

Dedicated to the Memory of
General George Washington



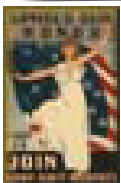
Mount Vernon Chapter
Military Officers
Association of America

Post Office Box 97
Mount Vernon VA 22121



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Mount Vernon Chapter supports a strong national defense in our long global war on terrorism. We urge that all uphold the honor of those who serve or who have served.



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Volume 34, Number 4
April 2009

The Despatch

"5 Star Level of Excellence" 2003-2008

www.mvmoaa.com

2008 Communications Awards

2nd Runner-up - The Despatch

1st Runner-up - Website

Colonel Mark G. Moffatt Will Address BRAC Initiatives at 15 April Dinner Meeting



COL Mark G. Moffatt is the Deputy Garrison Commander for Transformation and BRAC at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. He will speak on Ft. Belvoir's BRAC initiatives and work in progress, while answering the questions we all want to know. Make your reservations today.

Colonel Moffatt was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers upon graduation from Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. His military education includes the Engineer Officer's Basic and Advanced Courses, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School, the Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College. His civilian education includes a Master of Business Administration from Bowie State University and a Master of Arts in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

COL Moffatt's career reflects assignments throughout the world. His initial tour of duty was with the 43rd Engineer Battalion (C)(H), 36th Engineer Group, Fort Benning, Georgia, with two deployments to Honduras. After serving as an installation engineer at Camp Humphreys, Korea, he commanded B Company 20th Engineer Battalion, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and throughout Desert Shield/Desert Storm. His next assignment was Commander, C Company, 46th Engineer Battalion, Fort McClellan, Alabama, which took him to south Florida for Hurricane Andrew Relief Operations and to the Sultanate of Oman. Then he was assigned to EUCOM, Stuttgart, Germany. After the Command and General Staff College, COL Moffatt was the Executive Officer of 2nd Engineer Battalion, Camp Castle, Korea; then the Assistant Division Engineer of the 2nd Infantry Division. He then served as Chief of Plans in the Office of the Chief of Engineers in the Pentagon.

COL Moffatt assumed command of the 92nd Engineer Battalion (C)(H) on the tarmac in Kandahar, Afghanistan and continued the mission until returning to Ft. Stewart, Georgia. Later he deployed them for Operation Iraqi Freedom 1. Next he was the Engineer Force Development Team Chief in Dominant Maneuver Branch, HQDA, G-8. Next he attended the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. COL Moffatt is married with two children. His wife, Sang Im, and son Bryan live in Fairfax and his daughter is a student at the University of Virginia.

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President Lisa's Lines



Well, March certainly lived up to its moniker, "in like a lion, out like a lamb." A month ago we had a huge snowfall that was gone before the weekend even hit. Then we had several teaser days of 70 degree weather before we dropped back down to reality. Sure makes it hard to decide what to wear on a daily basis.

We had a good turnout for our Lazy Susan Dinner Theater event. The food was hearty, wholesome Pennsylvania Dutch cuisine and the show was quite entertaining.

I received more exciting correspondence from MOAA Headquarters. Colonel Lee Lang, Director, Council and Chapter Affairs, MOAA forwarded a letter with an enclosed check for \$1335 that reflects rebates due the Chapter from the new members we received courtesy of the special chapter membership initiative in the October 2008 Military Officer Magazine.

As I noted in last month's Despatch, our new effort to reduce our mailing costs of The Despatch

has begun. A trial run was successful and comments were favorable. If you are willing to receive or access The Despatch by email or the website instead of by regular mail please inform LTC (Ret) Paul Mehler.

We are soon going to be looking for a few good volunteers. We have several Chapter officer positions which will be available between this summer and the end of the year. If you are willing to serve as a Chapter officer, please contact either me or Paul Mehler to indicate your interest.

Next month's dinner meeting is at the Fort Belvoir Officers Club. Colonel Moffatt will bring us up to date on Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) activities at Fort Belvoir. I hope that you join us.

Coming Events

15 April is BRAC Update with COL Mark Moffatt

20 May is our scholarship recognition dinner.

Save the dates on your calendar now!

