



## FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER



# THE FALCON FLYER

## SEPTEMBER 2022



*THE FALCON FLYER is published quarterly by the Falcons Chapter of MOAA and distributed to all members as well as placed in the Falcons Landing MOAA website, [www.falconsmoaa.org](http://www.falconsmoaa.org) . POC for the newsletter is the Editor, COL (Ret) Bob Manning, [Rmanning@aol.com](mailto:Rmanning@aol.com).*

# SUPPORT OF MOAA NATIONAL

MOAA is a nonpartisan, 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. MOAA's greatest mission is "to improve the lives of those who serve and their families, which is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's capital". Support MOAA's advocacy efforts by going to [www.moaa.org/takeaction](http://www.moaa.org/takeaction) .

The Falcons Landing Chapter is one of more than 400-plus local organizations affiliated with National MOAA and is a nonpartisan, nonprofit veterans' association. Our chapter provides programs to support: those who are serving; those who have served; and those who have survived, while placing special focus on community support.

We support the national organization through support of legislative priorities and "Advocacy in Action" and are active in our community supporting three JROTC programs, helping recovering and needy veterans, supporting surviving spouses in our continuing care facilities and providing speakers to community service organizations.

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# CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## SEPTEMBER 2022

Fall is in the air and the warm days of summer are quickly receding. The highlight of my summer was to complete a long-planned 7-day hike in the Scottish Highlands with three generations of men in my family – an adventure the 10 of us Walsh hikers will never forget. Now all the Walsh women are asking “what about us?” More to come on that!

Our MOAA Chapter now has a “fall spring” in its step. I, Max Johnson, and Jim and Jackie Mullen attended the MOAA Regional Leadership Conference in Raleigh, NC in mid-August – a great opportunity to be updated on all things MOAA and to mix with our VCOC brethren. CDR Linc Smith USN (Ret.), VCOC President, and his Legislative Chair, Col Monti Zimmerman, will visit Falcons Landing on October 20<sup>th</sup> and participate in our Chapter Board Meeting that day. We also met with our Loudoun Veterans and Family Support (LVFS) program partners, the Community Lutheran Church (CLC), in August to assess our past and current LVFS activities and to strategize future activities for assisting veterans. We and the CLC will continue LVFS future planning in a strategy meeting with the Loudoun County Veterans Affairs Coordinator, Tom Grant, on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

We now look forward to resuming all our regular Chapter activities for the remainder of the year. Our Chapter Board of Directors has just approved the addition of the South Lakes H.S. (Reston, VA) AJROTC program to our JROTC sponsorship umbrella – now giving our JROTC Program coordinator, Col Joe Miller USA (Ret.), top-tier Army, Navy, and Air Force JROTC units in our local area to work with and assist. We continue to seek a replacement for Vicki Estey, our Chapter Auxiliary President, so we can move ahead in earnest to renew and even expand our broad program of volunteer services and activities for our Falcons Landing Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing Care resident communities – the main activity of our 84-member Auxiliary. Finally, we want to publically salute our beloved Chapter member and WWII veteran, Col Herb Stern USA (Ret.), whose remarkable story of service to the Army and our country is recounted in the October edition of MOAA's “Military Officer” magazine. Herb recently celebrated his 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday here at Falcons Landing.

**Never Stop Serving**  
Phil Walsh, President





# MISSION STATEMENT

*THE FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER OF MOAA WILL ACTIVELY SUPPORT*

**THOSE WHO ARE SERVING**

**THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED**

**THOSE WHO HAVE SURVIVED**

# MOAA MEMBERSHIP

## MAX JOHNSON



### REGULAR CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Per the chapter's bylaws -- the membership of the chapter shall be composed of men and women who are serving or have served on active duty or in one of the reserve components as a commissioned or warrant officer in one of the seven US Uniformed Services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service) or in one of the National Guard or Reserve Components thereof.

