



# The Communiqué

Southwest Virginia Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America



A Five-Star Chapter

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 2

ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

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## THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'

Over the last year, the COVID-19 pandemic has challenged everyone to embrace a “new normal” – wearing masks, social distancing, working remotely and limiting contact with family and friends. Now, as mask mandates are lifting and signs of normalcy return, you may be feeling an array of new emotions. Relief that kids are back in school or that most Americans are vaccinated, but also overwhelmed by this transition to a new normal.

You may also be feeling some anxiety about the resumption of previously enjoyed activities. People often remark that they cannot wait to “return to normal.” Normal is a bit of a myth. Neurobiologically, normal is the label that we put on repeated patterns and routines, so as those patterns change, so too does our normal. We went through an unprecedented pandemic and it’s completely appropriate to feel anxious as we move into new stages. With the onset of the pandemic, we adjusted to wearing masks and social distancing. These safety practices became our normal as we navigated an unsafe and changing world. Now, as we enter a new phase in the pandemic, we have the opportunity to adjust these patterns and routines. It might feel scary to take off your mask or hug a relative. So much has happened and as we take inventory of this change, we might ask ourselves, “Where do we go from here?” During the past years, many industries have adjusted and made significant alterations to the ways that they do things: Restaurants reinvented themselves, schools pivoted to online learning, and many companies changed the way they did business. As we take inventory of what has changed, we need to create space to acknowledge how we feel about those changes, and then determine how we want to live in light of the past year. This may include setting different limits, prioritizing our wellbeing, and maintaining or ending practices that developed the pandemic. Tuning into our comfort zone and tending to our emotions, we can take this opportunity to move forward in a holistic way, taking small steps and calibrating how fast we want to go. You might not want to shift from having limited social interactions to a full social calendar overnight. We are readjusting to how we relate to each other and live our daily lives and it is okay to only do what feels right for you. If we take the time to move through the grief from the experiences of the past year, honor the anxieties or worries that arise as we begin to build a new normal, we might more fully experience the relief from the pandemic becoming less of our everyday reality.

People are striving for more normal life yet many are averse to uncertainty. In a January Monmouth poll, 28 percent of Americans said the country would “never” get the outbreak under control and return to normal — up from 9 percent in March 2021.

An Axios/Ipsos poll taken about the same time found that 61 percent believe the vaccine allowed them to return to something like their pre-covid routine. And a KFF poll found that 77 percent of Americans believe most people will inevitably develop covid-19 anyway, a sentiment that crosses party lines.

Today, while the virus hasn’t been vanquished, we know this: It no longer controls our lives. It no longer paralyzes our nation. And it’s within our power to make sure it never does again. However, predictions of the virus’s demise have been wrong every time. Most experts have given up trying. We are just one variant away from going through it all over again.

Even as case numbers are plummeting, they are still at staggering, record levels for the entire pandemic — a seven-day average of over 300,000 on a Sunday, according to data tracked by The Washington Post. The daily death toll has surpassed the total in every other wave but last

*Continued on Page 3 “The Times They are a-Changin’”*

## President’s Corner

Greetings, and welcome to our summer stand down. No, I will not bore you with the safety briefs we all have



received or given. Just be safe out there as others have not had the benefit of military safety briefs or stand downs.

It seems like just yesterday I was writing my first column. Hard to believe another quarter has gone by already. It is great to be back meeting in person again. I really do enjoy the comradeship we share at our chapter meetings. It is also nice to be able to interact with our guest presenters before and after the meetings.

We all must commend Tom Dalzell for coming up with all the excellent presenters he finds. That said if you know of someone you think would be of interest to the group please let Tom or another board member know so we can reach out and invite them to speak at one of our meetings.

One of the issues the board and I know we need to address is getting back to having some evening meetings so those who are unable to attend during the day may be able to join us in the evening. We will definitely give this a hard look when we reconvene in September.

