The Communiqué

Southwest Virginia Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

A Five-Star Chapter

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The American Revolution



The American Revolution (1765–1789) was a political movement in the Thirteen Colonies of Great Britain. It began as a rebellion and turned into a revolution eventually creating the sovereign United States, which was the outcome of the associated American Revolutionary War (1775–1783). The Second Continental Congress, as the provisional government, established the Continental Army and appointed George Washington as its commander-in-chief in 1775.

The following year, the Congress passed the Lee Resolution on July 2nd and unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4th. Throughout most of the war, the outcome appeared uncertain, but a 1781 victory by Washington and the Continental Army in the Siege of Yorktown led King George III and the Fox–North coalition in government to negotiate the cessation of colonial rule and the acknowledgment of American sovereignty, which was formalized in the Treaty of Paris, signed on September 3, 1783. The Constitution took effect in 1789 and the Bill of Rights was ratified in 1791.

Discontent with colonial rule began shortly after the French and Indian War, which ended in 1763. Although the colonies had fought and supported the war directly, the British Parliament imposed new taxes, ostensibly to compensate for wartime costs, and transferred control of the colonies' western lands to British officials in Montreal. Representatives from several colonies convened in New York City for the Stamp Act Congress in 1765. Its declaration argued that taxation without representation and other policies violated their rights as Englishmen. In 1767, though the Stamp Act was repealed, tensions increased again following Parliament's passing of the Townshend Acts. In an effort to quell the mounting rebellion, King George III deployed British troops to the colony of Massachusetts, where there was a conflict in the 1770 Boston Massacre.

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President's Corner



As a child of the 1950s, I remember that when I was growing up, our nation still had a few Civil War veterans alive, and millions of soldiers who had served in World War I and World War II. I recall parades of veterans, probably marching on the 4th of July and Veterans Day, in uniform, holding miniature flags and waving as they passed crowds of cheering friends and neighbors.
The last Civil War veterans died in the 1950s, and the last World War I veteran, Florence Green, passed away in 2012 at age 110. According to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs statistics, only 31,418 of the 16.4 million people who served in the U.S. armed forces during World War II were alive at the end of 2025. Most World War II service members were born between 1907 and 1928, making the youngest veterans in their late nineties. They will be gone soon, too. The population of Vietnam veterans is also rapidly declining, with estimates indicating that fewer than 850,000 of the 2.7 million who served in Vietnam are still alive today. This decline is primary

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due to aging, as many veterans are now in their 70s and 80s. The trend underscores the inevitable passage of time, as those who bravely served in a conflict spanning 1955 to 1975 are gradually decreasing in number. This decline in living veterans raises critical questions about the support and representation of this demographic, particularly as they age, which will further accelerate the decline before long. As Veterans Day approaches, let us continue to honor the brave soldiers from all our past military engagements. As Eric Bogle wrote in his song ***"And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda";*** **But year after year, the numbers get fewer. Someday, no one will march there at all.**

We have been busy planning an engaging autumn for our members. Permit me to share a few details. On 15 October, we will present a program by Al McLean, an attorney in Roanoke, on the **"Skirmish at Pearisburg"** a small Civil War battle fought in Giles County in 1862. On 19 November, we have a great surprise for you: "**An Afternoon with Patrick Henry";** A direct descendant of Patrick and Sarah Henry, Mr. Jolly appears in costume to share the life and times of Patrick Henry and the history of his home, Red Hill. Finally, on 17 December, Mr. John D. Long, Director of Education, will present a program at the National D-Day Memorial on the **"Underappreciated Virginia Declaration of Rights".** Please join us.

We are still seeking members to serve on the Board as officers and directors. We currently have vacancies for the 1st and 2nd vice president positions, and we always need members to serve as directors. Several of our current Board members have served seven years or more and are getting older. We need younger members to step up. If you are interested in serving, please let me know.

I also want to update you on our efforts to purchase a 6-passenger golf cart to shuttle visitors and veterans around the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin, Virginia. We have raised more than $8,900 and the BOD approved funds from our treasury to fully pay the remaining $1,000. Once again, I am asking for your support! We ask all chapter members to support this project by donating to the chapter as part of our continued dedication to the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery. Only through your donation can we make this another success. Please send your check to MOAA Southwest Virginia Chapter, PO Box 3090, Roanoke, Virginia 24015-1090, payable to MOAA Mobile. We will announce a formal dedication event once we deliver the cart to the cemetery. To those who have already donated, thank you for your generosity in supporting this worthwhile project. We will keep you informed about our fundraising progress online through our Facebook page and website. Remember, Never Stop Serving.
Bob

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.

OUR VISION

To Be An Influential Military Organization in Southwest Virginia.

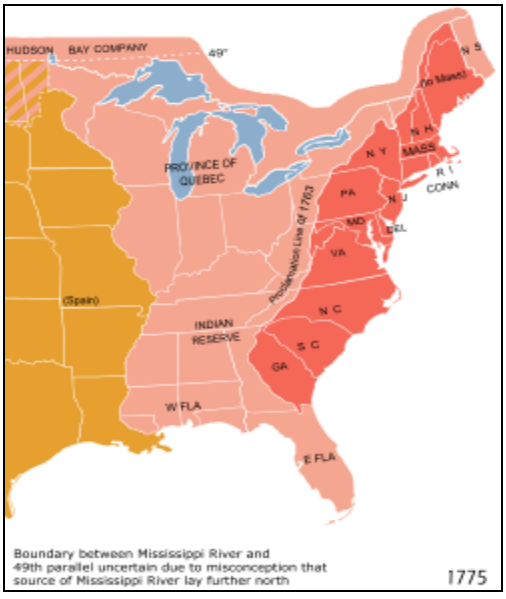
Continued from Page 1. ***"The American Revolution"***

In December 1773, the local faction of the Sons of Liberty orchestrated the Boston Tea Party, during which they dumped chests of taxed tea owned by the British East India Company into the Boston Harbor. Parliament responded by enacting a series of punitive laws, called the Intolerable Acts. These were intended to end self-government in Massachusetts but instead increased American support for revolution.