REGULAR CHAPTER MEMBERS (ON/OFF CAMPUS) – 126

CHAPTER AUXILIARY MEMBERS -- 84

Surviving Spouses – 82

Spouses of current chapter members – 12

Others -- 10

**TOTAL MOAA COMMUNITY AT FALCONS LANDING -- 210!**

We invite and encourage you to join the Falcons Landing Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), the preeminent organization protecting the rights and benefits of service members past, current, and future. The local chapters perform similar services at the community and county level, and they educate and inform members on important issues facing veterans and their families. We are proud that our Chapter has been awarded MOAA's highest-level 5-Star Chapter rating – and we ask you to join us in perpetuating that honor. As a member you will receive our newsletter electronically via email. If you don't have email access, we will send a print copy to your mailing address.

When you join our Chapter, the only one in Loudoun County, you'll add your voice to those of the members of the [Virginia Council of Chapters](#) (VCOC), a statewide network of Virginia chapters.

If you have interest in or questions about joining MOAA's select group of professionals at the national and/or chapter levels, please contact Max Johnson, (703) 508-3788 or fill out the Contact Form in the Contact Tab of the Falcons Landing Chapter website at [falconsmoaa.org](http://falconsmoaa.org). You may also find the membership application for MOAA National/Chapter at [www.falconsmoaa.org/membership](http://www.falconsmoaa.org/membership).

# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

MAX JOHNSON

22 SEPTEMBER 2022

**Total Chapter/Auxiliary Members: 188 MOAA Members +  
22 (10 Non-MOAA + 12 Spouses of MOAA Members = 210 Total Members**

	<b>Total Chap/Aux Members:</b>	<b>181 MOAA A</b>	<b>Total National Members:</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>of Chap/Aux Members</b>		<b>Total National Life Members:</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>Of Chap/Aux Members</b>	
	<b>Total Resident Premium Members (PM )</b>		<b>104</b>	<b>55%</b>								
	<b>Chapter PM Members outside Falcons Landing</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>of Chap/Aux Members</b>		<b>Total Resident Surviving Spouses (SSM/Aux):</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>of Chap/Aux Members</b>		
	<b>Total PM Members</b>		<b>113</b>	<b>60%</b>								
	<b>Total Non-Premium Members (NPM):</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>of Chap/Aux Members</b>		<b>Non-Resident Surviving Spouses (NSSM/NAux):</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>of Chap/Aux Members</b>		
							<b>Total Auxiliary</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>of Chap/Aux Members</b>		

**TREASURER'S  
REPORT  
TOM OWENS  
  
APPROVED  
BUDGET 2022**

**Income**

<b>Dues</b>	<b>\$2200</b>
<b>Donations</b>	
<b>General</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>
<b>Adopt-A-Platoon</b>	<b>\$1,100</b>
<b>Scholarships</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>
<b>Veteran's Assist</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17,600</b>

**Expenses**

<b>Copying</b>	<b>\$150</b>
<b>LVFS</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>
<b>Officers'/Dir Insur.</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>General Liability Ins</b>	<b>\$380</b>
<b>State Corp Commission</b>	<b>\$50</b>
<b>Scholar&amp;Ribbons</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>
<b>Postage</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>VA Council of Chap</b>	<b>\$130</b>
<b>Website</b>	<b>\$132</b>
<b>Bank Checks</b>	<b>\$75</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$19,517</b>

# FALCONS LANDING MOAA CHAPTER AUXILIARY

## VICKI ESTEY



### MEMBERSHIP IN THE AUXILIARY

THREE CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP ARE SPECIFIED IN THE BYLAWS:

- SURVIVING SPOUSES OF REGULAR CHAPTER MEMBERS – AUTOMATIC MEMBERSHIP ON THE PASSING OF A REGULAR CHAPTER MEMBER
- SPOUSES OF REGULAR CHAPTER MEMBERS – UPON REQUEST/APPLICATION FROM A SPOUSE OF A LIVING REGULAR CHAPTER MEMBER
- OTHER INTERESTED RESIDENTS OF FALCONS LANDING – UPON REQUEST/APPLICATION FROM A NON-MOAA AFFILIATED RESIDENT OF FALCONS LANDING WHO IS INTERESTED IN ASSISTING WITH THE AUXILIARY’S PROGRAM OF VOLUNTEER WORK.

