



Volume 53, Issue 6

The Bugle

Central Virginia Chapter



June-July 2025

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.

Patrick Schroeder recounts the last days of the Army of Northern Virginia and what it took to end four years of war in 1865

Civil War Author and Historian Patrick A. Schroeder is a native Virginian who graduated Cum Laude with a B.S. in Historical Park Administration from Shepherd College, Shepherdstown, WV and has an M.A. in Civil War History from Virginia Tech. From the summer of 1986-1993, Patrick worked as a seasonal living history interpreter at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. From that experience, he wrote "Thirty Myths About Lee's Surrender" and is now the full-time Historian of Appomattox Court House National Historical Park.

Patrick provided a thorough explanation of the fall of Richmond in 1865 and subsequent retreat by Lee's Army of Northern Virginia to the west. Lee sought to move south to join Confederate forces in North Carolina but was ultimately trapped by the larger Federal Army with his last supply line to Lynchburg cut. He reluctantly agreed to discuss terms at Appomattox, where the surrender ultimately took place, with much graciousness on the part Grant and at the bidding of Lincoln.

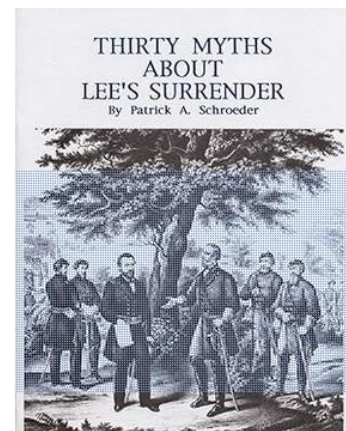
Patrick didn't attempt to extrapolate the efforts that Lee and Grant made to end the American Civil War as a model for ending the strife in our current-day conflicts. However, his masterful telling of the story provided the answer we were seeking. The meeting between antagonists at Appomattox in April 1865 brought together two men who each had their own desires for certain concessions from the other, but above all, *the priority of both was to bring a final and lasting Peace to the nation.* In contrast, in April 2025, no similar shared priority for peace above all else, exists bilaterally among the belligerents locked in lethal conflict in either the Middle East or Eastern Europe.



Patrick describes the fighting retreat of the Army of Northern Virginia in April 1865 that ultimately led to peace negotiations at Appomattox.



Son-in-law Frank and daughter Mary Leslie Tise are the guests of Mary Aston and Corky Shackelford at the May Luncheon.



Patrick Schroeder wrote "Thirty Myths About Lee's Surrender" in 1993 and the book now is in its twelfth printing.



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The Bugle

*2024 Col Marvin J. Harris 5-Star
Communications Award Winner*

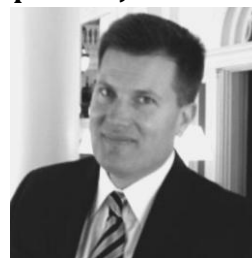
Editor: Brion C. Smith

Contributors:

John Warnecke – Printing & Distribution



James R. Sofka, PhD, Writer and Educator to Speak at June Luncheon



James Sofka specializes in international relations and trans-Atlantic diplomatic and political history. He has taught regularly for the Brookings Institution, the Federal Executive Institute, the American Military University, and the University of Virginia's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). He previously taught in these fields at the Department of Politics in the University of Virginia, where he also served as Dean of the undergraduate Honors program in the College of Arts and Sciences. He received his Ph.D. in Politics from the University of Virginia. He will speak on "International Relationships and Political Leadership."

Community Calendar

Wednesday, 4 June: Board of Directors Meeting at 13:00 with optional lunch at 12:00 noon at the Club at Glenmore.

Wednesday, June 18: Charlottesville Aviation Luncheon Club (CALClub) open to all, will meet at the Blue Ridge Café, Ruckersville. Doors open at 11:00 and buffet lunch will begin at noon, price is \$20.00 cash per person. Make reservations by June 15 with Bill Mitchell whmitchell6@gmail.com or 703 915 6230. Speaker will be Bill Baskerville speaking about the B-52 Bomber during the Gulf War Years and beyond to the B-52J.