Covid did affect MOAA nationals “Storm the Hill” program as it was

*Continued on Page 2 President’s Corner”*

<b>VOLUME 14 NUMBER 2</b>	<b>PAGE 2</b>	
<b>2022 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b>	<i>Continued from Page 1 "President's Corner"</i>	
<p><b>PRESIDENT</b> CAPT Matthew K Haag USN (Ret)</p> <p><b>FIRST VP</b> CAPT Gary Powers, USN (Ret)</p> <p><b>SECOND VP</b> LTC Dan Karnes, USAR (Ret)</p> <p><b>SECRETARY</b> LTC Steve Jamison, USA (Ret)</p> <p><b>TREASURER</b> COL Robert F Brown USA (Ret)</p> <p><b>PROGRAMS</b> COL Thomas J Dalzell, USMC (Ret)</p> <p><b>CHAPLAIN</b> LTC Dave Gilleran, USA (Ret)</p> <p><b>MEMBERSHIP CHAIR</b> COL Robert F Brown USA (Ret)</p> <p><b>VCOG REPRESENTATIVE</b> COL Anita White, USA (Ret)</p> <p><b>LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS REP</b> LTC Robert Habermann, USA (Ret)</p> <p><b>PERSONAL AFFAIRS REP</b> LTC Steve Jamison, USA (Ret)</p> <p><b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b> COL Thomas J Dalzell, USMC (Ret)</p> <p><b>FACEBOOK EDITOR</b> CDR Lee M Ensley, USN (Ret)</p> <p><b>WEBMASTER</b> LCDR Klaus (Ted) Lonitz, USN (Ret)</p> <p><b>PUBLIC AFFAIRS</b> LTC Steve Jamison, USA (Ret)</p> <p><b>AWARDS CHAIR</b> LTC Robert Habermann, USA (Ret)</p> <p><b>SERGEANT-AT-ARMS</b> MAJ Michael Kasnick, USA (Ret)</p> <p><b>BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE</b> LTC Dave Gilleran, USA (Ret)</p> <p><b>TRANSITION TEAM REP</b> CDR Michael Leigh, USN (Ret)</p> <p><b>COMMUNITY SERV VOL REP</b> LTC Dan Karnes, USAR (Ret)</p> <p><b>PAST PRESIDENT</b> CDR Lee M Ensley, USN (Ret)</p> <p><b>SURVIVING SPOUSE REP</b> Mrs. Mary Lou Summers</p> <p><b>SMITH MOUNT SATELLITE REP</b> CAPT Richard Cocrane, USN (Ret)</p>	<p>not held in person again this year. They did ask that all Chapters try to meet with their local legislative representatives to push the MOAA priorities discussed in the MOAA priorities section of the newsletter. Unfortunately, we were unable to get on the calendars of our local congressional leaders to discuss the legislative priorities that are important not only to us but to all military active, reserve, guard, and veteran. I ask that all take some time to write, email or call your representative and ask them to support these MOAA legislative priorities.</p> <p>I was honored to be able to present our Chapter awards to the fine Cadets at Virginia Tech. I want to thank all of those who represented us at all the local award ceremonies and to Bob Habermann and those who served on his board to screen the applicants and pick the most deserving. I know it was not always an easy choice.</p> <p>Special thanks to Lee Ensley for his work on our logo. Those of you who were at the picnic got to see this on our new coffee mugs. We are also looking at other options and hope to have more information for you in the fall.</p> <p>Thanks to all who were able to attend our last meeting/picnic to say thank you to and recognize those who provided Zoom presentations when we were unable to meet in person. I think all enjoyed our time together and I enjoyed meeting your guests also.</p> <p>We have also been asked to support Brain Injury Awareness and Veteran Appreciation Night at the Salem Red Sox August 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. I know those who attended last year had a great time. I am looking forward to this and hope to see us well represented this year. We will put out more information as we get closer but for now save the date.</p> <p>I am looking forward to seeing all again in September if I do not see you at the ball game first.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Matthew Haag CAPT USN (Ret.) President</p>	
<p><b>DIRECTORS</b> COL Robert F Brown USA (Ret) CAPT Roger Burnett, USN (Ret) CAPT Richard Cocrane, USN (Ret) COL Thomas J Dalzell, USMC (Ret) CDR Lee M Ensley, USN (Ret) LTC Dave Gilleran, USA (Ret) CAPT Matthew K Haag USN (Ret) LTC Robert Habermann, USA (Ret) LTC Steve Jamison, USA (Ret) CPT Larry Johnson, USAR (former) LTC Dan Karnes, USAR (Ret) MAJ Michael Kasnick, USA (Ret) CDR Michael Leigh, USN (Ret) COL John Miller, USA (Ret) CAPT Gary Powers, USN (Ret) COL Anita White, USA (Ret) Mrs. Mary Lou Summers</p>	<p align="center"><b><u>BEHND THE COLA NUMBERS: WHAT THE LATEST NUMBERS COULD MEAN FOR 2023</u></b></p> <p>News reports describing ongoing inflation rarely provide more than a percentage or two to coincide with stock images of gas stations. For military retirees, disabled veterans, Social Security recipients, and others whose future buying power depends on a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), this issue requires a deeper dig. MOAA provides the raw material for members to keep track of potential COLA levels via its <a href="#">COLA Watch page</a>, updated monthly. <b>Stay Informed.</b> MOAA provides these updates not just for financial planning purposes, but as part of a longstanding commitment to protect the value of military retirement pay. Forty years ago, when faced with skyrocketing inflation, Congress passed multiple pieces of legislation weakening the value of that pay, including the removal of military retirees from the COLA system entirely. Get a recap of the advocacy work that ensued to reverse that policy, including the formation of The Military Coalition, <a href="#">at this link</a>. Follow the latest COLA updates at <a href="#">MOAA's COLA Watch page</a>, via <i>The MOAA Newsletter</i> and MOAA.org.</p>	
	<p align="center"><b><u>Southwest Virginia Chapter Awarded the 2021 Five Star Chapter Colonel Marvin J. Harris Communications Award</u></b></p> <p>This award is based on the 2021 calendar year recognizing the chapter for it's exemplary communication efforts, "Newsletter "and "Website" in communicating with it's members and the community. Since 2014 the chapter has been awarded (7) Five Star Awards for newsletter and (7) Five Star Awards for Website. There was no submission for the website award in 2019.</p>	

*Cont'd from Pg 1 "The Times They are a-Changin'*

winters. The U.S. death total has reached 900,000. Unless a new variant arrives, current conditions are leading to an opening up again in a way that I think will probably continue to evolve steadily in the coming weeks. I feel like people collectively have been carrying around this huge burden of worrying about covid, and it affects their lives, their performance in lots of ways. People are really worn out by that.

The vast majority of Americans (89%) mentioned at least one negative change in their own lives, while a smaller share (though still a 73% majority) mentioned at least one unexpected upside. Most have experienced these negative impacts and silver linings simultaneously: Two-thirds (67%) of Americans mentioned at least one negative and at least one positive change since the pandemic began.