Mount Vernon Chapter

Officers/Directors		(703)
President	LTC Lisa Cramer, USA	912-4748
1st VP	LTCOL Deborah Johnston, USAF	(202) 230-3621
2nd VP	COL Robert Patrick, USA	690-9336
Secretary	LTC Paul Mehler, USA	780-8494
Treasurer	CWO-3 Harold Nelson, USA	690-1733
Past President	LCDR William Broome, USCG	
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	CAPT Gary Hall, USN	780-9681
	LTC Dan Franklin, USMC	660-9713
	CPT Pat Gallagher, USA	360-4543
Directors (2009-2010)		
	COL Stuart Williams, USA	644-4126
	MAJ Dennis Kellen, USA	327-8627
	LTC Liana Bratland, USA	325-3939
Chaplain	COL Arnie Porter, USAF	780-4310
MOAA Liaison	LTC Paul Mehler, USA	780-8494
Fairfax Liaison	LTC Charles Hymers, USA	781-5908

Standing Committees (2008)		
Program		
Speakers	LTC Liana Bratland, USA	325-3939
Arrangements	LTC Paul Mehler, USA	780-8494
Program Admin	LTC Paul Mehler, USA	780-8494
Auxiliary	Mrs Marge Dumont	360-8736
Membership	LTC Paul Mehler, USA	780-8494
TOPS Liaison	CPT Pat Gallagher, USA	360-4543
Legislative	COL Stu Williams, USA	644-4126
VCOC	CDR Doug Borden, USN	971-5467
Personal Affairs	CAPT Gary Hall, USN	780-9681
Asst	Mrs Susie Davis	768-5096
Public Affairs	LTC Paul Mehler, USA	780-8494
Webmaster	CPT Pat Gallagher, USA	360-4543
Veterans Affairs	LTC Charles Hymers, USA	781-5908
Despatch Editor	COL Russ Henderson, USA	780-1068
Scholarship Fund	COL Russ Henderson, USA	780-1068
President	CDR Doug Borden, USN	971-5467
JROTC	COL Arnie Porter, USAF	780-4310



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON



Fellow Veterans,

My name is Ric Shinseki, and I am a Veteran. For me, serving as Secretary of Veterans Affairs is a noble calling. It provides me the opportunity to give back to those who served with and for me during my 38 years in uniform and those on whose shoulders we all stood as we grew up in the profession of arms.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has a solemn responsibility to all of you, today and in the future, as more Veterans join our ranks and enroll to secure the benefits and services they have earned. I am fully committed to fulfilling President Obama's vision for transforming our department so that it will be well-positioned to perform this duty even better during the 21st Century. We welcome the assistance and advice of our Veterans Service Organizations, other government departments and agencies, Congress, and all VA stakeholders as we move forward, ethically and transparently, so that Veterans and citizens can understand our efforts.

Creating that vision for transforming the VA into a 21st Century organization requires a comprehensive review of our department. We approach that review understanding that Veterans are central to everything VA does. We know that results count, that the department will be measured by what we do, not what we promise, and that our best days as an organization supporting Veterans are ahead of us. We will fulfill President Lincoln's charge to care for "*. . . him, who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan*" by redesigning and reengineering ourselves for the future.

Transforming any institution is supremely challenging; I know this from my own experience in leading large, proud, complex, and high-performing organizations through change. But the best organizations must be prepared to meet the challenging times, evolving technology and, most importantly, evolving needs of clients. Historically, organizations that are unwilling or unable to change soon find themselves irrelevant. You and your needs are not irrelevant.

Veterans are our clients, and delivering the highest quality care and services in a timely, consistent and fair manner is a VA responsibility. I take that responsibility seriously and have charged all of the department's employees for their best efforts and support every day to meet our obligations to you. Our path forward is challenging, but the President and Congress support us. They have asked us to do this well—for you. Veterans are our sole reason for existence and our number one priority—bar none. I look forward to working together with all VA employees to transform our department into an organization that reflects the change and commitment our country expects and our Veterans deserve.

