its magazine (Military Officer) for us to sign and mail to our representatives (identified for us). The MOAA Newsletter may also include an online access to act. It is imperative that we do so. To access the MOAA Newsletter go to the MOAA website at www.moaa.org and select the News and Info tab, followed by selecting Newsletters.

The MOAA Newsletter “is an award-winning member-only e-newsletter subscription to provide information on topics most important to you. Whether you’re looking for updates on current legislative issues, want to know more about your military benefits, or just interested in the latest MOAA events, you can tailor your newsletter to align with your specific needs and interests.” It is included with your MOAA membership. If you are not registered with MOAA National for this, call (800) 234-6622, and you'll be guided on how to receive the newsletter on a desired schedule. Have your MOAA National membership number available. If you don't have email or have questions on obtaining this information, contact CDR (Ret) Buddy Everage, (703) 822-1201, beverage49@gmail.com.

Our Chapter periodically publishes Legislative Updates for all members and works with MOAA to recommend to members that they support MOAA legislative initiatives by contacting their legislators. MOAA staff and Chapter members meet with members of Congress annually. You may review important MOAA legislative issues and activities on the MOAA website by visiting the Take Action section at www.moaa.org/takeaction.

National MOAA and the Falcons Landing Chapter, MOAA, are politically nonpartisan but seek to remain informed on political matters of concern to veterans at both the state and local levels.

MOAA'S ADVOCACY PRIORITIES FOR VETERANS AND SURVIVORS IN THE 118TH CONGRESS

- Monitoring recent major legislation enacted such as the Pact Act in the areas of health care, compensation, and follow-on support for surviving spouses and families, and seek statutory or policy changes as required.
- Compelling Congress and VA to accelerate caregiving and whole health care services, and modernization of VHA workforce and facility infrastructure to improve veterans access to high quality care.
- Concurrent Receipt of military retirement pay and VA disability pay.
- Improving survivors' benefits.
- Repealing the recoupment of last month's paycheck after retiree's passing and continue to improve SGLI/VGLI updates to match inflation.
- Improving DIC baseline to align with other government entitlements' baseline of 55%.
- Ensuring pay at or above employment cost index, allowances, and programs necessary to recruit and retain a quality force.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:

<https://moaa.quorum.us/issue/47366>

COMMUNICATIONS

BOB MANNING

- COLONEL DIANA KUPCHELLA, USAF (Ret), PRESIDENT OF VCOC, PRESENTED THE 2023 LEVELS OF EXCELLENCE AWARD AND THE HARRIS COMMUNICATION AWARDS (NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE) TO OUR FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER. PHIL WALSH, CHAPTER PRESIDENT, ACCEPTED THE AWARDS ON BEHALF OF THE CHAPTER.



- THE FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER HAS BEEN SELECTED AS A 2024 *CHANGEMAKER*. HOWARD SCHUE, DIRECTOR, LOUDOUN VETERANS FAMILY SUPPORT, IS FEATURED IN THE JANUARY 2025 ISSUE OF *MILITARY OFFICER* AS WELL AS ON MOAA.ORG.
- ANY MEMBER INTERESTED IN ASSISTING IN THE PUBLISHING OF THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER (FALCON FLYER) AND/OR WORKING ON WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT, CONTACT BOB MANNING AT RMANNING@AOL.COM

HELP SUPPORT OUR CHAPTER PROGRAMS

Our activities, especially the veterans' assistance and scholarship programs, require funds well beyond our annual dues. Last year, we solicited donations, and your response was generous. Again, we are asking for your support, promising to apply your donation as you designate. Please annotate your check on the memo line: "veterans assistance," "scholarships," "Adopt-A-Platoon," or "general" (meaning expenses consistent with our mission). *Checks should be made out to the "Falcons Landing Chapter of MOAA"* and placed in the mail slot of our Treasurer, Richard Searles, 46874. Those outside Falcons Landing may mail to Richard at 20540 Falcons Landing Circle, #P2, Potomac Falls, Virginia 20165. Your contributions may be tax deductible on your federal return. We will send all donors a thank-you letter to that effect.

