



The Bugle

Central Virginia Chapter



Volume 54, Issue 7

August-September 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.

Mr. Rene Sanchez and the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) are ready to help

Rene Sanchez is a *Veterans Services Representative* at the Charlottesville Office. His goal and the mission of the DVS 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 the 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 support 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.

Rene spoke at length of the services available to Virginia Veterans and how his office, located at 1430 Rolkin Court Suite 202, Charlottesville, VA 22911, Phone:(434) 529-6431, has helped hundreds of veterans and stands by to assist any eligible person that calls or drops by.



(Above) Guest Speaker Rene Sanchez is a *Veterans Services Representative* at the Virginia DVS Charlottesville Office.



Maurie Roesch poses a challenging question to the guest speaker regarding Virginia DVS.



Mary Moranville, Karen Warnecke, Martha Down and Margie Davenport enjoy the June Luncheon Social Hour.



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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 September Luncheon Speaker will be
Dr. Bruce Chase, University of Delaware,
Research Professor Emeritus.**



Bruce Chase has a Ph.D. in chemical physics from Princeton University. He spent 34 years in the Central Research Department of DuPont and served as Chair of the DuPont Fellows for his last four years. He spent the last ten years in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Delaware, and is now a Research Professor Emeritus. His research has involved the use of lasers to probe the structure of high strength fibers. He will be speaking on the investigation of the mysterious sinking of the Great Lakes freighter, *SS Edmund Fitzgerald* on Lake Superior in 1975 with no survivors.

Community Calendar

Wednesday, 2 September at 1300 at the Club at Glenmore: CVC MOAA Board of Directors Meeting (Optional lunch starts at 12:00 noon)

Thursday, 24 September: 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 Dr. Bruce Chase, Research Professor Emeritus (Reservation form on page 11).

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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VA Trial Will Test GLP-1 Medication for Alcohol Use Disorder in Veterans



*This article by Natalie Olivero originally appeared on [Military Times](#)
[Hyperlinks are active in digital version](#)*

The [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) is launching a nationwide clinical trial to determine whether semaglutide, marketed as Ozempic for Type 2 diabetes and Wegovy for chronic weight management, can help treat alcohol use disorder in veterans, a condition VA says has been diagnosed in more than 400,000 veterans nationwide. Semaglutide is approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat Type 2 diabetes and chronic weight management, but not alcohol use disorder.

VA researchers are studying whether the GLP-1 receptor agonist may affect parts of the brain involved in reward, potentially offering a new treatment option for [veterans](#) with moderate or severe alcohol use disorder if proven safe and effective. The department cautioned veterans not to self-medicate or replace evidence-based alcohol use disorder treatments with GLP-1 medications without first consulting a health care provider.

The study, known as the [Cessation or Reduction of Alcohol Consumption in Veterans](#) (CRAVE) trial, will enroll more than 600 veterans ages 18 to 80 at 18 VA medical centers nationwide. Participants with moderate or severe alcohol use disorder will receive weekly injections of either semaglutide or a placebo for 24 weeks, followed by a safety evaluation. Researchers will measure changes in alcohol consumption, overall health and quality of life.

Researchers at [Washington University School of Medicine](#) have increasingly studied whether GLP-1 medications, originally developed for diabetes and later approved for obesity, could also help treat substance use disorders. [VA cited](#) an analysis published in March that found patients taking GLP-1 medications experienced lower rates of alcohol use disorder and other substance use disorders than similar patients taking other diabetes medications. The department said larger, controlled clinical trials are needed to determine whether semaglutide is safe and effective for treating alcohol use disorder. In an official statement, VA Secretary Doug Collins said, “By exploring emerging treatment options like the use of a GLP-1 for AUD, we aim to expand the tools available to help Veterans take control of their health and recovery.”

[Recruitment began July 28](#). Veterans interested in participating can contact their local VA medical center or search for the trial on [ClinicalTrials.gov](#).

[RELATED: [New Medicare GLP-1 Program Excludes TRICARE For Life Beneficiaries](#)]

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Reinstate TRICARE for Life Coverage of GLP-1 Medications](#)]

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>

Greetings fellow members,

With the fall season upon us, the legislative season is about to heat up once again. The Joint Leadership Council (JLC) has been at work taking stock of the 2026 legislative cycle and laying the groundwork for the 2027 General Assembly. An upcoming JLC meeting in September will determine the top legislative priorities across the Commonwealth's 25 Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs), including MOAA.

Congratulations to John Down who was elected in June to serve as the new JLC Vice Chair—a significant promotion for John, and a big win for MOAA and our Central Virginia Chapter in particular. For John of course, this will mean an even greater personal investment in the JLC process, and I am most grateful for his superb investment of time and talent in advocating for our veteran and military community in Richmond.

