

**SOME INTERESTING INAUGURATION DAY MOMENTS  
IN US HISTORY**

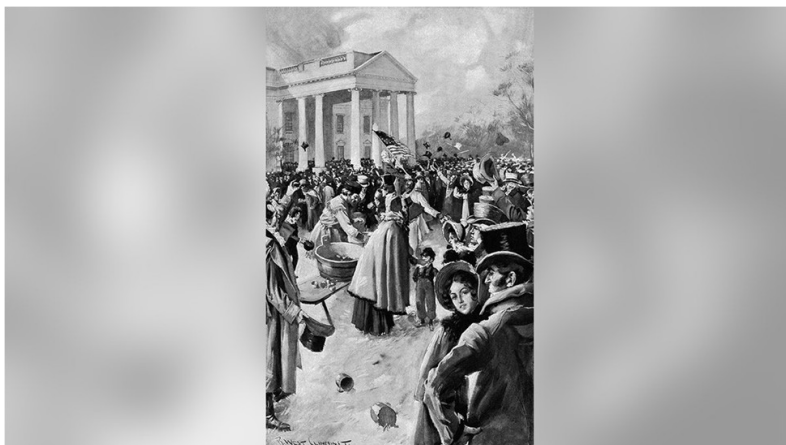
**George Washington's First Inaugural Address**

No tradition's story is complete without its origin. President George Washington delivered the first-ever inaugural address on April 30, 1789, just two weeks after Congress unanimously elected him to serve as the nation's leader. George Washington was inaugurated as the first president of the United States on April 30, 1789, at the old City Hall in New York. (Heritage Art/Heritage Images via Getty Images)



**Andrew Jackson's White House Mob**

President Andrew Jackson had some 20,000 of his supporters attend a celebration around the White House following his first inauguration in 1829. The mob quickly grew rowdy, however, with fights breaking out and furniture being destroyed. Jackson ultimately fled out a window to the safety of a nearby hotel, according to the National Archives. **The crush at the White House after President Andrew Jackson's presidential inauguration in 1829.** (Bettmann / Contributor / Getty Images)



**President's Corner**

**SPRING AND NEW BEGINNINGS**

It appears that the weather has finally turned for the better with spring and warmer temperatures in the offering. And with these conditions



come more opportunities and new beginnings. Our new meeting venue is a good example. Our first meeting at the Salem Civic Center was well attended with a delicious meal and an engaging speaker. Many thanks to all who contributed towards finding a new venue, but, especially LTC Dave MacNamee and CDR Lee Ensley for landing us at Salem Civic Center. And, a very special thanks to COL Tom Dalzell for organizing so many great programs and excellent speakers for our meetings. MOAA Membership nationwide continues to face challenges. However, we had a successful year in recruiting new members and several former members. Our recruiting efforts must continue in order to sustain the chapter. Our most successful recruiting method seems to be word of mouth, inviting friends and acquaintances to one of our meetings. In your social and professional conversations, look for potential new members and pass the word by inviting them to one of our

**2025 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Presidents Corner** Cont'd from page 1

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programs. It's working! We are also continuing to explore the possibility of forming a Spouses subchapter. Speaking of programs, mark you calendar for our annual barbecue on May 15. Just as in the past, it's being held at the American Legion on Apperson Drive with catering by Mission Barbecue. Our entertainer last year, Marc Baskind, has agreed to once again provide musical entertainment. We have also invited our area legislators to attend and with many issues in question both at the state and federal level, this will present us with an opportunity to hear directly from our elected representatives. In these unsettling times, our legislative efforts must remain a priority. You can accomplish your part by remaining aware of the issues. Access the MOAA Legislative Action Center at [www.moaa.org/takeaction](http://www.moaa.org/takeaction) to send pre-formatted messages to your legislators. You can also contact them via MOAA's toll-free Capitol Hill hotline at (866) 272-MOAA (6222).

We have also had several program presentations that focus on providing various levels of assistance to fellow veterans. Your Board of Directors actively seeks opportunities for the Chapter to support these efforts both monetarily as well as through active participation. However, you as an individual can do the same. Look for opportunities to serve your fellow battle buddies and shipmates. It doesn't need to be a daily commitment, volunteering once a month can make a difference. Give back until it feels good. Also, let us know and share your efforts in our newsletter. It's also award season and once again. LTC Bob Habermann and LTC Dave King have done a stellar job in organizing this massive effort. Each year, the Chapter recognizes the rising leaders and distinguished Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) cadets at sixteen local high schools and three Civil Air Patrol Squadrons in our area, including the MAJ James Milton Archer, Jr., USA Award that recognizes a distinguished cadet in their senior year of high school who has demonstrated superior military leadership. We also present awards to distinguished cadets in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, including the MOAA SWVC ROTC Leadership General Rosson and General Ramsey Awards. Thanks to all who continue to volunteer in the recognition and presentations to these future leaders. So, there you have it, many opportunities to participate and to serve. Remember, if you're not getting anything out of the organization, it means you're not putting anything into it. So the order from the bridge is "Full Speed Ahead" as we continue to grow our chapter. Remember that we are all ambassadors of our organization. Your ideas, comments and suggestions are always encouraged. Thanks for your hard work and dedication to our chapter and remember to **NEVER STOP SERVING.**

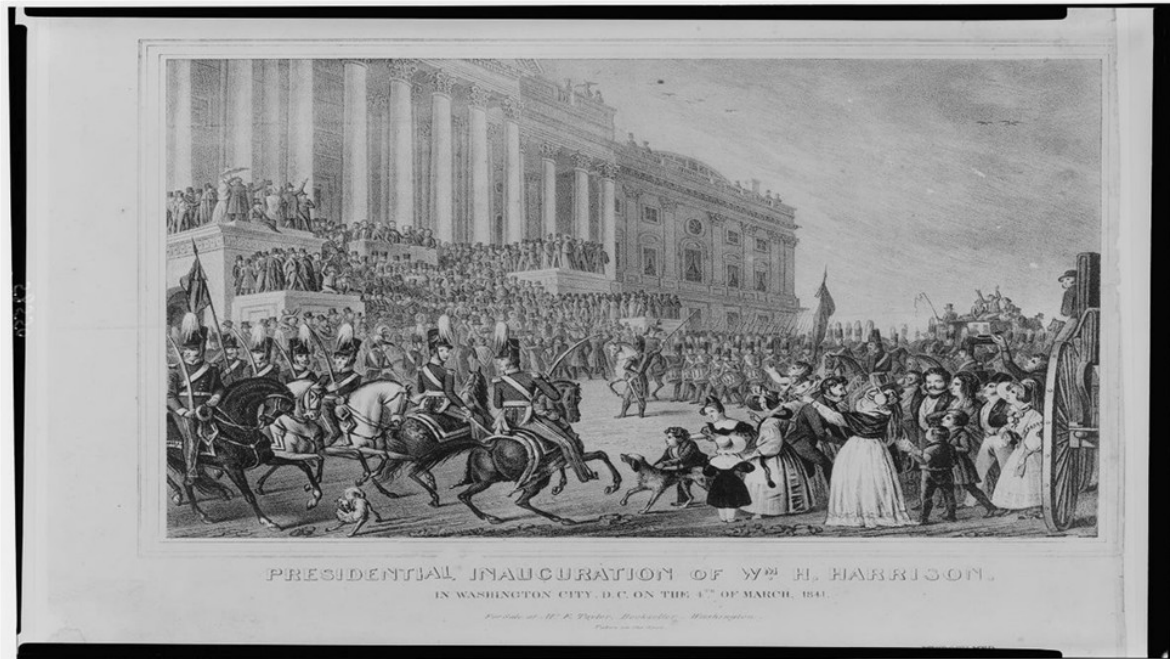
**OUR MISSION**

As the community face of the Military Officers Association of America, the Southwest Virginia Chapter's mission is to advocate for a strong national defense, be an influential provider and supporter of programs, benefits and services for our military community, and a source of social fellowship for our members.