A continuing practice of our Chapter is the award of scholarships to deserving junior ROTC seniors at Chantilly Academy (Air Force), Loudoun County HS (Navy) and South Lakes HS (Army).



LOUDOUN VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT



JROTC

PROGRAMS



LOUDOUN VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

HOWARD SCHUE

- **IN DECEMBER, WE HELPED 5 VETERANS' FAMILIES FOR AN AMOUNT OF \$1,444.65 -- AN AVERAGE OF \$288.93 PER ASSISTANCE**
- **IN 2024, WE ASSISTED VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES 39 TIMES FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$11,650.37 -- AN AVERAGE OF \$298.73 PER ASSISTANCE**
- **LVFS HAS NO OVERHEAD – 100% OF EVERY DONATION GOES TO MEET VETERANS' NEEDS. WE HAVE RECEIVED AND FULLY SPENT OUR 2024 MOAA NATIONAL GRANT OF \$2,000 AND HAVE RECEIVED GIFTS FROM CLC AND OTHER DONORS. CHAPTER DONATIONS ARE THE MAJOR LVFS FUNDING SOURCE. OUR CURRENT LVFS FUND BALANCE IS ABOUT \$1,600. DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS MOST WELCOME.**
- **SINCE ITS INCEPTION, LVFS, WITH OTHER VSOS, HAS NEVER FAILED TO MEET THE IMMEDIATE NEED OF A LOUDOUN COUNTY VETERAN'S FAMILY.**



SPEAKERS BUREAU

ED POST

- **THE PURPOSE OF THE SPEAKERS BUREAU IS TO SHARE THE UNIQUE MILITARY AND GOVERNMENT KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE OF OUR FALCONS LANDING RESIDENCE TO GENERAL AUDIENCES IN LOUDOUN COUNTY.**
- **PRESENTATIONS ARE APPROXIMATELY AN HOUR WITH A 40 MINUTE PRESENTATION AND A 20-MINUTE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION. MOST PRESENTATIONS ARE CONDUCTED AT LOUDOUN COUNTY LIBRARIES.**
- **MAX JOHNSON PRESENTED “AN ARTILLERYMAN SERVING IN VIETNAM” ON 8 OCTOBER.**
- **GERRY GALLOWAY PRESENTED “ THE COMING WATER CHANGES” ON 3 OCTOBER AND “SURRENDER AT APPOMATTOX” ON 3 NOVEMBER.**
- **A NEW ADDITION TO THE SPEAKERS BUREAU IS EARL WALKER WHO HAS THE FOLLOWING PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE FOR 2025:**
 - **“SERVING AS A WHITE HOUSE FELLOW”**
 - **“YOUNG MEN AT WAR”**
 - **“EDUCATING MILITARY CADETS”**

THE GATHERING: THE ABLE ARCHER

~by Jim Mullen, photo by Alex Hild

At the September Gathering, Brian Morra discussed his book of historical fiction, The Able Archers, based on real world events in 1983 related to the U.S. military exercise Able Archer. At that time Brian was a young Air Force intelligence officer participating in the exercise and in the real-world conditions of the 1983 Soviet Nuclear War Scare that ended up associated with the exercise. Moreover, every resident present in the audience lived through the events related to Able Archer, although we did not necessarily know the details until many years later or perhaps until his presentation. I would recommend reading The Able Archers as a riveting story of your life when you were there.

The year 1983 was a period of heightened tension between the Soviet Union and the United States with strong speeches by our President (Reagan). The exercise was well designed to demonstrate our capabilities to operate in those heightened conditions. Perhaps too well designed, the Soviets were not certain if it was exercise or real.

As the exercise progressed, the Soviets actually deployed forces in preparation for

THE GATHERING: THE ABLE ARCHER CONTINUED

conflict, considering it for a real threat. There were several airspace violations and the tragic Soviet shoot down of commercial airline Korea KAL 007. There were misunderstandings on both sides. Fortunately, cool heads on our side prevailed to avoid premature real-world action. The exact details were highly classified by both the Soviets (still so) and by the United States. In fact, information was not released until a report on Able Archer 1983 in 1990 and a fuller report in 2015.