The last meeting of the JLC was on June 14th, and the following are some highlights (thanks to John Down for attending):

1. Commissioner Maxwell highlighted six key areas that continue to frame JLC efforts moving forward:

- Economic resiliency
- Healthcare and suicide prevention
- Addressing housing veteran homelessness

- For justice-involved veterans, get the dockets moving and prevention of recurrence
- Building digital access to expedite and support VA appointments, claims, and capacity
- Taking care of the family members—licensing and employment
- Honoring our legacy through the state veterans cemeteries, veterans care centers, and the Virginia War Memorial

2. VA “Claim Shark” initiative (preventing unaccredited VA consulting firms from taking advantage of veterans): The bill we hoped to pass last cycle did not—only a bill to merely regulate these firms passed. The VFW will work with Monti Zimmerman to pursue passage of a tougher bill at the federal level to address the problem.

3. Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP): Board of Veterans Services Chair Matthew Miller reported a working group has re-launched under the leadership of Virginia Senator Tara Durant and Claudia Flores, Board of Veterans Services. Funding for VMSDEP, a program that provides a much needed education benefit to dependents of fallen or disabled veterans, continues to be at risk in the Commonwealth.

4. Review of 9 legislative proposals by the VSOs (final determination and ranking will occur in September. Details on each initiative can be found on the JLC website):

-Protecting VSO revenue for Veterans Services (American Legion and VFW as co-sponsors). Action: Voted Yes.

- JLC semi-annual report to quantify the contributions of veterans to Virginia (American Legion sponsor). Action: Not passed to move forward.

- Study and stabilize VMSDEP (Association of the US Army sponsor). Action: Voted Yes.

- PTSD Training for First Responders and Public Safety Officers (Marine Corps League sponsor). Action: Deferred for clarification on objectives.

- Inclusion of USPHS and NOAA retirees in Virginia state income tax exclusion (MOAA sponsor). Action: Voted Yes, with only two votes against.
- Virginia State Transportation & Care Coordination Grant Pilot Program (Northern Virginia Veterans Association sponsor). Action: Voted Yes.
- Women Veterans Midlife Health Initiative (Northern Virginia Veterans Association sponsor). Action: Voted Yes.
- Expand JLC membership to include non-VSO's (Student Veterans of America sponsor). Action: Deferred.
- State Annuity Tax Exemption for Retired Members of the Virginia Militia and Virginia Defense Force (Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association sponsor). Action: Deferred.

Stay tuned for further updates, and as always, please feel free to reach out to me at any time for questions concerning MOAA's engagement efforts. You can contact me at danmoy@mac.com.

Best, Dan



Maurie Roesch and newly elected Joint Leadership Council Vice-Chair John Down discuss future legislative initiatives at the June Luncheon.



Enjoying the June Luncheon Social Hour are (Left to Right): Brent Browning, Ted Martin, Bill O'Hara and Byron and Laura Coburn

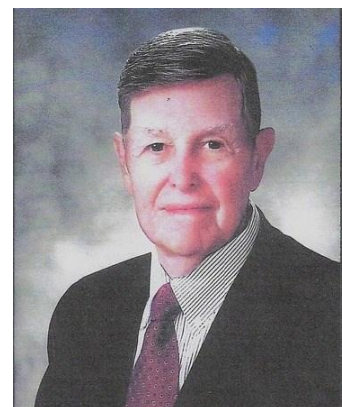


With nearly 700,000 veterans in the Commonwealth, we are committed to ensuring Virginia is the best place for veterans to live, work and raise a family. (Virginia Department of Veteran Services)

William W. Davis, Jr. Obituary

April 30, 1933 - August 18, 2026

William W. Davis Jr., son of the late William W. and Gilberta Knight Davis of Lexington, KY, both of whom were born, raised, and educated in Virginia, died August 18, 2026, in Charlottesville, VA. He was preceded in death by his sister, Ann Knight Davis Gutman of Cincinnati, OH. He is survived by his wife, Gene Ecton Davis; his daughter, Hannah Davis Emig; and his granddaughter, Helena Emig. He will be cremated and buried in Monticello Gardens of Charlottesville, VA. Arrangements are being handled by Hill & Wood Funeral Service. At his request, there will be no services.



Bill was born in Lexington, KY on April 30, 1933. He was educated in local schools and graduated from Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA, in the Class of 1955. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity and active in several campus organizations.