## William Henry Harrison's Only Inauguration

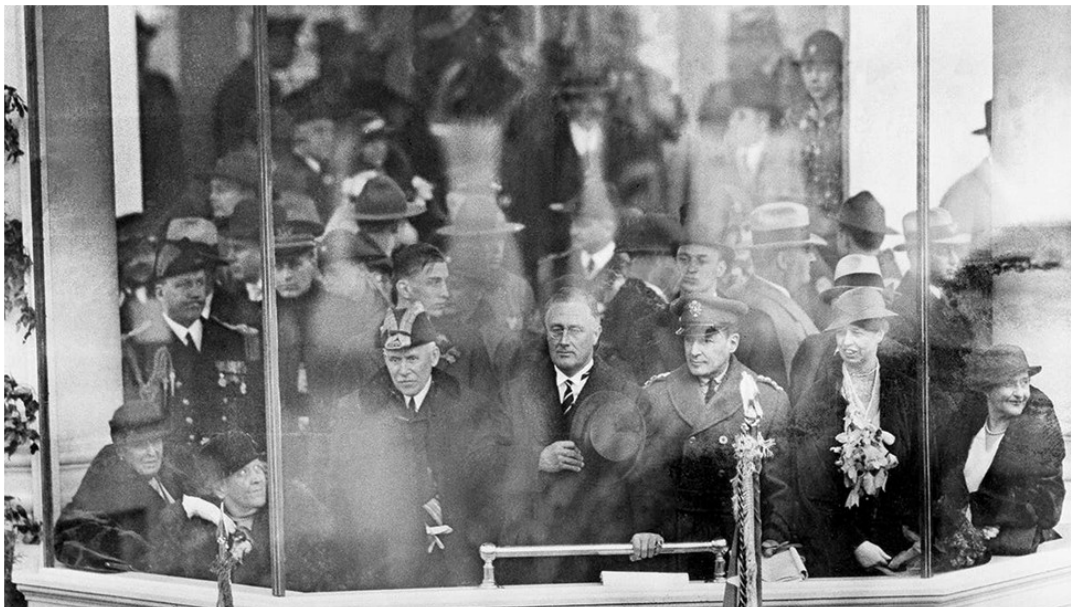
President William Henry Harrison delivered his inaugural address on a bitterly cold day in March 1841. He refused to wear a coat and traveled to and from the inauguration on open horseback. His address is also the longest in U.S. history, with Harrison speaking for more than two hours. Several weeks after Inauguration Day, Harrison caught a cold, which then developed into pneumonia, and he died on April 4, barely a month after taking office.



President William Henry Harrison's presidential inauguration on March 4, 1841. (Library of Congress)

## Franklin D. Roosevelt's First Inauguration

President Franklin D. Roosevelt first took the oath of office in 1933 in the midst of the Great Depression. It was during his first inaugural address that he delivered a line now known to virtually all Americans, telling the people, "*The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.*" Roosevelt's steadfast leadership would see Americans through both the Great Depression and World War II.



President Franklin D. Roosevelt, center, watches his inaugural parade in Washington, D.C., on March 4, 1933. (AP Photo, File)



## John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address

President John F. Kennedy assumed office on Jan. 20, 1961, and he too delivered a line that would enter the American pantheon. "*Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country,*" he urged. Kennedy's words led the country to the moon and back, and to this day, polls rank him as the most beloved recent president.



President John F. Kennedy making his inauguration speech from the East Portico of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. (Bettmann / Contributor / Getty Images)

## Barack Obama's First Inaugural Address

President Barack Obama's first inauguration is notable not only because he was the first Black American to become president, but also for the historical quirk that he had to be sworn in twice. Obama and Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts briefly spoke to one another as Roberts was administering the oath of office. As a result, Roberts misspoke and stated, "*That I will execute the office of president to the United States faithfully.*" Obama then repeated that phrasing, which is incorrect. The oath's correct wording in the Constitution is, "*That I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States.*" While the ceremony moved forward regardless, Obama and Roberts met again the following day at the White House to administer the oath correctly.

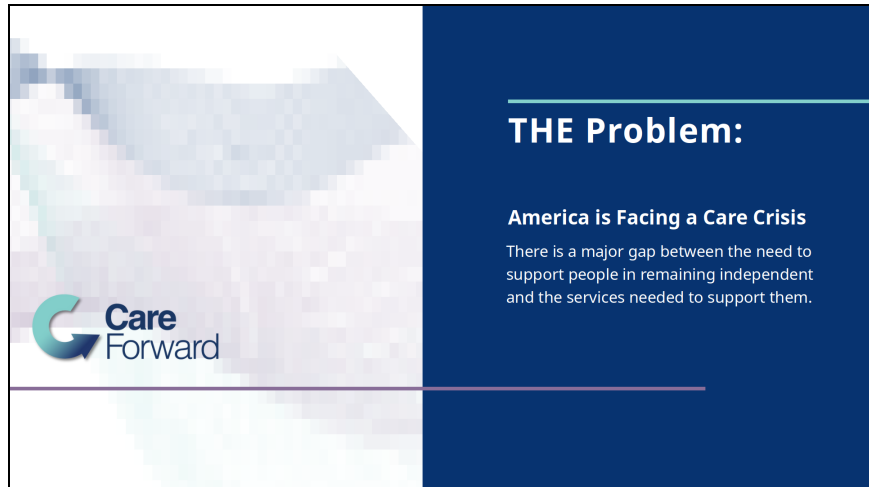


Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. administers the oath of office to President Barack Obama a second time, right, in the Map Room of the White House Jan. 21, 2009 in Washington, D.C. (Pete Souza/The White House)



# CareForward - A Technology Platform To Solve the Crisis of Care

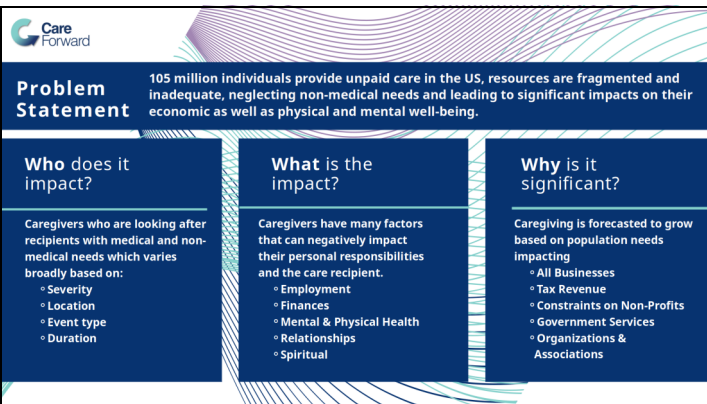
On Thursday 16 January 2025 Ms. Natalie Elliott Handy, CEO and Co-Founder CareForward, Inc., presented a program on CareForward, a technology platform to solve the crisis of care. Their mission is harnessing the power of technology as "CareForward" connects those in need with community members who donate time, talent, or resources because every act of generosity becomes a lifeline, making a positive impact in the lives of others. At CareForward, we are dedicated to transforming the landscape of caregiving through our innovative community-based platform. Founded with the vision to empower caregivers and improve the lives of those they care for, we bring together resources, support, and the power of community to make caregiving more manageable and less isolating. Join us in revolutionizing caregiving and making a lasting impact on families and communities across the nation.

