



# The Communique

Southwest Virginia Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America



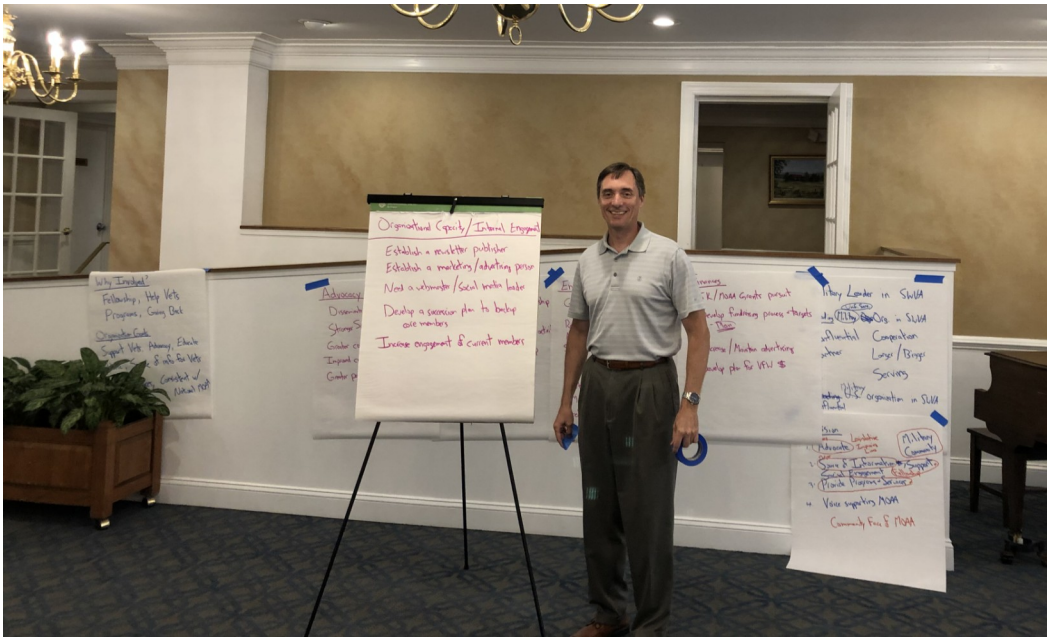
VOLUME 11 NUMBER 3

ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

JULY-AUG-SEPT 2019

## MOAA SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

## President's Corner



As you read this, we are drawing toward the end of summer and moving into autumn.

It is the time of cooler weather, football, and for those who like it, pumpkin spice. Also, it is the time for chapter meetings to resume. We have some interesting programs lined up and it will worth your time to come and enjoy the speaker and the comradeship of chapter members and spouses. What does Southwest Virginia MOAA do beside meet and eat? That is a good question. Several members under the leadership of our Mike Leigh conducted a strategic planning initiative in July. Here are the activities which SW Virginia MOAA participates in: Renovation Alliance, Awards for ROTC/JROTC, Scholarships, Wreaths Across America at the Dublin Veterans Cemetery, Brain Injury Services of SWVA, Veterans Parade, Military Family Service Center, Honor Flights, and VA Hospital. Some of these are one-time events in the course of the year while others are ongoing from month to month. The point I wish to make is this; we do more than just meet once a month. We are supporting the military and veteran community across our chapter's footprint. Considering the above, do not be

On Thursday 18 July 2019 Officers and Board members of the Southwest Virginia Chapter attended a Strategic Planning Conference at the Shenandoah Club moderated by Board Member CDR Mike Leigh to look at the Southwest Virginia Chapter, who we are, where we want to be and how do we get here. It's an effort to try and revitalize the chapter and get more members involved especially in leadership roles. The Strategic Planning Session Objectives were to Review results of member survey ; Confirm the chapter's Mission Statement and Vision; Do we have one? Decide on if we need to edit or change; Review SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats); Brainstorm and identify 3-5 strategic initiatives to help our chapter move toward its vision and accomplish its mission. Broad topics to consider are: Membership and Engagement / Participation; Community Service / Military Support; Image and Marketing; and Financial Health. Deliverables will include a Chapter Mission Statement, Vision Statement and strategic initiatives for the next 3 to 5 years. There was discussion on the answers received from Board Members and Officers on the 7 questions sent out.