If you were not at our Gathering it is well worth seeing the reprise of the Gathering on channel 970. It was a spellbinding presentation.

Left to right: Brian Morra, Tracy Morra, Ben Romero



THE GATHERING: REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL DEBT

~by Jim Mullen

Richard (Dick) Pastore and Seth Weissman, a professor at the National Defense University, presented a “Review of the National Debt” based on their research. (Seth reminded us that his part of the presentation was based on his own research and was not connected with the National Defense University.) Ed note: If you would like a copy of Dick’s 21 slide presentation, they can be found on the Community Portal under the Documents tab.

Dick opened the presentation with a summary in viewgraphs of the National debt status. His initial slide, “A worry? A problem? Forget about it – Who Cares?” was a good opening to a complex subject. The debt is presently at \$35 trillion dollars – \$28T public; \$7T intergovernmental – or \$310,000 per taxpayer. The current debt limit is \$31.4 Trillion. A time of rising debt, difficulty in selling US debt, what happens if we default?

Dick set the stage. Seth followed with a presentation showing details on the budget process. His basic points: It is not a debt problem but a budget problem; live within our budget, politics. Seth compared this to our own situations with a household income and budget – yes, live within our means. His presentation included discussion of debt service and our GDP ratio and he noted that while we as a nation have debt, we also have assets.

THE GATHERING: REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL DEBT CONTINUED

Seth provided a very good discussion on national revenues, the debt, the budget and our changing society in population, along with some positive notes on trends in healthcare, in our revenue and tax collections, and population growth.

As Dick said in the opening viewgraphs: The U.S. economy is the strongest in the world, the dollar is still the reserve currency, and investors still believe that U.S. Bonds and Notes are a “safe” bet. Dick Pastore added in a summary point that he and Professor Weissman believe and have stated that they believe that a debt default is very unlikely in the foreseeable future but that the actions of Congress are disappointing. As Dick stated: “Not much effort is being expended to bring the annual deficits under control and minimize them. The high cost of the annual debt service is a tax that we don’t need.”

Thank you to Dick Pastore and Professor Seth Weissman for a very illuminating discussion. It’s a reminder why “The Gathering” presentations are always interesting and informative sessions well worth attending.



Ben Romero, Seth Weissman, Richard Pastore

FALCONS LANDING VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

~by Amy Manning and Jim Mullen

On November 11, the Falcons Landing MOAA Chapter, under the leadership of its President, Phil Walsh, presented a moving and inspirational Veterans Day program to a standing room only audience comprised of residents, family members and guests. The program opened with the Presentation of Colors by the Chantilly Academy Air Force JROTC Color Guard. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, we were treated to a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem, sung by Tracey Wood, Director of Nursing at the Johnson Center. Our Falcons Landing Chaplain, Jeff Payne gave the invocation and Phil Walsh then provided a brief history of Veterans Day.

The main entertainment was provided by the Linton Hall student Fife and Drum Corps, who were accompanied by the flag component of the Corps. Under the direction of Georgia Graves, the students played a medley of songs, including You're a Grand Old Flag and Yankee Doodle. In his introduction of the students, Bob Manning explained that in 2000, as Principal of the school, he had agreed to the formation of the Fife and Drum Corps and is very proud that it has continued for twenty-four years. The audience showed their appreciation of the performance with a standing ovation.

FALCONS LANDING VETERANS DAY PROGRAM CONTINUED

The program continued with a moving video presentation of the poem “I Am a Veteran” recited by the author, Andrea Christensen Brett. It was a reminder of what this Veterans Day means to so many Falcons Landing veterans and their families.

Howard Schue followed with a summary of the support the chapter provides to Loudoun County veterans and families. He reminded us that there are 20,000 veterans and families in Loudoun County. In a partnership formed in 2016 with the nearby Community Lutheran Church, we help support veterans and their families in need by working in conjunction with the Loudoun County Veterans Service Officer, Tom Grant. Howard Schue pointed out that we have never failed to participate in support of a veteran family when asked by the County Service Officer. To date, we have served over 100 families with donations in excess of \$75,000. In addition, we helped form the Loudoun County Community Veterans Engagement Board (LCCVEB) to work with veterans in the county. That organization is serving as a model for the formation of similar support groups in counties throughout the Commonwealth.