**THE Problem:**

**America is Facing a Care Crisis**

There is a major gap between the need to support people in remaining independent and the services needed to support them.



**Problem Statement**

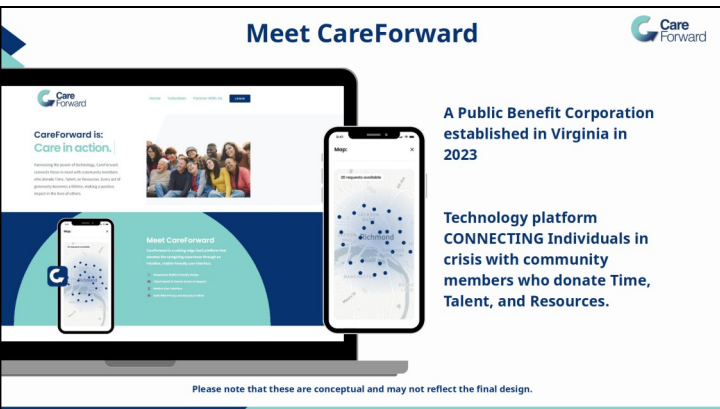
105 million individuals provide unpaid care in the US, resources are fragmented and inadequate, neglecting non-medical needs and leading to significant impacts on their economic as well as physical and mental well-being.

<p><b>Who does it impact?</b></p> <p>Caregivers who are looking after recipients with medical and non-medical needs which varies broadly based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severity</li> <li>Location</li> <li>Event type</li> <li>Duration</li> </ul>	<p><b>What is the impact?</b></p> <p>Caregivers have many factors that can negatively impact their personal responsibilities and the care recipient.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employment</li> <li>Finances</li> <li>Mental &amp; Physical Health</li> <li>Relationships</li> <li>Spiritual</li> </ul>	<p><b>Why is it significant?</b></p> <p>Caregiving is forecasted to grow based on population needs impacting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Businesses</li> <li>Tax Revenue</li> <li>Constraints on Non-Profits</li> <li>Government Services</li> <li>Organizations &amp; Associations</li> </ul>
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**THE SOLUTION:**

Bridge the Gap

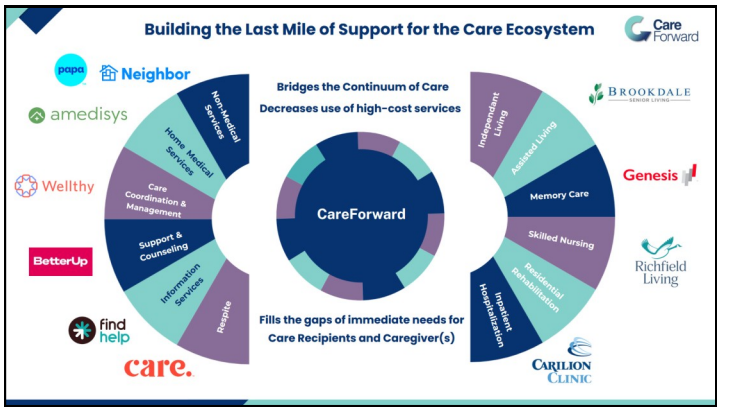


**Meet CareForward**

A Public Benefit Corporation established in Virginia in 2023

Technology platform **CONNECTING** Individuals in crisis with community members who donate Time, Talent, and Resources.

Please note that these are conceptual and may not reflect the final design.



**Building the Last Mile of Support for the Care Ecosystem**

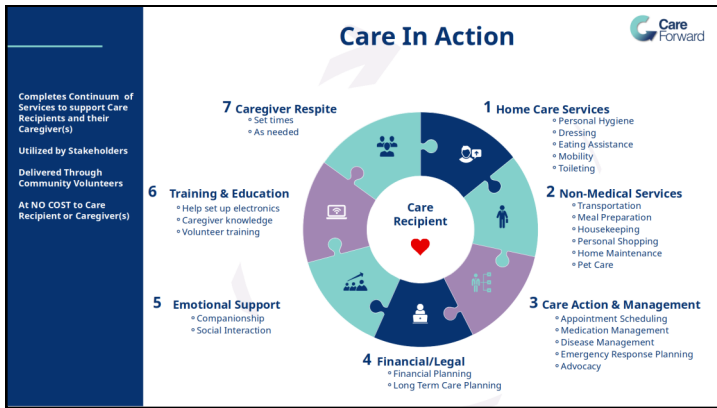
**CareForward**

Bridges the Continuum of Care  
Decreases use of high-cost services

Fills the gaps of immediate needs for Care Recipients and Caregiver(s)

Partners: amedisys, Neighbor, Wellthy, BetterUp, find help, care., Brookdale, Genesis, Richfield Living, Carilion Clinic.

Continued from Page 5 - "CareForward - A Technology Platform To Solve the Crisis of Care"



**Who are the Recipients?**

- Disabled, Chronic, Complex, Aging, and Specialty Populations
- Residence:
  - Home / Community
  - Assisted Living Facility
  - Skilled Nursing Facility
  - Rehab Facility

**Who are the Requestors?**

- Care Coordinators and Case Managers
- Request are for One-time or Limited Engagement needs

**Who are the Responders?**

The Community Action Network comprised of:

- Individuals, Groups
- Business, Faith Community, Associations, Human Service Organizations, Educational Institutions
- Background Checks\*
- Credentialed\*

**Who is the Payer?**

- Public Sector
- Health Plans
- Health/Hospital Systems
- Health & Human Service Org

Price based on population (general or specialty)

**Who does it Impact?**

- Care Recipient
- Caregiver
- Public Sector, Employer, Payers

**The Result.**

- Improved Clinical Outcomes
- Individual Satisfaction
- Positive fiscal impact
- Decrease in high-cost service utilization
- Reduced strain on the system

**CAREFORWARD STEP-BY-STEP**

**CareForward Request Creation**

**Request Creation**

Organization Case Manager

1. Urgent need identified that cannot be immediately met
2. Case Manager enters and submits request
3. 2nd level approval by supervisor
4. Request published for Community Action Network to respond

Please note that these are conceptual and may not reflect the final design.

**CareForward Responder Dashboard**

Responder Dashboard

Community Action Network

1. CAN Volunteers alerted of new request via opt-in emails, website, and social media
2. Selects Request to Review

Please note that these are conceptual and may not reflect the final design.

**CareForward Request Screen**

Within a Request

Care Action Network Volunteer

1. Volunteer decides if they have the Time, Talent, and / or Resource to help
2. Volunteer Commits - "I CAN Help!"
3. Requester, CareForward Community Manager, and Volunteer are connected virtually to coordinate the completion of request

Please note that these are conceptual and may not reflect the final design.

**CareForward Request Closure**

Request Closure (Data and NPS)

Requester, Volunteer, and Recipient

1. Email surveys forwarded from CareForward once request is marked completed

Please note that these are conceptual and may not reflect the final design.