After he received his commission as an Ensign in the United States Navy, he served as an Anti-Submarine Warfare officer on the USS Beale, DDE 471, and was promoted to Lieutenant. Upon discharge from the U.S. Navy, he moved back to Lexington, KY. There he was President and Owner or Full Partner of three property and casualty insurance businesses as a Managing General Agent. He was named in Who's Who in the South and Southwest, and Who's Who in Finance and Industry.

On March 3, 2007, he moved to Charlottesville, VA, married his college sweetheart, Gene Ecton Smith, and reunited with his Davis cousins. He immediately became active in the community: joining the Charlottesville Rotary and becoming a member of the Board of Directors and Membership Chairman; the Senior Statesmen of Virginia and becoming a member of the Board of Directors and Secretary; the Presidential Cabinet of the Miller Center; the Charlottesville Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Military Officers Association of America. He was active in the Center for Politics. He joined Boars Head and Birdwood and became a member of the Seniors of Birdwood golf team, which played other area golf teams in friendly competition.

Bill and Gene Ecton travelled together to 41 states and rode on the Rocky Mountaineer trip across Western Canada. He led a loved and loving, happy and fulfilling life.



James (Jim) O'Kelley Jr, Colonel, USMC (Retired) receives well deserved honors

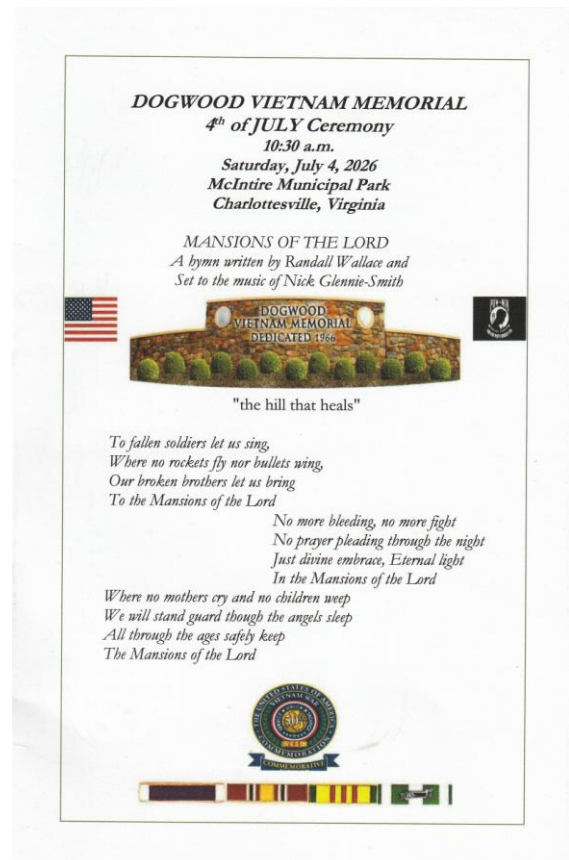
Monday, June 22, 2026 at 2pm in the House of Delegates in Richmond, Virginia 5th District Delegate Amy Laufer put forward a Commending Resolution to honor retired Colonel James (Jim) O'Kelley Jr. for his extraordinary lifetime achievement, both in military and civilian life. (Please see page 8 for entire text) His family, friends and several Veteran groups across Central Virginia were in attendance to support this memorable and extraordinary recognition. As many of you are aware, Jim is a past President of our Chapter and has also served as Chaplain, as a member of the Color Guard and as Chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee.



Colonel James O'Kelley Jr and his family attend the reading of his Commending Resolution in Richmond (Above and below) Photographs on pages 7 and 9 by Jim Carpenter



As no stranger to public service, James O'Kelley previously received accolades as a volunteer with the Albemarle County Sheriff's Department in 2010 by the [Daily Progress](#). They named him as one of their "Distinguished Dozen." They noted that Kelley was a retired U.S. Marine Corps Colonel who worked numerous hours in the sheriff's reserve division. He also worked as an engineer with the CIA, a computer systems analyst for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a program and budget analyst and cartography branch supervisor for the U.S. Geological Service, and as an emergency response coordinator between the USGS and the Department of Homeland Security. O'Kelley had moved to Albemarle County with his wife in 2006.



Program for the 4th of July Ceremony at the Dogwood Vietnam Memorial in Charlottesville, VA where Jim O'Kelley was the Guest Speaker.

2026 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

26200126D

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2074

Offered June 3, 2026

Commending Colonel James T. O'Kelley, USMCR (Ret.).