Impact on relationships: Isolation for some, stronger bonds for others. More than any other issue, Americans responded by bringing up how the pandemic has altered their ability to engage with friends and family. The single-most common category of comments (mentioned by 41% of those who answered the question) centered around missing family and friends and worrying about losing touch with people they used to see in person. Many described feelings of isolation – while others described newly crowded living situations, strained relationships or the loss of loved ones.

At the same time, a third (33%) of Americans mentioned positive impacts to their relationships, including being able to spend more time with spouses, children or other family members who no longer have to spend their days at work or school. Others pointed to ways in which regular video chats have helped them connect more with distant family than they had in pre-pandemic times. Some also described enjoying a lack of social obligations. Younger Americans were more likely to mention positive relationship developments than were older Americans: 40% of adults under 50 did so, while just a quarter (25%) of those 50 and older described improvements to their relationships.

The global populous has continued to adapt incredibly well to the vagaries we're seeing arise as part of the ongoing pandemic. People have recognized, that at least for an extended period, this is the life we're living, and these are the adaptations we need to make. As predicted by many—epidemiologists, politicians, economists and even real estate professionals—the virus hasn't dissipated, it hasn't vanished, and all isn't well after a short sharp shock to our system. Instead, COVID-19 continues its grip on major parts of the world.

COVID-19 has changed our lives. We continue to see incredible levels of adaptation to the new way of being; amazing stories emerge each day of people going above and beyond the call of duty in the care of their family, friends and loved ones. During this time, it has been gratifying to see the physical environment playing such a key role and making the changes required to keep people safe and well. We must take the good from the past few months and carry that forward with us. The time to change is today, a series of small changes now will have a big impact on how we live in the future.

To be at the center of a global crisis is to be part of an uncertain future. The change that is seen following a crisis is often a result of a collective will to evolve. Situations that seem life-altering while the experience is occurring often turn out to be mere blips in the evolution of society. Raging bull markets, fierce bear markets, changes in government, famine, natural disasters all trigger emotional responses as they happen, but rarely do they lead to recognizable ongoing global change. This event, however, does feel different. This time, the scale, the level of attention and the helplessness and impact on our daily lives, may indeed result in permanent change, a new normal.

**Lyrics by Bob Dylan**

**Come gather 'round people  
Wherever you roam  
And admit that the waters  
Around you have grown  
And accept it that soon  
You'll be drenched to the bone  
If your time to you is worth savin'  
And you better start swimmin'  
Or you'll sink like a stone  
For the times they are a-changin'**

*Continued on Page 4 "The Times They are a-Changin'"*

*Continued from Page 3 "The Times They are a-Changin'"*

Come writers and critics  
Who prophesize with your pen  
And keep your eyes wide  
The chance won't come again  
And don't speak too soon  
For the wheel's still in spin  
And there's no tellin' who  
That it's namin'  
For the loser now  
Will be later to win  
For the times they are a-changin'

Come senators, congressmen  
Please heed the call  
Don't stand in the doorway  
Don't block up the hall  
For he that gets hurt  
Will be he who has stalled  
The battle outside ragin'  
Will soon shake your windows  
And rattle your walls  
For the times they are a-changin'

Come mothers and fathers  
Throughout the land  
And don't criticize  
What you can't understand  
Your sons and your daughters  
Are beyond your command  
Your old road is rapidly agin'  
Please get out of the new one  
If you can't lend your hand  
For the times they are a-changin'

The line it is drawn  
The curse it is cast  
The slow one now  
Will later be fast  
As the present now  
Will later be past  
The order is rapidly fadin'  
And the first one now  
Will later be last  
For the times they are a-changin'

**“NEVER JUSTICE, NEVER PEACE-THE FIRST BOOK-LENGTH ACCOUNT OF THE PAINT CREEK-CABIN CREEK STRIKE OF 1912-13”**

On 21 April 2022 the Southwest Virginia Chapter membership meeting held at the Hidden Valley Country Club featured a program by Ms. Ginny Ayers on her experience as a historian and author about Mother Jones an Irish-born American schoolteacher



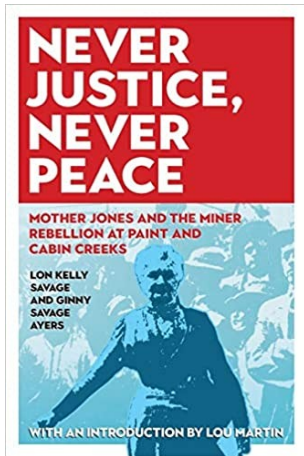
and dressmaker who became a prominent union organizer, community organizer, and activist. She helped coordinate major strikes and co-founded the Industrial Workers of the World. She was called "the most dangerous woman in America" for her success in organizing mine workers and their families against the mine owner and the mining wars in West Virginia.

As a teen, Ginny Savage Ayers heard much about the West Virginia mine wars as her father, the late Lon Savage, was working on his book, *“Thunder in the Mountains: The West Virginia Mine War 1920-21”*. Having traveled to Charleston many times over the years to visit relatives, she learned what an important story this was to the people of the state.

Following her own path in the natural sciences, she attended college at Virginia Tech, where she received a BS in biology, and later an MS in microbiology from North Carolina State University. From there she moved to Fort Collins, Colorado, where she was employed as a veterinary research microbiologist at Colorado State University.