Continued from Page 6- **“CareForward – A Technology Platform To Solve the Crisis of Care”**

### CareForward Organization Screen

**Organization Dashboard**

Requester, Supervisor, and Administrator

1. Multi-level view of requests to include staff engagement, responses met, fiscal impact, and satisfaction

Request ID	Requester	Status	Amount	Created	Updated
Request-0001	Cherokee County, 2000	Open	\$50	10/15/2023	10/15/2023
Request-0002	Cherokee County, 2004	Open	\$50	10/15/2023	10/15/2023
Request-0003	Anderson County, 2000	Open	\$100	10/15/2023	10/15/2023
Request-0004	Roanoke Memorial County, 2000	Open	\$100	10/15/2023	10/15/2023
Request-0005	Roanoke Memorial County, 2000	Open	\$25	10/15/2023	10/15/2023

Please note that these are conceptual and may not reflect the final design.

## CAREFORWARD

Care Scenarios

### CARE CASE 1

**PATIENT:**

- 78yr old female
- Multiple health complications resulting in mobility issues

**CRISIS:**

- Family notified of discharge in 48hrs
- Home is not equipped for patient needs
- Additional support for 24/7 care not immediately available.

**NEEDS:**

- Handicap accessible entry to home
- Furniture relocation to allow space for hospital bed
- Home health care assistance
- Spousal support for the 24/7 Caregiver

Husband and Daughter “fight” to extend hospital stay.

Patient stays in hospital seven additional days due to home limitations.

Patient moves to rehab facility while family prepares home for her return.

Patient contracts MRSA during 4-week rehab stay.

Patient passes away due to complications of MRSA.

**TOTAL COST**  
\$435,869

Source

### CAREFORWARD CASE 1

**Discharge Planner Request:** Roanoke Memorial Hospital is serving a 78yr old woman with multiple health complications that resulted in mobility limitations. She is ready to return home in 2 days, but her husband shared the home has stairs and her bedroom is on the second floor. The family needs help with moving furniture to the first floor, a hospital bed and building an entrance ramp. Also, the husband has limitations himself and could use 1-2 hours per day of respite until home health can be established. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Patient remains 2 additional days in hospital as home modifications are completed.

Patient successfully returns home with temp support as step down services are implemented.

Discharge Planner submits CareForward request with highest urgency.

Request receives multiple responses for varying levels of action.

Care in Action coordination begins.

Response:

- Local contractor donates 2x4s for wooden ramp and oversight for build.
- Local fraternity volunteers to relocate furniture & assist with ramp construction.
- Local “closest” identifies hospital bed in their inventory for patient use.
- Local church women’s group volunteers to provide short-term respite, and to bring meals.

**TOTAL IMPACT**  
\$441,369

Source

### CARE CASE 2

**PATIENT:**

- 42yr old male
- Cancer Patient
- 6wk radiation treatment pending

**CRISIS:**

- Spouse has used all PTO for their three children and husband’s medical appts.
- More time off is not possible as she is currently center. the sole income for the family and is fearful of losing her job.

**NEED:**

- Transportation and companionship 1x week for six weeks to and from cancer center.

Wife explains need for additional time to employer. They are unable to meet request.

Family reaches out to extended family asking for any help. No one is available.

Wife drops to PT to take spouse to treatment. Children help care for patient and home tasks.

Family behind in bills and electricity turned off. Children start missing school to care for patient.

Family forced to move. Children truant, have behavior issues at school. CPS notified. Wife loses job.

**TOTAL COST**  
\$29,116 +

Source

### CAREFORWARD CASE 2

**Request:** We are providing cancer treatment to a 42yr old father of three who needs assistance with transportation. The mother works full time and is the sole income for the family. She has used all her PTO on appts for their children and patient and is at risk of losing her job. We are requesting assistance with transporting this father to Blue Ridge Cancer Center 2 x per week for a total of 12 hours for 6 weeks. Due to the children’s needs, the mother is requesting 8 hours of respite per week. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Patient, wife, and volunteer plan for transportation. 8 hrs of respite provided for 6 weeks.

Patient completes tx. Wife keeps job. Children receive tutoring and counseling at school.

Discharge Planner submits CareForward request with highest urgency.

Request receives multiple responses for varying levels of action.

Care in Action coordination begins.

Response:

- Local CAN volunteer offers to transport for 6 weeks but needs assistance with gas.
- CAN volunteers donate \$250 gas gift card.
- CF partner business, Job Corp, assigns 2 CNA students to volunteer time as opportunity to gain experience. (with approval by family)

**TOTAL IMPACT**  
\$34,316

Source

## Volunteer with CareForward

**GET STARTED**

Scan the QR code below or visit careforward.io to sign up to volunteer with CareForward!

SCAN HERE

Care Forward

**YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, WE’RE HERE TO GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY**

CareForward offers a variety of ways for volunteers to make a meaningful impact based on their availability and skills. By matching personal strengths and interests with the needs of the community, volunteers can effectively support those in need, enhancing their health, functioning, and overall quality of life. This flexibility ensures that everyone has the opportunity to contribute positively, regardless of the capacity in which they serve.



Continued from Page 7 **“CareForward - A Technology Platform To Solve the Crisis of Care”**

The Southwest Virginia Chapter is considering a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CareForward, a Virginia-based public benefit corporation, with the intent to establish a collaborative partnership aimed at supporting caregiving through community action. The purpose of the MOU is to outline the responsibilities and contributions of both CareForward and The Southwest Virginia Chapter as volunteer partners, including the donation of time, talent, resources, space, or other forms of support to CareForward’s mission to assist individuals, caregivers, their families, and the community at large.



Major Foster Covington, USAF (Ret) and Ms. Natalie Elliott Handy



Chapter President CAPT Gary Powers presenting the SWVC “Cup” in appreciation to Ms. Natalie Elliott Handy for her outstanding presentation on CareForward, Inc.





## LESLIES RETREAT

By Robert Pushkar, Smithsonian magazine

On February 26, 1775, residents of Salem, Massachusetts, banded together to force the British to withdraw from their town during an oft-overlooked encounter known as **Leslie's Retreat**. Was This Little-Known Standoff Between British Soldiers and Colonists the Real Start of the American Revolution?



Seven and a half weeks before the “**shot heard 'round the world**” at the Battles of Lexington and Concord marked the conventional start of the American Revolution on April 19, 1775, a long-overlooked encounter between the British Army and the townspeople of Salem, Massachusetts, almost sparked outright war. At a river and over a bridge, American colonists' desire for independence reached a fever pitch as they stood their ground against the distant kingdom of their heritage.

Known as Leslie's Retreat, the standoff took place on February 26, 1775, when British Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Leslie led a raid to seize suspected cannons from a makeshift Colonial armory in Salem. Instead of finding artillery, Leslie encountered an inflamed citizenry and militia members ready to stop his search. These colonists flooded Salem's streets, preventing Leslie's passage and forcing him to negotiate. Ultimately, the Salemites convinced the British Regulars to stand down and return to Boston. No shots were fired, and no one was seriously injured—aside from the boundless pride of the British occupiers.

Had Charles Moses Endicott, a retired sea captain and Salem's unofficial town historian, not taken it upon himself to publish an 1856 text about the failed raid, it might have been lost to history. Called *Account of Leslie's Retreat at the North Bridge in Salem*, Endicott's chronicle was based on eyewitness and secondhand testimony from elderly Salemites. Its title used the word “retreat” to reinforce overwhelming local sentiment about the circumstances of Leslie's departure. “Here we claim the first blow was struck in the war of independence, by open resistance to both the civil and military power of the mother country; comparatively bloodless, it is true, but not the less firm and decided,” Endicott wrote.