Patrons—Laufer, Callsen, Anderson, Anthony, Askew, Bulova, Carnegie, Carr, Carroll, Clark, Cohen, Cole, J.G., Cole, N.T., Convirs-Fowler, Cousins, Delaney, Dougherty, Downey, Feggans, Franklin, L.V., Franklin, M.A., Gardner, Glass, Guzman, Hayes, Helmer, Henson, Hernandez, Herring, Hope, Keys-Gamarra, Krizek, LeVere Bolling, Lopez, Martinez, McAuliff, McClure, McGuire, McPike, Mehta, Nivar, Pope Adams, Price, Rasoul, Reaser, Schmidt, Scott, D., Seibold, Sewell, Shin, Simonds, Singh, Sullivan, Thomas, Thornton, Tran, Ward, Watts and Willett

WHEREAS, Colonel James T. O'Kelley, USMCR (Ret.) is an honorable veteran and esteemed law-enforcement officer who greatly served both the nation and the Commonwealth in his military and civilian careers; and

WHEREAS, a native of Asheville, James “Jim” T. O'Kelley earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Duke University in 1964 and later obtained a master's degree in systems management and a doctorate in public policy analysis from The George Washington University in 1971 and 1976, respectively; and

WHEREAS, Jim O'Kelley honorably served his country for 36 years as a member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Reserve, including tours of duty in Vietnam as a second lieutenant platoon commander, an advisor to the 2nd Republic of Korea Marine Corps Brigade, and a lieutenant executive officer and captain, company commander, with the USMC 9th Engineer Battalion; and

WHEREAS, Jim O'Kelley pursued further military education throughout his career at a number of prestigious institutions in the United States, Canada, and England, including what was formerly the Amphibious Warfare School at Quantico and the Naval War College, and he later also served as a member of the faculty at many of these institutions, as well as an adjunct professor of business and public administration at George Mason University from 1976 to 1996; and

WHEREAS, Jim O'Kelley received numerous decorations for his service and valor as a member of the USMCR, including the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal with “V” device, the Purple Heart, the Air Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon; and

WHEREAS, after retiring from military service as the director of the Marine Corps Logistics Readiness Center at Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington, D.C., Jim O'Kelley worked with the United States Geological Survey, where he retired in 2006, capping four decades of service to the United States Government; and

WHEREAS, Jim O'Kelley safeguarded and protected his community for more than 11 years as a part-time deputy sheriff with the Albemarle County Sheriff's Office and as president of the Charlottesville-Albemarle TRIAD; he has also been a reserve deputy sheriff in Greene County since 2019; and

WHEREAS, Jim O'Kelley is a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason who has served as president of the Thomas Jefferson Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and has traced his family ancestry to its 1740 entry into Richmond and to three seventh generational grandfathers who participated in the Revolutionary War as Patriots at the Battles of Guilford Courthouse and Kings Mountain; he has also served as the Commandant of the Bradley T. Arms Marine Corps League Detachment; and

WHEREAS, Jim O'Kelley is an accomplished war historian who co-authored the book *The 9th Engineer Battalion, First Marine Division in Vietnam*, which recounts his experiences with the unit during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, for nearly 15 years, Jim O'Kelley has devoted himself to researching and sharing the stories of veterans from the Charlottesville and Albemarle County area who died while serving in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, as chairman of the History and Education Committee of the Dogwood Vietnam Memorial Foundation in Charlottesville, Jim O'Kelley and his wife have given generously of their time to memorialize the bravery and sacrifice of Charlottesville and Albemarle County's young heroes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Colonel James T. O'Kelley, USMCR (Ret.), hereby be commended for his legacy of dedication and service; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Colonel James T. O'Kelley, USMCR (Ret.), as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for his contributions to Charlottesville, Albemarle County, the Commonwealth, and the nation.

INTRODUCED

HR2074

Colonel James O'Kelley, U.S. Marine Corps (ret.) was Guest Speaker for the Dogwood Vietnam Memorial 4th of July Ceremony at McIntire Municipal Park, Charlottesville Virginia (program on page 7) and read the biographies of 6 heroes added to the memorial roster (see their pictures below)



Photographs on pages 7 and 9 by Jim Carpenter

DOGWOOD VIETNAM MEMORIAL, CHARLOTTESVILLE VA
IN HONOR OF OUR FALLEN HEROES
PRESENTED BY COL. JAMES O'KELLEY
JULY 4, 2026



FIRST LIEUTENANT RICHARD DUNCAN BAHR
C CO, 5TH BN, 60TH INF 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION
UNITED STATES ARMY
MARCH 28, 1944 TO MARCH 7, 1968
UVA STUDENT



SPECIALIST FOUR TINSLEY BRYANT
HHC, 2ND BN, 18TH INFANTRY,
1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, USARV
UNITED STATES ARMY
JULY 3, 1940 TO DECEMBER 10, 1965