Thursday, 26 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 author and educator, Dr. James R. Sofka speaking on "International Relationships and Political leadership" (Reservation form on page 7)

Join MOAA's Central Virginia Chapter

To learn more about the nationally recognized



Central Virginia Chapter

contact

Membership Director
Carolyn Still

Email: carolynmassie@hotmail.com

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From MOAA's President: Honoring Those We've Lost, and Their Families, This Memorial Day

By: Brian T. Kelly



Memorial Day is both meaningful and humbling for all of us at MOAA, given our mission of preserving and protecting the service-earned benefits of all who sacrifice for our nation.

And while I look forward to representing MOAA at the annual Memorial Day ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, I take even greater pride in knowing representatives from our 350,000-member association, led by those in councils and chapters across the country, will be in their communities to march in parades, speak at events, and honor those who've made the ultimate sacrifice.

I will also reflect not just on the fallen, but on the family members they've left behind. The strength of surviving spouses and family members has been critical to the wider uniformed services community, and I have especially appreciated their contributions to MOAA's work. Last month, for example, many survivors joined us as part of our annual Advocacy in Action event on Capitol Hill, helping support the next generation of servicemembers and continuing an unbroken bond of patriotism.

MOAA works to live up to their example, putting service before self and looking after those who continue the mission, even as we reflect on those we've lost.

On this Memorial Day, I am grateful for all our MOAA members, past and present, and your commitment to our mission and motto to *Never Stop Serving*.



Mary Moranville, Martha Down, John Down, and Trish Sifka at the March 2025 luncheon social hour. John is a Chapter Legislative Committee Member and Trish was very highly regarded for her service in that same role a few years earlier.



Joanne and David Hilty with Bill Adams at the May Luncheon

Surviving Spouse Corner: Is a 55-and-Older Community Right for You?

By: Nora Durham

What is a 55-and-older community? These residential communities are designed to be friendly to seniors with low-maintenance amenities such as pools and clubhouses and close proximity to shopping, restaurants, and attractions. There are more than 19,000 retirement community businesses in the U.S. as of 2023, an increase of 1.2% from 2022, according to [IBISWorld.com](https://www.ibisworld.com).



Pros of living in one of these communities include:

Like-minded people. Because of the age requirements, many people living there are likely to be from your generation and share your interests. This will help making new friends easier.

Activities and events. Many of these communities have a clubhouse where you can find social events, games, movies, concerts, speakers, and more. These activities are usually open to the whole community, so you can participate in as many as you want.

Less maintenance. You'll probably need to pay an HOA fee for maintenance and repairs, but you won't need to worry about managing the outside of your property. The fee could also include services such as trash collection, cable, water, and security.

Various amenities. Many of these communities have a pool, a gym, tennis courts, golf, a game room, and more.

Transportation. Some communities offer shuttles to shopping centers or health appointments.

Quiet, kid-free environment. Besides holidays when grandchildren can come to visit, most of these communities are quiet.

Safety and security. Many of these communities are gated and have low crime rates. They also often have security staff, well-lit areas, updated fire alarms, smoke detectors, and other safety features.

Having lived in a gated 55-plus community since 2020, I find the only con is that I did not move here sooner. But for some, cons of these communities might include less privacy, higher costs, challenges selling, and younger family members potentially being restricted.

If you're considering moving to a retirement community, before you buy, make a list of other questions and ask the homeowner association (HOA) for answers. Get a copy of the HOA rules (which are also called restrictive covenants) and fees, and make sure you understand them before you make your decision.



Clay Sisk, Ann Shelton and Hank Shelton wait for the Speaker to start at the May Luncheon

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.

In preparation for the 2026 General Assembly, your legislative committee recently held virtual meetings with two members of the House of Delegates, Amy Laufer (55th District—Albemarle, Fluvanna, Louisa, and Nelson counties) and Katrina Callsen (54th District, Charlottesville City).