**Why Involved:** Fellowship, Help Vets, Programs, Giving Back.

**Organization Goals:** Support veterans, Advocacy, Educate the public, Source of information, Programs and services, Consistent with National MOAA.

**Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT):**

Strengths: a core of educated, experienced, patriotic members.

Weaknesses: Small core of workers, No plan of succession, Recruitment and retention.

Opportunities: Recruiting, Program speakers.

Threats: Burnout, Complacency.

*Continued on Page 5 "Strategic Planning Meeting"*

*Continued on Page 5 "President"*

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**MOAA**  
Southwest Virginia Chapter  
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Webpage: [www.moaaswva.org](http://www.moaaswva.org)  
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**CHAPTER CALENDER**  
(Refer to Chapter website for details and any updates)  
[www.moaaswva.org](http://www.moaaswva.org)

**19 SEPT 2019 - 1200:**  
MOAA SWVC Chapter Lunch & Program. Hidden Valley Country Club. 2500 Romar Rd, Salem. Speaker: Mr. Seungsoo Jun, "RJ", Pastor, Raleigh Court UMC. Native of South Korea and former SGT in the South Korean Army. Subj: "Dynamic Korea". Board of Directors Meeting: 1000.

**MEMBER PROFILE**  
**CAPT RICHARD W. DAVIS, USN (Ret)**



Captain Rich Davis is the son of a retired Navy Captain and Naval Aviator who flew A-1, A-6 and TA-4 aircraft during his active duty time. As a Navy brat he grew up at multiple duty stations with his father primarily at Whidbey Island, Newport RI, Lorton VA, Virginia Beach, VA, and Kingsville Texas. He graduated from High School in Naples Italy and attended Virginia Tech as a member of the Navy ROTC program earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Finance as well as his commission as an Ensign in the US Navy in 1990. He attended flight school and was designated a Naval Aviator in April 1992. He received a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University. He is also a qualified joint specialty officer. Captain Davis' sea assignments include: Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 32 as a junior officer embarked in *USS TC HART* (FF-1092); *USS JOSEPHUS DANIELS* (CG-27); HSL-44 embarked in *USS HALYBURTON* (FFG-40); *USS BRISCOE* (DD-977) and *USS DOYLE* (FFG-39), as Flag Lieutenant to Commander Cruiser Destroyer Group Two/GEORGE WASHINGTON Battle Group embarked in *USS GEORGEWASHINGTON* (CVN-73) and as a department head with HSL-44 deploying in *USS UNDERWOOD* (FFG-36). He participated in Operations *Deny Flight*, *Provide Promise*, *Southern Watch*, *Noble Eagle* and *Enduring Freedom*.

Shore assignments included duty as a flight instructor with Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light Four Zero and as a plank owner in the Weapon Tactics Unit/Wing Weapons School where he served as Weapons Officer and Special Projects Officer. He served as an Afghanistan action officer, South-east Asia action officer and executive assistant on the Joint Staff, Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate (J-5) prior to taking command of the World Famous Swamp Foxes of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 44. Captain Davis next served as Anti-Submarine Warfare and Aviation Section Head in the Surface Warfare Directorate on the Navy Staff and Airborne Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Section Head on the Secretary of Defense Staff. His final tour on active duty was as the Chief of Naval Operations Chair, The Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Resource Strategy, National Defense University. CAPT Davis led an industry study on Robotics and Autonomous Systems while on staff at the Eisenhower School.

His personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, the Air Medal (single action), four Navy Commendation Medals, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and various unit and campaign awards. He has accumulated more than 2,900 hours in Navy aircraft.

He and his wife Bonnie, a Roanoke native, met at Virginia Tech and have been married for 28 years. He has three children, Jacob (25), Nicholas (21) and Griffin (15). They live in the Cave Spring area of Roanoke County. Captain Davis is currently seeking part time work and volunteers with the Roanoke Refugee Partnership, Post 3 of the American Legion and with his church, St. John Lutheran.

**18 OCT 2019 - 1800:**  
MOAA SWVA Dinner & Program. Shenandoah Club 24 Franklin Rd Roanoke. Speaker: Mrs. Heath Hardage Lee will speak on her book "**The League of Wives**", the story of how a cabal of indomitable POW and MIA wives relent-

lessly campaigned to free their captive husbands during the Vietnam War.

**14 NOV 2019 - 1200:** MOAA SWVC Chapter Lunch & Program. Hidden Valley Country Club. 2500 Romar Rd, Salem. Speaker: Mr. Jerry Barnes US

Army and Army Corps of Engineers as well as author of "Combat Survivor Stories".

**12 DEC 2019: 1200** Lunch & Program Hidden Valley CC. Installation of officers and Board members for 2020.

**MEMORIAL DAY 2019**

On Memorial Day, Monday 27 May 2019 **The Roanoke Valley Veterans Council** conducted a Memorial Day Ceremony at 0930 hours at the Roanoke Valley War Memorial, Lee Plaza in downtown Roanoke. The Master of Ceremonies was LTC Daniel E. Karnes, USAR (Ret) (Pictured above), President of the Roanoke Valley Veterans Council, Delegate Chris Head sang the National Anthem, the invocation by the Reverend Whitney Burton, (Pictured above), St. Johns Episcopal Church and the Memorial Day address by Sixth Congressional District Representative the Honorable Ben Cline.



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Daniel E. Karnes, USAR (Ret) (Pictured above), President of the Roanoke Valley Veterans Council, Delegate Chris Head sang the National Anthem, the invocation by the Reverend Whitney Burton, (Pictured above), St. Johns Episcopal Church and the Memorial Day address by Sixth Congressional District Representative the Honorable Ben Cline.

**BENARD L. MARIE  
35TH ANNUAL DINNER  
D-DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY  
5 JUNE 2019**



Benard L Marie held the 35th annual dinner honoring WW II D-Day veterans on the 75th anniversary of D-Day at the Holiday Inn, airport. BG Jean Pierre Montegue head of the Military Mission at the French Embassy bestowed the French Legion of Honor in the rank of Knight on two WW II D-Day veterans. Remarks were made by representatives of Great Briton, Canada and Belgium. The keynote speaker was Mr. George Patton Waters, grandson of General George S. Patton.

**THE PITY OF WAR  
IN COMMEMORATION OF  
THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY**

On Sunday afternoon 30 June 2019 the South Roanoke United Methodist Church, the **Roanoke Valley Veterans Council** and several other special sponsors provided a musical program of war-time songs from the stage and concert hall featuring Scott Williamson, tenor and Judith Clark, piano with Julia Goudimova cello. The program was followed by a reception provided by the South Roanoke United Methodist Church.

**COMMUNICATIONS AWARD PESENTATION**

CDR Lee Ensley and COL John Miller receiving the MOAA 2019 Print Newsletter and Website Communications awards



from VCOC President COL Dan Warren. The awards were presented to the SWVC during the quarterly VCOC meeting in Richmond, VA.



**MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF MERICA  
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 new members joining MOAA between 1 July and 31 December are \$20.00. Please mail dues payment to: **MOAA, SW Virginia Chapter, P.O. Box 3090, Roanoke, VA 24015-1090**

## NDAAs 2020: The Latest on TRICARE, Medical Billet Cuts, and More

With the full Senate set to debate its version of the annual defense authorization bill this week and the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) recently completing a record 21-hour debate on its version, MOAA's staff has been tracking the amendments, proposals, and changes that will shape military spending for the next year and beyond. While both House and Senate versions of the National Defense Authorization Act ([H.R. 2500](#) and [S. 1790](#), respectively) are far from finalized, MOAA has developed a chart to help chapters, members, and supporters keep track of what's been proposed.

The HASC and Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) bills included several important [Storming the Hill](#) issues, an early indication of the impact and success of MOAA's combined national and grassroots engagement with members of Congress. Two critical examples: MOAA is pleased to report the 3.1 % pay raise is included in both versions of the NDAA and recommended by the administration, and neither NDAA version includes proposals to increase TRICARE fees, or plans to alter to TRICARE for Life (TFL). Some analysis from MOAA on key issues:

### Military Health Care

While neither bill includes TRICARE fee hikes or TFL changes, DoD is proposing a reduction in military medical personnel by approximately 18,000 billets. The HASC bill contains a MOAA-supported provision that would prevent these reductions until the DoD conducts rigorous analyses, develops detailed plans describing the risks and how these will affect beneficiaries, and communicates the results under Congressional oversight. However, the Senate's version of the NDAA was silent on the topic. Next steps will be to influence key members of the Senate to adopt the House language when the two come together to negotiate differences during conference later this summer.

### Military Housing

Both versions included robust provisions to address the health and safety hazards in military family housing. With unique items in both versions of the bill, provisions will have to be reconciled during conference. MOAA worked directly with congressional offices to help draft legislation such as the Military Housing Oversight and Service Member Protection Act ([S. 1229](#)) and the Ensuring Safe Housing for Our Military Act ([S. 703](#)). Major provisions from these bills were incorporated into the SASC NDAA markup. MOAA will work to make sure the language is inclusive of other tenants, such as DoD civilians and veterans who live in on-base housing, and ensure the legislation covers government owned housing where appropriate.

### Commissary and Exchange

Last year's NDAA directed the secretary of defense to "conduct a study to determine the feasibility of consolidating the military resale entities into a single defense resale system." The Business Case Analysis (BCA) has been completed but not shared with the public, although Lisa Hershman, acting DoD chief management officer, recommended consolidation in an March 1 memo based on the BCA. The 2019 NDAA prohibited DoD from spending any money on consolidation until Oct. 1, 2019. With that date quickly approaching, the HASC and SASC versions of the FY 2020 NDAA prescribe very different futures for the Defense Resale system. The House legislation helps put the brakes on the four-way merger (Defense Commissary Agency, Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Marine Corps Exchange, Navy Exchange). It requires a separate GAO study on the merger along with congressional approval to move forward. The Senate version green-lights a merger without further review or congressional approval. MOAA has [spoken out](#) alongside its partners in The Military Coalition in favor of additional review like the measures introduced by the House.

### The Widows Tax

During HASC markups, Rep Joe Wilson (R-S.C., sponsor of [H.R. 553](#)) offered up an amendment to repeal the Survivor Benefit Plan-Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset, better known as [the Widows Tax](#), but it was later withdrawn because it was offered without a corresponding offset to pay for the provision. Wilson's office continues to work diligently to focus on strategies to pay for the offset. The congressman's bill is still in motion, as it met the threshold of support in the House to be placed on the consensus calendar for a floor vote, which will likely occur in July. MOAA staff will continue to engage congress on this issue.

