



FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER



THE FALCON FLYER

JUNE 2023



THE FALCON FLYER is published quarterly by the Falcons Chapter of MOAA and distributed to all members, as well as placed on the Falcons Landing MOAA website, www.falconsmoaa.org . 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

JUNE 2023

So summer is now upon us – and sports championship series and events that make the month of June so exciting on TV are now in the history books. The NBA, NHL, U.S. Open in golf, college baseball and other sports all now have crowned champions – so it's time for all of us couch potatoes to leave the couch and get outside and become the “boys and girls of summer” again. It's truly a great time of year!

In the month of May, I and Joe Miller, our JROTC Program Director, had the honor to attend the annual JROTC awards day ceremonies at each of the three local high schools who host our sponsored JROTC units -- Chantilly Academy (Air Force), Loudoun County High School (Navy), and for the first time South Lakes High School (Army). We presented \$7000 in scholarships and MOAA Leadership Medals to outstanding JROTC graduating senior cadets at these three schools – something we as the Falcons Landing Chapter are most proud of and look forward to doing each year. And, of course, our Chapter conducted our annual Memorial Day Program in our Ballroom on Memorial Day, May 29th. Thank you, Dave Nordean, our newly elected 2nd Vice President/Director of Programs, for putting together one of the finest and best attended Memorial Day programs ever.

On June 8th Bill Hilsman presented at our Gathering a very personal story of his post-Vietnam experience – the story of Bill and a number of fellow Vietnam veterans from Philadelphia who very dramatically generated public support for constructing a Vietnam War memorial in that great city. The presentation, entitled “*Vietnam War: The Last Patrol*,” and reported on in detail elsewhere in this Newsletter, was Bill's final Gathering after personally presiding over seven years of outstanding Gathering programs for our residents. Thank you again, Bill, for your untiring support and service to our Chapter. And good luck, Ben Romero, in picking up the reins of Director of the Gathering Program. Of special interest is our upcoming Gathering on Thursday evening, July 20th -- “*An Analytical Comparison of the Negro Baseball Leagues to the Rest of Major League Baseball*” by IDA's defense systems analyst and baseball aficionado Col Dick Polin USA (Ret).

Finally, I am happy to announce that, at the invitation of Commander Lincoln Smith USNR (Ret), President, MOAA Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC), our Falcons Landing Chapter will host VCOC's 4th Quarter Meeting (a very special end of year meeting) this coming October at Falcons Landing. I will provide everyone more details on this very special event in our next Newsletter in September. Happy 4th of July to everyone.



*Never Stop Serving
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**



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



FACT SHEET 2023

[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 Military Life 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 June 30, 2023, there are 131 Premium Members and 79 Auxiliary Chapter Members for a total of 210 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

MAX JOHNSON



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.

REGULAR CHAPTER MEMBERS (ON/OFF CAMPUS) – 131

CHAPTER AUXILIARY MEMBERS -- 79

Surviving Spouses – 60

Spouses of current chapter members – 9

Others -- 10

TOTAL MOAA COMMUNITY AT FALCONS LANDING -- 210!

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 Max Johnson, (703) 508-3788 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.

WORKING BUDGET FOR 2023

TOM OWENS



Expenses in 2022

ESTIMATED 2023 Budget

LVFS - \$8,525

\$8,000

Adopt-A-Platoon - \$1100

\$2,250 — Designated

Officer/Dir Ins - \$460

\$500

Gen Liability Ins - \$354

\$380

Scholarships - \$6,000

\$7,000 — Two New \$500 scholarships for AJROTC

Ribbons - \$53.75

\$60

Refreshments-\$835.89

\$650

VA Dept of Ser/Agr Fee \$130

\$130

State Corp Commission Fee - \$100

\$50

VCOC Fee - \$166

\$125.60

WORKING BUDGET FOR 2023 (CONT)

TOM OWENS



<u>Expenses in 2022</u>	<u>ESTIMATED 2023 Budget</u>
Website - \$000	\$150
Candy - \$125.90	\$150
Postage - \$48	\$50
Copying - \$27.50	\$50
Travel - \$131	\$550 – Est for travel to National Conference
Sympathy Cards - \$108.52	\$0
Flowers	\$60
<u>Total - \$18,217.16</u>	<u>\$18,895.60 Total Estimated Budget for 2023</u>

Approved for Planning Purposes by the Board on 26 Jan 2023

CURRENT BUDGET STATUS

TOM OWENS



**BALANCE AS OF 31 MAY
2023 -- \$9782.68**



**2023 SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED -- \$7000**



**2023 LVFS PAYMENT NOT
YET MADE -- \$8000**

**\$1500 MOAA NATIONAL GRANT
FOR LVFS JUST RECEIVED**

FALCONS LANDING MOAA CHAPTER AUXILIARY



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



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, AND WEST FALLS CENTER 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
- TYPICAL ON-SITE VOLUNTEER EFFORT – APPROXIMATELY 200 HOURS/MONTH

THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF AUXILIARY AFFAIRS IS CURRENTLY VACANT. IF INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHAPTER TEAM, CONTACT PRESIDENT PHIL WALSH.



