



The Bugle

Central Virginia Chapter



Volume 54, Issue 6



June-July 2026

MOAA, including the Central Virginia Chapter, is a nonprofit nonpartisan veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and to preserving the earned entitlements of 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 U.S. Army, USMC, USN, USAF, USCG, USPHS, USSF or NOAA and their surviving spouse.

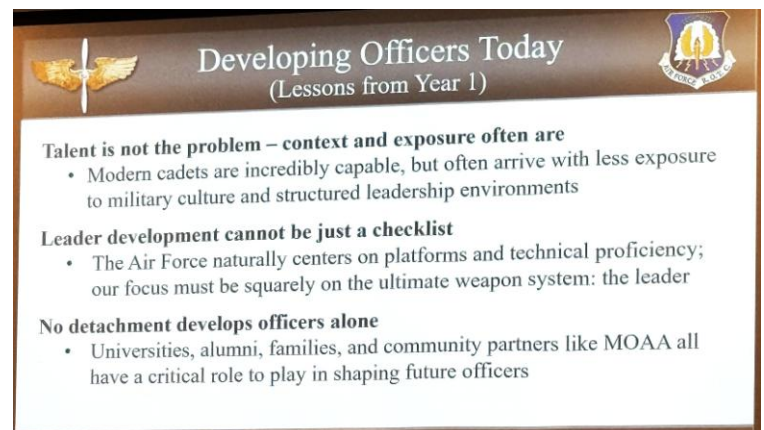
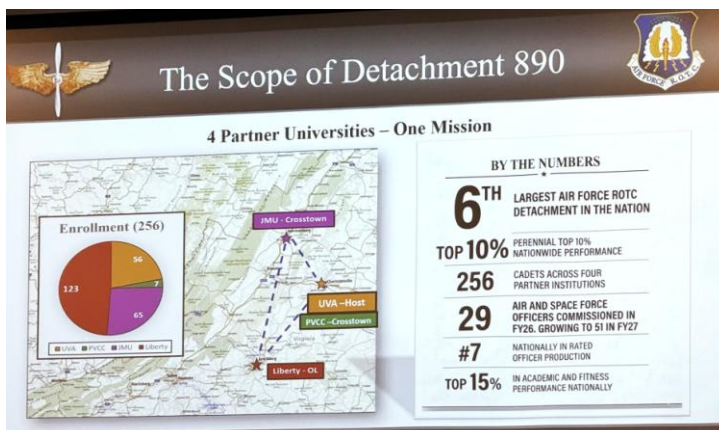
Colonel Mittelmark: "Academic excellence and a student experience which centers on ethics and responsibility"

Colonel Cary Mittelmark took command of the UVA Air Force ROTC Detachment 890 in August 2025 and provided an optimistic review of his first year in Charlottesville. He was candid in his assessment and outlined the challenges that all ROTC units face in the current academic environment. He was also quite modest in description of the successes at Detachment 890 that are clearly due to his strong and focused leadership.

Detachment 890 is unique in that it is composed of four partner universities, (UVA, LU, JMU and PVCC) and with 256 cadets across those four institutions; it stands as the 6th largest AFROTC Detachment in the nation. It is also nationally ranked 7th in officer production at 29 this past year. That number is anticipated to be 51 in 2027. His detachment is also in the top 15% across the nation in fitness and academic performance. He highlighted several of his top-performers and one, Cadet Benjamin Veysel attended the luncheon (see page 6). Although the high bar for admission into the University of Virginia may cause some challenges in the future, he is confident the academic reputation of UVA combined with the leadership appeal of US AFROTC will bring the best candidates.



(Above) Guest Speaker Colonel Cary Mittelmark with CVC MOAA Treasurer Paul E. LaBrie at the pre-luncheon social hour.





2026

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The Bugle

2025 Col Marvin J. Harris 5-Star
Communications Award Winner

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Bugle Newsletter: <https://cvmoaa.org/Newsletter>



**Our June Luncheon Speaker will be
Mr. Rene Sanchez, Virginia Department of
Veterans Services**

Rene Sanchez is a *Veterans Services Representative* at the Charlottesville Office. His goal is to serve Virginia’s veterans, members of the Virginia National Guard, Virginia residents in the Armed Forces Reserves, and their family members, by ensuring they receive timely transition, employment and education assistance, benefits, health care, long-term care and recognition they have earned through service to our country and Commonwealth. The Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) has 38 offices across the Commonwealth to serve service members, veterans, and their families. DVS also maintains three veterans cemeteries, three veteran skilled nursing facilities (care centers), and the Virginia War Memorial. to support the effective delivery of services to Virginia's veterans and their families.