### What's Next

While the Senate debate continues, the House is not expected to consider its version of the bill until July 9. Once both chambers have voted on their respective defense bill, a bicameral conference will commence to work out and resolve the differences. Concurrently, the House and Senate are also working the FY 2020 and 2021 defense appropriations bill. The House is backing a topline defense funding bill of \$733 billion while the Senate and President Donald Trump are pushing for \$750 billion topline. While it looks more likely to agree on a one-year spending bill, both chambers must come to a budget agreement before the new fiscal year begins on Oct. 1 to prevent a government shutdown.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** (Cont'd from page 1)

to tell others in our community what we do. For those who are eligible to join, encourage them to join and to take part in the various activities. For those who have been members for a while, consider becoming an officer or part of the board directors for the chapter. The last thing which I want to leave you with is the following; be an active advocate for issues which effect active duty and reserves as well as retirees. If there are action items in the MOAA magazine, take time to act on them. You can go to the MOAA website to find more information on issues if you need it. Those who are in elected office need to hear from us. The old saying is true, "the squeaky wheel gets the grease." That is true in the political/government arena both Local, County, Commonwealth, and National. Have a great rest of the summer and Never Stop Serving.

*Dave Gilleran*

**STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING** (Cont'd from page 1)

The next item discussed was about the **Vision Statement**, "What we want to be". Several proposals were put forward for the development of a Vision Statement:

1. A principal/influential Uniformed Services organization in Southwest Virginia.
2. To be a influential Military organization in Southwest Virginia

The Board of Directors recommended that the SWVC Vision Statement be as follows: **TO BE AN INFLUENTIAL MILITARY ORGANIZATION IN SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA.**

The next item discussed was the development of **Mission Statement**. On the Mission Statement several proposals were put forward for the development of a Mission Statement:

1. Primary advocate for the Military community, to improve lives and legislative advocacy.
2. To be a significant source of influence, support, social engagement and fellowship for the membership
3. Provide programs and services for the common good of our military community
4. A powerful voice supporting MOAA at the local, state and Federal level
5. To be the Community face of MOAA

The Mission Statement and establishment of measurable goals will be addressd at the next Board meeting in September.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING** (Cont'd)

The next task involved development of **Strategic Initiatives** in the areas of, Advocacy, Membership, Engagement, Finances and Organizational Capacity.

Advocacy:

- Disseminate legislative issues (**Priority # 3**)
- Strong speaker programs (**Priority # 1**)
- Greater community outreach/speakers bureau
- Improved contact with legislative representatives (**Priority # 2**)
- Greater participation at legislative affairs gatherings/ lunches.

Membership:

- Develop a process to increase/keep membership (**Priority # 1**)
- Increase member participation
- Increase awareness of activities and status
- Greater diversity in membership and the Board
- Blacksburg Satellite

Engagement:

- Greater community awareness of MOAA service (**Priority # 2**)
- Renovation Alliance
- Awards ROTC/JROTC
- Scholarships
- Wreath Laying Dublin Veterans Cemetery
- Brain Injury Services of Southwest Virginia (BISSWVA)
- Veterans Parade
- Military Family Service Center (MFSC)
- Greater partnership with other organizations/Roanoke Valley Veterans Council( **Priority # 1**)
- Honor flights (SML)
- VA Hospital, VA Veterans Care Center

Finances:

- Developing fundraiser process/targets – plan, sponsorships (**Priority # 1**)
- Pursue MOAA 5K grants (connected with priority # 1)
- Increase/maintain advertisements (connected with priority # 1)
- Develop plan for the VFW funds held (**Priority # 2**)
- Change 50/50 plan

Organizational Capacity/Internal Engagement

- Establish a newsletter publisher
- Establish a marketing/advertising person
- Need a webmaster/social media leader
- Develop a succession plan to backup core members
- Increase engagement of current and new members (**Priority #1**)
- Review leadership structure (**Priority # 2**)

**In Memoriam**



On 19 July 2019 Colonel William L. (Lou) Rossie Jr. of Roanoke, Va., passed in peace at the age of 86. He is survived by wife, Elizabeth "Libby;" and son, Louis (Mindy). Louis was born in Norton, Va., to William and Sethelle Rossie on October 17, 1932, and spent his formative years in Fairfax, Va. He was a 1956 Virginia Military Institute (VMI) graduate with a B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering and in the same year embarked on a distinguished career in engineering with the State Health Department. Louis began his military career as a Second Lt-Armor and served in the United States Army Reserve for 35 years where he retired as a Colonel in the Medical Corps with an assignment in sanitary engineering. He was a proud member of numerous professional and social organizations including the Southwest Virginia Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. COL Rossie was published in a number of journals related to his profession and has been listed in Who's Who in the South and Southwest as well as American Regional. COL Rossie was laid to rest in Sherwood Memorial Park with Full Military Honors.