### MORE ABOUT THE AUXILIARY

- AUXILIARY MEMBERS PAY NO CHAPTER DUES
- AUXILIARY RECRUITMENT LETTERS SENT OUT TWICE YEARLY
- VOLUNTEER OUTREACH AVAILABLE IN INDEPENDENT LIVING, THE JOHNSON CENTER, AND WEST FALLS CENTER TO INCLUDE: VISITATION, COFFEE/MEAL VISITS, EXERCISE, BINGO, MAIL DELIVERY, NEWSPAPER DELIVERY, ASSISTANCE IN 2L INTERACTIVE PROGRAMS, HAPPY HOURS, MUSIC, WEEKEND COVERAGE OF RECEPTION DESK IN TJC
- TYPICAL ON-SITE VOLUNTEER EFFORT – APPROXIMATELY 200 HOURS/MONTH





## WHO ATTENDS

**VCOC ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS, CHAPTER PRESIDENTS, CHAPTER VCOC REPRESENTATIVES, GUEST SPEAKERS AND CHAPTER LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES ATTEND. OTHER INTERESTED CHAPTER LEADERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND, INCLUDING CHAPTER AUXILIARY LIAISONS, CHAPTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS AND CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP CHAIRS.**

**THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS (VCOC) OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA) CONSISTS OF 17 MOAA CHAPTERS. AS OF THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2021, VCOC NUMBERED 2284 MEMBERS.**

**THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS MEETS QUARTERLY: JANUARY, APRIL, JULY AND OCTOBER. FOR 2022, THE JANUARY MEETING WAS A VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING. THE APRIL AND OCTOBER MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE IN PERSON AT THE VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL, RICHMOND, WITH THE JULY MEETING CONDUCTED AS A ZOOM VIRTUAL HYBRID MEETING. EACH IN PERSON MEETING WILL INCLUDE THE VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE OPTION.**

# MOAA NATIONAL AWARDS

## FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER

### LEVELS OF EXCELLENCE



Out of just over 400 MOAA affiliates/chapters, 144 chapters received the 5-star Level of Excellence Awards. Despite a difficult year of transition from the COVID-19 pandemic, our Chapter adapted and improvised when necessary to support and foster programs that directly support the MOAA mission and their communities. All LOE nomination packages were independently evaluated by two members of the Council and Chapter Affairs Committee of the MOAA Board of Directors.

Col Phil Walsh, Chapter President, will attend the Annual MOAA Meeting in Kansas City, MO in October and receive the Levels of Excellence Award on behalf of the Chapter.

### COMMUNICATIONS




Each year, national MOAA holds the Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award Contest to identify councils and chapters that do an outstanding job communicating with their members and community. MOAA affiliates/chapters competed in two categories of competition: print and e-newsletters and websites. A panel of judges scored the submissions based on a set of subjective criteria, looking at both design and content. We are pleased to announce that Falcons Landing Chapter was only 1 of 57 Chapters that was selected at the five-star level (highest award) for both the print and website categories.

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT INFORMATION AND PRIORITIES

Periodically, MOAA will lobby Congress to take legislative action to preserve our retiree benefits. The probability of favorable legislative action is in direct proportion to the number of voters who register support. MOAA sometimes includes postcards and letters in its magazine (Military Officer) for us to sign and mail to our representatives (identified for us). The MOAA Newsletter may also include an online access to act. It is imperative that we do so. To access the MOAA Newsletter go to the MOAA website at [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org) and select the News and Info tab, followed by selecting Newsletters. The MOAA Newsletter “is an award-winning member-only e-newsletter subscription to provide information on topics most important to you. Whether you’re looking for updates on current legislative issues, want to know more about your military benefits, or just interested in the latest MOAA events, you can tailor your newsletter to align with your specific needs and interests.” It is included with your MOAA membership. If you are not registered with MOAA National for this, call the front desk (800) 234-6622, and you'll be guided on how to receive the newsletter on a desired schedule. Have your MOAA National membership number available. If you don't have email or have questions on obtaining this information, contact COL (Ret) Max Johnson at [mwjohnson64@verizon.net](mailto:mwjohnson64@verizon.net) or 703-508-3788.