In 2002 she relocated with her family to Maryville, Tennessee. She has taught courses in biology and environmental ethics as an adjunct instructor at Maryville College, and during this time started working to complete the manuscript on the Paint Creek and Cabin Creek strike started by her father Lon Savage. Drawing on his notes and files, as well as her own original research, Ginny Savage Ayers endeavored to complete *“Never Justice, Never Peace: Mother Jones and the Miner Rebellion at Paint and Cabin Creeks”*, the first book-length account of the Paint Creek ,Cabin Creek Strike of 1912-13.

The book, *“Never Justice, Never Peace”*, is a compelling narrative history of the strike that weaves together threads about organizer Mother Jones, the United Mine Workers union, politicians, coal companies, and Baldwin-Felts Detective Agency guards with the experiences of everyday men and women.



Ginny Ayers with a picture of Mother Jones during her presentation



Ginny Ayers and best friend Laurie Wolf with copies of Ginny’s Book “Never Justice, Never Peace.

Ginny wove stories from her research experience on the Mine Wars in West Virginia, the most contentious labor strike in American history, which is often overlooked. When it is remembered, people immediately think of The Battle of Blair Mountain and the movie Matewan. But it began long before then, in the coal fields of the New River Valley that moved less than twenty miles from the state capital, Charleston. The mines on Cabin Creek and Paint Creek asked for a some concessions from the mine operators, including recognition of the UMWA as their labor negotiations, two and a half cents more per ton from the coal mined, and their own representative to work alongside the operator's weigh men. On Paint Creek, the only section of WV in which every miner was a member of the UMWA, the miners were thrown out of the company houses, lived in tents and were harassed daily by the Baldwin Felts guards, and endured the travesties of the an iron plated steel train that was called the Bull Moose Special. After her very interesting presentation with pictures from that era and the question and answer period Ginny held a book signing with dedication for members who purchased her book.

## CHAPTER AWARDS CEREMONIES RESUME IN PERSON

The Southwest Virginia Chapter Awards Chair LTCOL Robert Habermann, USA (Ret) sent letters to the fifteen high school JROTC units, the three Civil Air Patrol (CAP) units and the ROTC units at Virginia Tech and Radford University requesting nominations for the MOAA JROTC/ROTC Medal Awards, the Southwest Virginia Major James Milton Archer, Jr. USA Award, the Southwest Virginia Chapter General William B. Rosson Leadership Award and the Major General Lloyd B. Ramsey Leadership Awards for the academic year 2022. Upon receipt of a nomination from the respective unit(s), award packages were prepared and sent to the respective units for presentation at their awards ceremony. LTCOL Habermann requested volunteers from the chapter to represent the chapter in presenting the awards.



Presentation of Major James Milton Archer, Jr. USA Award to 2nd Lt Noah J. Lankford, Roanoke Civil Air Patrol Composite Squadron by LTC Robert Habermann.



Presentation of the MOAA JROTC Medal Award to William Fleming Air Force JROTC Cadet MSGT Tyler Rokicka by Larry Johnson, Captain USA Former.



Presentation of Major James Milton Archer, Jr. USA Award to William Fleming Air Force JROTC Cadet 1st LT Cory Dickinson by Larry Johnson, Captain USA Former.



Presentation of the SWVC Chapter General William B. Rosson Leadership Award to VT Army ROTC Cadet Garrett A Lyons by Chapter President CAPT Matt Haag, USN (Ret)



Presentation of the SWVC Chapter Major General Lloyd B. Ramsey Leadership Award to VT Air Force ROTC Cadet Ethan B. Pierce by Chapter President CAPT Matt Haag, USN (Ret)



Presentation of the Major James Milton Archer, Jr. USA Award to Franklin County Air Force JROTC Cadet MSgt Mark San Juan by BGEN Roger Smith, USAF (Ret)

Continued from Page 6 "Chapter Awards"



Presentation of the MOAA JROTC Medal Award to Franklin County Air Force JROTC Cadet 2LT William Dobbins by BGEN Roger Smith, USAF (Ret)



Presentation of the MOAA JROTC Medal Award to Carroll County High School Army JROTC Cadet LTC Ayla Cayton by LTC David Gilleran USA (Ret)



Presentation of the MOAA JROTC Medal Award to Carroll County High School Army JROTC Cadet LTC Andrea Jackson by LTC David Gilleran USA (Ret)

### MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY 30 MAY 2022 FREEDOM PLAZA ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

Roanoke area veterans and friends gathered at the Roanoke Valley War Memorial in Freedom Plaza Monday morning to remember their fallen brothers and sisters. The ceremony was hosted by the Roanoke Valley Veterans Council. The council's president, Perry C. "Ace" Taylor Jr., shared the main address. MOAA SWVC Chapter member Lt. Col. Daniel E. Karnes, USAR (Ret) served as master of ceremonies. A wreath was presented, bagpipes played "Amazing Grace" and a bugler played "Taps" before attendees bowed their heads in prayer. The Reverend Morris Bennett gave the benediction. Following the benediction, veterans shook hands and embraced each other.



### Webinar Recording: What You Need to Know About Estate Planning

June 21 Update: The interest in MOAA's estate planning event pushed our webinar platform past its capacity, meaning some who attempted to register were locked out of the presentation. But don't worry: If you missed the webinar, you can click the link, [GET THE RECORDING](#), to access the recording. After registering, you'll receive a link to the recording you can access for up to 30 days. At the June 21 webinar, MOAA financial and benefits professionals Capt. Paul Frost, USN (Ret), AFC®, and Lila Quintiliani, ChFC®, AFC®, along with special guest Joseph Montanaro, CFP®, Relationship Director at USAA's Military Advocacy Group, covered important estate planning topics such as: Wills, Trusts, Advance Directives, IRAs and Retirement Plans, Probate, Estate Taxes. The webinar is part of MOAA's ongoing Fundamentals of Building Wealth series; MOAA Premium and Life members have access to all recorded MOAA webinars at any time via [MOAA's Webinar Archive](#). Premium and Life members also can [download MOAA's Estate Planning guide](#) for more information on this topic -- it's one of a suite of [exclusive member publications](#).