Community Calendar

Wednesday, 3 June at 1300 at the Club at Glenmore:
CVC MOAA Board of Directors Meeting (Optional lunch at 12:00 noon)

Thursday, 25 June: CVC MOAA Luncheon at The Club at Glenmore, Social hour starts at 11:00 and seating at 12:00 noon. Lunch will be followed by a presentation by Rene Sanchez, a *Veterans Services Representative* (Reservation form on page 9).

Join MOAA's Central Virginia Chapter

To learn more about the nationally recognized



Central Virginia Chapter

contact

Membership Director

Carolyn Still

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Phone: 540-221-0015



MOAA NATIONAL CORNER:

Inside the Military Health Care Budget: Big Changes - But What About Beneficiaries?

By: Karen Ruedisueli



(The digital version of this document contains active hyperlinks to primary sources)

Included within the [\\$1.5 trillion allocated for national defense](#) in the administration's [FY 2027 budget proposal](#) is a reorganization of military health system (MHS) funding that could greatly impact beneficiaries but does not keep pace with rising health care costs. The budget requests two appropriations in place of the former Defense Health Program (DHP) appropriation to “restore fiscal discipline and protect combat and operational medicine” per the DoW [Budget Overview Book](#). MOAA has met with senior Pentagon leaders and requested meetings with subject-matter experts on Capitol Hill to discuss changes to MHS funding and uncover potential downstream impacts for both TRICARE and the direct care system.

What's Changing

The bulk of MHS funding has traditionally been through DHP, covering both health care delivery in military treatment facilities (MTFs) and costs related to TRICARE (not including TRICARE For Life). Because TRICARE is a must-pay bill, this created uncertainty and other challenges around funding for the direct care system of military hospitals and clinics. The budget released this month proposes a separate appropriation for the direct care system and combat casualty support. The Combat and Operational Medicine Program (COMP) appropriation would finance programs unique to military medicine's combat support function as well as the direct care system of military hospitals and clinics.

The new setup corrects a system that was “reducing the warfighter access to critical medical care required to deliver a healthy force,” the Budget Overview Book states. COMP will offer transparency and “ensure that every dollar meant for force health and lifesaving battlefield medicine is prioritized and protected.” The budget also proposes a Private Sector Care Program (PSCP) appropriation that would provide funding for health care services delivered to eligible TRICARE beneficiaries (not including TRICARE For Life) by civilian health care professionals, institutions, and pharmacies.

Is It Enough?

The requested COMP appropriation of \$20.3 billion includes \$18.9 billion for operation and maintenance to support the direct care system; \$366.7 million for medical equipment procurement; and \$1 billion for research, development, testing, and evaluation. The requested PSCP appropriation of \$22.2 billion is for operation and maintenance expenses related to TRICARE. The combined \$42.5 billion COMP/PCSP request is 4.9% higher than the FY 2026 DHP funding level of \$40.5 billion (inclusive of procurement and research/development costs). This increase falls well short of national growth in health care spending in recent years (7.2% in 2024 and 7.4% in 2023), suggesting military health system funding constraints will continue to pose challenges for readiness, TRICARE coverage policy, and beneficiary access to care.

“The Budget returns the Department of War to its true medical mission of supporting force health and combat medical capability, which are critical components of national security,” according to the budget book, which highlights four pillars that project and sustain a lethal joint force:

- Enable a medically ready force that is prepared to deploy and win in combat (“fight tonight” ready).
- Generate a medical force with the unique clinical skills and operational training to deliver lifesaving capability on the future battlefield.
- Deliver military-unique capabilities, like the globally integrated Joint Trauma System and the forward-deployed blood programs that are essential for combat casualty care.
- Provide a comprehensive medical benefit that ensures families and retirees receive safe, effective care through TRICARE and MTFs, supporting the total health of the force.

Legislative Review ...