“The events of February 26, 1775, are of enormous historical significance for Salem and our nation. They reflect the resilience and strength of this community and of the colonists more broadly.”

## Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)



Are you traveling or living outside the U.S.? STEP is a free service that sends you emails with updates from the local U.S. embassy or consulate. If there's an emergency where you are, it helps us contact you with instructions on what to do.

Why join STEP?

- Get real time updates about health, weather, safety, and security in the country.
- Plan ahead using information from the local U.S. embassy.
- Help the embassy or consulate contact you if there's an emergency like a natural disaster, civil unrest, or a family emergency.

What kind of messages does STEP send?

Currently, STEP sends emails only. STEP can send you several types of information:

- Routine Messages: News and updates about the country you picked.
- Alerts: Messages about short-term security, terrorism, health, weather, or disaster situations that could impact your travels.
- Travel Advisories: We re-evaluate the situation in each country every 6-12 months. Advisories include a simple 1-4 rating system, details about specific risks in the country, and clear steps U.S. citizens should take to stay safe.

[Join the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) at:

<https://mytravel.state.gov/s/step>

After you set up your account, you can pick what types of messages you want to get.

Stay in touch during an emergency. Signing up for STEP helps the U.S. embassy get in touch with you if there's an emergency. And, if your family or friends in the U.S. can't reach you with urgent news while you're traveling, we can use the information in STEP to try and contact you.

Become a Smart Traveler Now! [STEP](#) is an easy first step to being a smart traveler. You should also always [research your destination](#), and consider [additional ways to get safety and security information](#) from the U.S. Department of State, like on social media.



## VETERANS LAST PATROL

On Thursday 20 March 2025 COL Claude Shmid, USA (Ret) presented a program on the “**Last Patrol**”. America’s veterans served their country. They protected us and our way of life. We must stand by them. Our veterans know about patrolling land, sea, and air. Veterans in hospice are on their final fight and in their last patrol. Whether it goes by the name “**battle buddy**” or “**shipmate**” or “**wingman**” --- all veterans understand that tough assignments are best faced together.

The Last Patrol connects veteran volunteers to veterans in hospice. They cooperate with medical providers of hospice care to connect volunteers to the patients so that their last patrol isn’t alone. It’s hard to overestimate the importance of friendship during end-of-life care. Last Patrol brings new friendships when friendship matters most. When America’s veterans go into hospice care they often lose contact with family, friends, and with the military community. Some are alone. Some sit quietly in nursing homes. Many families are loving and attentive to their hospice patient, but appreciate getting the support, connection, and information that a friend from the military community can provide. Last Patrol helps provide that support. Some stories are only shared between veterans. The exceptionality of military experience is such that a special bond of service results. Many veterans describe their military service as a singularly unique period of their lives. As many veterans approach death, meeting a new supportive friend, sharing stories, and reawaking memories of “patrolling” with their buddies can be richly rewarding for both the patient and their families, as well as veteran volunteers. Last Patrol brings that service.



WWII Gunner's Mate on the Battleship Missouri. Witnessed the Japanese surrender ceremony. Living with daughter.

WWII Navy Veteran in both Pacific & Atlantic theaters. Survived sinking submarine. No family.

Soldier stationed at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked, Dec 7th, 1941. He was scheduled to come home that day. Went on to fight in many Pacific battles

[www.veteranlastpatrol.org](http://www.veteranlastpatrol.org)

“Approximately 100,000 veterans go into hospice each year.”

**OUR MISSION:**

We BEFRIEND, HONOR, and SUPPORT Veterans on their Last Patrol. The “Last Patrol” is a veteran’s final weeks and months of life, often associated with hospice care.

**WHAT WE DO:**

Everyone dies. But that inevitable end-of-life process for veterans should include the necessary help & gratitude. We offer individual patriots, companies, and organizations opportunities to help us honor these dying veterans one more time.

There are far too many lonely veterans in America, especially in the elderly population. Many have no family. The “unclaimed veteran” problem – veterans that die with no network of family or friends – is very concerning. How can this happen to veterans?

**WHO WE ARE:**

We are a national non-profit, headquartered in South Carolina, with volunteers currently in 31 states. We cooperate with hospice care providers and other supporters around the country to help bring more veteran volunteers to veterans on their Last Patrol.



Continued from Page 11 "Veterans Last Patrol"

[www.veteranlastpatrol.org](http://www.veteranlastpatrol.org)

**PROGRAMS TO HIGHLIGHT:**

- Veteran-to-veteran volunteer program. Recruiting and motivating veteran volunteers, anywhere they live, to volunteer for hospice care providers.
- Hospice Partnership Program. Assisting hospice care providers with veteran companionship and honors.
- Annual Honor Ride for Veterans on their Last Patrol – visiting 100s of care facilities each fall with car and bike clubs. We seek sponsors for this event.
- Annual Fundraising Dinner to bring attention to the "Last Patrol" and veterans in hospice care
- Operation Holiday Salute – Serve 12,000 vets in hospice care in December 2024 with "Holiday Card Packets." We seek sponsors for this event.
- Honor Ceremony kits – special gifts packages, including patriotic handcrafts, and cards of gratitude, an letters of commendation. These are presented to veterans on their Last Patrol.
- We are perhaps the only veteran non-profit with the potential to "touch every veteran" during their lives



## Veteran's Last Patrol CARDS OF GRATITUDE

Our volunteers visit veterans in hospice care around the country. Volunteers provide Friendship, Honors, and Support. These visits also allow the veteran on their Last Patrol a chance to share stories and memories for what might be the final time.

The visits also give all of us a chance to say one final time: "THANK YOU for your service". Please help us honor them. You can be one of those thanking these veterans by writing a card to "Dear Veteran" or "Dear Hero".



Mail your cards to:  
Veteran Last Patrol  
140B Venture Blvd.  
Spartanburg, SC, 29306

We accept these  
cards year around!

More Information:  
[www.veteranlastpatrol.org](http://www.veteranlastpatrol.org)  
864-580-8005



## 6th Annual Operation Holiday Salute-2024

Last year we obtained and delivered nearly 60,000 Holiday Cards to veterans in hospice around the country. Americans across the nation participated in this amazing operation to bring a little joy to veterans on their Last Patrol.

This year our goal is 70,000! Can you help us? You are welcome to send cards to us addressed: "Dear Veteran" or "Dear Hero".

Our packaging and postage expenses for this drive to get these cards to dying veterans is significant. Would you consider a small donation to help? Donations can be mailed us by check or made online at [www.veteranlastpatrol.org](http://www.veteranlastpatrol.org)



Mail your cards to:  
Veteran Last Patrol  
140B Venture Blvd.  
Spartanburg, SC, 29306

We accept cards year  
around. Cards received  
by 1 DEC will get to the  
veterans this Christmas.