The Joint Leadership Council (JLC) is encouraging each of the Veteran Service Organizations to begin working ahead of schedule this cycle to help inform the legislative topics and priorities the JLC will advocate for in 2026. Unlike previous years, rather than waiting until after the JLC has finalized its legislative agenda, we are engaging with representatives like Delegates Laufer and Callsen now to help inform the JLC's deliberative process. We are inviting our representatives to help us understand, from their view, and based on what they're hearing from their constituents, what issues are of greatest concern to servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

During these early conversations, we are also highlighting a top MOAA priority—namely, amending and reenacting § 58.1-322.02 (Virginia Taxable Income; Subtractions) to expand eligibility to all uniformed services, including veterans of the commissioned corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) commissioned officer corps. This initiative calls for delivering the same state income tax exclusion benefits provided to veterans of the armed forces. Federal law currently defines eight uniformed services of the U.S. Government—five within DoD (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Space Force), the Coast Guard (Homeland Security), and two additional—USPHS and NOAA. Like the other services, USPHS and NO-

AA are uniformed and deployable worldwide. Of note, Delegate Laufer, who sits on the House Finance Committee, expressed her concern with the fiscal priorities across the board, indicating that such an initiative will be closely examined for cost impact in 2026.

Both delegates expressed their interest in working with MOAA and the JLC in the coming months to address the needs of military service members and veterans in their districts. One item on their shared radar for the local area—the ongoing problem of accessibility to the Dogwood Vietnam Memorial in Charlottesville. Both are interested in supporting improvements to parking and site improvements to make the memorial accessible to all. Your legislative committee will follow up with both house members on this topic to see if state legislation may be in order to help advance the effort.

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,

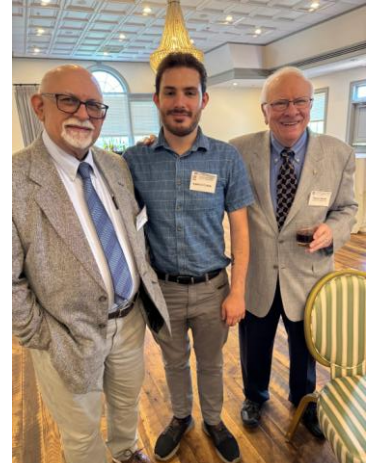
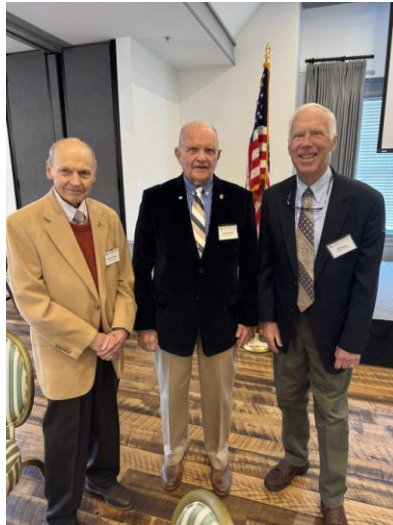
Dan



Photo from the recent awards ceremony recognizing the State Executive of the Year for the Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC), MOAA. Presenting the award at the Virginia War Memorial, Richmond, on May 1st are, left to right: John Down; Monti Zimmerman, VCOC 3rd VP for Legislative Affairs; awardee Jordan Stewart, Deputy Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs; and Diana Kupchella, President, VCOC.

"Mid-Year Exposures"

Some of the photographs we wanted to include in previous editions but ran out of space!



LUNCHEON MEETING RESERVATION FORM
Thursday, 26 June 2025

11:00 a.m. social hour. 12:00 noon lunch
The Club at Glenmore

James R. Sofka, PhD, Writer and Educator
"International Relationships and Political Leadership."

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

Iceberg Wedge Salad
Blue Cheese Dressing



Choice of entrée:

A. Pan Roasted Flounder Amandine

or

B. Grilled Bistro Steak

or

C. Summer Penne Pasta

Brown Rice Pilaf

Buttered Broccoli

NY Cheesecake

Berries

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, 20 June 2025.

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 20 June 2025
via email (warnecke@comcast.net) or phone (434) 981-8554.



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