Our Chapter periodically publishes Legislative Updates for all members and works with MOAA to recommend to members that they support MOAA legislative initiatives by contacting their legislators. MOAA staff and Chapter members meet with members of Congress annually. You may review important MOAA legislative issues and activities on the MOAA website by visiting the Take Action section at [www.moaa.org/takeaction](http://www.moaa.org/takeaction) .

National MOAA and the Falcons Landing Chapter, MOAA, are politically nonpartisan but seek to remain informed on political matters of concern to veterans at both the state and local levels.

STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 

- JLC 2022-01 SUICIDE PREVENTION AMONG SMVF
- JLC 2022-02 EXPAND TAX RELIEF FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES OF MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS TO ALSO INCLUDE “DIED IN THE LINE-OF-DUTY”
- JLC 2022-04 INCREASE GF SUPPORT FOR STATE VETERANS CEMETERIES; ELIMINATE SPOUSE BURIAL FEES

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FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 

- PROTECT THE VALUE OF THE MILITARY HEALTH CARE BENEFIT
- PROTECT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY AS AN OPTION FOR THOSE CURRENTLY ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FULL MILITARY HONORS, THROUGH EXPANSION OF OUR NATIONAL CEMETERY
- SUSTAIN PAY RAISES FOR SERVICEMEMBERS AND COLA RAISES FOR RETIREES
- IMPROVE SURVIVOR BENEFITS

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# MOAA'S 2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## (CLICK EACH LINK FOR MORE ON THE TOPIC)

- [Sustain pay raises and adequate BAH for the troops and COLA raises for retirees.](#)
- [Ensure the Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service continue to receive pay during a government shutdown.](#)
- [Protect the value of the military health care benefit.](#)
- [Protect the Military Health System pharmacy benefit, and achieve flexibility in TRICARE pharmacy copays.](#)
- [Address barriers to accessing care within the MHS, including TRICARE coverage gaps and mental health care access challenges.](#)
- [Protect family support programs, and ensure military-provided services \(housing, PCS, child care, youth programs, financial counseling\) are readily available and meet standards for quality and costs.](#)
- [Achieve equity of benefits, protections, and administrative support for Guard/Reserve members consistent with their active-duty counterparts.](#)
- [Sustain Veterans Health Administration \(VHA\) foundational missions and services.](#)
- [Reform the presumptive process to support veterans claiming service-connected disabilities for toxic exposures.](#)
- [Achieve concurrent receipt of service-earned retirement pay and VA disability pay.](#)
- [Protect full military honors and burial at Arlington National Cemetery for those currently eligible.](#)
- [Improve survivors' benefits.](#)
- [Support a quality transition experience from active duty to veteran status for all servicemembers.](#)
- [Recognize the pandemic continues to affect the lives of our servicemembers.](#)



## **VIRGINIA TAX EXEMPTION FOR MILITARY RETIREES SIGNED BY GOVERNOR YOUNGKIN**

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- **Virginia military retirees 55 years and older will be able to keep more of their retirement income thanks to language in the state budget passed this spring by the state's General Assembly.**
- **Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed on June 21 the two-year budget, which exempts the first \$10,000 in military retirement income in the 2022 tax year. This number will jump to \$20,000 in 2023, \$30,000 in 2024, and \$40,000 in 2025 and beyond. The new law also applies to surviving spouses of military retirees. That's an estimated \$575 in tax relief per \$10,000 of exemptions, according to MOAA Virginia Council of Chapters State Legislative Affairs Chair Col. Monti Zimmerman, USA(Ret).**
- **Retirees from the U.S. Public Health Service or NOAA will not be eligible for exemptions.**