In 1774, 12 of the Thirteen Colonies sent delegates to the First Continental Congress (the Province of Georgia joined in 1775). The First Continental Congress began coordinating Patriot resistance through underground networks of committees largely built on the foundations of the Sons of Liberty network. In August 1775, King George III proclaimed Massachusetts to be in rebellion. Then In December 1773, the local faction of the Sons of Liberty orchestrated the Boston Tea Party, during which they dumped chests of taxed tea owned by the British East India Company into the Boston Harbor. Parliament responded by enacting a series of punitive laws, called the Intolerable Acts. These were intended to end self-government in Massachusetts but instead increased American support for revolution.

The British attempted to disarm the colonists, resulting in the Battles of Lexington and Concord, starting the Revolutionary War. The Second Continental Congress convened in May of 1775 and created the Continental Army, which then surrounded Boston, forcing the British to withdraw by sea in March 1776 and leaving Patriots in control in every colony. In May 1776, Congress voted to suppress all forms of Crown authority to be replaced by locally created authority, and each colony created a state constitution. On July 2, the Congress passed the Lee Resolution, affirming their support for joint independence. On July 4, 1776, they unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence, basing the new nation on the revolutionary concept of protecting and guaranteeing inalienable rights and proclaiming that "all men are created equal". After that, Congress began drafting the Articles of Confederation, an effort to establish a multi-state self-governing coordinating body capable of negotiating international treaties and prosecuting the war.

The Revolutionary War continued for another seven years, during which France eventually entered. On September 28, 1781, Washington commanded the Continental Army's capture of a British army under General Cornwallis at the Siege of Yorktown, leading to the collapse of King George's control of Parliament. Consensus in Parliament soon shifted to the war ending on American terms. On September 3, 1783, the British signed the Treaty of Paris, recognizing the sovereign independence of the United States, and ceding to the new nation nearly all the territory east of the Mississippi River and south of the Great Lakes. The United States became the first nation to establish a federal republic with a written constitution based on the principles of universal natural rights, consent of the governed, and equality under the law, although with significant democratic limitations compared to later evolution of the concept.



A 1775 map of Eastern North America, including the Province of Quebec, the Thirteen Colonies on the Atlantic Coast, and the Indian Reserve as defined by the Royal Proclamation of 1763. The border between the red and pink areas represents the 1763 Proclamation line, and the orange area represents Spanish colonial claims.



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"Stories That Matter: A Conversation with Beth Macy"

Reading is a lifelong skill that improves memory, builds a robust vocabulary and a foundation of knowledge, and adds richness and depth of meaning to life for all those who can access true, deep comprehension. Mark Twain famously said, "***The man who does not read has no advantage over the man who cannot*".**



On Thursday 17 September 2026 the Southwest Viginia Chapter welcomed Ms. Beth Macy, an award-winning American journalist and nonfiction writer, to the chapter monthly membership meeting and lunch. Ms. Macy, the author of five books, including four national bestsellers was to share her experiences researching and writing about the people, places, and issues that have shaped **Southwest Virginia and Appalachia**. She was to discuss several of her acclaimed books, including ***Factory Man***, ***Dopesick***, ***Raising Lazarus***, and ***Paper Girl***, and offer insights into how her reporting and experiences in the region have shaped her understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing rural communities.

She did share the story about her father who served in WW II as an MP in the Army and why she is so passionate about veterans issues. When her father came home after the war he really did not receive the medical care he needed and he evolved into a life of alcoholism. When she was born in 1954 her father was on his way to being pretty much dysfunctional. At the VFW where he spent most of his time his friends called him, "*Shakey*" because he could paint a straight line with the "DT's" and it would be perfectly straight. She said you might say "*I had a front row bar stool seat to witness what it's like when a veteran doesn't get the medical care they deserve. My mother and I would go to the VFW on a Friday night when he was paid to get part of his pay to buy groceries for the next week before he drank or gambled it away. This was a hard story for me to tell because when he came home from the war there were tremendous problems he faced that I, as a young person, could not really understand. And that's probably why over the past 15 years I wrote two books about addiction which is the number one killer of persons with addictions".*

Ms. Macy was a reporter for *The Roanoke Times* in Roanoke, Virginia, from 1989 to 2014.[7] She writes essays and op-eds, including for *The New York Times*, in addition to writing for magazines. In 2010, she was awarded the Nieman Fellowship for Journalism by Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.[8] In 2023, she was named a Guggenheim Fellow for General Non-Fiction.

In June 2020, Macy was an executive producer and co-writer for an eight episode Hulu series based on her 2018 book, *Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors and the Drug Company that Addicted America*. *Dopesick* tells the story of America's opioid crisis and the deadly role played by members of the Sackler family, the former owners of Purdue Pharma. The series was developed by Danny Strong and stars Michael Keaton.