More Information:  
[www.veteranlastpatrol.org](http://www.veteranlastpatrol.org)  
864-580-8005



Continued from Page 12 "Veterans Last Patrol"

[www.veteranlastpatrol.org](http://www.veteranlastpatrol.org)

#### HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Volunteer to visit a veteran in hospice
- Form a Team/Unit to visit vets in hospice care and/or Senior Care Facilities
- Get involved and/or promote one of our 2 Card Programs
- Help organize/execute an Honor Ride to Senior Care Facilities
- DONATE



Chapter President CAPT Gary Powers, USN (Ret) presenting the SWVC "Cup" in appreciation to COL Claude Shmid, USA (Ret) for the most interesting presentation on the "Last Patrol".



## SURVIVING SPOUSES - What to Know About National Cemetery Burials

Service members and veterans, and their spouses, are eligible for burial at national cemeteries. Also eligible are minor dependent children and, under certain conditions, unmarried adult children with disabilities. An eligible spouse and children may be buried in a national cemetery even if they predecease the veteran.

If you or a loved one are considering burial in a national cemetery, here are three helpful considerations:

**Locate the nearest cemetery.** The VA operates 156 national cemeteries in 42 states and Puerto Rico. However, not every state has a VA cemetery. To find a cemetery close to you, visit <https://gravelocator.cem.va.gov>. For our area, the nearest cemetery is the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery located in Dublin, Virginia.

**Plan ahead.** Make an emotional and stressful time less difficult by completing arrangements in advance. Learn more about the pre-need eligibility determination process, and fill out forms online. Other needed documents, such as a DD Form 214 or other separation documents, can be requested online. For expediency, the veteran may apply prior to death to determine eligibility for interment in the cemetery.

To download a copy of the pre-application form, visit the SWVA Cemetery at; [dvs.virginia.gov](https://dvs.virginia.gov). You may also request a copy of the pre-application by calling the cemetery at 855-4VA-VETS (855-482-8387).

Please remember that in addition to the pre-application form, you must submit documentation of military service (DD214 or equivalent) and a copy of a marriage certificate, if applicable. You must also inform cemetery management of other dependent eligibility status at time of application.

**Know your resources.** You can learn more about VA burial benefits from local VA national cemetery offices, the National Cemetery Administration, and VA regional offices, toll-free at (800) 827-1000.



## SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF MOAA SUB-CHAPTER FOR SPOUSES

We are exploring the formation of a sub-chapter for spouses of members from the Southwest Virginia Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. The sub-chapter would meet along side of surviving spouses and form into a group of like-minded ladies. A spouse sub-chapter could provide opportunities for spouses to become more involved in Chapter activities, become involved in local civic projects as well as to provide a social outlet at coffees, lunches and other gatherings. Their only constraint is that as not being members of MOAA, the sub-chapter members would not have voting privileges, but can certainly make valuable contributions and suggestions.

As a sub-chapter, members would be able to attend all Chapter activities, including programs and board meetings, even filling some of the board positions. Spouses can also be involved in Chapter operations: Secretary, newsletter editor, treasurer, programs, etc. Also, organizing of community events can provide great benefits for the chapter & community.

There are other MOAA spouse sub-chapters throughout the nation that have had good results by organizing separate luncheons on a regular basis for spouses and surviving spouses. Some have organized community events for Veterans Day & Memorial Day. For example, one group organized a "**Message in a Bottle**" activity over Veterans Day during a wine walk event. They put sand in a wine bottle, had paper slips available for people to write a note of "**Thanks**" on and a flag to put in the bottle, then they lined the courthouse square with almost 400 bottles. Later, a veterans group took the bottles to veterans in nursing homes, hospitals, at home. Another group organized an education program for elementary students and presented programs on the importance of the flag.

How the sub-chapter would organize formally is something still to be further discussed. It is envisioned this as a social as well as a service group. But for now, we would like to see if there is interest in forming such a group. If so, please contact Mrs. Mary Lou Summers by email at marysummers496@gmail.com with your thoughts, ideas and comments.

### WHAT SURVIVING SPOUSES CAN DO

Surviving spouses of deceased military officers can serve MOAA chapters in many ways. Chapters should welcome these members and encourage them to become active in not only the chapter but also national MOAA. Here are four ways surviving spouses can contribute to MOAA chapters:

1. **Recruiting.** Having participated in activities on many military bases and within the community, surviving spouses might know others — both surviving spouses and couples — who have retired and are living in the chapter area and can help recruit them as new members. Welcoming these potential members and encouraging them to become active members serves national MOAA and local chapters as well as the new members themselves.
2. **Leadership roles.** Surviving spouses, formerly referred to as auxiliary members, are eligible to serve as chapter officers. Many chapters now have a surviving spouse in an office, sometimes even serving as president.
3. **Event planning.** Surviving spouses can help organize chapter luncheons or dinner meetings, a task for which they might be well prepared. Those who have been members of officers' wives' clubs wherever their spouses were stationed usually have helped with planning meetings and arranging for speakers or entertainment.
4. **Social and personal affairs support.** When a death occurs within the chapter membership, surviving spouses can assist the widow or widower with the sometimes complicated task of changing names on accounts, notifying insurance companies, stopping military retired pay, and applying for Social Security benefits as well as military survivor entitlements. Help with planning a funeral and burial arrangements also can be very useful. A surviving spouse who already has dealt with these tasks can offer support during a time when the recently bereaved member might be feeling overwhelmed and confused. The ability to provide the social support needed to accomplish the necessary adjustments can make the newly bereaved spouse feel more confident and comfortable.

Surviving spouses also can help a new widow or widower regain a social life through friendships and organized social events. MOAA meetings and other occasions can provide this for those spouses. Becoming active in a local chapter is a good way to take advantage of this benefit. National membership is a wonderful source of help when questions arise about anything related to the military career of the deceased.

By Patricia Farnsworth, Surviving Spouse Advisory Council member

## NEW MOAA SWVA CHAPTER WEBSITE

Your **MOAA SWVA Chapter website** has a new look and new features. Found at [www.moaswva.org](http://www.moaswva.org), the design concept was twofold - first to keep existing members informed of chapter activities and secondly as a recruiting tool to attract new members.