# BILLS SIGN BY GOVERNOR YOUNGKIN SUPPORTING THE MILITARY IN VIRGINIA

- **HB 358**, which directs the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs and the Secretary of Commerce and Trade and Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity to consider waiving small business permits for veteran-owned small businesses.
- **HB 994**, which directs the Board of Education to determine the feasibility of permitting active-duty members with dependents to apply for the Child Care Subsidy Program.
- **HB 17**, which protect members of some lawfully recognized military organizations from the crime of unlawful paramilitary activity while participating in educational exercises or public ceremonies unless done with malicious intent.
- **HB 40**, which gives disabled veterans special license plates that would carry over to their spouse upon their death as long as the spouse doesn't remarry.
- **HB 120**, which gives free lifetime hunting and freshwater fishing licenses to veterans with service-connected disabilities of at least 30%.
- **HB 210**, which authorizes the Department of Military Affairs to use grant funding to recruit for Virginia's National Guard.
- **HB 230**, which requires the Board of Education to provide teacher's licenses to spouses of armed forces or Virginia National Guard members who have valid teacher's licenses in other states.
- **HB 231**, which extends the paid leave period for armed forces members from 15 to 21 days.
- **HB 354**, which funds infrastructure projects that improve military readiness or quality of life for military communities.
- **HB 642**, which gives the Department of Military Affairs the power to pay the employer portion of health care premiums for Virginia National Guard or Virginia Defense Force members who meet certain requirements.
- **HB 857**, which adds parameters around Department of Military Affairs grants for Virginia National Guard members pursuing higher education.
- **HB 957**, which gives widows of service members who died in the line of duty a different rate for real estate tax, as long as the widow lives in the home and the tax rate does not exceed the tax rate on the general class of real estate.
- **HB 1203**, which establishes the position of Suicide Prevention Coordinator in the Department of Veterans Services to improve mental health services for military members and veterans.
- **SB 212**, which introduces special revenue-sharing license plates with the U.S. Navy emblem for active members and certain veterans.
- **SB 768**, which changes the definition of "qualified survivors and dependents" to include stepchildren of a deceased military member if they were claimed as dependents on the military member's tax returns or Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.

# ANNUAL FUND REQUEST

## HELP SUPPORT OUR CHAPTER PROGRAMS

Our activities, especially the veterans' assistance and scholarship programs, require funds well beyond our annual dues. Last year, around this time, we solicited donations, and your response was generous. Again, we are asking for your support, promising to apply your donation as you designate. Please annotate your check on the memo line: "veterans assistance," "scholarships," "Adopt-A-Platoon," or "general" (meaning expenses consistent with our mission). **Checks should be made out to the "Falcons Landing Chapter of MOAA"** and placed in the mail slot of our Treasurer, Tom Owens, 46916. Those outside Falcons Landing may mail to Tom at the address in our letterhead. Your contributions may be tax deductible on your federal return. We will send all donors a thank-you letter to that effect.

A continuing practice of our Chapter is the award of scholarships to deserving junior ROTC seniors at Chantilly HS (Air Force), Loudoun County HS (Navy) and South Lakes HS (Army).

### PROGRAMS



LOUDOUN VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT



JROTC

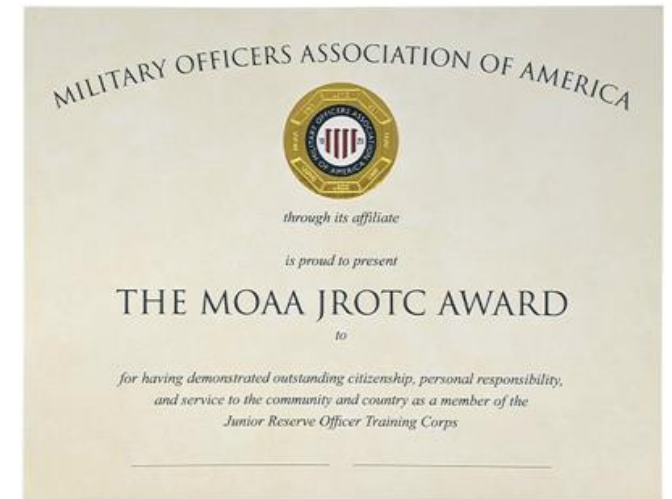


# FALCONS LANDING MOAA CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVES SPONSORSHIP OF SOUTH LAKES HS AJROTC UNIT