In 2020, Macy wrote a follow up to *Dopesick* titled *Raising Lazarus: Hope, Justice, and the Future of America's Overdose Crisis.*[11] It documents heroic efforts by grassroots activists and families to combat addiction and resistance to scientifically valid treatment methods. In her latest book, *Paper Girl: A Memoir of Home and Family in a Fractured America,* Macy returns to her hometown of Urbana, Ohio, to document the changes there resulting from globalization, addiction, and a divided America.



Chapter President LTC Bob Habermann thanking Ms. Beth Macy for her presentation to the chapter membership.



Chapter President LTC Bob Habermann presenting the SWVC "Cup" to Ms. Beth Macy in appreciation for her presentation to the chapter membership.

The Young Scout: Andrew Jackson

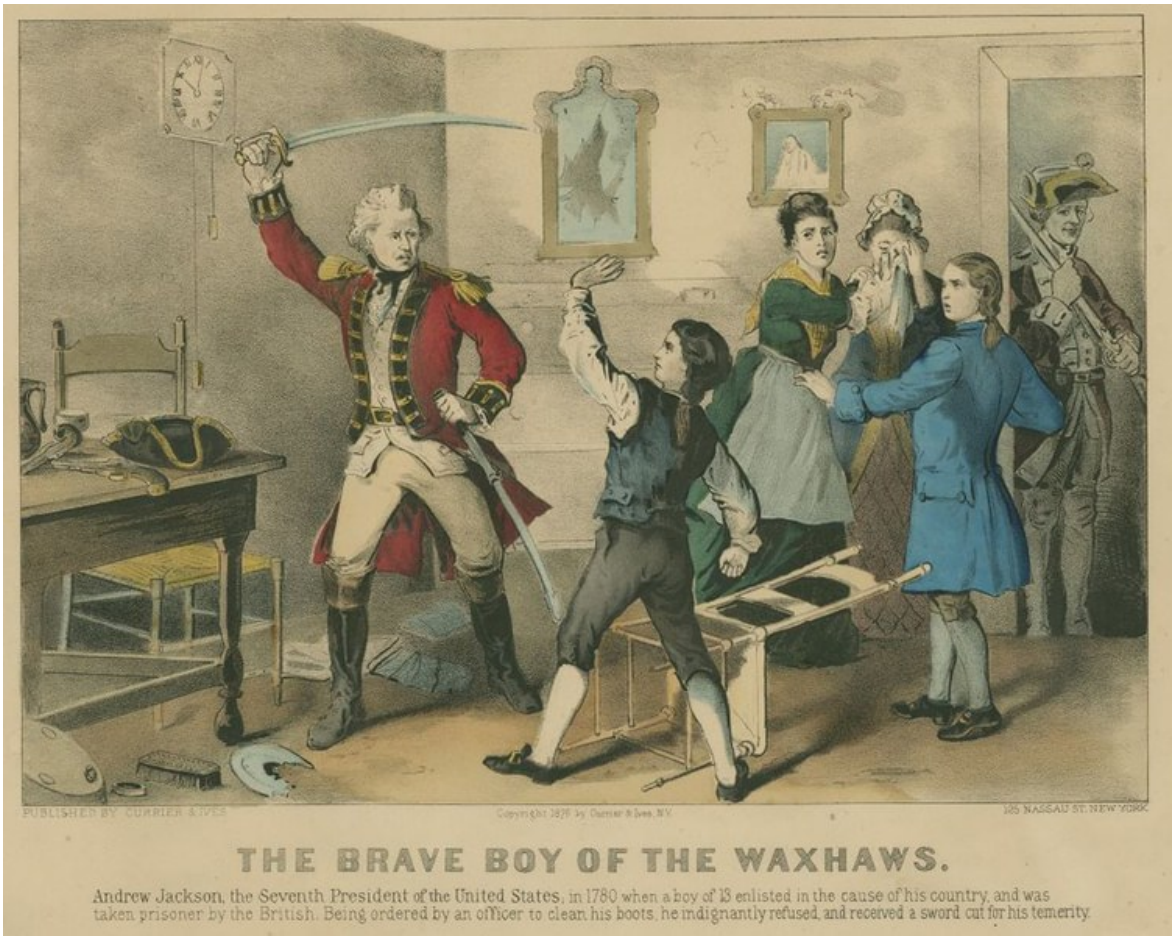
When Andrew Jackson was a little boy he lived with his mother in South Carolina. He was eight years old when he heard about the ride of Paul Revere and the famous fight at Lexington. It was then that the long war, called the Revolutionary War, began. The king's soldiers were sent into every part of the country. The people called them the British. Some called them **"red-coats."**

There was much fighting; and several great battles took place between the British and the Americans. At last Charleston, in South Carolina, was taken by the British. Andrew Jackson was then a tall white-haired boy, thirteen years old. **"I am going to help drive those red-coated British out of the country,"** he said to his mother. Then, without another word, he mounted his brother's little farm horse and rode away. He was not old enough to be a soldier, but he could be a scout—and a good scout he was.

He was very tall—as tall as a man. He was not afraid of anything. He was strong and ready for every duty. One day as he was riding through the woods, some British soldiers saw him. They quickly surrounded him and made him their prisoner. **"Come with us,"** they said, **"and we will teach you that the king's soldiers are not to be trifled with."** They took him to the British camp.