FALCONS LANDING VETERANS DAY PROGRAM CONTINUED

The audience then participated in the singing of a medley of Armed Forces Service songs, with service members and family members standing and proudly singing along for their branch of service – Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force and Coast Guard.

The program concluded with a benediction by Max Johnson, the playing of TAPS and the recorded singing of America the Beautiful by a young Claire Crosby and her father. As a final tribute, the son-in-law and grandchildren of Bob Manning wished us all a Happy Veterans Day from Okinawa.

Special thanks is extended to the MOAA team for their hard work in providing this program, to Community Life for their support, and to all who participated in making this a very special Veterans Day. Link to the MOAA Veterans Day video is: <https://youtu.Be/6acdrgradisu>. ***Please be aware that this is an unlisted YouTube link. It is not public and only those who have the link may view it. Please feel free to share with friends and family.***

VETERANS DAY PHOTOS BY ALEX HILD



Chantilly AFJROTC Color Guard



Tracey Wood



Chaplain Payne



Linton Hall Fife and Drum Corps



Bob Manning, Phil Walsh, Dave Nordean

NEWS YOU CAN USE

- MOAA MEMBERS HAVE ACCESS TO EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS WITH **EVERPLANS**, A TOOL TO HELP ORGANIZE YOUR ESTATE-WITH A FOCUS ON MILITARY BENEFITS AND A WAY TO GATHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION SUCH AS PASSWORDS, LEGAL DOCUMENTS, ETC IN ONE PLACE. GO TO www.moaa.org/everplans
- NEW FOR 2024: **PREPARING FOR THE LOSS OF A MILITARY SPOUSE** WILL HELP YOU GET YOUR PERSONAL AFFAIRS INTO ORDER AND HELP GUIDE SURVIVORS THROUGH THE FIRST STEPS THEY NEED TO TAKE AFTER A LOVED ONE'S DEATH. LEARN ABOUT ACCESSING SURVIVOR BENEFITS, HOW TO DRAW UP AN ESTATE PLAN, AND MUCH MORE. [LOGIN NOW](#) TO ACCESS YOUR FREE COPY ([DOWNLOAD](#) OR HAVE A COPY MAILED).
- AUSA MEMBERS CAN USE **LAWASSURE** TO CREATE A HIGH-QUALITY WILL, HEALTHCARE DIRECTIVE OR POWER OF ATTORNEY AS WELL AS MANY OTHER ESTATE PLANNING SERVICES. **LAWASSURE** IS COMPLETELY FREE TO AUSA MEMBERS. GO TO <https://www.ausa.org/member-benefits/lawassure>
- **THE U.S. ARMY RETIRED SOLDIERS HANDBOOK (2025)**. THIS HANDBOOK OUTLINES MILITARY STATUS AFTER RETIREMENT, DISCUSSES RETIREMENT BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES, AND PROVIDES OTHER INFORMATION, WHICH MAY BE HELPFUL TO RETIRED SOLDIERS, SURVIVING SPOUSES, AND THEIR FAMILIES. GO TO: https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Documents/static/Post/Retired_Soldier_Handbook.pdf²⁹