Chapter President, Colonel Phil Walsh (ret) and Colonel Joe Miller (ret), Director of JROTC Programs, visited the Army JROTC unit at South Lakes High School in Reston, Virginia on September 15<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the visit was to meet with the leadership of the AJROTC unit, Colonel Bullard and SFC Handy, and tour the facility and learn more about the leadership program. As a result of the visit, the Chapter President recommended to the Chapter Board of Directors that the Chapter assume sponsorship of the AJROTC program in terms of:

- Visit unit by Chapter members and observe activities.
- Invite AJROTC cadets to visit Falcons Landing from time to time to participate in MOAA events or ceremonies (e.g., providing a color guard for our Veterans Day or Memorial Day ceremonies or providing drill exhibitions for our residents;
- Provide end-of-year awards from our Chapter to outstanding cadets in the form of one MOAA Leadership Medal and two \$500 scholarships for attendance at college.

*The Board of Directors approved these recommendations on September 22, 2022.*





# THE GATHERING

## BILL HILSMAN

### The Gathering Special — Baseball Luncheon

Meet, from the 1956 Washington Senators Baseball Season, Including the All-Star Game at Griffith Stadium, Special Guests — Bill “Bat Boy” Turner and Ed “Boy in the Score Board” Baruch



**MONDAY, AUGUST 22**

**11:30 A.M.—BALLROOM**

*Serving Ballpark favorites for lunch*

**Cost: One Meal Credit**

**Please sign-up/cancel by  
Thursday, August 18th**






### SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Hurricanes & Air Force Hurricane Reconnaissance

Featuring Resident Richard Picanso, *Colonel, USAF, Retired*




**Wednesday, October 5  
7:30 p.m.—Ballroom/Ch. 970**







### Presents...Space Force Mission Overview

Featuring Major Ellie J. Constantine-Barredo

Major Ellie J. Constantine-Barredo is the Director of Operations for Space Operations Squadron, Delta 21 and Chief of Flight Operations, Aerospace Data Facility-East, National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), Fort Belvoir, Virginia. In these positions, Major Constantine-Barredo directs operations of its 800+ member Joint Department of Defense and interagency satellite ground station, responsible for over 24/7 global mission operations in support of the National Command Authorities, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Combatant Commands, and the Director of National Intelligence with time sensitive intelligence data. Her previous assignments include space systems operator, joint planner, acting Chief of Staff and held several Executive officer positions. She has also served as a tiger-team member assisting in the stand-up of United States Space Force. Major Constantine-Barredo transferred into the Space Force in October 2020.

**Thursday, August 18 at 7:30 p.m.  
Ballroom/Channel 970**



# THE SPACE FORCE COMES TO FALCONS LANDING by Jim Mullen, Photo by Jackie Mullen

The Gathering meeting on 18 August was one of the most profound briefs we have had at Falcons Landing. We have frequently had presentations and discussions regarding Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. Many Falcons Landing Veteran residents have recognized the establishment of the Air Force after World War II. However, the briefing by Major Ellie J. Constantine-Barredo, Director of Operations for Space Operations Squadron 21, was the first opportunity for most of us to gain a recognition that we now indeed have a Space Force that is part of our Defense. In recognition of this event the MOAA Gathering included the Space Force flag on our podium for the first time.

Major Constantine-Barredo was a tiger-team member assisting in the stand-up of the United States Space Force. She transferred from the Air Force to the Space Force in October 2020. The Space Force was established on December 21, 2019. Her briefing provided an excellent discussion on the Space Force mission and current organization. She pointed out the number of threats existing today from adversaries and stated that the Space Force was charged to protect and defend the space domain. Perhaps we could make her briefing available in our library for access by residents to review.

As stated in her briefing, the Space Force is the 6th branch of the military and an independent military service within the Department of the Air Force. The Chief of Space Operations has three Commands: Space Operations, Space Systems and Space Training and Readiness. Currently the Space Force operates from 6 Space Force Bases and 14 Space Force Installations.