"What is your name, young rebel?" said the British captain. **"Andy Jackson."** **"Well, Andy Jackson, get down here and clean the mud from my boots."** Andrew's gray eyes blazed as he stood up straight and proud before the haughty captain. **"Sir,"** he said, **"I am a prisoner of war, and demand to be treated as such."** **"You rebel!"** shouted the captain. **"Down with you, and clean those boots at once."**

The slim, tall boy seemed to grow taller, as he answered, **"I'll not be the servant of any Englishman that ever lived."** The captain was very angry. He drew his sword to hit the boy with its flat side. Andrew threw out his hand and received an ugly gash across the knuckles.



Some other officers, who had seen the whole affair, cried out to the captain, **"Shame! He is a brave boy. He deserves to be treated as a gentleman."**

Andrew was not held long as a prisoner. The British soldiers soon returned to Charleston, and he was allowed to go home.

In time, Andrew Jackson became a very great man. He was elected to Congress, he was chosen judge of the supreme court of Tennessee, he was appointed general in the army, and lastly he was for eight years the president of the United States.

Continued on page 5 "**Southwest Virginia in the American Revolution**"

IN MEMORIAM

Major Michael Allan "Mike" Kasnick, USA veteran
30 September 1939 - 25 April 2026

With deepest sympathy, we mourn the passing of Army veteran **Major Michael A. Kasnick**, a longtime member and chapter officer of the Southwest Virginia Chapter of MOAA. Michael passed away peacefully on 25 April 2026. His beloved wife, Beatrice, was by his side, along with his daughter and son-in-law and members of his care team.

Mike was born in Central City, a small coal-mining town in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. One of four children, he was preceded in death by his parents and his sisters, Anna Louise Russian and Elenore Monko. He is survived by his brother, Larry Kasnick.

Central City was settled primarily by European immigrants, and coal mining was the community's principal industry. Given the economic circumstances of the day, a college education was beyond the reach of most young people. Mike, however, was a gifted athlete whose exceptional talents opened the door to higher education.

In 1957, while playing basketball for Shade High School in Cairnbrook, Pennsylvania, Mike scored an extraordinary 92 points in a single game. At the time, his achievement surpassed Wilt Chamberlain's high school record of 90 points. Mike was equally talented on the baseball field. His athletic ability attracted the attention of colleges and universities and ultimately enabled him to earn a full athletic scholarship to Bucknell University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering.

Mike entered the United States Army in June 1962 and was honorably discharged in June 1970. His military service included a tour in Vietnam. A courageous and dedicated soldier, Mike was awarded two Bronze Stars for bravery, along with many other commendations and awards.

Following his service to our nation, Mike moved with his wife and three children to Iran, where he worked as an engineer for the National Iranian Oil Company. He later worked in Saudi Arabia for ExxonMobil Corporation until his retirement.

In 1996, Mike and his wife, Bea, moved to Covington, Virginia. During his retirement years, Mike enjoyed gardening and generously supported local community organizations through his volunteer service.

Mike and Bea were faithful and valued members of the Southwest Virginia Chapter of MOAA. Mike served the chapter as Sergeant at Arms and took great pride in his responsibility as guardian of the United States and chapter flags.

Mike is survived by his wife, Bea; his three adult children and their spouses, Mike and Paula Kasnick, Frank and Martie Kasnick, and Cecelia and James Gibson; and nine grandchildren.

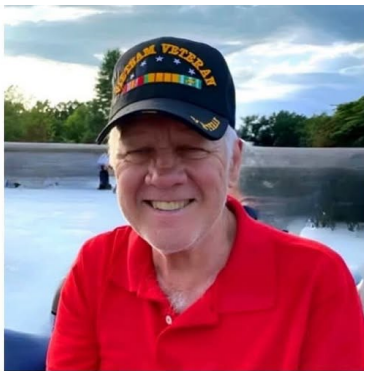
Mike's life was one of service, achievement, devotion to family, and commitment to community. From his humble beginnings in a small Pennsylvania coal-mining town to his distinguished military service, successful engineering career, and faithful involvement in his community and MOAA, he leaves behind a remarkable legacy.

He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and fellow members of the Southwest Virginia Chapter of MOAA. **May he rest in peace, and may his memory continue to inspire all who were privileged to know him.**



IN MEMORIAM

Major Roger Wilco Sorensen USAF (Ret)
2 October 1944 - 31August 2026



With deepest sympathy, we mourn the passing of Air Force Major Roger Wilco Sorensen, 81, on August 31, 2026, with his wife of more than 58 years, Cinda, by his side. A member of the United States Air Force Academy Class of 1968, Roger proudly served his country through a decades-long career in the United States Air Force. After retiring from the Air Force in 1988, he began a second, 22-year career in corporate aviation, continuing his lifelong connection to flying. Roger was a long time member of the Smith Mountain Lake Satellite Chapter.

His service and aviation careers took him to many places and introduced him to people from around the world, leading to friendships that endured across decades and continents.

Known for his sense of humor and active spirit, Roger enjoyed staying on the move. Tennis was a longtime favorite, and in more recent years, he could often be found on the pickleball court. He enjoyed the competition, the camaraderie, and, undoubtedly, the opportunity for a little good-natured banter along the way.

Roger's circle of friends stretched far beyond any one community. He remained connected with friends across the country and around the world, a reflection of the many places he lived, served, and made an impression along the way.

Roger and Cinda fulfilled a longtime dream of making their home at Smith Mountain Lake, where he could enjoy another great love: the water. Whether in the sky or on the lake, Roger was happiest with a sense of freedom, movement, and adventure. Roger will be remembered for his humor, his energy, the friendships he cultivated throughout his life, and the personality he brought to the lives of those around him.