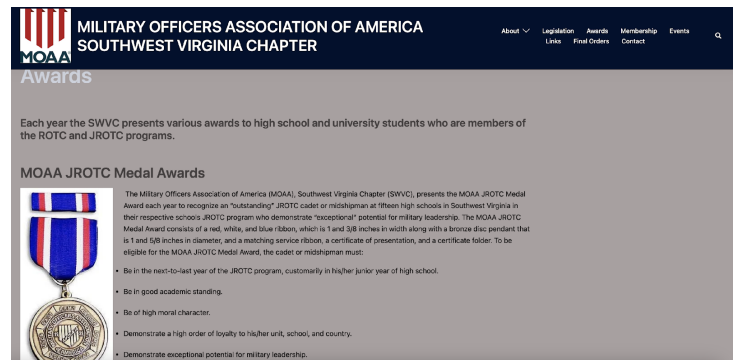
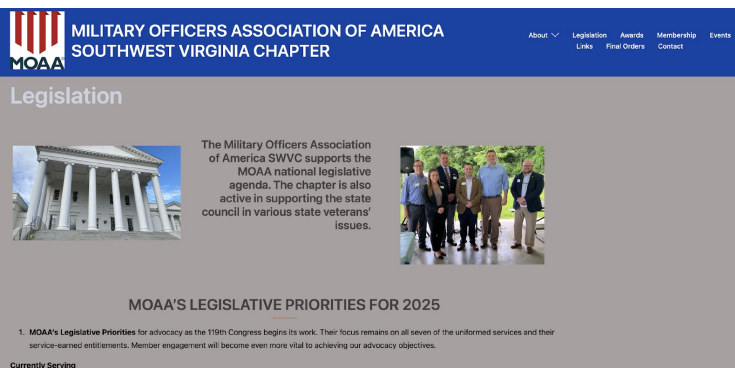
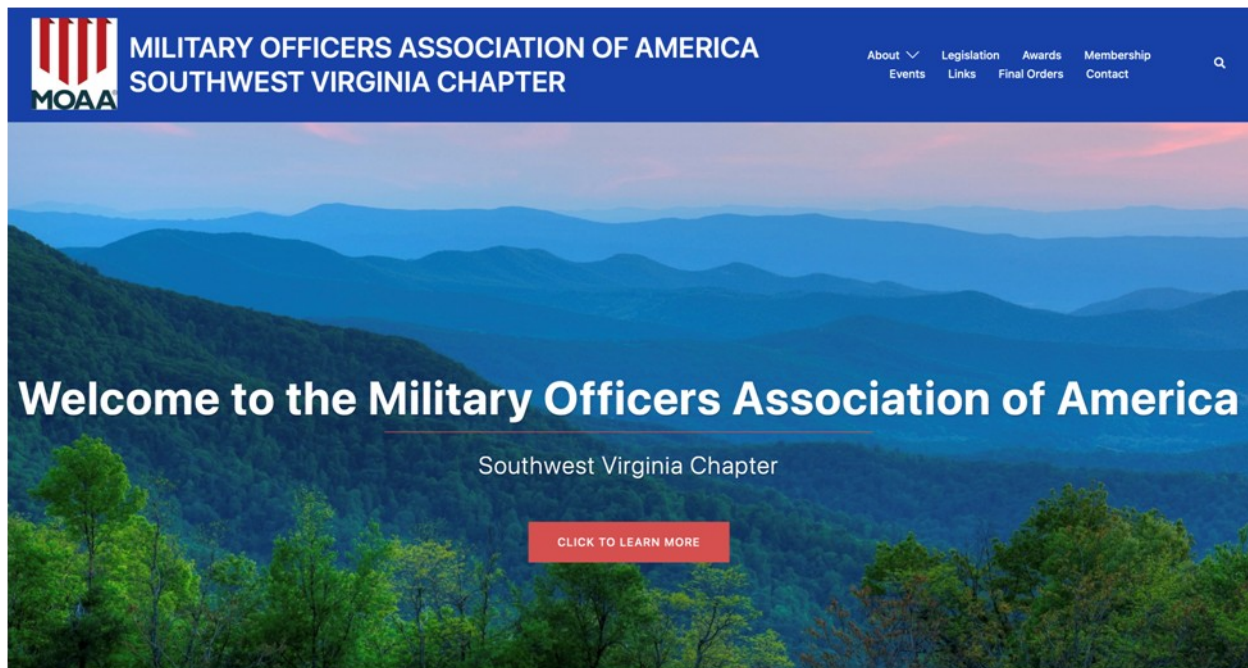
The **HOMEPAGE** features a sliding carousel of photos as well as stating the chapter mission with links to chapter activities, legislative issues and information on how to join the chapter.

Across the top of the page are drop-down menus to access Leadership members, Newsletters and Board Minutes. There are separate pages dedicated to **LEGISLATION**, **AWARDS** and **MEMBERSHIP**.

A menu item labeled **EVENTS** produces a calendar of Chapter activities and events and can be viewed in a list form, by month or by individual day. At the bottom of the page is a Subscribe feature that permits entries to be linked to Google Calendar, iCalendar, Outlook 365 or to simply download the calendar to a separate file.

A **LINKS** page contains contact information for a variety of veteran's related organizations. Lastly, a **FINAL ORDERS** page is offered in remembrance of chapter members we have lost.

This is your website, so don't hesitate to offer suggestions, corrections and ideas to the Chapter webmaster.






Continued from Page 16 “New MOAA SWVA Chapter Website”

**MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**  
SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER

About | Legislation | Awards | Membership | Events  
Links | Final Orders | Contact

### Membership



www.moaa.org/chapters

CLICK ON IMAGE ABOVE TO VIEW VIDEO

Joining the Chapter

Membership in the Southwest Virginia Chapter and its satellite is open to anyone who holds or has ever held a commission or warrant in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force, Public Health Service, Reserve, National Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and their surviving spouses.

**MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**  
SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER

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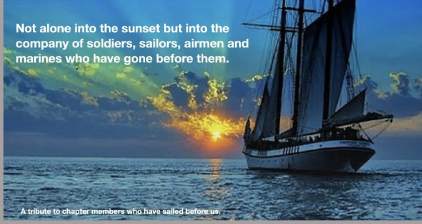
### Links

Air Force Retiree Services: (800) 531-7502; www.retiraes.af.mil  
 Arlington National Cemetery: (703) 607-8000; www.arlingtoncemetery.org  
 Armed Forces Retirement Homes: (800) 422-9983; www.afrh.gov  
 Army & Air Force Exchange Service: (214) 312-2011; www.aafes.com  
 Army Retired Services: (703) 571-7232; https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement  
 Burial at Sea Information: (866) 787-0081; www.npc.navy.mil  
 Combat Related Special Compensation: www.donhq.navy.mil/corb/crsc/crscmainpage.htm  
 DEERS: (800)-538-9582, Fax: (831) 656-8317; www.tricare.osd.mil/deers  
 Defense Commissary Agency: www.commissaries.com  
 DFAS Casualty Assistance Branch: (800) 321-1080 or (216) 522-5955  
 Gulf War homepage: www.gulfink.osd.mil  
 I.D. Cards Benefits and Eligibility: (866) 827-5672; www.npc.navy.mil/support/payers/ID\_Cards/Pages/default2.aspx  
 Internal Revenue Service: (800) 828-1040; www.irs.gov  
 Marine Corps Retired Affairs: (800) 338-4649; www.usmc.mil  
 (Hover over "Marine Services" then click on "Retired Services")  
 Medicare: (800) 633-4227, TTY: (877) 486-2048; www.medicare.gov  
 Military Officers Association of America (MOAA): (800) 234-6622; www.moaa.org  
 National Burial Services: (800) 697-8940  
 NPC Navy Reserve Personnel Management (PERS 9): (866) 827-5672  
 www.npc.navy.mil/career/reservepersonnelmgmt/Pages/default.aspx

**MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**  
SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER

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### Final Orders



Not alone into the sunset but into the company of soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who have gone before them.

A tribute to chapter members who have sailed before us.

## **MOAA'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 119TH CONGRESS**

As the legislative slate is wiped clean for the 119th Congress, grassroots support becomes even more vital to achieving MOAA's advocacy objectives. MOAA needs your help to keep momentum for existing priorities such as the Major Richard Star Act, which would benefit tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans and had the support of two-thirds of Congress at the end of last session. We also need your work on behalf of new objectives and emergent issues, often via immediate action to keep up with the stop-and-go pace of legislation. To keep connected, ensure you are signed up for [The MOAA Newsletter](#) and [register as an advocate](#) at our Legislative Action Center.

Here is a look at MOAA's priorities, in support of the 50th anniversary of our all-volunteer force and to address the challenges facing our uniformed community. Note: Our advocacy team remains active on many other issues not listed here; our priorities will be shaped throughout the year depending on concurrent successes or emerging issues that warrant an all-hands approach. Additionally, we share many interests with The Military Coalition and other stakeholder groups, and leverage those relationships to expand our reach on Capitol Hill.