The U.S. Space Force Doctrine is an articulation of Spacepower as a distinct form of military power. The doctrinal elements of Spacepower are:

- To preserve Freedom of Action in the Space Domain.
- To enable joint lethality and effectiveness.
- To provide independent options to US. National leadership.

Space Force capabilities include:

- Global Communications (e.g. MILSTAR)
- Position, Navigation and Timing (e.g. GPS-III)
- Weather (e.g. DMSP)
- Space Domain Awareness (e.g. ORS-5)

As the Space Force grows, it seeks to build the force through university pipelines, JROTC Unit transfers to USSF, commission sources from service academies, ROTC, Basic Military Training and Foundational Space Education across DoD.

Career fields include Acquisition and Engineering, Cyberspace Operators, Intelligence, and Space Operators. The future is dynamic. The future is space—SEMPERSUPRA.



Picture above from l to r: Front Row - Tom Adam USAF (Ret), Ellie Uehling, Major Ellie Constantine-Barredo USAF, Bill Hilsman, Phil Walsh;  
Back Row - Bill Uehling and Mark Jones

# MOAA CHAPTER SHARES MEMBER'S WORLD WAR II STORY

## AS PUBLISHED IN OCTOBER 2022 ISSUE OF MOAA MAGAZINE



*Col. Herb Stern, USA (Ret), shown in uniform and in a recent photo, earned a Silver Star for his actions in Germany during World War II. (Courtesy photos)*

In the summer of 1937, Herb Stern, of Rockville, Md., received an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. He became a member of the Class of 1941. Now, at age 103, Stern is the last surviving member of that class.

The war began late that year, during which 2nd Lt. Stern learned he would be an artillery officer. Becoming an artilleryman was “just fine” with him, he said. “In those days, the Army still loved horses, and in each of my four years at West Point, I underwent cavalry training,” said Stern, who admitted he hated horses, and “they hated me.”

His training led him to a number of U.S. installations, notably to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and then to England and Germany. His unit, the 325th Field Artillery Battalion of the 84th Infantry Division, was facing the Siegfried Line in Germany in December 1944 when the German Army nearly broke through the Allied lines in what has become known as the Battle of the Bulge.

Then a young major, Stern faced the Germans in some of the worst battle weather imaginable: freezing cold, intermittent snow, and near-constant fog. It was in the midst of what he calls absolute chaos that he personally “registered” his guns on a crossroads position leading to the massive artillery’s destruction of a German armored column; many observers believe this strike to have begun the turning of the tide at the Bulge. To Stern, it was “just another day where I was never as cold in my life.”

# MOAA CHAPTER SHARES MEMBER'S WORLD WAR II STORY CONTINUED

Some weeks later, again on the offensive in Germany and in a jeep near the front of his own column, Stern came under not only artillery but also small-arms fire from both right and left. After leaving his jeep briefly for the relative safety of a water-filled ditch, he took his jeep forward, risking himself for the sake of his men, and called in fire to silence enemy guns. For his actions that day, he was awarded the Silver Star.

When the war ended in May, the 84th Division was the northernmost American combat unit in Germany. When the Allied occupation zones were established, the division had to move south to the American Zone, a move that took weeks. During this move, Stern became, in essence, the "military governor" of the municipalities where they stopped.

The 325th Artillery Battalion settled just south of Heidelberg and initiated training for the expected move to the Pacific Theater.

In November, the division was ordered to return to the U.S. Stern, however, as a Regular Army officer, had to remain in the theater. He was finally relieved by orders to attend L'Ecole Superieur De Guerre, the French War College, for a well-deserved semi-relaxation year in Paris.

Following graduation, he returned to Germany, joining the 60th Field Artillery Battalion, 9th Infantry Division, in Augsburg. There, he was joined by his wife and daughter. When that Division departed for the U.S., Stern joined the U.S. Constabulary as provost marshal (chief of police) for southern Bavaria.

In July 1947, he returned to the U.S., and then served the next three years with Headquarters, Army Ground Forces, followed by a year in what was then called Indo-China in logistics liaison support of the then-occupying French.