He is survived by his wife, Cinda; his daughter, Heather; his sister, Margaret Moyer (Lee); his niece, Jennifer Nieva (Rick); his nephew, Robert Moyer (Deb); and several grandnieces and grandnephews.

In keeping with Roger's wishes, no formal service is planned. His family and friends will gather on his birthday October 2, 2026 at the lake house for a Celebration of Life Happy Hour. Roger's interment with Military Honors will be at the USAF Academy columbarium in Colorado Springs at a date in the future.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Towson University Foundation or the United States Air Force Academy Foundation.



NEW MOAA SURVIVING SPOUSE VIRTUAL CHAPTER WEBSITE!



MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter
Strength Through Shared Experiences

MOAA's Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC) is proud to announce the launch of the **new MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter website.**

This new website was created with our members in mind. It is designed to be welcoming, informative, and easy to navigate, whether you are a longtime member or visiting for the first time. The site brings together important chapter information, meeting schedules, event announcements, advocacy updates, book club details, and direct links to trusted MOAA, VA, and survivor support resources—all in one convenient location.

In addition to chapter news and updates, the website highlights the many ways the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter provides connection, education, and support to surviving spouses nationwide. Visitors will find information on how to join the chapter, participate in virtual meetings, stay informed on legislative issues, and engage with programs that foster community and resilience.

We encourage all members to take time to explore the site, bookmark it for future reference, and share it with other surviving spouses who may benefit from the information and support offered. This website is an important step forward in strengthening communication, expanding outreach, and ensuring that no surviving spouse feels alone or disconnected.

Click to explore and sign up today: www.moaasurvivingspousevirtualchapter.org

Nancy Hart: The Frontier "War Woman"



Men weren't the only ones with a stake in the Revolutionary War. Women also had an interest in the outcome, and a few wives and daughters even stepped up to defend their communities and country. Women in 18th century America had few political rights and virtually no opportunities for employment. They were expected to be wives and mothers who kept their political opinions to themselves, if they had any. Those restrictions applied primarily to white, middle- and upper-class women who had the money and connections to make living on a pedestal possible. Enslaved women, or lower-class White women, usually had entirely different experiences.

Such was the case for Nancy Hart, the only woman for whom a Georgia county is named. Most of what is known about her comes from family stories and legends, but there is just enough evidence out there to indicate that a lot of those legends are likely grounded in truth. Nancy Hart was born in North Carolina sometime in the mid-1730s, and she may have been related in some way to Kentucky legend Daniel Boone and by marriage to politicians Henry Clay and Thomas Hart Benton, Hart's story distills the patriotism and heroism of so many nameless American women of the Revolutionary period.

Hart is said to have stood six-feet tall with red hair, freckles, and smallpox scars. Hart birthed eight children and was a midwife known for her understanding of herbal medicine. She was also said to be a sharpshooter who could handle a rifle as well as any man. Hart migrated to the Georgia back country around 1771 with her husband Benjamin, and they settled in the Piedmont region of Georgia on the banks of the Broad River in what is now Elbert County.

Legend has it that one day while Hart's husband was working their fields at some distance from their home, a band of British Tories showed up and demanded she prepare a meal for them. Some sources specify that they demanded she cook them a turkey. Hart, a Patriot through and through, saw an opportunity to strike a blow for the American cause, so she agreed, liberally pouring the corn whiskey for the Redcoats. Well, eventually, the men got a more than a bit tipsy. That's when the wily Hart moved the men's rifles outside. Some suggest that her daughter Sukey snuck outside and blew a conch shell to summon help. When the Redcoats tried to reclaim their weapons, legend says she shot and killed one of them and wounded another.

In the meantime, one of her children snuck out of the house and ran to get her husband. Benjamin and some of the neighbors arrived to find Nancy holding the men at gun point. Benjamin suggested shooting the lot, but Nancy declared that too good for a bunch of Loyalists. She suggested they be taken out and hanged–which evidence suggests may well be exactly what happened.

Nancy is also said to have served as a Patriot spy throughout the war, even dressing as a man and entering a Loyalist camp to gather information for Gen. Elijah Clarke before the Battle of Kettle Creek, according to John H. McInstosh's 1940 history of Elbert County. Other stories about Nancy, passed down in her family, say she served as a sniper, taking out Loyalists as they crossed the Broad River.

WHAT DID MONEY LOOK LIKE IN THE 1800s?

While the Coinage Act of 1792 established the United States Mint and the dollar as the unit of currency for the fledgling nation, it was quite some time before a fully standardized monetary system took root. In the meantime, people in possession of valuable metals continued to use them for transactions, local banks offered their own currency, and foreign money continued to flow until being banned as legal tender in 1857. Despite this relative instability, Americans today would largely recognize the various forms of currency that exchanged hands in the 19th century, even if the designs and denominations of the coins and paper bills often differed from those in circulation today. Here's a glimpse at what money looked like as the United States came of age.

Gold Coins



The 1792 Coinage Act stipulated that all U.S. coins were to feature a depiction of the goddess Liberty on the front, while gold and silver coinage also required the display of an eagle on the back. As a result, the gold eagle ($10), half-eagle ($5), and quarter-eagle ($2.50) coins that went into circulation in the 1790s were all engraved in this fashion through the 1800s. By the mid-19th century, the discovery of gold in California ushered a new wave of the precious metal into the economy, resulting in the creation of the new $1 piece, the $20 "**double eagle**," and the octagonal $50 unit, aka the "slug." Unusual denominations from this era include the $3 coin, which featured Liberty in a Native American headdress, and the $4 "**Stella**," which displayed a five-pointed star instead of an eagle.