## TRICARE Changes, Pay Raise Top MOAA Priorities as NDAA Timeline Takes Shape

By: Kevin Lilley 11 May 2022

While MOAA's annual Advocacy in Action campaign may be over, efforts to protect your earned benefits through legislation are only ramping up, especially as the early stages of the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) process come into focus. The House Armed Services Committee released its NDAA schedule late last month, with subcommittee markups set for the week of June 6 and the full committee tackling the bill on June 22 in what has been a marathon markup session in years past. While these sessions aren't the only periods where key passages can be added to the NDAA – and while the Senate has yet to reveal its timeline – they represent a major touchstone for what can be a complicated process of competing amendments and last-minute changes. Here are just some of major issues and MOAA priorities surrounding the NDAA, including how you can help get MOAA's message out to your lawmakers.

### TRICARE Costs and Changes

The NDAA serves as a vehicle for multiple changes to your TRICARE coverage each year; MOAA outlined some of last year's updates shortly after the FY 2022 bill became law. MOAA has successfully prevented lawmakers from including TRICARE For Life fees or other unfair increases as part of the NDAA in recent years. This remains a top legislative priority, as does a push to improve the benefit on two fronts:

**Young Adult Coverage:** MOAA continues its work to extend TRICARE coverage for young adult dependents, bringing it in line with civilian plans. An amendment addressing the issue was brought up during the Senate NDAA process last year, but it was not included in the final legislation. Learn more about the issue [at this link](#).

**Mental Health Copays:** The Stop Copay Overpay Act, part of MOAA's Advocacy in Action efforts this spring, is the type of commonsense benefit reform that can find success in the NDAA process. While MOAA will continue to advocate for its passage as a standalone bill – one that prevents military families and retirees from being priced out of mental health services – sending a message to your lawmakers about this legislation will help it receive more attention as the NDAA wheels begin turning.

### Military Pay and Other Benefits

While MOAA made the military pay raise another key part of its Advocacy in Action work this year, there is no standalone bill regarding this compensation – the NDAA sets the pay increase, and MOAA has maintained the 4.6% rate set by the Employment Cost Index (and proposed in the White House budget) should be the bare minimum for next year. However, MOAA will press lawmakers to move beyond that figure as a way to address two issues affecting the value of military compensation. First, inflation has outpaced the 4.6% figure and significantly weakened the buying power provided by that increase. Second, lawmakers have yet to address the 2.6% "pay gap" from 2014-2016, when compensation increases dipped below ECI. MOAA has proposed a 7.2% raise, adding the pay gap percentage to the current ECI figure. Sending a letter to your lawmakers with that message will support MOAA's efforts during the NDAA process. Other top issues with potential NDAA ramifications:

**Concurrent Receipt:** The Major Richard Star Act, which would ensure combat-injured retirees can receive DoD retirement pay and VA disability benefits without a dollar-for-dollar offset, nearly found a home in last year's NDAA. It has gained significant momentum since then, including co-sponsorship by majorities in both chambers. Learn more about the bill [at this link](#).

**Arlington Eligibility:** A Senate amendment designed to halt the discriminatory eligibility changes proposed for Arlington National Cemetery was not included in the final FY 2022 NDAA. MOAA continues its work on preserving the benefit alongside The Military Coalition, a group of organizations representing nearly 5.5 million members of the uniformed services community. Learn more about the changes [at this link](#), and send a letter to your lawmakers asking them to use the NDAA to designate the next national cemetery.

**Basic Needs Allowance:** Last year's NDAA included this MOAA-backed provision, which would provide aid to military families with annual income near the poverty line. However, it left many details of the program's implementation up to federal officials, including allowing service secretaries to decide whether a servicemembers' housing allowance should count as income in the aid-eligibility calculations. MOAA continues to push for clarity on the benefit, which could come in the form of including the text of the Military Hunger Prevention Act (S. 1488 | H.R. 2339) in the NDAA.

[RELATED: [Letter to DoD, Agriculture Leaders Seeks Widest Support for Military Families](#)]

Keep up with the latest NDAA news and the rest of MOAA's advocacy initiatives at [MOAA's Advocacy News page](#).

**Kevin Lilley** serves as MOAA's digital content manager. His duties include producing, editing, and managing content for a variety of platforms, with a concentration on The MOAA Newsletter and MOAA.org. Follow him on Twitter: [@KRLilley](#)



## VCOC Officer and Committee Slate 2022 - 2024

President : CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret)

Second Vice President, Membership, CDR John Prevar, USN (Ret)

Third Vice President, Legislative Affairs, COL Monti Zimmerman, USAF (Ret)

Treasurer, LtCol Jim Stephan, USAF (Ret)

Secretary, LtCol John Down, USAF (Ret)

Immediate Past President: COL Boyd Nix, USAF (Ret)

Legal Counselor: COL Vince Cammarata, USA (Ret)

Chair Membership/Chapter Affairs Committee: COL Boyd Nix, USAF (Ret)

Surviving Spouse Chair: MAJ Sherry Ferki USA (Ret)

Chair, Legislative Committee: COL Monti Zimmerman (USA, Ret)

Vice Chair, Legislative Committee: LtCol John Down, USAF (Ret)

Public Affairs/Media Officer, Editor "The Council Crier" VCOC Webmaster: CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret)

### VCOC Meeting Schedule 2022

Third Quarter Meeting: July 12, 10:30am - 1:30pm, Virtual Meeting.

