



The Communiqué

Southwest Virginia Chapter
Military Officers Association of America



A Five-Star Chapter

VOLUME 12 NUMBER 3

ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

JULY-AUG-SEPT 2020

THE SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF MOAA HONORS ONE OF ITS MEMBERS LTC JAMES H. "PAT" GREEN, USA (Ret)

President's Corner

On 17 September 2020 members of the Southwest Virginia Chapter of MOAA, family and friends gathered to dedicate a "Memorial Bench" at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin, Virginia to recognize LTC James "Pat" Green, USA (Ret) one of the driving forces in getting



the veterans cemetery established in Southwest Virginia. Pat was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia in 1942 and attended Virginia Tech graduating in 1969. Pat entered the United States Army and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel with over 25 years of service in the United States Army, the U.S. Army Reserves, and the Virginia Army National Guard. He served honorably during the Vietnam War. In his civilian career Pat worked in the insurance business in Blacksburg and Roanoke and later co-founded Green and Associates in Roanoke where he worked for 25 years. Pat was active in a number of organizations that support the active and retired military. These include the local chapter of the Military Officers

Association of America, the VFW, and the American Legion among others. For his work with the MOAA-Virginia Leadership team in 2006 – 2007, the Virginia General Assembly recognized Pat with an award presented by the Governor.

In the early 2000's in the State of Virginia there were two veteran cemeteries. One was located in Amelia County southwest of Richmond and a second located in Suffolk Virginia southeast of Richmond. There were a significant number of veterans living in Southwest Virginia and the area was very friendly in support of their needs. During this time there were many discussions among veterans of the need for a veteran's cemetery in Southwest Virginia. Pat Green and other veterans were pushing for the establishment of a veteran's cemetery in Southwest Virginia particularly Pulaski County. On or about 2003/2004 under the auspice of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations and during the administration of Governor Mark Warner (2002-2006), a Board was established to get the process going. Various individuals were involved in scoping out suitable sites in Southwest Virginia to locate a veteran's cemetery. COL Dallas Cox, USA (Ret) was on the BRAC committee and helped identify approximately 100 acres on the Radford Army Ammunition Plant. Nine test grave sites were dug throughout the identified area to determine if there were any rock formations that would preclude establishing burial grave sites. No rocks were found. State Senator John Edwards was involved with a bill to the General Assembly to establish a the Department of Veterans Services which included Veterans Cemeteries in Virginia. Discussions included establishment of Veterans Cemetery in Southwest Virginia and to obtain the land identified on the Radford Army Ammunition Plant property. Once a site was identified the next step was to obtain the necessary funding to transfer the land and construct the cemetery. Pat Green was very instrumental in working with the Board during the entire process advocating for the cemetery in Southwest Virginia. During the initial concept of establishing a veterans cemetery in Pulaski County and during the initial discussions and planning of the actual location in Dublin both Congressman Rick Boucher VA 9th District and Virginia

Continued on Page 2 "Honors for LTC James "Pat" Green"



In this quarter's column, I'd like to report to you on the local arm of Military Family Support Center, Inc. (MFSC). The reason

I've chosen this topic is to highlight significant difficulties this group has had in the past year and to consider a search for solutions. Our MOAA chapter does not currently directly support the local MFSC through our budget, but individual members donate money and manpower on a limited basis. We have had members serve on both boards and both groups are involved strictly with the military. The MFSC website states: "The mission of the MFSC, Inc., a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, is to identify and satisfy essential morale, welfare, and informational needs of military families of service men and women of the Active Component and Reserve Component (Federal Reserves and National Guard) of the Armed Forces located in areas remote from military installations. Also Military Veterans." Although the local MFSC does support reserve troop deployments, I want to focus on its local office operations and its food pantry, as these functions serve immediate, basic, and, in some cases, desperate need. For the past six years and until recently, Blue Ridge Public Broadcasting System (BRPBS), located uphill from Virginia Western Community College, has generously allowed the local MFSC to use an empty space as an

Continued on Page 5 "President"

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Continued from Page 1“ Honors for LTC James “Pat”

Delegate Benny Keister were involved in many of the initial steps to secure the cemetery." Congressman Bob Goodlatte, VA 6th District may also have been involved.