The Chapter's Legislative Committee is chaired by Dan Moy

For up-to-date information about legislative issues that affect you, go to the MOAA website <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction>

For the most recent legislative update, please see pages 4-5 of the May 2026 issue of the Bugle at:

<https://cvmoaa.org/Newsletter>



State Delegate Katrina E. Callsen
54th District



State Delegate Thomas Garrett, Jr.
56th District



State Senator Creigh Deeds
District 11



State Senator Bryce E. Reeves
28th District



US Congressman John McGuire
5th District



State Delegate Amy J. Laufer
55th District
(see Page 5)

Here are just a few of our Virginia legislative representatives. Check out "Who's My Legislator?" <https://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/>

Use your address or map location to find your own representatives. Look up their email and the legislation they have sponsored and send them a short message thanking them for their service and asking courteously, "What have you done this year to preserve and protect the earned benefits of our uniformed services, veterans, their families, and surviving spouses?"

Memorial Day 2026 with CVC MOAA



18th Fairway on Memorial Day
at Club at Glenmore



Board of Directors Member Steve Hiss presents
CVC MOAA Wreath at VFW Memorial Day Ceremony
at Ting Pavilion, Charlottesville, VA



(Above) The CVC MOAA Annual Memorial
Cake in honor of those that have served our
nation and passed in the previous year
(October 2025 to May 2026)

Mrs Carol O'Lecky, wife of MG Bill O'Lecky
Dr William Tunner, LCDR USPHS (Ret)
Mrs Kitty Walker, Surviving Spouse



John Down and Dan Moy, CVC MOAA Legislative
Committee Members welcome Virginia Delegate
Amy Laufer (55th District) to the CVC MOAA Luncheon

CVC MOAA May Luncheon



Byron and Laura Coburn, guests of Dr. Carolyn Still



Eleanor Adams with Bill and Jean Mitchell



Bill Mitchell and Dan Moy



Bill O'Hara and Ted Martin



Cliff Erickson, Mike Stone and Bill Adams



Steve Hiss and Austin New



USAF ROTC Cadet Benjamin Veysel, an example of excellence at Detachment 890

Cadet Benjamin Veysel

MAJOR
Systems Engineering

CAREER FIELD
Space Force Select

IMPACT
Led ASVAB tutoring for VA ANG. After Field Training this summer, off to Australia for study abroad.

Kathleen Hartman Walker Obituary



Kathleen “Kitty” Hartman Walker passed away peacefully on May 16, 2026, at Westminster Canterbury of the Blue Ridge. She was born February 21, 1931, in Knoxville, TN.

Kitty graduated from the University of Tennessee majoring in Physical Education. She was a cheerleader for the Volunteers and was awarded the annual Sport Magazine Campus Queen award in the 1951 issues. After graduation she married Don, her husband for 64 years until his death in 2016. She began her life as a Navy officer’s wife moving all over the US and managing the home and their boys while Don served multiple tours of duty aboard aircraft carriers. She organized trips for the officers’ wives to visit the ships and won “wife of the year”. Kitty also worked in each new town as a substitute teacher and then finally as a preschool teacher for many years in Annandale, VA. Upon Don’s retirement, they moved to Charlottesville, VA to be closer to grandkids. There she continued her leadership role in DAR and MOAA. Kitty was a lifelong Presbyterian serving as a Deacon and Elder in multiple churches as well as leading several Senior high school youth groups.

Kitty is survived by 2 sons, Henry M. “Mac” Walker, Jr., and his wife Shana of Charlottesville, VA; Doug Walker of St. Louis, MO; her 3 adored grandchildren, Don and his wife Amy, Jan and her husband Dan Burkert, and Archer Walker, as well as three great-grandchildren: Riley, Quinn and Oscar.

Kitty will be remembered for driving her much younger friends to their doctor appointments in her red convertible mustang.

A graveside service for the family and Kitty’s closest friends to honor her life was held at Monticello Memorial Gardens in Charlottesville, VA on Friday, May 22.

The family would like to thank the many caregivers and frequent visitors that enhanced Kitty’s life; especially Dr. Karen Starr, her loving aide and friend Shelley Stewart, and the wonderful staff and her fellow residents at Westminster Canterbury.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be made to: First Presbyterian Church, 500 Park St., Charlottesville, VA 22902 or Lake Monticello Fire and Rescue Department, 10 Slice Rd., Palmyra, VA 22963 or Service Dogs of VA, PO Box 408, Charlottesville, VA 22902.