VCOC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

IMPROVE LEGISLATIVE EFFECTIVENESS,
NATIONAL AND STATE ^[L]_[SEP]

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. ^[L]_[SEP]

IMPROVE VITALITY AND EXCELLENCE OF
CHAPTERS

THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS (VCOC) OF THE
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA)
CONSISTS OF 16 MOAA CHAPTERS.

THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS MEETS QUARTERLY
IN 2023: JANUARY, APRIL, JULY AND OCTOBER.

CHECK OUT THE *CRIER NEWSLETTER* AT
VCOCMOAA.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 the front desk (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 COL (Ret) Max Johnson at mwjohnson64@verizon.net or 703-508-3788.

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.

SUPPORT THE MOAA LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

JIM MULLEN

You have the opportunity to support MOAA now! MOAA has identified several key initiatives to support the military family by responding to our legislative representatives and senators asking for their support with legislation. Three of these initiatives directly impact veterans. By visiting the MOAA website (MOAA.com) you can register with the MOAA advocacy program and then elect to forward a letter of support from the MOAA website. Three items to review:

Urge Your Legislators to Support Concurrent Receipt

It's the start of a new Congress, and any legislation not signed into law during the previous Congress will need to be reintroduced. So contact your representative and senators and urge them to support the Major Richard Star Act, which would authorize combat-injured veterans to receive their full DoD retirement pay earned for years of service and their full VA disability compensation for lifelong injury.

Ask Your House Member to Support the Expanding America's National Cemetery Act

A long-term legislative solution will preserve burial with military honors for countless elderly and women veterans who could lose that earned benefit – but only if MOAA members and others encourage their lawmakers to act. Outreach to your House member will help improve the chances for the Expanding America's National Cemetery Act (H.R. 1413) to be either enacted as standalone legislation or be included in the FY 2024 NDAA.

Tell Congress You Oppose TRICARE for Life Fees

A recent Congressional Budget Office report includes two proposals among its options to cut the deficit that would increase costs for seniors using the TRICARE for Life (TFL) benefit. Although these are just concepts, not legislation, it's important to let Congress know we strongly oppose any plans to reduce the earned TFL benefit.

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, Tom Owens, 46916. Those outside Falcons Landing may mail to Tom at the address in our letterhead. 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 HS (Air Force), Loudoun County HS (Navy) and South Lakes HS (Army).



LOUDOUN VETERANS AND
FAMILY SUPPORT



JROTC

PROGRAMS

FALCONS LANDING
FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA)
SPEAKERS
DIRECTORY



FALCONS LANDING MOAA SUPPORT TO LOCAL JROTC PROGRAMS

By JIM MULLEN

According to Title 10, Section 2031 of the [United States Code](#), the purpose of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps is "to instill in students in the United States secondary educational institutions the values of citizenship, service to the United States, and personal responsibility and a sense of accomplishment." Additional objectives are established by the [service departments](#) of the [Department of Defense](#). For example, Under 542.4 of Title 32 (National Defense) of the [Code of Federal Regulations](#), the [Department of the Army](#) has declared those objectives for each cadet to be:

- Developing citizenship and [patriotism](#)
- Developing self-reliance and responsiveness to all authority
- Improving the ability to communicate well both orally and in writing
- Developing an appreciation of the importance of physical fitness
- Increasing a respect for the role of the [U.S. Armed Forces](#) in support of national objectives
- Developing a knowledge of team building skills and basic military skills

The Falcons Landing Chapter of MOAA supports three JROTC programs in our regional area, These are the Air Force JROTC at Chantilly High School, the Naval JROTC program at Loudoun County High School and the Army JROTC Program at South Lakes High School.

The NJROTC program in Sterling was established on 2009 and is the only JROTC program in Loudoun County. It is open to all high school students across the district. The unit has about 200 students including approximately 90 students who have transferred from other high schools across the County. The LCHS NJROTC Unit's eight extra-curricular teams practice before school and compete with similar teams from other JROTC units across the area and nation. Teams include Drill/Color Guard, Fitness, Academic, Orienteering (point-to-point terrain navigation race), CyberPatriot (cybersecurity STEM program), SeaPerch (underwater robotics STEM program), and Drones (flight STEM program).