Thank you and God bless our military, our Veterans, and our Nation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Eric K. Shinseki".

Eric K. Shinseki

National Legislative

On 28 April 2009, members of the Mount Vernon Chapter will join other MOAA members from all the chapters in Virginia at a luncheon for the Virginia delegation in the 111th Congress. The luncheon offers the opportunity to express gratitude for all that Congress accomplished this past year for our active forces, reserve, retired, veterans and their families. There will also be an opportunity to advocate for various objectives during the 1st session of the 111th Congress. These include:

We need a wartime budget! Our country can afford, and must devote, a greater share of its resources to national defense. Past wars have required a larger sacrifice from our nation; this war is no less important. Our defense budget must be increased to at least 5% of our GDP! Only the military is bearing the brunt of war; we must not skimp in their support. Also, we need a national solution to our energy problem in order to maximize our available defense dollars.

Increase the size of ground forces: We are finally starting to increase the size of our land forces. But, we have dangerously stretched our Army and no longer have a viable strategic reserve. We must rebuild our readiness! We urge Congress to fully fund and increase the end strength of the active Army to at least 700,000; ARNG to 358,000, Army Reserve to 206,000 and Marines to 202,000. Do not reduce USAF/Navy strength to increase our land forces, nor resort to a draft.

Prevent the erosion of TRICARE benefits: Cost savings in the Defense Budget must not be borne by the military community who have served an arduous 20 to 30 year career. Proposals that increase costs of retiree health care are unfair and send the wrong signal to those serving. We need a permanent fix to the Medicare reimbursement rate problem!

Fully Implement All Recommendations of Veterans Disability Benefits Commission (VDBC): Only some of the Commission's recommendations have been acted on by Congress; all have not. Specifically, Congress must eliminate the SBP-DIC off-set; approve full concurrent receipt for retiree disabilities; simplify and expedite the processing of disability claims and appeals. Our Wounded Warriors deserve the best care this country can



Wes Edwards speaking at the VCOC meeting. Photo by Melva Mallison, Maj, USAF-Ret, VCOC PAO

provide. Enact legislation to implement the full range of the Commission's recommendations.

Complete the attached reservation form and mail not later than 14 April.

VIRGINIA 2009 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Virginia General Assembly for 2009 adjourned on 28 February 2009 after a 45 day session. All bills that passed are now before Governor Kaine to sign. The General Assembly will meet again on 8 April 2009 to address actions taken by the governor. Two of the six objectives advocated by Virginia MOAA passed the House and Senate. The remaining four were victims of the tight budget situation. The two that passed are:

Veterans Claims System ("Turbo Vet") – Not only was the \$50,000 that had been cut by the Governor, but an additional \$100,000 was added in the second year. Now there is a total of \$150,000 to do pilot programs and to keep the program alive. This is much better than we had hoped for.

Interstate Compact – The budget amendment submitted by Delegate Mark Cole had asked for \$75,000 to pay dues to the Compact. However, the Fiscal Impact Statement reported that a full time position was needed in the Department of Education even though advocates did not see a need for it. Nevertheless, the budget conferees provided \$200,000 for the compact! So, providing it is signed by the governor it looks like Virginia will, in fact, join the Interstate Compact for Education of Military Children.

All Chapter Members are Invited to Attend 24th ANNUAL VCOC-MOAA Virginia Congressional Delegation Appreciation Luncheon

WHEN: Tuesday 28 April 2009

WHERE: Rayburn House Office Bldg Room B-339

(Go to website for further directions)

TIME: Arrive 11:00 A.M., 11:30 Doors Open, 11:45 Lunch,

12:15 Congressional member intros begin. Over at 2 PM.

COST: VCOC Members/Spouses- \$35.00 Guests- \$45.00

SEATING: By Congressional District- Tables will be numbered by District.