Surviving Spouse Corner: When Love Costs Too Much

By: Dr. Vivianne Wersel

When a servicemember passes away, their surviving spouse is often left with limited benefits. One of the toughest rules is that if the surviving spouse remarries before age 55, they immediately lose all the for a group that's already struggling.



The private sector views the same situation through a very different lens, and some advocates are pushing for new laws, such as the [Love Lives On Act](#), to update the rules and make them more equitable. They believe that since military families make so many sacrifices, they shouldn't have to make more, and that it's just not right that surviving spouses must choose between getting remarried and losing their benefits or remaining unmarried to keep their benefits. For many surviving spouses, the decision to remarry carries financial consequences that can affect long-term security. These policies were written decades ago, based on assumptions that no longer reflect the realities of today's military families.

Several legislative proposals aim to fix these unfair issues and provide better support to survivors and caregivers. Various bills have been introduced to address these problems:

[The Caring for Survivors Act of 2025 \(H.R. 2055 | S. 611\)](#) would restore and improve survivor benefits affected by outdated eligibility rules, ensuring spouses are not penalized as they rebuild their lives. It would also strengthen Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for surviving military families by aligning it with other survivor programs. The legislation seeks to increase monthly survivor compensation and reduce the current 10-year disability requirement to five years, expanding eligibility for many surviving spouses.

[The Love Lives On Act of 2025 \(H.R. 1004 | S. 410\)](#) addresses one of the most significant concerns among surviving spouses: the loss of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation and the Survivor Benefit Plan upon remarriage before age 55. This legislation would allow surviving spouses to retain their benefits regardless of remarriage.

[The Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act \(S. 879\)](#) focuses on caregivers who leave the workforce to support wounded, ill, or injured servicemembers, helping protect their long-term financial and retirement security.

[The Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veteran Benefits Expansion Act of 2026 \(H.R. 6047\)](#) seeks to expand eligibility and access to benefits, addressing gaps that have left some families without adequate support.

Progress is being made with these bills. MOAA is still working hard with lawmakers to get people on board, build support, and get these proposals to the next level. When someone serves in the military, it's not just that person who sacrifices; their whole family does, too. Those left behind when a servicemember passes away should not have to choose between moving on with their lives and remarrying or staying "single" to retain their benefits. They deserve the opportunity to maintain the benefits they earned alongside their servicemember, since their loved ones gave so much to their country. We need to keep pushing for change to make a real difference. Working together, we can ensure that families who have served are treated fairly and with respect and receive the help they need.

LUNCHEON MEETING RESERVATION FORM
Thursday, 25 June 2026

11:00 a.m. Social Hour, 12:00 Noon Lunch
The Club at Glenmore

Guest Speaker: Mr. Rene Sanchez, Virginia Department of Veterans Services

Directions from Charlottesville: Route 250 East. One mile past Shadwell turn right into Glenmore. Turn right on Piper Way. If you are not a resident, please tell the gate guard that you are attending the MOAA luncheon. Proceed on Piper Way. The Club is on the right just past the tennis courts. Attire for men is suit/sport coat and tie or military uniform.



Menu Selections

Local Bibb Salad
Roasted Beets, Oranges,
Red Onions, Citrus Dressing



Choice of entrée:

A. Grilled Ahi Tuna

or

B. Bistro Steak

or

C. Vegetable Cannelloni

Brown Rice Pilaf

Herbed Zucchini and Squash

Berry Sabayon with Whipped Cream

Please Circle Entrée Selection

Member Name: _____ **A B C**

Guest Name(s): _____ **A B C**

_____ **A B C**

_____ **A B C**

Please make reservations for ____ @ \$35.00 each.

My current email address (if changed) is: _____

Please remit with check payable to CVC MOAA. Reservations must be received
NO LATER THAN Friday, 19 June 2026.

CVC MOAA
P.O. Box 6455
Charlottesville, VA 22906-6455

Due to mail uncertainties and a need to ensure a timely head count, please confirm your attendance numbers and meal selection with John Warnecke by 19 June 2026 via email (warnecke@comcast.net) or phone (434) 981-8554.



Central Virginia Chapter
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