**The "Widows' Tax" (SBP-DIC Offset)**

**Issue:** Under current law, survivors of deceased military members must forfeit part or all of their purchased Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity when they are awarded the VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). The loss of any portion of the SBP annuity is known as the widows' tax. For approximately **67,000 military survivors**, the widows' tax makes SBP the only insurance product in the country that you pay into but are legally prohibited from collecting.

**Background: SBP** is a voluntary, member-purchased annuity provided by DoD, allowing a continuation of a portion of military retired pay upon the death of the service member. According to DoD, the intended purpose of SBP is to "insure that the surviving dependents of military personnel who die in retirement or after becoming eligible for retirement will continue to have a reasonable level of income." Coverage later was expanded to active duty personnel as well.

**DIC** is a VA-paid monetary benefit for eligible survivors whose sponsors died of a service-connected injury or disease. These separate benefits are paid for separate reasons and should not be construed as duplicative compensation. Surviving spouses of active duty or retired service members who died of a service-connected cause are forced to forfeit \$1 of their military SBP annuity for each \$1 received in DIC. This offset wipes out most or all of the SBP check for a majority of survivors, total-

*Continued on Page 7 "Widows Tax"*

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**Thank you for your service**

*Continued from Page 6 "Widows Tax"*

Totaling approximately \$12,000 annually, including those whose service members purchased the plan through deductions from their retired pay. Over the years, Congress has helped a small minority of survivors by:

- ● raising the lump-sum death gratuity for servicemembers who died after 2001,
- ● ending the offset for survivors who remarry after age 57, and

- ● authorizing in FY 2008 the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA), a modest rebate to SBP-DIC recipients subjected to the widows' tax. However, the lump-sum increases in the death gratuity did not help the 95 percent of survivors whose spouses died of service-caused conditions before 2001. Further, while SSIA serves as evidence of congressional interest and support, it only provides relief for about 25 percent of the widows' tax. Tasked by Congress in 2007 to review the inequity, the Veterans Disability Benefits Commission (VDBC) agreed with MOAA and other veteran organizations that when military service causes a member's death, VA indemnity compensation should be paid in addition to the SBP annuity, not subtracted from it. No other federal annuity is structured with this offset; DIC is not deducted from federal survivor annuities for military veterans in civil service jobs.

**MOAA's position:** Support full repeal of the SBP-DIC offset. If Congress cannot achieve full repeal all at once, they should continue to incrementally increase SSIA above COLA adjustments to help mitigate the overall effect of the widows' tax until full repeal can be achieved.

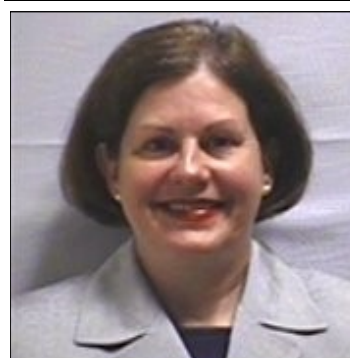
### Changes to Military Health Care Coming Sooner Than You Think