Chantilly High School in Fairfax County is a public school that specializes in STEM based programs. There are approximately two dozen different STEM programs at Chantilly and one of them is the Air Force JROTC. There are approximately 150 cadets drawn from 14 high schools in Fairfax. JROTC is a four-year program at Chantilly. Year one for example focuses on citizenship, character development, leadership, teamwork, self-discipline, critical thinking, communication and organizational skills with a study of the fundamental aspects of health, wellness, and physical fitness. Course study includes an overview of aviation history, the study of military customs, drill, and the proper wear of the Air Force uniform. Graduates have many options after graduation but of course that includes career exploration and reviews possible life experiences in the Air Force through service academies, ROTC at other universities or enlistment in the Air Force.

The Army JROTC at South Lakes High School is the newest program supported by our MOAA chapter, although the program has existed for a number of years with support from another MOAA chapter until this year. Army JROTC program provides a four-year, sequential program of instruction that emphasizes academic preparation, citizenship, leadership, and character development for all students in grades 9 - 12. The sequence of courses is progressive and builds upon the previous year's curriculum.

Our Chapter supports the programs at all three schools and MOAA members frequently attend JROTC events including JROTC dinners, military reviews, and other related activities. We have also used JROTC color guards at several Falcons Landing events. Falcons Landing MOAA is also pleased to be able to provide several scholarships for graduating seniors including both \$1000 and \$500 scholarships. This is the first year that we have had support for the Army JROTC program and the first year we are providing scholarships to them as well as to the other two programs. We also provide a MOAA Leadership Medal to the outstanding rising senior at each school.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that we have been able to support these JROTC programs in this region and we look forward to a continued long-term support to the programs and to the JROTC cadets. We would also like to recognize Stan King for his number of years of support to JROTC on our MOAA staff and to Joe Miller who has assumed the responsibility of JROTC program support on our chapter staff.

JROTC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2023



AFROTC CHANTILLY ACADEMY

Cadet Brandon Kwon (LTG John Pustay Scholarship, \$1000)

Cadet Leila Timm (Col Lowell Jones Scholarship, \$1000)

Cadet Dorna Zolfaghari, MOAA Chapter Scholarship, \$500)

Cadet Deborah Chung, MOAA Chapter Scholarship, \$500)

NJROTC LOUDOUN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Cadet Ann Frost (MOAA Chapter Scholarship, \$1000)

Cadet Gabe Du Plessis (MOAA Chapter Scholarship, \$1000)

Cadet Kathryn Homa (CAPT Dale Reed Scholarship, \$500)

Cadet Luke Beaupre (MOAA Chapter Scholarship, \$500)

AJROTC SOUTH LAKES HIGH SCHOOL

Cadet Andrew Silva (COL Herb Stern Scholarship, \$500)

Cadet Erika Ramos (MOAA Chapter Scholarship, \$500)



MOAA JROTC AWARDS FOR 2023



The MOAA Junior ROTC (JROTC) awards program recognizes an outstanding cadet or midshipman in his or her next-to-last year in the program who has demonstrated exceptional potential for military leadership. The medal cannot be used for any other purpose. All military services officially have approved the medal for presentation.



The President, Falcons Landing Chapter of MOAA, Phil Walsh, presented the following cadets the MOAA JROTC Award at their respective annual awards ceremony:

Cadet Simon Lee (AFROTC)

Chantilly Academy

Cadet Elizabeth Tafe (NJROTC)

Loudoun County High School

Cadet Zaine Hay (AJROTC)