PRIVATE FIRST CLASS RONAL EDWARD CRITZER
A CO, 2ND BATTALION, 501ST INF, 101ST AIRBORNE DIV
UNITED STATES ARMY
NOVEMBER 12, 1945 TO APRIL 29, 1968



LIEUTENANT PAUL ANTHONY GREGORY
VF92, CVN 9, USS AMERICA, TF 77
7TH FLEET, FIXED WING PILOT
UNITED STATES NAVY VIETNAM
JULY 10, 1939 TO JULY 25, 1970
UVA STUDENT



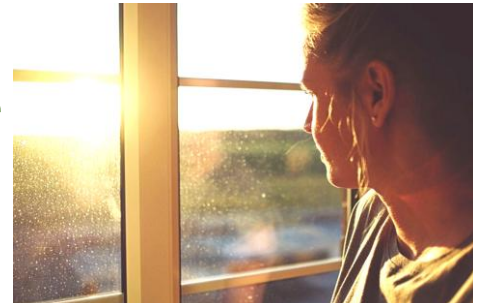
FIRST LIEUTENANT ANTHONY ALBERT KOSTER
A CO, 1ST BN, 5TH MARINES, 1ST MARINE DIVISION
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
JULY 24, 1946 - FEBRUARY 4, 1969
UVA STUDENT



SPECIALIST FIVE WILLIAM JOSEPH MCFARLAND
201ST AVN CO, 17TH AVN GRP, 1ST AVN BDE
UNITED STATES ARMY
AUGUST 31, 1947 TO APRIL 29, 1969
UVA STUDENT

Surviving Spouse Corner: Find Support Wherever You Live

By: Roy Yenchesky



A military surviving spouse who lives far from a military installation or VA facility still has access to a wide network of national organizations dedicated to providing support, guidance, and community. One of the most accessible starting points is [Military OneSource](#), which offers 24/7 phone and online assistance, confidential counseling, financial guidance, and help navigating survivor benefits. Because services are delivered virtually, surviving spouses can receive personalized support without traveling long distances.

The [VA's Office of Survivors Assistance](#) also provides extensive online tools, benefit explanations, and direct inquiry support. Surviving spouses can explore programs such as Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, education benefits, and health care options through online guides, downloadable resources, and telephone support. The VA also offers virtual counseling, caregiver resources, and grief support through its Vet Centers and hotlines.

Several national nonprofit organizations play a major role in supporting surviving spouses regardless of location. [MOAA](#) offers survivor-specific guidance, legislative advocacy, and access to both local and virtual chapters. [MOAA's Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter](#) is especially valuable for those who do not live near a military community.

[USAA](#) provides financial education, insurance guidance, and survivor-specific assistance to eligible members. Their advisors can help spouses navigate life insurance claims, long-term planning, and financial transitions after loss.

The [Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors \(TAPS\)](#) offers grief counseling, peer support, survivor seminars, and a 24/7 helpline. TAPS provides both in-person and virtual programs, ensuring surviving spouses can access emotional support and community from anywhere in the country.

Veterans service organizations (VSOs) such as the [Veterans of Foreign Wars](#), [the American Legion](#), [AMVETS](#), and [Disabled American Veterans](#) also provide valuable assistance. Even if a spouse does not live near a local post, these organizations maintain state and national service officers who help with VA claims, benefit navigation, and survivor advocacy. Many offer phone appointments, online resources, and virtual support networks.

Surviving spouses should also be aware of the growing number of benefit scammers who target veterans and their families. These scammers often promise to “speed up” VA claims, charge fees for services that should be free, or attempt to collect personal information. A legitimate veterans service officer will never charge for filing a VA claim. Surviving spouses should avoid sharing Social Security numbers, banking information, or benefit documents with anyone who is not a verified representative. When in doubt, they can confirm legitimacy through the VA, state veteran’s agencies, or recognized VSOs.

Together, these organizations form a strong, nationwide support network for surviving spouses — wherever they live.

LUNCHEON MEETING RESERVATION FORM
Thursday, 24 September 2026

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

Guest Speaker: Dr. Bruce Chase, University of Delaware, Research Professor Emeritus.

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

Cinnamon Spiced Apple Salad



Choice of entrée:

A. Grilled Flank Steak

or

B. Pan Roasted Salmon

or

C. Vegetable Risotto

Parmesan Risotto

Spaghetti Squash

Pecan Pie

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, 18 September 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 18 September 2026
via email (warneckeja@comcast.net) or phone (434) 981-8554.



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Charlottesville, VA 22906-6455

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