On 5 May 2011 Military service men and women, local and state officials and families gathered to dedicate and celebrate the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery. “A fitting tribute to the men and women who have served” was one of the flattering descriptions given of the newest veteran’s cemetery in Virginia.” The cemetery meets a long-standing need in Virginia,” said LTC Andy Munera, USA, Commander of the Radford Army Ammunition Plant.” “It will ensure we always remember the sacrifices made for our freedom and the freedom of those around the world.” There are more than 80,000 veterans in Southwest Virginia, said LTC Pat Green, U.S. Army (Ret), one of the driving forces behind the cemetery. “This cemetery is for the veterans, and that’s really what it’s all about,” Green said. It’s also Southwest Virginia’s opportunity to recognize veterans, said Allan McCroskey, First Junior Vice Commander of the Disabled American Veterans of Virginia. It was a thought echoed by many of the speakers at the ceremony, including U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Salem, and state Sen. John Edwards, D-Roanoke. “People have to go a long way to use those, so this is a welcome addition,” McCroskey said. “It’s a great thing for the state.”



Pat Green continued his association with the Virginia Veterans Cemetery after its dedication. The Southwest Virginia Chapter raised the funds to purchase a MOAA Mobile Vehicle for use at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery. On 4 July 2013 Pat Green, shown in the photo on the left, representing the Southwest Virginia Chapter, formally presented the MOAA Mobile Vehicle to the Virginia Veterans Cemetery. The Southwest Virginia Chapter recently joined other MOAA Chapters in Virginia to purchase a second Mobile Vehicle for the Veterans Cemetery.



Each year since the cemetery was dedicated members of the Southwest Virginia Chapter of MOAA, in conjunction with the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery Volunteers under the leadership of its Chair, Mrs. Mary Lou Summers, donate funds and participate in a Wreath Laying Ceremony to place live Christmas wreath’s on each veteran gravesite in December of each year. Mrs. Summers is also the Surviving Spouse Chair of the Southwest Virginia Chapter of MOAA.



Pat Green continued to join veterans, families and friends of the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery Volunteers each year while he was able to participate in the wreath laying ceremony at the Veterans Cemetery. At left on 14 December 2013 Tom Dalzell and Pat Green are shown placing a Christmas Wreath on the gravesite of a veteran.

VIRGINIA VETERANS CEMETERY DUBLIN VIRGINIA

BACKGROUND

During World War II, nearly 10,000 Virginians made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Five years later in 1950, the Virginia General Assembly authorized the construction of a memorial to honor and remember them. By the time the Memorial was dedicated on February 29, 1956, remembering those

Cont’d on Pg 3 Honors for LTC James “Pat” Green”

Cont'd from Pg 2 Honors for LTC James "Pat" Green

Virginians killed during the Korean War had been added to the Memorial's design. Over the years, in addition to commemorating WWII, the Shrine of Memory has expanded to include the names of Virginians killed in action during the Korea, Vietnam, and Gulf Wars, and America's 21st century conflicts. Today, nearly 12,000 fallen heroes are honored in the Shrine, conflicts ensuring Virginia will never forget their service and sacrifice. A War Memorial Board was established to oversee the Memorial and its programs. At the same time, the Virginia War Memorial has evolved from a passive space for remembrance and contemplation into a true museum and educational center.

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) was established and organized into six service delivery sections – benefits, veterans education, care centers, veterans cemeteries, the Virginia War Memorial, and the Virginia Veteran and Family Support Program. Three citizen boards work closely with the agency to support the effective delivery of services to Virginia's veterans – the Board of Veterans Services, the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations, and the Veterans Services Foundation.

The facilities have grown to include a museum, veterans' art gallery, studio for recording veterans' stories, archives and collections, auditorium, lecture halls, classrooms, and outdoor amphitheater – all in keeping with the original architectural vision. The Virginia War Memorial in Richmond serves an integral role in supporting the mission of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services.

Virginia Department of Veterans Services

The Department of Veterans Services (DVS) is organized into seven service delivery sections: benefits; veteran and family support; veterans education; transition and employment; care centers; veterans cemeteries; and the Virginia War Memorial. The Board of Veterans Services, the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Services Organizations, and the Veterans Services Foundation work closely with DVS to support the effective delivery of services to Virginia's veterans and their families. The Department of Veterans Services works closely with three citizen boards to deliver effective services to Virginia's veterans.

Board of Veterans Services

The Board is responsible for formulating policies, developing procedures, reviewing agency budget submissions, and making recommendations for the efficient and effective delivery of veterans' services. It also studies topics affecting the welfare of Virginia's veterans.

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations

The Council consists of representatives of the majority of veterans service organizations in the Commonwealth. It advises DVS on matters of concern to veterans and their families. The Council is active in identifying veterans' needs and advocating in support of veterans issues that may be remedied through appropriate legislation or by other means.