South Lakes High School



JROTC AWARDS CEREMONIES MAY 2023



**AFJROTC
CHANTILLY HIGH SCHOOL**



**NJROTC
LOUDOUN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL**



**AJROTC
SOUTH LAKES HIGH SCHOOL**

THE GATHERING: AIR REFUELING...A BRIEF HISTORY

~ by Jim Mullen, photo by Jackie Mullen

Falcons Landing residents, several with personal air refueling experiences as pilot, crew or passenger, joined our guest speaker USAF Colonel (Ret) Scott Willey at the April Gathering to review the story of the evolution, from 1921 to today, of an indispensable feature of modern warfare—refueling both strategic and tactical airpower assets in the air to allow power projection over greater distance and shorter time. Scott Willey mentioned resident Jim Hawkins, a B-52 pilot who circled the world staying aloft for 47 hours and covering 23,000 miles. But it did not start that way as pilots looked for ways to refuel while aloft. It started in 1921 with the physical transfer of a can of gas passed from one plane to another with both in the air and was followed in 1923 by the use of a hose to transfer gas between two planes to get 6 hours airborne for the second plane. These efforts were still mostly experimental and did not result in combat use in either WWI or WWII, but progress continued in the development of refueling techniques and modification. There was finally a refueling carried out in a combat mission in Korea in 1950 which allowed the mission planes to stay aloft for 10 hours. Col. Willey went on to describe developments in techniques and modifications to aircraft to include booms and controls for transfer from tanker aircraft (example the KC-135) to mission aircraft and from engine powered planes to jets as well as modifications to support the special design of mission aircraft, including helicopters, of Air Force, Navy and Marines. Work continues even today on design and development of refueling capabilities. The near future includes the introduction of uncrewed tankers and exploration to support the capability of extending the range of long-range missiles and even the possibility of electric powered airplanes and recharging techniques. Thank you to our guest speaker. Colonel (Ret) Scott Willey served from the squadron level through the Office of Secretary of Defense in acquisition, maintenance, operational requirements, and education. He managed the KC-10 tanker program in the Pentagon and commanded a KC-10 maintenance squadron. He was a National Air and Space Museum docent volunteer restorer for 45 years.



Pictured l to r: Bill Hilsman, Mike Nelson, Scott Willey, Paul Shall, Mark Jones, Joe Cestaro, Allison and Rob Hickey

THE LAST PATROL- A GATHERING PRESENTATION

by Jim Mullen

The guest speaker for the Gathering on 8 June was Bill Hilsman, our Gathering Chairman for over seven years. Since the focus this year is on the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, it was very appropriate to focus on the events related to “The Last Patrol”. As military veterans returned from service in Vietnam, they found that the Vietnam War was not popular on many fronts and the veterans faced some hostility. I can relate to that! Nine veterans in Philadelphia decided to respond by creating a memorial to native Philadelphian military who lost their lives in Vietnam. There were approximately 600 deceased veterans from Philadelphia whose names were on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington. The Last Patrol veterans would raise the funds for their memorial by walking from the Vietnam Memorial in Washington DC to Philadelphia- a walk of about 150 miles that would take about 6 days! At about the same time LTG Bill Hilsman had retired from the military and was moving to Philadelphia to join a private company for a new phase in his life. One of the people he had met as he came to the city was the city manager who suggested that General Hilsman might be able to help these veterans in their organization and fund raising for the memorial. So, Bill Hilsman did exactly that. In fact, the members of the Last Patrol asked Bill to join them to make 10 marchers (The 11th member position in the Patrol would be the designated missing member!). One of the first things he did was to invite a friend to provide a speech in Philadelphia to help raise funds. The friend was General Al Haig! That speech was a boost to the fund raising.

As the group prepared for the upcoming walk, they decided to march about 25 miles each day, to bivouac at night and have an evening meal and then to continue each day. They also went to the Vietnam Memorial and copied the names of the deceased Philadelphia military from the Memorial wall with the intent of bringing the names back to Philadelphia packed in an ammo box. There were a few pluses and minuses along the way. First, the team was associated with the Philadelphia Gold Star Mothers which was a plus for recognition and respect. The marchers faced the likelihood of sore feet and related issues, but they were joined in their march by a local foot doctor who happened to be the podiatrist for the US Olympic Walking Team and who stayed with them and helped them alleviate that issue. They also were joined in support by members of a National Guard reserve unit who agreed to support their bivouac each night and to prepare the evening meals. They attracted the attention of a local newscaster, Steve Bell, from Philadelphia Channel 3 who broadcast updates on their progress in news broadcasts. This created a large amount of interest from local residents, and as the walk progressed, there was an increasing presence on the sidewalks along the way. On the minus side they found that hiking along the local highways created a potential issue for traffic and along the route there was concern from local police who needed to control traffic. With positive military planning the walking team managed to work their way past that problem and reached Philadelphia without incident.

Reaching Philadelphia, they ended up with a march into the city starting from an area near the museum (think Rocky). By this time the march had expanded from the marching veterans to include tanks from a local reserve unit, and 600 plus walkers from the Father Judge High School. The walkers each carried a small sign with the name of one of the Philadelphia veterans from the Vietnam Wall. It was a very moving event.

They also succeeded in raising more than the funds necessary for their planned memorial and today there is a very excellent memorial and park to fallen Vietnam veterans in Philadelphia with annual memorial events held there. All from the efforts of nine veterans who wanted to show their support to their fallen comrades.

It is also fair to say that among the pluses and minuses of the event was the addition of Bill Hilsman as the tenth member of the patrol! Falcons Landing is also fortunate for his conduct of our outstanding Gathering presentations for over seven years. Thank you!