Then came tours at the Army War College at Carlisle, Pa.; at NATO in Naples, Italy; and three years with the Joint Advanced Study Group in the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the last year of which was spent in a still-classified study conducted at the personal request of President Dwight Eisenhower.

His next assignment was as chief of staff at Fort Jackson, S.C. Stern's final assignment was with the Central Treaty Organization and was largely spent in Turkey and Iran.

After retiring from the Army as a Colonel September 1, 1968, Stern became affiliated with Allied Realty Corp. of Bethesda, Md. He joined MOAA's Falcons Landing Chapter in 2001.

# IMPORTANT CHAPTER EVENTS AND SCHEDULE

THE GATHERING IS OPEN TO ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS AND FALCONS LANDING RESIDENTS, NORMALLY ONE EVENT PER MONTH IN THE FALCONS LANDING BALLROOM.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) MEETS ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 1000 HOURS IN THE WELLNESS CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM OR VIA ZOOM.

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (PRESIDENT, 1ST VP; 2ND VP, SECRETARY, TREASURER) MEETS AS REQUIRED.

COMMITTEES MEET AT DISCRETION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 2022

January 20	Board Meeting, 1000	July	No Board Meeting
February 17	Board Meeting, 1000	August 18	Board Meeting, 1000
March 17	Quarterly Chapter Meeting, 1430	September 15	Quarterly Chapter Meeting, 1530
April 21	Board Meeting, 1000	October 20	Board Meeting, 1000
May 19	Board Meeting, 1000	November 11	Veterans Day Program, 1030
May 30	Memorial Day Program, 1030	November 17	Annual Meeting and Election, 1900
June 23	Quarterly Chapter Meeting, 1430	December	No Board Meeting

# 2022 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Phil Walsh, Col, USMC, Ret. 703-978-4328, [pwalsh@ida.org](mailto:pwalsh@ida.org)

First Vice President/Legislative Affairs: James Mullen, COL, USA, Ret., 703-444-4741, [jfm1FL@verizon.net](mailto:jfm1FL@verizon.net)

Second Vice President: Vacant

\*Secretary: Mrs. Genevieve Pustay, 703-444-5284, [pustaygl@gmail.com](mailto:pustaygl@gmail.com)

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Director/Membership: Max Johnson, COL, USA, Ret. 703-508-3788, [mwjohnson64@verizon.net](mailto:mwjohnson64@verizon.net)

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Founder, Past President: John Pustay, Lt Gen, USAF, Ret., 703-444-5284, [j.pustay@gmail.com](mailto:j.pustay@gmail.com)

Immediate Past President: Bob Manning, COL, USA, Ret., 703-543-9158, [Rmanning@aol.com](mailto:Rmanning@aol.com)

\*Preparing to step down



## Falcons Landing Chapter Military Officers Association of America

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MOAA is a nonpartisan, 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. MOAA's greatest mission is "to improve the lives of those who serve and their families, which is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's capital". Support MOAA's advocacy efforts by going to <http://takeaction.moaa.org>.

The Falcons Landing Chapter is one of more than 400-plus local organizations affiliated with National MOAA and is a nonpartisan, nonprofit veterans' association. Our chapter provides programs to support: those who are serving; those who have served; and those who have survived, while placing special focus on community support.

We support the national organization through support of legislative priorities and "Storming the Hill" and are active in our community supporting two JROTC programs, helping recovering and needy veterans, and providing speakers to community service organizations.

[Click to view A Special Message from the President of MOAA](#)

Falcons Landing Chapter of the MOAA - 20540 Falcons Landing Cir #P1 - Potomac Falls, VA 20165

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All Falcons Landing Chapter members and veterans interested in joining the Chapter are encouraged to browse through the award-winning website. The website is updated monthly with current information. *To access the website, simply type the following URL into your web browser, [falconsmoaa.org](http://falconsmoaa.org). If you want to access the Documents section, a password is required which you may obtain from our Director of Membership, COL Max Johnson, 703-508-3788, [mwjohnson64@verizon.net](mailto:mwjohnson64@verizon.net)*