Veterans Services Foundation

The Foundation Board of Trustees is responsible for oversight and administration of the Veterans Services Fund, distribution of funds to veterans services and programs, and seeking additional sources of revenue and other resources to support the viability of the Fund. Government resources alone cannot fully meet the needs of Virginia's veterans, and the Commonwealth anticipates that Virginia citizens will want to help our veterans.



Christiansburg: 540-394-3311

Clifton Forge: 540-862-5656

Dublin: 540-674-5100

Hollins: 540-777-1230

Ridgeway: 276-956-2002

Roanoke (Brambleton Ave): 540-989-5245

Roanoke (Williamson Rd): 540-362-1868

Salem: 540-380-4607

Vinton: 540-890-5010

Winston Salem: 336-768-3886

MEMORIAL BENCH DEDICATION PROGRAM



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER



Master of Ceremonies CDR Lee Ensley
Chapter President



Green Family L to R - John and
Martha Parrott and Mary Green



CPT Larry Johnson, USA former
speaking about his friend Pat Green



Reception at the Rockwood Historic
Manor



MEMORIAL BENCH DEDICATION PROGRAM Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery 17 September 2020

Opening Remarks/Master of Ceremonies
CDR Lee Ensley, USN (Ret), Chapter President

Invocation
LTC David Gilleran, USA (Ret), Chapter Chaplain and Past President

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
COL Bob Brown, USA (Ret.) Chapter 2nd Vice President

National Anthem
Mrs. Evelyn Conner, Southern Gospel Concert and Recording Artist

Introduction of Special Guests
CDR Lee Ensley, USN (Ret), Chapter President

MOAA National Headquarters Representative -CAPT Jim Carman, USN (Ret), Vice President, Council/Chapter & Member Support

Virginia Department of Veterans Services -
Col Thomas J. Herthel, USAF (Ret) Deputy Commissioner

Welcoming Remarks
Col Thomas J. Herthel, USAF (Ret)

MOAA SWVC Memorial Remarks
CPT Larry Johnson, USA (Fmr)

Dedication of Memorial Bench
Col Thomas Dalzell, USMC (Ret) and Mrs. Mary Green

Battle Hymn of the Republic
Mrs. Evelyn Conner

Benediction
LTC David Gilleran, USA (Ret)

Information on the Reception and Photos
CDR Lee Ensley, US (Ret)



LTC James Patrick H. Green USA (RET)
A Driving Force in Establishing This Cemetery



LtCol Thomas J. Herthel, USAF (Ret)
Virginia Department of Veterans Services
addresses the crowd.



Mrs. Mary Green on the Memorial Bench
honoring her husband
LTC Pat Green, USA, Ret.



COL Thomas Dalzell, USMC (Ret) and
Mrs. Mary Green formally dedicate the
Memorial Bench in honor of LTC Pat
Green USA (Ret)



Mrs. Evelyn Conner singing the
National Anthem and Closing
with the Battle Hymn of the
Republic



Attendees at the dedication of the
Memorial Bench in honor of LTC Pat
Green, USA (Ret)

Presidents Message Cont'd from page 1

office and supply storage area at no cost to the organization. BRPBS has now had to repossess that space due to an expansion. So the MFSC is looking for new quarters. Our MOAA chapter member Rodger Talmadge, who also serves as President and Chairman of the local MFSC Board, is looking for that space. So far, no luck. Roger is now running the MFSC out of his home. The MFSC has one salaried employee, Melissa Delmenico, who is also using her home for MFSC storage. Melissa works and gets compensated only when MFSC funds are available. In the past, the MFSC has distributed food from space at Calvary Chapel on Shenandoah Avenue. The food pantry, on average, opens one day per month and serves 50 to 75 veterans' families. The cost for one day is about \$1500.00. Sounds like a lot of money. But, do the math and look at the cost for your family to go to the grocery store and you will understand. MFSC must pay for everything. Melissa does the shopping. The pantry is a controlled distribution operation where families select items and fill a large shopping cart. Items are all non-perishable and personal hygiene. It is a "no frills" operation. The local MFSC also helps veterans' families with emergency home and auto repairs. After the pandemic began, the indoor Chapel pantry shut down due to safety concerns. Distribution was then tailored to drive-by pickup by customers. Later, pickup had to be shifted to a parking lot in a different location. When that was no longer feasible, food was delivered by car to the customers' homes. As you can see, this is not a normal business. It is being held together by a few folks willing to do what needs to be done and finding a way to do it. The MFSC is not government supported. It is funded by individual donations and a few institutions and organizations that choose to help. MOAA National occasionally makes grants to us which we have used to help the local MFSC. But we cannot regularly count on these grants. Roger has recently been soliciting a number of other local groups for money or food but with limited success. So, what do we need and what can we do? If you know of office space or storage room or similar facilities that would be suitable, please let us know. If you know of possible sources for financial assistance, call Roger or me. And personal donations to the Roanoke MFSC would be most welcome and are tax-deductible. We hope to get back to our monthly MOAA members meetings as, we hope, the corona virus situation improves. We will keep everyone advised. Until then, I'm hoping all of you stay healthy and safe.