Fourth Quarter Meeting: October 11, 10:30am - 1:30 pm, Virginia War Memorial, Richmond, Virginia.

**The Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC)** of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) consists of 16 MOAA chapters. As of January 2022, VCOC numbered 2174 members. VCOC MOAA members also serve in leadership positions on Virginia boards, commissions and councils and other veterans' organizations, such as The American Legion and Military Order of Purple Heart. VCOC is one of the 25 Veterans Service Organizations serving on the Virginia Joint Leadership Council (JLC), which pursues state legislation beneficial to veterans.

VCOC works in Virginia to further the goals of national MOAA and the local chapters. By charter, MOAA and affiliated councils and chapters are nonpartisan.

VCOC meets quarterly, with our schedule presented above. A Chapter "VCOC Rep" is designated by each affiliated chapter. The chapter President, VCOC Rep, Legislative Rep, and other interested leaders of VCOC MOAA are all welcome at VCOC meetings and events.

On an annual basis, VCOC participates in three legislative events. First, Advocacy at the annual Virginia General Assembly in Richmond. Second, MOAA National Advocacy in Action in DC. Finally, the annual VCOC Congressional Appreciation Luncheon.

With the ongoing COVID 19 Pandemic, Advocacy may be virtual versus in person, with the annual VCOC Congressional Appreciation Luncheon subject to cancellation or rescheduling.

### **VCOC Goals and Objectives The overall VCOC goals and objectives are as follows:**

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

**VCOC Strategic Plan** - Can be accessed at [VCOC Strategic Plan 2022-2024.](#)

### BARBEQUE LUNCH TO SHOW APPRECIATION TO PAST PROGRAM PRESENTERS

The Southwest Virginia Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America held its monthly membership lunch meeting on Thursday, 19 May 2022, at the American Legion Post # 3 on Apperson Drive in Salem, Virginia. The program was to express our sincere appreciation for all those who provided our great programs over the past two years at our in-person or Zoom membership meetings and sharing their stories with us. There were over 35 members and guests who participated and enjoyed a delicious barbeque lunch provided by Mission Barbeque. Special guests and presenters were thanked and presented with a chapter mug embossed with the new SWVC Chapter logo.



Continued from Page 10 "BBQLunch Appreciation Meeting"



Continued from Page 11 "BBQ Lunch Appreciation Meeting"



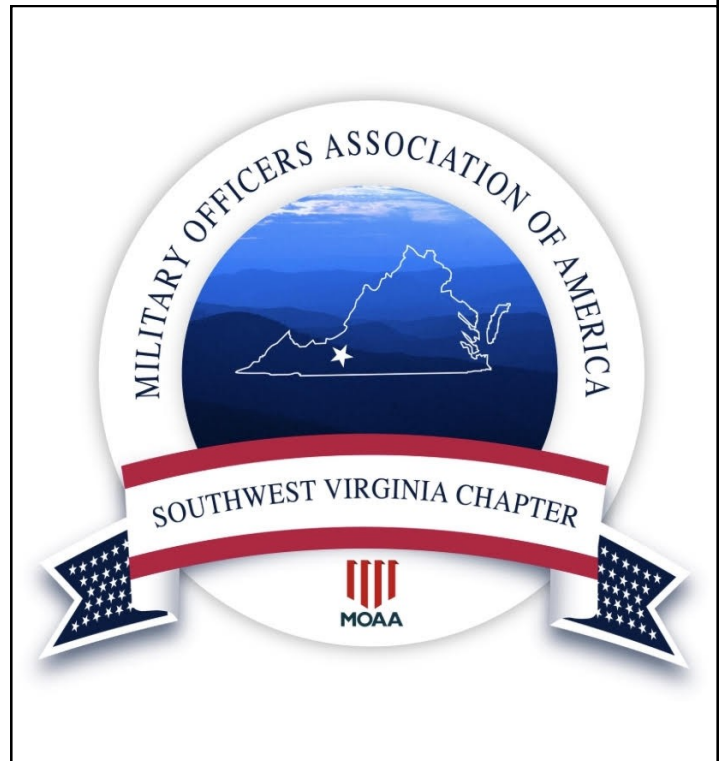
Chapter President CAPT Matt Haag, USN, (Ret) presenting a chapter Mug with Logo to Dr. Diana Christopulos, PhD in appreciation for her 19 November 2020 presentation on her newly published memoir about her father James L Christopulos (1917-2010) titled "**Combat Engineer, A World War II Memoir**", recollections of WWII, in both Europe and the Pacific as a combat engineer."