Silver Coins



Although the silver half-dime, dime, quarter, half-dollar, and dollar pieces all surfaced by the mid-1790s, the U.S. Mint rarely churned out the first three in the early years of the 19th century, and the dollar was temporarily discontinued in 1804. Nevertheless, silver endured as an important component of the economy, with the full figure of the "**Seated Liberty**," accompanied by a shield and pole with a cap, adorning most coinage in the 19th century. A clear outlier of the bunch was the 3-cent "**trime**" that was minted between 1851 and 1873, the smallest of all coins at just 14 millimeters in diameter and the first silver piece to not display an eagle on the reverse. Although the federal government attempted to make gold the sole monetary standard in 1873, the **Bland-Allison Act of 1878** reintroduced silver into circulation, with the "**Morgan Dollar**," and its large profile of Liberty's face, emerging as a popular coin.

Copper Coins



Although gold and silver dominated U.S. currency in the antebellum period, the first coins to enter circulation following the Coinage Act were the large cent and half-cent in 1793. The large cent, which was roughly the size of a modern half-dollar, displayed either the "Matron Head" or "Braided Hair" profile of Liberty for most of its 19th-century run, while the half-cent featured similar designs across its quarter-sized dimension. Both denominations underwent major changes in 1857; the cent was shrunk to its current size, while the half-cent was discontinued altogether. Another notable copper coin from the era was the short-lived 2-cent piece, which displayed a shield instead of Liberty, and became the first coin to feature the motto "In God We Trust" when it appeared in 1864.

Continued on Page 11 **"Money in he 1800's"**

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"Greenbacks"



As part of efforts to fund the Civil War, the Union issued a temporary series of Demand Notes in 1861, before switching over to United States Notes in 1862. Both became known as "**greenbacks**" for the distinct green ink used as an anti-counterfeiting measure. As the earliest widespread form of U.S. paper currency, these notes resembled current legal tender in some ways, including the green color, but with some noticeable design differences. The initial versions of the $1 and $10 notes respectively featured Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase and President Abraham Lincoln on the front, while the reverse sides of various bills included extensive wording or patterns such as the crisscross sawhorse design. Additionally, greenbacks and other early paper currency were printed in the larger dimensions of 7 3/8 inches by 3 1/8 inches, until shrinking to 6 1/8 inches by 2 5/8 inches in 1929.

Confederate Notes



Of course, the Confederacy also needed to fund its own economy and war efforts, resulting in paper currency that predated the Union version by a few months. Printed in denominations ranging from 10 cents to $1,000, these notes featured Southern figures such as Confederate President Jefferson Davis and South Carolina First Lady Lucy Holcombe Pickens, as well as allegorical symbols of industry, commerce, and the South defeating the North. However, there was a lack of uniform size and design across the printings, and many of these "greybacks," as they were known, went into circulation with nothing printed on the reverse side. What's more, these low-quality notes faced the double whammy of being easily counterfeited and lacking the backing of government reserves, rendering them virtually worthless by the end of the Civil War.

Silver Certificates



Along with reintroducing silver into circulation, the Bland-Allison Act of 1878 led to a form of paper currency that was redeemable in silver dollars on demand. These silver certificates resembled the greenbacks that were already in widespread distribution, although certain sets are highly coveted by collectors for their ornate designs. Chief among these are the 1896 "**educational series**," which notably featured the allegorical image of "**History Instructing Youth**" on the $1 certificate, and "**Electricity as the Dominant Force in the World**" on the $5 denomination. The $1 silver certificate, which debuted in 1886, is also celebrated for being the first and only U.S. paper currency to date to feature a woman on the front: Martha Washington.



Improved Air Travel For The Military Community

From U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Transportation Security Administration is dedicated to assisting our service members, veterans, retirees, and their families. If you need assistance during screening, you or your traveling companion may talk to the TSA officer about the best way to complete the screening process. You may inform the TSA officer of any disability or medical condition verbally, by using the **TSA Notification Card** or by providing medical documentation.

TSA Cares

Injured military members, veterans, and wounded warriors may request assistance for airport security screening through TSA Cares.

Wounded warriors

TSA works with the appropriate military branch to verify the status of wounded warriors. Once verified, TSA provides travel information to the departing and arriving U.S. airports to ensure proper assistance at the security checkpoint.

Disabled service members and veterans

Disabled service members and veterans can request assistance for their travel. TSA will share their travel information and required assistance with both departing and arriving U.S. airports to ensure they receive the necessary support at the security checkpoint. Veterans not enrolled in TSA PreCheck will go through standard screening lanes. Learn about the security screening procedures for travelers with disabilities and medical conditions.

Contact TSA Cares

Please contact TSA Cares at least 72 hours prior to travel with questions about screening policies, procedures, and what to expect at security checkpoints.

- Request Assistance via online form.
- Call TSA Cares at 855-787-2227.

Free TSA PreCheck for uniformed service members and DOD civilians

Uniformed service members and DOD civilians receive TSA PreCheck expedited screening as a benefit of their employment and service. TSA PreCheck benefits apply to both official and personal travel when travel reservations include a **Known Traveler Number (KTN).**

MOBILE VEHICLE FOR THE SOUTHEWEST VIRGINIA VETERANS CEMETERY.