Lee Ensley

Surviving Spouse Corner: The Value of Sleep

Sleep deprivation can have a significant effect on your physical and mental health.

By Capt. Kathy Thorp, USN (Ret), Surviving Spouse Advisory Council member

All of us need sleep to function, as sleep is one of the most important secrets in maintaining our everyday health. Sleep clears the mind by removing daily toxins at night, which is vital for our mood, disposition, decision-making ability. Studies have shown quality sleep prevents the diseases of tomorrow. Did you know sleep deprivation is a society-wide safety and health issue of our time?

Do you have trouble sleeping at night? Do you fall asleep only to wake up in the middle of the night tossing and turning? Think about what you do during the day and keep a sleep journal, as various activities can encourage or discourage a good night sleep. From exercise and diet to a stressful work environment, all of these have a huge impact on your qualitative sleep.

Insomnia also might be caused by exposure to artificial light such as smart phones or televisions. Anxiety, in general, can aggravate our sleep routine. The key here is to try to break the cycle, by practicing a repeatable nighttime routine, going to bed at the same time each night, avoiding artificial light, and finding the "thing" that relaxes you at night.

Experts say sleep is one of the best natural medicines for our bodies. It is our superpower to cope with the daily responsibilities and challenges that we endure each day. Take the time now and invest in your health by learning all you can about sleep.




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MOAA Guidance on Partisan Political Activities

Partisan Political Activities

As organizations exempt from federal taxation under Sec. 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code, MOAA and its affiliates must take care to avoid engaging in partisan political activities. Under IRS rules, we are prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.

Candidates for Public Office

A candidate for public office is an individual who offers himself or herself, or is proposed by others, as a contestant for an elective public office, whether such office is national, state, or local, and includes incumbent candidates. The prohibition also extends beyond declared candidates and may apply to efforts to recruit an individual to run for office or advance exploratory activities. The prohibition also applies to advocating for the platform of one political party over another.

Prohibited Activities

Activities which constitute participation or intervention in a political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to a candidate include, but are not limited to, the publication or distribution of written or printed statements or the making of oral statements on behalf of or in opposition to such a candidate. It is clear that the prohibition on partisan political activity prohibits such outright actions such as posting a “Vote for Biden” or “Vote for Trump” on the organization’s website, or “Support Republican Candidates” or “Vote Democratic.” In addition to these obvious examples, the prohibition goes well beyond direct expressions of support. In determining whether an organization is engaged in unlawful partisan political activities, the IRS applies a “facts and circumstances” test. The IRS looks not only to the expressed language, but to external factors, such as the communication’s timing, its targeted audience, and how the message relates to public policy positions that distinguish a candidate in a campaign.

Consequences for Violations

The consequences to an organization that violates the prohibition on partisan political activity can be severe including the loss of its tax exempt status and the imposition of certain excise taxes. For public charities, like The MOAA Foundation and the MOAA Scholarship Fund, the IRS can disallow tax deductions for charitable contributions. In addition, for an organization whose mission involves advocacy on key military community issues, MOAA must seek support from elected representatives from both parties. Engaging in partisan political activities on behalf of one party or candidate would seriously undermine MOAA’s ability to achieve the bipartisan consensus on key issues essential to achieving its legislative objectives.

Personal Opinions

As individuals, members and leaders of MOAA and MOAA’s affiliates are not prohibited from engaging in partisan political activities so long as they do so in way that makes it clear they are acting for themselves and do not appear to be speaking on behalf of MOAA or its affiliates. For example, it is permissible for an individual to express his or her personal preference in support of or in opposition to a candidate or political party. And they may do so publicly. However, when expressing their personal opinions or preferences, they may not make reference to their MOAA position, use MOAA communications channels, use MOAA letterhead or newsletters, identify themselves as MOAA leaders, or imply that MOAA or its members share their beliefs.