NEWS YOU CAN USE CONTINUED

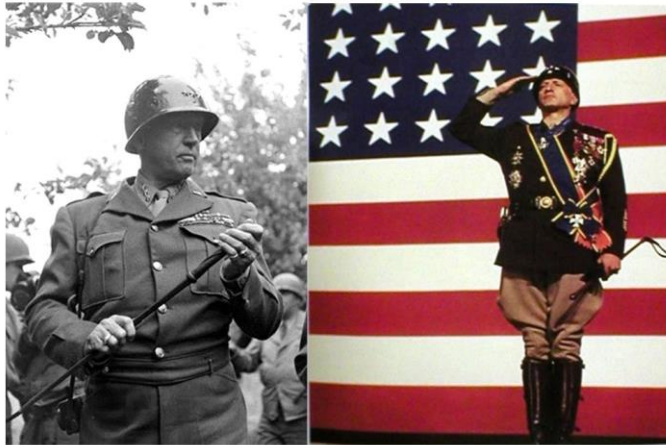
- THE 2024 MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP WAS HELD ON OCTOBER 25, 2024. IF YOU WERE UNABLE TO ATTEND YOU CAN VIEW THE VIDEO OF THE PRESENTATION BY CLICKING THE FOLLOWING URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loljSYsefvA>
- THE ANNUAL SOLICITATION CAMPAIGN THIS YEAR WAS CONDUCTED OCTOBER 1-31 WITH A TARGET GOAL OF \$20,000 OR APPROXIMATELY \$100 PER MEMBER.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATION OF INTEREST TO MILITARY AND VETERANS

- THE 2024 TAX YEAR INCLUDES A \$30,000 VIRGINIA TAX EXEMPTION FOR MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY, WHICH WILL MOVE TO \$40,000 PER YEAR IN 2025 AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS. THE CHANGE, SUPPORTED BY MOAA'S VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS, TOOK EFFECT AS PART OF THE STATE'S 2023 BUDGET.
- GOVERNOR YOUNGKIN SIGNED 20 BIPARTISAN BILLS TO SUPPORT VIRGINIA'S MILITARY AND VETERAN COMMUNITY AND THEIR FAMILIES. THIS PACKAGE OF BILLS IMPROVES ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FOR MILITARY FAMILIES, STREAMLINES ESSENTIAL SERVICES, REMOVES HOUSING BARRIERS, AND STRENGTHENS PROTECTIONS AND BENEFITS FOR SERVICE MEMBERS. MORE DETAILS AT <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/news-releases/2024/september/name-1033733-en.html>

UPCOMING EVENT

THE GATHERING PRESENTS... PATTON: THE MAN AND THE MOVIE



General George S. Patton Jr. is one of the most famous American generals. While he was well known in the early 20th Century and during World War II, the 1970 film Patton made him a cultural icon. The outstanding title performance by actor George C. Scott blurred the line between cinema and reality. Learn about what is considered one of the best war films ever made and the real person behind the main character.

Date: Thursday, January 16, 2025

7:30 p.m. - Ballroom/Ch.970

*This program will be recorded for
reprise on Ch.970.*



**THE GATHERING PRESENTS
“*Patton: The Man & The Movie*”
with guest speakers
Blane Amphor and Anjuli M. Singh**

**Thursday, January 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the
Ballroom/Ch.970.**

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Immediate Past President: Bob Manning, COL, USA, Ret., 703-543-9158, Rmanning@aol.com

***To Continue In Office Until A Successor is Identified And Elected By The Membership**



Falcons Landing Chapter Military Officers Association of America

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MOAA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. MOAA's greatest mission is "to improve the lives of those who serve and their families, which is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's capital". Support MOAA's advocacy efforts by going to <http://takeaction.moaa.org>.

The Falcons Landing Chapter is one of more than 400-plus local organizations affiliated with National MOAA and is a nonpartisan, nonprofit veterans' association. Our chapter provides programs to support: those who are serving; those who have served; and those who have survived, while placing special focus on community support.

We support the national organization through support of legislative priorities and "Storming the Hill" and are active in our community supporting two JROTC programs, helping recovering and needy veterans, and providing speakers to community service organizations.

[Click to view A Special Message from the President of MOAA](#)

Falcons Landing Chapter of the MOAA - 20540 Falcons Landing Cir #P1 - Potomac Falls, VA 20165

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All Falcons Landing Chapter members and veterans interested in joining the Chapter are encouraged to browse through the award-winning website. The website is updated monthly with current information. *To access the website, simply type the following URL into your web browser, falconsmoaa.org. If you want to access the Documents section, a password is required which you may obtain from our Director of Membership, CDR (Ret) Buddy Everage, (703) 822-1201, beverage49@gmail.com*