The Gathering Presents...

The Last Patrol:

“Guest Speaker, Resident Bill Hilsman (LTG, U.S. Army, Retired)”

Who served with the first infantry in Vietnam and after retirement was drafted by the last patrol as the 10th man was drafted by the last patrol as the 10th man.

The story of 9 young men, enlisted Vietnam Veterans from Philadelphia, who came home to a country who treated them very badly. They called them names, even spit on them and would not hire them back to their past jobs. They decided to raise funds and build a monument to those who never came back. They had to raise over one million dollars and they did!

THURSDAY, JUNE 8
7:30 P.M.
BALLROOM/CH.970

DONUT DOLLIES SERVE UP A BOOST TO MORALE

by Don Vaughan

View the full article and other articles as part of the Unchronicled Vietnam series at

<https://www.moaa.org/micro/vietnam-unchronicled/vietnam-unchronicled-landing-page/>

For American personnel serving in Vietnam, one of the most popular reminders of home was a visit from the blue-uniformed young women affectionately known as “Donut Dollies.” The 627 always-upbeat Red Cross volunteers served in Vietnam, boosting morale with a song, a board game, or often just a smile.

Donut Dollies date back to World War II, when teams of female Red Cross volunteers visited soldiers in the field with special clubmobiles that carried coffee and doughnuts. They did it again during the Korean War, at one point turning out a staggering 20,000 doughnuts a day for American soldiers arriving in Pusan."

Donut Dollies logged more than 2 million miles by jeep, deuce-and-a-half, and helicopter, visiting troops in some of the country's most remote and dangerous regions. But it was in Vietnam that Donut Dollies — officially known as Supplemental Recreational Activities Overseas (SRAO) program staff — were most visible.

To serve in Vietnam, SRAO applicants had to be female, between 21 and 24 years old, college graduates, and single, notes Jeanne Christie, who in 1967 served as a Donut Dolly in Nha Trang, Da Nang, and Phan Rang. Two intense weeks were spent in Washington, D.C., learning military branches and ranks, what to expect in-country, and more before shipping out.

A LETTER FROM HOME

The job of Donut Dollies in Vietnam was to boost morale among U.S. fighting forces, and no American firebase was too far for them to visit. They brought board games, records, treats, and more in an effort to provide weary, homesick servicemembers a few minutes of respite. They also visited with the wounded in base hospitals. The one

‘thing they didn’t do — despite their nickname — was pass out doughnuts. “People have asked if we gave out doughnuts in Vietnam,” said Joann Puffer Kotcher, who served as a Donut Dolly in Korea and in Vietnam. “In the words of one mess sergeant: ‘No. In Vietnam, it was too damn hot to make them.’ ” But she knew their visits made a difference to the troops. “Veterans tell me my visits were ‘a letter from home,’” she said. “When they saw me, they knew there was someone ‘back in the world’ who cared about them.”

Danger was a constant for Donut Dollies in Vietnam. “I assured my family that I wasn’t going to be in danger; I couldn’t have been more wrong,” said Kotcher, author of [*Donut Dolly: An American Red Cross Girl’s War in Vietnam*](#) (University of North Texas Press). “I was almost killed at least six times. One time, a sniper shot at me and missed. Another time, an ambush missed me.” Three Donut Dollies died in Vietnam over the course of the program.

Donut Dollies pose in Da Nang, Vietnam, in 1970. Photo: *The Washington Post/Contributor/Getty Images*. Top: Joann Puffer Kotcher stands with U.S. servicemembers in the chow line. She served with the Donut Dollies in Vietnam from 1966-67. Photo: *Courtesy Joann Puffer Kotcher*.



IMPORTANT CHAPTER EVENTS AND SCHEDULE

THE GATHERING IS OPEN TO ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS AND FALCONS LANDING RESIDENTS, NORMALLY ONE EVENT PER 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.

2023 MEETING DATES

January 4	Annual Meeting, 1530	July	No Board Meeting
January 26	Board Meeting, 1000	August 17	Board Meeting, 1000
February 16	Board Meeting, 1000	September 21	Quarterly Chapter Meeting, 1430
March 16	Quarterly Chapter Meeting, 1430	October 19	Board Meeting, 1000
April 20	Board Meeting, 1000	November 10	Veterans Day Program, 1030
May 18	Board Meeting, 1000	November 16	Annual Meeting and Election, 1900
May 30	Memorial Day Program, 1030	December	No Board Meeting
June 16	Quarterly Chapter Meeting, 1430		

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*Preparing to step down



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, COL Max Johnson, 703-508-3788, mwjohnson64@verizon.net*