Leadership Responsibilities

Those in leadership positions have a special responsibility to separate their personal political opinions from statements that are or can be attributed to MOAA or its affiliates. For example, it is improper for a chapter leader to use the chapter’s newsletter to advance the leader’s personal political beliefs. This goes beyond statements expressly advocating for a specific candidate or party by name. Statements that incorporate campaign messaging, campaign slogans, and political positions identified with a particular candidate or party are also prohibited. No MOAA leader is authorized to use MOAA’s or an affiliate’s resources to communicate their personal political beliefs. This is an outright violation of the leader’s fiduciary duty to the organization and a serious leadership and ethical failure.

Cont'd from Pg 6 **MOAA GUIDANCE**

Divisive Social Issues

We are all aware of the divisive nature of the debate over today's leading social issues – protesting during the national anthem at sporting events, racial justice, public protests, and the conduct of law enforcement officers. These are issues over which many Americans have deeply held, but differing, personal beliefs. This is also true within the military community among the ranks of active duty and retired officers and within MOAA itself.

MOAA leaders have an obligation to keep this in mind when communicating on behalf of MOAA or its affiliates. Suggesting that MOAA only supports one side of a deeply divisive issue sends a message to those with a different belief that MOAA is not for them.

Officers today have grown up in a military culture that is very different than the past. Many are accepting of attitudes and views that were not mainstream when many of us were in uniform. If MOAA is going to connect with the newest generation of uniformed officers, it needs to be clear that those with strong views on racial and social justice imperatives are just as welcome as those who adhere to more traditional expressions of patriotism and officership.

The MAJ James Milton Archer, Jr., USA Award Presentation



C/CMSgt Grace Hopper of the Danville CAP, Danville Composite Squadron U.S. Air Force Auxiliary being presented "The MAJ James Milton Archer, Jr., USA Award" by Capt. Michael J. Duncan, CAP, Commander, Danville Composite Squadron U.S. Air Force Auxiliary.

Southwest Virginia Chapter Awarded the 2020 Four Star Chapter Level of Excellence Award



This award is based on the 2019 calendar year programs and events. Since 2010 the chapter has been awarded (5) Five Star awards and (5) Four Star Level of Excellence Awards.

Southwest Virginia Chapter Awarded the 2020 Five Star Chapter Colonel Marvin J. Harris Communications Award



This award is based on the 2019 calendar year recognizing the chapter for it's exemplary communication efforts, "newsletter", in communicating with it's members and community. Since 2014 the chapter has been awarded (5) Five Star Awards for newsletter and (4) Five Star Awards for Website. There was no submission for the website award in 2019.



Welcome To New Chapter Members

- Ronald V. Downing, MAJ, USA (Ret)
- Joe M. Grubb III, CPT, USA (Former)
- John M. Katon, Maj, USAF (Ret)
- Steven R. Kremer, CAPT, USN (Ret)
- Brian Lindamood, COL, USA (Ret)
- Paul J. Pontier, CAPT, USN (Ret)
- Paul W. Rhoades, MAJ, USA (Ret)
- Anita A. White, COL, USA (Ret)

WELCOME ABOARD. WERE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU JOIN US.

Thanks to our Chapter Membership Chair COL Bob Brown, COL USA (Ret) who is working tirelessly to contact MOAA members in Southwest Virginia to join the Chapter and become actively involved. Well Done Sir.



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.



ID Cards and COVID-19 What You Need to Know

MOAA has received a number of requests from members seeking guidance on obtaining or renewing identification cards during this time of limited access to in-person resources.

Below, you'll find links and guidance from DoD regarding changes to policy and waivers for some expired ID cards. Note: This information was compiled by MOAA on April 8, and DoD policies related to the COVID-19 pandemic have changed rapidly; get the latest ID card guidance, instructions, and forms at www.cac.mil/Coronavirus.

The Basics

If your uniformed Services ID Card (USID) has an expiration date between Jan. 1, 2020, and today, and your affiliation/status has not changed, *you may still use it to receive benefits. This rule is in effect through Sept. 30, 2020.* DoD has expanded availability of off-site ID renewals and reissuance's. You'll be able to enroll new family members and update some of your information via mail or fax. More information, including where to send the required documents, is available at CAC.mil and under the "[Service Specifics](#)" on the MOAA web site under "[ID Cards and COVID-19: What You Need to Know](#)". You also can contact your nearest Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification System (RAPIDS) location for more details; find yours on the MOAA web site under "[ID Cards and COVID-19: What You Need to Know](#)". Remotely issued cards will expire no more than a year after they are issued. The minimum age for dependents to require an ID has been raised from 10 to 14.