Senate seating: S-1 Sen. Mark Warner, S-2 Sen. Jim Webb

Complete and submit the form below

Form must be submitted to MVC, P. O. Box 97, Mount Vernon, VA 22121

ATTN: Paul Mehler, Secretary by Sat, 4 April

Reservations For 24th ANNUAL VCOC-MOAA Virginia Congressional Delegation Appreciation Luncheon Tuesday 28 April 2009

Rayburn House Office Bldg Room B-339

(Go to website for further directions)

Arrive 11:00 A.M. Over at 2 PM.

VCOC Member/Spouse- \$35 Guests- \$45

Send reservation and check to arrive by

Sat, 15 April to MVC-MOAA

Attn: Paul Mehler, P.O. Box 97,

Mount Vernon VA 22121-0097

LAST NAME-FIRST NAME

RANK EMAIL ADDRESS

STREET ADDRESS

CITY, STATE & ZIP

TELEPHONE INCLUDE AREA CODE

MOAA CHAPTER LEADERSHIP POSITION

SEATING REQUEST

Senator Warner ____ or Senator Webb ____.

(otherwise you will sit with your
representative, as space allows.)

MEMBERS _____ # GUESTS _____

make check payable to VCOC

DIRECTIONS to Room B 339 Rayburn House Office Building

Metro subway system is the best way to get to the Rayburn House Office Building: The Metro stop is the Capitol South Metro Station serviced by the Blue and the Orange lines. The Rayburn House Office Building is two buildings away from the Capitol South Metro Station.

Walk straight out of the metro station on 2nd St toward the office buildings. Immediately cross C Street and take a left, walking alongside of the Cannon office now on your right, continue to walk down C street.

Cross the next street which is New Jersey Ave and now the Longworth Building is to on your right. Cross the next street which is South Capitol Street and turn right.

Rayburn House Office building is now on your left and you will quickly see a U-shaped driveway, take a left walking up the driveway to the door. Enter the building and after the security screening, turn left and go to the elevator area on your right at first corner.

Take the elevator down to "B", exit elevator and take a right around the corner, then continue to the left at the next corner and room B339 will be a few steps on the right side.

Secretary's Notes

Reminder.....Members of MVC/MOAA Board of Directors....

Meetings of the Board of Directors are now scheduled for 7 April and 5 May 2009 at 7:30 P.M. at the South County Government Center (Room 219). If you are unable to attend, please call Lisa Cramer at (703-912-4748) E-mail cramer513@hotmail.com or Paul Mehler at (703-780-8494) E-mail mehler-alexva-msn@msn.com.

Welcome New Members

SARANDOS, Chris	BELLOMY, Robert S.
Col USAF-Ret	Col USAF
#2227	#2228

EDMONDS, Albert J.	PRIBBLE, Lon L.
LTG USAF-Ret	LTC USA-Ret
#2229	#2230

HUTCHINGS, Thomas C.
Col USAF-Ret
#2231

Want your e-Despatch online?

In a cost-saving gesture some chapter members will now receive their copy of *The Despatch* online and find the extended copy on our Web-site www.mvmoaa.com.

If you want to save the chapter money and are willing to receive your copy in this manner, please notify me at mehler-alexva-msn@msn.com.

Read To Feed Program

As a MOAA member and retired Naval Officer and as a teacher for the past 13 years, I was wondering if local MOAA members might be interested in supporting a charitable project affecting military dependants at Fort Belvoir Elementary School. Fairfax County Public Schools encourages its students to think globally and to help others in the community. Last year, my 4th grade class participated in a reading project called READ TO FEED. For every book a student finished, if he or she wrote a short summary, the Army command INSCOM donated 25 cents toward the project. READ TO FEED buys farm animals for poor people around the world so they can support themselves. We read enough books to earn 120 dollars and purchased a goat for a poor family somewhere in the world. [Because of some new rules, INSCOM is no longer able to support funding for this project so I am looking for a new sponsor.] Individual donations are now encouraged.

At the beginning of the project, we read a book called Beatrice's Goat. It's a true story about a little girl in Africa whose family receives a goat. The income from the goat's milk and offspring helped her buy books and clothes to attend school. We were really happy to be able to send money to buy a goat for a family in a poor country. If you'd like to learn more about this program, please visit their website at www.heifer.org.