For more than 15 years, the MOAA Southwest Virginia Chapter has proudly supported the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin, Virginia. As the cemetery has grown, so has the need to provide transportation for veterans, families, and visitors—especially those with mobility challenges.

About 10 years ago, our chapter recognized that need and raised the funds to purchase a four-passenger electric golf cart. Since then, that cart has provided invaluable service, helping countless visitors navigate the expanding cemetery grounds with dignity and ease.

Today, the need is even greater. Once again, our chapter is answering the call and has raised the funds to purchase a six-passenger golf cart. After careful consideration, we selected a 2021 Club Car President, a gas-powered golf cart from a dealer in Richmond. The dealer generously reduced the purchase price by $1,000, bringing the total cost to $9,995, and also included delivery to the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, setup, and a limited warranty.

Thanks to the generosity of our members and supporters, we raised most of the funds to reach our goal. If you have not yet contributed, we encourage you to consider making a donation. If you have ever visited the cemetery, you know its size and understand how essential these golf carts are for veterans, family members, and visitors who find it difficult to walk long distances.

Please make your check payable to MOAA Southwest Virginia Chapter and mail it to:
MOAA Southwest Virginia Chapter
P.O. Box 3090
Roanoke, VA 24015-1090
Please write "MOAA Mobile" in the memo line.

A formal dedication ceremony will be announced when the golf cart is delivered to the cemetery.
Thank you for your continued generosity and unwavering support. Together, we can ensure that veterans, their families, and all who visit the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery have the transportation they need to honor those who have served our nation.



THE SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER CHALLENGE COIN AND THE STORIES THAT GO WITH THEM

Challenge coins are small, specially designed medallions that bear an organization's insignia, logo, or motto and are carried by its members. Rooted deeply in military history—with traditions dating back to World War I—they traditionally symbolize brotherhood, camaraderie, and shared achievement within a unit. Today, their use has expanded far beyond the armed forces to include law enforcement, first responders, and corporate organizations looking to recognize outstanding dedication. Receiving a challenge coin means you have received a symbol of honor, respect, and camaraderie. A **"coin check"** is a traditional military and veteran test where a challenger proves unit affiliation and forces others to produce their own challenge coins under specific rules. The **"Coin Check"** Rules & Traditions

- The Challenge: A member initiates a check by audibly calling for one or slamming their coin down on a hard surface.
- The Response: Everyone challenged must immediately produce their own organization's coin.
- The Penalty: If you fail to produce your coin, you must buy a round of drinks or a meal for the challenger and anyone else who successfully showed theirs.
- The Backfire: If everyone successfully produces their coin, the person who started the challenge has to buy the round for the entire group.





Want to tell and preserve the stories behind the challenge coin? **AllCoin:** First verified Challenge Coin Network. A community connecting military, law enforcement, and 1st responders. Trade, verify, and share your challenge coin stories.

Most members of the Southwest Virginia Chapter have a few. A command coin. One from a ship, a squadron, or a battalion. One pressed into a palm at a change of command, a retirement, or on the far side of a deployment. Some have been in a desk drawer since Vietnam.

Each one was given for a reason, and the reason is the part that matters. It is also the part that gets lost. The coin outlasts the memory, and when the officer passes, it goes to a son or a granddaughter who can read the crest but not the story.

AllCoin exists to write it down. A veteran, or a family member helping, photographs both sides of a coin they already own, adds a few lines about how it was earned, and it lives in a searchable Coin Library a grandchild can find decades from now. Uploading existing coins is always free for veterans.

To take part, go to **allcoin.braav.co** and create a free account; an email address is all that is required. Photograph the front and back of a coin in good light. Write the story: who gave it, when, where, and what it meant. Once your account is set up, you can also text a photo of a coin, with your account name, to (805) 395-6805. Then ask the member next to you at the next chapter luncheon about theirs. The cadets the Chapter recognizes at the area high schools each spring will carry coins of their own one day. The stories behind the ones in your drawer are where their record begins.



Sybil Ludington's Midnight Ride (1777)

Paul Revere is famous, but a sixteen-year-old girl named Sybil Ludington rode twice as far. On April 26, 1777, British troops attacked Danbury, Connecticut, where the Continental Army stored supplies. A tired messenger arrived at the Ludington home in New York for help. Sybil's father, a colonel, needed to gather his scattered militia men, but he was too old and tired to leave.



Sybil volunteered for the job. She grabbed a stick, mounted her horse Star, and rode through the dark, rainy night. Over the next hours, she covered forty miles through Putnam County. She banged on doors and yelled, **"Gather at the bridge!"** By dawn, four hundred tired militiamen gathered at her family's home. They marched off to push back the British. Sybil saved the town and went down in history as a teenage hero of the revolution.

The Culper Spy Ring and Agent 355 (1778)

George Washington needed secret information to beat the British in New York, so he formed the Culper Spy Ring. The group used invisible ink, code numbers, and dead drops to send messages right past British guards. Abraham Woodhull and Robert Townsend did most of the writing. But one of their best agents had no name in the records. She is known only by her code number: 355. Agent 355 lived inside high-society circles in British-occupied New York City. She mingled with British officers and overheard their secret plans. Historians believe she was connected to a prominent family and used her charm to get close to the enemy. Her information helped expose Benedict Arnold's treason and saved the Continental Army from surprise attacks. She vanished from history mysteriously, but her undercover work kept the American cause alive. Because Agent 355's identity was kept entirely secret to protect her safety, there are no real portraits of her. Instead, she is traditionally symbolized by silhouettes or mysterious shadows in historical art.