Here's a tip locally: The Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center in Roanoke (540) 563-9723 is closed to COVID and only open limited hours Tue and Thur. I did contact the Duty Officer, and she told me they are only doing 10 ID cards per day when they are open. She said everyone is having this issue, and it shouldn't be a problem with DEERS or TRICARE. She told me to go to the [Rapids Appointment Scheduler https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/#/](https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/#/) to book an appointment online.

A call was made to TRICARE/HUMANA <https://www.humanamilitary.com/about-us/contact-us> (1-866-773-0404) and DEERS <https://tricare.mil/deers> (1-800-538-9552) on whether medical coverage would remain in effect. The tough part at each of these places is all the recordings and menu selections you must work your way through. DEERS was most helpful. They stated that TFL/medical benefits will remain in place, no problem, but to get the ID card updated soonest. They indicated the only issue may be getting onto base or into the BX/Commissary...these are non-issues for us in Southwest Virginia.


Here's How to Apply for COVID-19 Relief Through a MOAA Chapter



Through grants to its local chapters, MOAA already has distributed more than \$50,000 via its COVID-19 Relief Fund – an effort made possible by the overwhelming generosity of members nationwide. That generosity makes it possible for MOAA to continue offering relief to members of the military and veteran community who are struggling to fend off economic disaster. Grants of up to \$500 per household are available. If you are a member of a chapter and want to share the application in your community, please

visit www.moaa.org/chapter-covid-relief. If you're facing financial stress brought on by the pandemic (or know someone who is) and you aren't affiliated or near a MOAA chapter, visit www.moaa.org/relief-application for instructions and to download an application. As a MOAA chapter official stated, "Veterans are reluctant to come forward and say, 'I need help' until the very last minute." For many, that "last minute" has arrived. **[LEARN MORE: [MOAA's COVID-19 Relief Fund](#)]** Below, you'll find some basic information on the program, including eligibility guidelines. Questions? Call MOAA's Member Service Center at (800) 234-6622 or e-mail relief@moaa.org.

Eligibility: Grants are available to currently serving members, spouses of active duty members, veterans with honorable discharges, or caregivers of the same. You'll be asked to prove negative financial impact from the COVID-19 crisis as part of the application process. National MOAA or MOAA chapter membership is not a requirement, and members won't receive preference. All ranks are eligible. Preference will be given to those ineligible for other relief programs, such as service relief societies.

Eligible Debts: The grant can be used to pay a range of bills to include rent/mortgage, car loan/lease, utilities, telecommunications (cellphone/Internet), and additional categories considered on a case-by-case basis.

 **The Southwest Virginia Chapter (SWVC) of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)** is 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.

<p align="center"><u>CHAPTER MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN SW VIRGINIA VETERANS CEMETERY WREATH LAYING CEREMONY</u></p> <p>The 8th annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin, VA will be held on Saturday, 12 December 2020 at 1300 hours. Donations are being solicited for the 1,500+ wreaths to be placed on veterans' grave sites. Contributions to the Wreath Program can be mailed to: Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery Volunteers, PO Box 11373, Blacksburg, VA 24062-1373. Checks should be made payable to: SWVAVCV. Check their website, https://www.swvavcv.org/ for details and updates</p>	<p align="center"><u>CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP as of 31 SEPT 2020</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Regular Members</td> <td align="right">102</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Surviving Spouses</td> <td align="right">15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Members</td> <td align="right">117</td> </tr> </table> <p>Bring a fellow officer and their spouse to our next meeting!</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>	Regular Members	102	Surviving Spouses	15	Total Members	117	<p align="center"><u>LEGISLATIVE NOTE</u></p> <p>The SW Virginia MOAA Chapter is a nonpartisan organization. We encourage our members to participate in the political process. However, members cannot use their membership in MOAA when supporting a candidate or political position. We are an advocacy organization for veterans and military issues at the local, state and national level.</p>
Regular Members	102							
Surviving Spouses	15							
Total Members	117							

**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 *Communique* is now published quarterly. The next issue will be published Dec 2020.*

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 MOAA Guidance on Partisan Political Activities
 ID Cards and COVID-19: What You Need to Know
 COVID-19 Relief Through a MOAA Chapter
 Chapter Awards for 2019-Level of Excellence and Newsletter



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

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