Chapter President CAPT Matt Haag, USN, (Ret) presenting a chapter Mug with Logo to Past President CDR Lee Ensley, USN, (Ret) in appreciation for his leadership during the past two years as chapter president and for his work in leading the development of the chapter logo and chapter presentation mug



Chapter President CAPT Matt Haag, USN, (Ret) presenting a chapter Mug with Logo to COL Thomas Dalzell, USMC, (Ret)



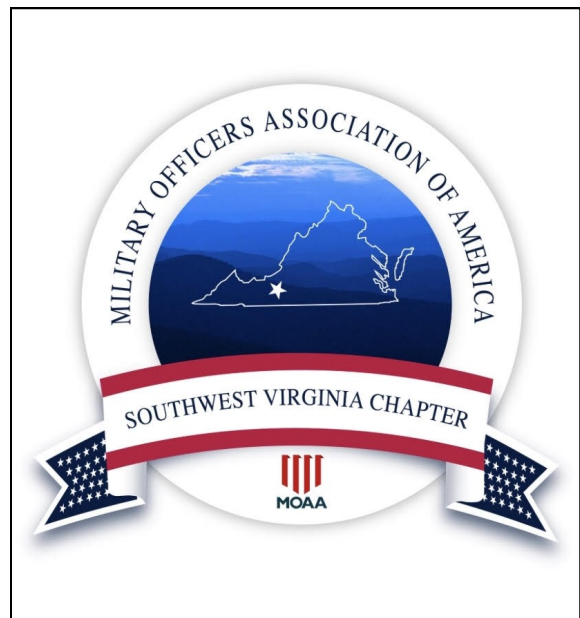
## CHAPTER ADOPTS CHAPTER LOGO

The Southwest Virginia Chapter Board of Directors adopted a Chapter Logo to be used to identify the chapter roots with the mountains of Southwest Virginia and the Roanoke Valley. Past President CDR Lee Ensley, USN, (Ret) led the effort coming up with several designs and color schemes. The process started at the February 2022 Board of Directors meeting. The chapter had run out of gifts of the black coasters nicknamed the “hockey puck” to present to guest speakers. As the chapter was coming out of the Covid/Zoom/lockdown period, the chapter had a backlog of two years worth of presenters that the chapter wanted to thank. CDR Ensley thought of all the plaques, mugs, etc that he had received over the years from squadrons and ships where he served with and thought it would be nice if the chapter could do the same. CDR Ensley offered to come up with some ideas to offer to the BOD. Over the next several weeks CDR Ensley did some “cut & paste” ideas and sent photo emails to all board members asking for input. The responses were the basis for the design as he added a bit, deleted a bit, and through a number of iterations developed a proposed chapter logo. Ideas that were incorporated included the Blue Ridge Mountains which was a big hit; deleting the rope border; incorporating Stars & Stripes and the MOAA National logo to go outside a plain circle with “wings” on the side. With a rough draft agreed upon, CDR Ensley realized that he had reached the limit of his technical abilities and that he needed the help of a professional graphic designer. Research disclosed that expense would be prohibitive so he contacted Ms. Amy White, dean of the STEM department at Virginia Western Community College (VWCC). She passed his request along to the dean of the Liberal Arts/Social Studies department, Ms. Amy Anguiano, who passed it down to her design school, who solicited interested students. Ms. Annalise Wheeler was the student who responded. CDR Ensley forwarded to Ms. Annalise Wheeler the

rough draft along with several requests and requirements which our board wanted. We set up a time and place to meet in order to finalize the logo and met at Our Daily Bread restaurant on Brambleton Ave. When we met, Annalise had already finished the logo to perfection. The next step was to get some mugs made an idea that several board members suggested. CDR Ensley worked with an out-of-town company just one of many who make “personalized products”. The company rep was pleasant to work with, although there were several challenges in this process, i.e. the quality of their print and damage during shipment. Only 47 of the 72 were acceptable. The good parts were the mugs were completed quickly and the quality was good, and they compensated for the damage. Several members wanted to buy mugs. CDR Ensley talked to the board members and the board recommended the cost for the mugs would be \$10.

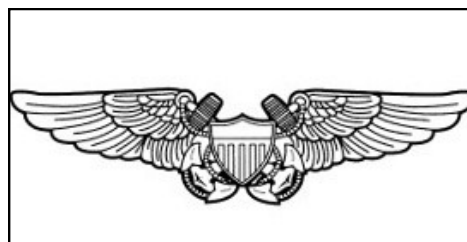
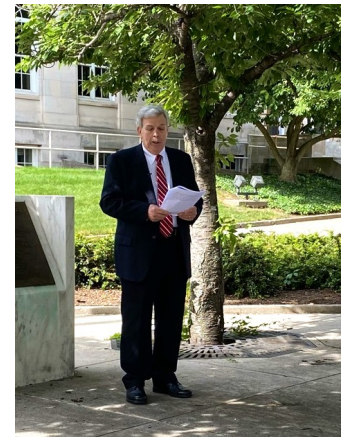


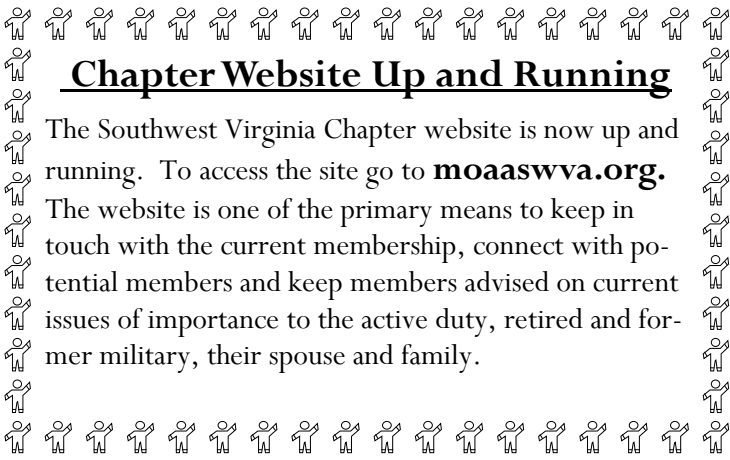
VWCC graphic designer Ms. Annalise Wheeler and CDR Lee Ensley with the new SWCV mug and the SWVC logo