In baseball, it's good practice to never take your eye off the ball. The same could be said regarding DoD with its efforts to reform military medical care. MOAA has been the leader focused on holding DoD and the Defense Health Agency (DHA) accountable to provide transparency with its plans to reduce military treatment facility (MTF) capabilities and personnel. Last year's NDAA required the DoD to provide any plans to do so to Congress ahead of time. And we are sorry to report not much has been revealed to date. However, MOAA has other ways to gather information. **First**, from members who live, work, and get care on military installations. Reports of reduced health care services at MTFs and unofficial referrals to civilian providers are trickling in already. Last week, MOAA received an email from an active duty Navy spouse who reported that enrolled beneficiaries — including military families with children — are being told to seek civilian pro-

viders outside the MTF and few in her area accept TRICARE, the email says. Beneficiaries with special needs who use the system most have been targeted first. This has resulted in military families being placed on long wait lists. This is happening at the peak of school physicals and immunization season. This is the first glimpse into the new world of military medicine, and we want to know if it is happening elsewhere. MOAA continues to tell Congress — office by office — that DHA has failed to address how these medical reductions will be carried out in a way that ensures services are not disrupted, wait times are not exacerbated, and access to subspecialty care is not crippled.

**Second**, the study cited in [this article by Military Times](#) echoes much of what we've been hearing: While medical needs are greater in the military community than other demographics, access to high-quality care doesn't match up. The short version: Experts and advocates agree that the Military Health System (MHS) already has room for improvement when it comes to dealing with anything beyond routine care for military dependents, and MHS reforms designed to streamline the system could come at the expense of some of the most vulnerable members of the military community.

This aligns with what MOAA is hearing from other associations, another way MOAA receives information. At a recent MOAA-hosted Facebook Live Town Hall with a panel of military family members and other health care stakeholders, the panel discussed how the planned reductions in military medical providers would affect all categories of beneficiaries — especially military families. During the discussion, panel experts noted there is already insufficient medical workforce capacity to handle many of the basic health needs of our military personnel and their families. Reports and studies continue to point to long wait times for many civilian care providers, as well as significant geographic disparities in care. A group of 17 professional medical organizations are equally concerned and have let Congress know; read their letter to key House and Senate leaders. We need to keep the heat on Congress, and early indications show it is working. MOAA members do make a difference as we need to let Congress know what is happening in military communities across the U.S. and overseas.




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**INTERNMENT CEREMONY FOR LTC JAMES PATRICK GREEN, USA RET**

On 12 June 2019 family, friends, fellow veterans and members of the Southwest Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America came to the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin, Virginia to honor and lay to rest James Patrick Haffey (Pat) Green, LTC, USA (Ret) past president of MOAA SWVA. During the



eulogy presented by chapter member and Viet Nam veteran, Larry Johnson, the attendees were reminded of the many years Pat had advocated for the placement of a veteran's cemetery in Southwest Virginia. From concept to legislative lobbying and design to completion Pat was there. On 5 May 2011, Southwest Virginia's first veteran's cemetery was dedicated in Dublin, Virginia. The \$7.2 million cemetery became the third veteran's cemetery in Virginia, along with sites in Suffolk and Amelia. It had taken more than 15 years with Pat and other veterans plus several legislators, state and federal officials to identify the need and with the drive and


perseverance to make it happen. Pat was recognized by the Virginia General Assembly for his efforts with an award presented by the Governor.

At the dedication the cemetery was described as; "A fitting tribute to the men and women who have served." Introduced as "one of the driving forces behind the cemetery" Pat remarked; "There are more than 80,000 veterans in Southwest Virginia. This cemetery is for the veterans and their families, and that's really what it's all about."

Now thousands of veteran families benefit in part from the care, vision and determination of James Patrick Haffey Green, LTC, USA (Ret). The dignity, peace and serenity of the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery will support veterans and their families for generations to come.



Note: The *Communique* is now published quarterly. The next issue will be published APR 2019.



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

*Featured in this Issue*  
SWVA Chapter Officers announced for 2019 Veterans Wreath Laying Ceremony Chapter Presents Grant to Military Family Support Center

**NEVER STOP SERVING.**