- Compensation and Service-Earned Benefits
- Military Housing
- Health Care for Currently Serving and Retirees
- Health Care and Benefits for Veterans
- Service Families
- Survivors
- Guard and Reserve

As protecting health care and service-earned benefits is a challenge, MOAA will press forward to engage Congress to shape outcomes in these vital areas. There are steep hills before us. Our nation has a rising debt of more than \$30 trillion and a deficit of more than \$3 trillion. Because of this, MOAA anticipates robust attempts to control federal budgets, reduce or eliminate unprogrammed expenditures, and reduce entitlements. MOAA needs you to be ready to reach out to your legislators and keep that engagement going as necessary to make sure your voice is heard. **Details at <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/advocacy/tricare-for-life,-star-act,-housing-help-will-anchor-moaas-spring-advocacy-push/>**

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## **VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS/JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 2025 INITIATIVES** **(Adopted at the September and December 2024 JLC meetings)**

- **JLC Initiative 2025-01** - Verification of Veteran Status – Arrest, Jails, and Prison
- **JLC Initiative 2025-02** - Stop Unscrupulous Firms from Exploiting Veterans
- **JLC Initiative 2025-03** - Virginia National Guard Tuition
- **JLC Initiative 2025-04** - Suffolk State Veterans Cemetery Expansion
- **JLC Initiative 2025-05** - Women Veterans Day

A summary of the approved 2025 JLC Initiatives Policy papers for each initiative can be accessed on the JLC webpage at: <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/dvs/joint-leadership-council-veterans-service-organizations-2>





## MOAA Charities

Chapter members are encouraged to consider the following MOAA Charities in your planned giving.

- Support MOAA Charities by shopping with Amazon Smile
- Consider a bequest to The MOAA Foundation
- Consider a bequest to the MOAA Scholarship Fund
- Contributing cash and securities to MOAA Charities
- Setting up a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)
- Establishing a Designated Scholarship
- How Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs) can provide income for life
- Donating via an IRA Charitable Rollover/Qualified Charitable Distribution

## DO YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the Southwest Virginia Chapter of MOAA undertakes annual MOAA Medal awards presented to distinguished JROTC Cadets/Midshipmen in 14 area high schools and the four ROTC Cadets/Midshipmen at Virginia Tech and Radford University? Did you know that these awards recognize the recipient's academic, community service and leadership qualities that demonstrate exceptional potential for leadership while a member of their respective JROTC/ ROTC Programs? These JROTC/ ROTC awards consist of a MOAA Medal Award and an appropriate Award Certificate. The chapter bears the cost of the MOAA Medal Awards, presentation folders and mailing costs.

Did you also know that the Southwest Virginia Chapter of MOAA has established two Leadership Awards presented to ROTC Cadets/Midshipmen at Virginia Tech and Radford University during each academic year? Recipients are to be juniors or who will be starting their final year in the coming fall of the academic year. The Leadership Awards were established to recognize the recipient's academic, community service and leadership qualities that demonstrate exceptional potential for military leadership while a member of the Virginia Tech and Radford University ROTC Programs. The two Leadership Awards each carry a \$500 monetary award and an appropriate Award Certificate. The chapter bears the cost of the two Leadership Awards, presentation folders and the two \$500 monetary awards.

The South West Virginia Chapter of MOAA was a strong supporter of the Military Family Support Center. However, the Military Family Support Center has gone out of operation. The Southwest Virginia Chapter looked into new options to restart the mission to identify and provide for the morale, welfare, and informational needs of military families (of all branches and components) who reside outside of the established support networks. During 2024 the chapter signed a partnership agreement with VFF to be able to provide food assistance in the form of credit cards to needy military families. In 2024 the SWVC received a \$2,000 grant from MOAA and \$250 in personal donations to support the VFF program.

The South West Virginia Chapter of MOAA also supports the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin, Virginia each year providing a MOAA Mobile Vehicle and with the Christmas Wreath Laying Program providing and placing wreaths on veterans' grave sites. The Chapter funded and dedicated a "Memorial Bench" at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin, Virginia in honor of LTC James "Pat" Green, USA (Ret) who was the person most responsible for getting the cemetery located at Dublin, Virginia.

These programs are extremely important for the SWVC to continue as the community face of the Military Officers Association of America, to be an advocate for a strong national defense, to be an influential provider and supporter of programs, benefits and services for our military community, and to be a source of social fellowship for our members. The chapter has no regular financial stream except for chapter dues or donations. During the coming year we will be asking for your personal and financial support of our outreach programs and our monthly membership meetings.



## Chapter Website Up and Running

The Southwest Virginia Chapter website is now up and running. To access the site go to [moaaswva.org](http://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. The Chapter also has a Facebook page at MOAASWVA

## 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](http://MOAA.org)**

**MOAA Southwest Virginia Chapter**  
**P.O. Box 3090**  
**Roanoke, VA 24015-1090**  
**Email: [info@moaaswva.org](mailto:info@moaaswva.org)**  
**Webpage: [www.moaaswva.org](http://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, Space Force, Public Health Service, or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and their surviving spouses.

## UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS

### **A REMINDER THAT A GREAT LUNCH IS PROVIDED AT EACH MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**17 April 2025.** Program by COL Hobie Pillsbury, USA (Ret) on the World War II "Ghost Army". General Patton never actually commanded (since it never really existed!). Included will be a 'show and tell' collection of genuine patches from most of the fictitious divisions of the "First U.S. Army Group" (FUSAG). The presentation will include pictures that tell the story of one of the most successful military deceptions of all time. Most credit Eisenhower with the Allied success on D-Day, but perhaps Hitler deserves the honor as he could have released reserve armored forces capable of easily destroying the beachhead, but was absolutely convinced Normandy was just a feint and he had to wait for the "real" invasion by Patton's FUSAG.

**15 May 2025.** BBQ lunch meeting the American Legion Post 3 picnic shelter on Apperson Drive in Salem, VA.

### **Other Programs Being Considered:**

Dr. Brian K. Unwin, MD, Chief of Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine, Carilion on **"The Cost of Aging"** and/or **"The Cost of Not Aging."**

Mr. Larry Johnson, CAPT USA (former), Vietnam veteran helicopter pilot on **"Helicopters In The Vietnam War—A Personal Perspective"**.

CAPT Gary Powers, USN (Ret) on **"The Role of Naval Intelligence During the Cold War"**.





**CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP  
as of 31 March 2025**

Regular Members 73  
 Surviving Spouses 6  
 Total Members 79  
 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** or on face book at **moaswva** then Contact COL Bob Brown, USA (Ret), Chapter Membership Chair at (540) 904-2810 or email at **rbbrown68@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 Communique* is published quarterly and sent to the membership by email. Printed copies will be provided upon request. The next issue will be published at the end of June 2025.

*Featured in This Issuer*  
 Presidents Corner  
 Some Interesting Inauguration Day Moments in US History.  
 CareForward, a Technology Platform to Solve the Crisis of Care  
 Leslies Retreat  
 Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)  
 Veterans Last Patrol  
 Surviving Spouses - What You Should Know About National Cemetery Burials

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



**'NEVER STOP SERVING'**



Military Officers Association of America  
 Southwest Virginia Chapter  
 P.O. Box 3090  
 Roanoke, VA 24015-1090