## PAST PRESIDENT CDR LEE ENSLEY, USN, (Ret) RECOGNIZED BY MOAA

On Thursday 19 May 2022 the Southwest Virginia Chapter of MOAA held it's monthly lunch meeting at the American Legion Post 3 in Salem, Virginia. The Chapters meeting was an outdoor BBQ catered by Mission Barbeque. The program was to recognize all presenters from the past two years who made in person and/or Zoom presentations to the membership. During the program Past President CDR Lee Ensley, USN (Ret) was presented with the MOAA National Award for Leadership in recognition of his outstanding leadership as Chapter President 2020-2021. As President CDR Ensley showed exceptional enthusiasm, dedication, hard work and unparalleled leadership skills. He personally participated in every Veterans Day, Memorial Day and Christmas Wreath Laying Ceremony representing the SWVA chapter. He volunteered regularly with the Military Family Support Center and wrote and submitted a funding grant request to MOAA in support of he MFSC. He presided at all BOD and membership meetings and participated with great vigor enhancing the BOD leadership responsibilities. He made inputs to the chapter Facebook page and to local media on upcoming chapter activities. He was active as a speaker to Kiwanis and other local organizations and was a tireless advocate for MOAA and the local chapter. CDR Ensley worked tirelessly to enhance chapter membership and supported the chapter Leadership and Awards program for area JROTC ROTC units. CDR Ensley maintained contact with the VCOC and MOAA on local, State and Federal issues for veterans. He is most deserving of this MOAA National Award for Leadership.





**Chapter Website Up and Running**

The Southwest Virginia Chapter website is now up and running. To access the site go to **moaaswva.org**. The website is one of the primary means to keep in touch with the current membership, connect with potential members and keep members advised on current issues of importance to the active duty, retired and former military, their spouse and family.

**WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON AT MOAA**

- Legislative Accomplishments?
- Legislative TAKE ACTION Center?
- Publications and Reports?
- Military Officer Magazine?
- Newsletters?

**Log on to MOAA.org**

**MOAA Southwest Virginia Chapter**  
**P.O. Box 3090**  
**Roanoke, VA 24015-1090**  
**Email: info@moaaswva.org**  
**Webpage: www.moaaswva.org**  
**Facebook: MOAA SWVA**

**The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and the Southwest Virginia Chapter (SWVC) of MOAA** are a 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. 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, Public Health Service, or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and their surviving spouses.

**UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS**

**15 September 2022** – Board of Directors meeting. Program by Ms. Christine Tysor on the Mid Atlantic Aviation Partnership (MAAP) on the research to get to a point where drones can safely integrate into the National Air Space. The Virginia Tech Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership and the Center for Injury Biomechanics enabled the university to become the first organization to have test methods accepted by the FAA to demonstrate compliance with key regulations for drone flights over people.

**20 October 2022** – Major General Randall Fullhart, USAF (Ret) on the status of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets; the Corps of Cadets Leadership Development Program; and status of the Corps of Cadets facility construction program.

**17 November 2022** – Board of Directors meeting. Tentative - Program by Mr. Christopher Roberts, City of Roanoke Coordinator, Youth and Gang Violence Prevention. The program is designed to drive solutions to youth and gang violence.

**15 December 2022** – Program TBD – Swearing in of Chapter Officers and Board of Directors for 2023.



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**NOTE** The Chapter Newsletter *The Communique* is published quarterly and sent to the membership by email. Printed copies will be provided upon request





**Northwest Ace Hardware**  
3647 Brambleton Ave SW,  
Roanoke, VA 24018

**CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP**  
as of 30 June 2022

Regular Members 114  
Surviving Spouses 14  
Total Members 128  
Talk to a fellow officer about joining the Southwest Virginia Chapter!



**JOIN THE CHAPTER**

Looking to join the Southwest Virginia Chapter? Want more information on how to join and become involved? Check us out on the chapter website at [moaswva.org](http://moaswva.org) or on face book at [moaswva](https://www.facebook.com/moaswva) then Contact COL Bob Brown, USA (Ret), Chapter Membership Chair at (540) 904-2810 or email at [rfbrown68@gmail.com](mailto:rfbrown68@gmail.com).

**MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**  
**SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER - ENROLLMENT/RENEWAL FORM**

Name (First ,Middle, Last, Rank) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Retired \_\_\_\_\_ Active Duty \_\_\_\_\_ NG \_\_\_\_\_ Former Officer \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_ MOAA Membership ID No. \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Chapter Dues are \$30.00. Widows (ers) dues are \$15.00. Dues for those entering MOAA between 1 July and 31 December are \$20.00. Please mail dues payment to: **MOAA, Southwest Virginia Chapter, P.O. Box 3090, Roanoke, VA 24015-1090**

**Note:** The Chapter Newsletter *The Communicator* is published quarterly and sent to the membership by email. Printed copies will be provided upon request. The next issue will be published **Sept 2022**.

**Bring a fellow officer and their spouse to our next meeting.**



**'NEVER STOP SERVING'**

*Featured in this Issue*

Presidents Corner  
The Times They are A Changin'  
Chapter Awards Ceremonies Resume in Person  
TRICARE Changes, Pay Raise Top MOAA Priorities as NDAA Timeline Takes Shape  
VCOA Officer and Committee State 2022 - 2024  
BBQ Lunch Appreciates Past Program Presenters

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Southwest Virginia Chapter  
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