James Armistead Lafayette: The Double Agent (1781)

An enslaved man from Virginia named James used the fog of war to trick the British army and help win the final battle. In 1781, James asked his owner for permission to join the Marquis de Lafayette's army. Lafayette welcomed him and used him as a spy. James walked into the British camp, pretending to be a runaway slave looking for work.



British General Lord Cornwallis trusted James and hired him as a guide and scout. James wandered freely through British camps, memorized troop numbers and plans, and then reported back to the Americans. He even fed false information to the British, making them think the Americans were attacking elsewhere. Because of James's accurate reports, Washington trapped Cornwallis at Yorktown, forcing a British surrender. Grateful for his service, James later won his freedom and added "Lafayette" to his last name to honor his commander. Unlike many historical spies, James Armistead Lafayette was formally recognized for his service and sat for a famous portrait by John Blennerhassett Martin in the 1820s, cementing his legacy in American history.



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

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 **Vittles For Vets (VFF)** to be able to provide food assistance in the form of credit cards to needy military families. While the MFSC existed, our MOAA SWVC requested and received grants for $5,000 and $3,750. And for VFV we received yearly grants as follows: 2024 - $2,000, 2025 - $2,500, 2026 - $2,500. That is a grand total of $15,750 for both organizations. Virtually 100% of these funds went to feeding vets in need.

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.** 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

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

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and the Southwest Virginia Chapter (SWVC) of MOAA are a nonprofit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. Membership is open to those who hold or have ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, 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

15 October 2026. No Board meeting. A program by Mr. Al McLean, an attorney in Roanoke, on the "***Skirmish at Pearisburg",*** a small 1862 Civil War battle fought in Southwest Virginia in Giles County.

19 November 2026. Board of Directors meeting. A program by Mr. Patrick Henry Jolly (a direct descendant of Patrick Henry and researcher) on "***Patrick Henry*****"**. He appears in costume.

17 December 2026, Board of Directors meeting. A program by Mr. John D. Long, Director of Education. National D -Day Memorial on the ***"Underappreciated Virginia Declaration of Rights*****".**

21 January 2027. No Board of Directors meeting. A program by Mr. Michael Henningsen, Director, Corps Values Music Heritage, Inc., on "***Drum Sergeant Major George Thomasson, field musician, 3rd Virginia Regiment, War for Independence"***. He appears in costume.

18 February 2027. Board of Directors meeting. A program by COL Kenneth R. Garren USA (Ret) on ***"The Space Shuttle Challenger Disaster*****".**

18 March 2027. No Board of Directors meeting. Program by Dr. Lee Learman, MD, Dean, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, on the "***Convergence of Positive Developments That Will Further Accelerate the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine's Impact on Roanoke and Our Region"***

15 April 2027. Board of Directors meeting. TBD. Considering Mr. Jeff Vick on ***"The Revolutionary War"***, or Ms. Heath Lee writer and author, on ***"First Ladies Don't Get Enough Credit",*** or Ms. Cindy Petersen, Executive Director, Taubman Museum of Art, on **"*Inspiring New Perspectives".***

20 May 2027 BBQ Picnic, American Legion, Post 3, Salem, Virginia. Special music by Marc Baskind and remarks by special guests.

MOAA'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 119TH CONGRESS

MOAA's Legislative Priorities. As the legislative slate resets for the second session of the 119th Congress, MOAA member engagement will become even more vital to achieving our advocacy objectives. Learn more about our top MOAA legislative priorities and how you can support MOAA's work to pass key legislation, below. Note: This is not an all-encompassing list of MOAA's legislative efforts. For more, visit our **Legislative Action Center**.

- **Shutdown Fairness Act (S. 3168)**
- **Improve and Enhance the Work Opportunity Tax Credit Act (H.R. 6231 | S. 3265)**
- **Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act (H.R. 1732)**
- **Military CARE Act (H.R. 6796)**
- **Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act (H.R. 2148 | S. 879**)

VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS/JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 2026 INITIATIVES (Adopted at the September and December 2025 JLC meetings)

- **JLC Initiative 2026-01 Secure the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program**
- **JLC Initiative 2026-02 Stop Unscrupulous Firms from Exploiting Veterans**
- **JLC Initiative 2026-03 Veteran Suicide Death Information Access**
- **JLC 2026-04 Veteran Textbook Support Grant**
- **JLC Initiative 2026-05 Exempt Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) from Limits on Use of Proceeds from Charitable Gaming**
- **JLC Initiative 2026-06 Inclusion of USPHS and NOAA in Income Tax Subtraction**

A summary of the approved 2026 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



CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP
as of **30 SEPT 2026**

Regular Members	73
Surviving Spouses	1
Total Members	74

Talk to a fellow officer about joining the Southwest Virginia

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 **moaaswva.org** or on face book at **moaaswva** then Contact COL Bob Brown, USA (Ret), Chapter Membership Chair at (540) 904-2810

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 DEC 2026.**

'NEVER STOP SERVING'

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

Featured in This Issuer

- Presidents Corner
- The American Revolution
- The Young Scout: Andrew Jackson
- New MOAA Surviving Spouse Website
- Nancy Hart: The Frontier "War Woman"
- What Did Money Look Like in the 1800's.
- Improved Air Travel For The Military Community
- Mobile Vehicle For The Southwest Virginia Cemetery
- Challenge Coins
- Revolutionary War Short Stories

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