If you think you might be interested in helping support our project or need more information, please call me at home (easier to reach than at school): 703-799-8770.

Very respectfully,

M. Brigitte Maynard

Opportunity Is Knocking – or How you can help your chapter's scholarship program

During the mid-90's, a group of Chapter members proposed a program to give scholarship awards to local high school students who were headed for college and intended to join ROTC programs that led to commissioned military service. This idea took hold and the Mount Vernon Chapter of MOAA Scholarship Fund, Inc. was formed. Chapter members made their first contributions during 2002. Since then, the Scholarship Fund Board of Directors has awarded \$25,500 to twenty-three deserving students.

Over the years, the membership of this Board has changed and soon will be changing again. CDR Doug Borden, who has served the Board since it's inception, has decided to step aside at the end of this year. He was recently awarded the coveted MOAA Gold Pin for exceptional achievements based on his long, loyal, and dedicated service to the scholarship program. Doug recently

advised the Board, "It has been my privilege to have served our chapter members' interests in their scholarship program, which has been so generously supported by you and by friends of the Mount Vernon Chapter. I thank you for your generosity and interest in ensuring the continued success of this important program."

Doug will be deeply missed by all, but his departure provides you an opportunity to become a member of the Scholarship Fund Board. This is an opportunity to be the next lucky person to work with an outstanding group of Chapter members and directly help an inspiring group of young high school graduates. Now is the time for you to step forward to help these young men and women who are willing and able to serve their country during these difficult times. For further information, contact COL Russ Henderson, Chairman, Scholarship Fund, at edancan@aol.com or (703) 780-1068.

Mount Vernon Chapter Wins 3 MOAA Communications Awards in the 600 member or more category



Best Recruiting Brochure

1st Runner Up Web
www.mvmoaa.com
per former Army Capt Patrick Gallagher



2nd Runner Up Print Newsletter
The Despatch
per COL Russ Henderson, USA, Ret



VCOC Wins 3 MOAA Communication Awards

First Place Council "Best Legislative Coverage - Print"
per VCOC 1st VP, Legislative chair (COL Sam Wilder, USA, Ret).

First Place for both Printed Newsletter/*Council Crier* and Website
per VCOC 3rd VP (MAJ Melva Mallison, USAF, Ret)

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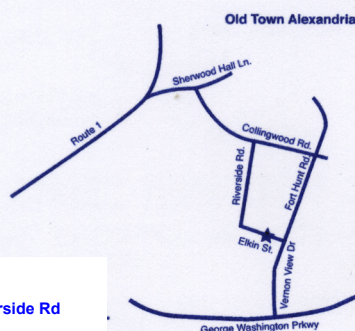


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Volunteers Wanted

Take this opportunity to participate
in Community Service with the
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of

MOAA

www.mvmoaa.com

Personal Affairs

We previously provided you with emergency and personal affairs related phone numbers.

Here are the websites to go with that list of phone numbers:

Veterans Administration Insurance

www.insurance.va.gov

Retired Pay DFAS www.dfas.mil/retiredpay.html

SBP www.defenselink.mil/militarypay/survivor/sbp

Social Security Administration www.ssa.gov

MOAA www.moaa.org/

Armed Forces Services Corp www.afsc-usa.com

Army/Air Force Mutual Aid www.aafmaa.com

Navy Mutual Aid Association www.navy mutual.org

Senior Care Management

www.seniorcaremgt.com/index.php

Visiting Nurse Association www.vnaa.org

Fairfax Area Agency On Aging

www.vda.virginia.gov/aaalist.asp

Visiting Angels www.visitingangels.com

Access Home Medical Supplies

www.accessmedicalequipment.com

Capital Hospice www.capitalhospice

Casualty Assistance Military District Washington

www.fmmc.army.mil/sites/services/base.asp

Casualty Assistance Fort Belvoir www.belvoir.army.mil

Fort Belvoir Adjutant General www.belvoir.army.mil

Army Chaplain www.belvoir.army.mil

Arlington Cemetery www.arlingtoncemetery.org

Arlington Cemetery Visitors Center

www.arlingtoncemetery.org/visitor_information/index.htm

Fort Myer Old Post Chapel

www.arlingtoncemetery.net/chapel.htm

Burial allowance military funerals www.cem.va.gov

American Society of Appraisers www.appraisers.org

Funeral Choices of Chantilly Serving N. Virginia

www.nvfsonline.com

Washington Post (Obit) www.washingtonpost.com

Washington Times (Obit) www.washingtontimes.com

Mount Vernon Chapter Proposed Bylaw Changes

The Mount Vernon Chapter board of directors proposes three changes to the chapter bylaws. These proposed changes are shown below (*current in italics* and **proposed in bold**) and will voted on at the 15 April 2009 Chapter dinner-meeting:

Article VI- Meetings, Section 4 which currently states "*Attendance of ten percent (10%) of the membership eligible to vote at any meeting of the organization shall constitute a quorum for matters requiring a vote.*" be revised to state, "**A quorum for voting at any duly organized meeting of the organization shall consist of those members in attendance.**"

Article VII – Board of Directors, Section 4 currently states, "*The board of directors shall not be authorized to adopt resolutions or to establish posi-*

tions in the name of the organization. Such matters shall be decided by a majority vote of members present at any meeting of the organization." be revised to state, "**The board of directors shall be authorized to adopt resolutions or to establish positions in the name of the organization.**"

Article VIII – Officers, Section 8 in the next to last sentence with regard to the treasurer, currently states "*He/she shall make a report at the annual meeting or when called upon by the president.*" be revised to state, "**He/she shall make a report to the board of directors prior to the end of March each year for all activities for the prior year. The board approved report shall be mailed to the last recorded address of each member within thirty (30) days of the board approval.**"

Chapter Name Badges

Permanent Mount Vernon Chapter MOAA name badges are available for all chapter members. These are the same name badges worn by our chapter officers at dinner meetings.

If you would like one, please contact Harold Nelson at (703) 690-1733 or gilesrun@cox.net for ordering information. The cost of each badge is \$14.00. Your badge will be delivered at a dinner meeting.



Officers Wanted

Take this opportunity to introduce other officers to the Mount Vernon Chapter

of

MOAA

www.mvmoaa.com

Mount Vernon Chapter members can play an active role in finding members for MOAA and our chapter.

Copy these business cards, then carry several of them with you. When you meet an active, guard, reserve, or retired officer, write your name and contact information on the back and hand it him or her. It will lead to the Website where they may complete and application and join us online.



Officers Wanted

Take this opportunity to introduce other officers to the Mount Vernon Chapter

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*Comments or Letters to the Editor may be sent to the above address or via
e-mail to: mehler-alexva-msn@msn.com*

**Reservations for
Dinner Meeting
Wednesday, 15 April 2009
Fort Belvoir Officers Club**

**6:00 P.M. Social Hour (Cash Bar)
7:00 PM Dinner 8:00 PM Speaker**
Make Pre-Paid Reservations Now!

**Cost \$20 per person
(Payment at the door is \$22)**

Send reservations and check (\$20 per person) to arrive by
Friday, 10 April, to MVC/MOAA,
Attn: Paul Mehler, P.O. Box 97,
Mount Vernon VA 22121-0097 .
Payment at the door is \$22.

Name:

No. of Reservations:

Names of Guests:

Annual Audit of Chapter Funds

The Annual Audit of Mount Vernon Chapter Funds (both Operating and Scholarship) took place on 13 January 2009. Members of the audit team included Russ Henderson, Dennis Kellen, Paul Mehler, and Doug Borden.

The team is pleased to report that both the Operating Funds and the Scholarship Fund are in excellent order for the 2008 time period. All funds have been accounted for and records are kept in a meticulous and precise shape. Monthly records coincided with the bank monthly statements exactly as posted.

Doug Borden examined only the Operating Funds records, while the other team members examined both. He was the Chairman of the Scholarship Fund during 2008 and excused himself from the examination of the Scholarship Fund.

Treasurer Harold Nelson should be commended for his excellent performance as keeper of the Chapter Funds and his outstanding records of each fund.