



**FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA)**



## **The Falcon Flyer**

**Falcons Landing MOAA  
Chapter Newsletter  
June 2021**



## CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, June 2021

What a joy it is to see the smiling faces of our mask-less community. Despite the Covid restrictions earlier this year, our Chapter was able to accomplish its mission thanks to the creative, hard work of the board members along with the outstanding financial and volunteer support of the chapter membership. This past May, eight scholarships were presented to Junior ROTC Air Force and Navy Cadets at Chantilly Academy (Chantilly High School) and Loudoun County High School. Also in May, the Chapter conducted the Memorial Day Remembrance Program which honored 19 surviving spouses of World War II veterans. Prior to the program, over 650 red poppies were distributed to all residents and staff at Falcons Landing. Other good news---our Chapter Auxiliary conducted over 312 volunteer hours in support of our independent living, assisted living, and nursing home residents during the months of May and June. Finally, it is with pleasure that I announce the appointment of Tom Owens as the Assistant Treasurer for the Chapter. Tom is a retired Air Force Colonel and graduate of the USAF Academy. I look forward to our future in person gatherings. Until then, have a great summer.



*Never Stop Serving!*

**Bob Manning, Chapter President**

### Mission Statement

*Our Chapter provides programs which support: those who are serving; those who have served; and those who have survived, while placing special focus on community support.*

### Support of MOAA National

MOAA is a 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. The Falcons Landing Chapter is one of more than 400-plus local organizations affiliated with National MOAA. We support the national organization through support of legislative priorities and are active in our community supporting two JROTC programs, helping recovering and needy veterans, and providing speakers to community service organizations. Our Chapter has been recognized for the last eight years at the highest level MOAA 5-Star Chapter.

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## **Chapter and Legislative Information**

### **Chapter Membership Information**

MOAA membership is open to those who hold, or have ever held, a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, NOAA, and their surviving spouses. If you know a prospective member, please contact Lowell Jones (703-444-9530) to receive information on the benefits of chapter membership. This is an opportune time to convert to a MOAA Life Membership, because MOAA is still giving a 10% discount on a membership conversion. A MOAA life Membership indicates your strong support for MOAA's goals. For more information, please call a MOAA representative at (800) 234-6622.

How to navigate through our new Chapter website. The website address is [falconsmoaa.org](http://falconsmoaa.org). Please note that a password is required to open the Documents Section/Tab and is for use by members only. Members may obtain the password from Lowell Jones at [lawsanj@verizon.net](mailto:lawsanj@verizon.net).

### **Legislative Affairs Report Information**

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 for source data, copy this web address <http://www.moaa.org> and paste to your browser's search bar. After on site, click on "MOAA - Home/Official Site," go to "Publications & Media/Email Newsletter," and provide your email address. This will help you register to receive the current newsletters. You can then click on the desired subject in the newsletters and get more details. 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 Jim Hardy, Legislative Liaison, at (571) 239-6843.

Our Chapter publishes a monthly Legislative Update 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 in a visit called "Storming the Hill," normally in April. You may review important MOAA legislative issues and activities on the MOAA website by visiting the Take Action section at <http://takeaction.moaa.org>. 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.

### **MOAA Legislative Priorities**

Provide force structure and funding to sustain and strengthen the all-volunteer force. Provide hard-gained benefits for active, guard/reserve, and retired community.

**Objectives:** Ensure the maintenance of end strength, along with pay increases, tied to employment cost index; maintain current TRICARE benefits and medical support structure; maintain basic housing allowances and decent housing availability; maintain privileges associated with commissary and exchange benefits; maintain veterans quality health care and backlog of disability claims.

## MOAA Chapter Board Meeting, April 15, 2021

**President Bob Manning** called the meeting to order (via Zoom) and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Secretary's Report:** No March Board meeting to report.

**Treasurer's Report:** Peter Scott. Opening Balance, 1 March \$14,364. Income: Dues \$93, Donations \$1,197. Total Income \$1,290. Expenses: Bank deposit forms, \$72.35; Officers' & Directors' Insurance, \$499. Total Expenses \$571. Closing Balance: \$15,083. **NEW BUSINESS:** Balanced checkbook vs. bank statement for March. No discrepancy. **MOTION:** Pay Auxiliary bill for two months of candy \$32.84. Expense of \$35.51 to purchase crepe paper poppies to distribute on Memorial Day or other veteran event.

**Membership Report:** Lowell Jones. Membership Status – April 2021

	Premium Members	Surviving Spouses	Hon	Total
As of December 31, 2020	119	63	0	182
As of April 15, 2021	119	64	1	182

The roster is in synch with MOAA National's Committee Module.

**Legislative Report:** Bob Manning. The April 2021 report was published by Bob Manning.

**Auxiliary Report:** Vicki Estey. Volunteer hours for first quarter of 2021 - 99.6. Two bags of candy were purchased and delivered for April and May prizes for Bingo and other games. One-on-one visits with The Johnson Center and West Falls residents may be arranged through the Director of Health Services at TJC, Liena SantaAna, by appointment. The date for opening of The Johnson Center and West Falls for regular activities with volunteers is yet to be determined. Lauren Cratty will provide an update in a week or so.

**Public Affairs :** Don McCarthy. The LVFS article appeared in the April issue of the MOAA Magazine, page 70. New, updated photos were necessary for recent article, New Business: Coordination with VSOs for another article as suggested by MOAA.

**Community Speakers Program:** Max Johnson. 25 May 2021, Shepherds Center - Marc Barthello: Vietnam history, policy, war. Another is scheduled in the Fall at the Shepherd Center. **JROTC:** Stan King. Scholarships -Virtual or one-on-one presentations expected.

**Personal Affairs:** Kathy Trossbach. . Delivered one sympathy card with enclosed MOAA First Steps, 2. Answered some First Step questions, 3. Assisted one resident with preparation needed to aid in closing of his estate.

**Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC):** Bob Manning. Quarterly Meeting: April 6, 2021: Jim Hardy will attend as our new Director of Legislative Affairs. The presentation will be from Mark Belinsky, MOAA National Director of Retired Affairs: •Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform •TRICARE Young Adult Parity •Basic Needs Allowance.

**Loudoun County Community Veteran Engagement Board (LCCVEB):** Jim Mullen. Continue to cooperate with Tom Grant and Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) and have begun to advertise in local newspapers.

**Loudoun Veterans and Family Support (LVFS):** Bob for Howard Schue. Summary request from Tom Grant: We have the spouse of a deceased service-connected, disabled 80+ year old veteran who is requesting assistance with a soon-to-be-overdue mortgage payment. LVFS committed \$500 to total. Other affiliated sources committed \$1500.

**The Gathering:** Bill Hilsman. No updates.

**Leadership Recruiting Committee:** Phil Walsh. Twelve of forty members contacted indicated interest and agreed to attend a Chapter board meeting. Five members attended the March meeting, and six are invited to the May meeting. Five accepted to date. • Mike Nelson • Ken Evans • Barbara Goodwin • Russ Ray • Paul Schwartz.

**President's Updates:** Bob Manning. Memorial Day Program • Theme • POC to research WWII surviving spouses • Live/Taped program. Hopefully in the Ballroom but there may be no choice.

## MOAA Chapter Board Meeting, May 19, 2021

**President Bob Manning:** President Bob Manning called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Phil Walsh introduced the guests. Bob presented an overview of the Chapter and its activities, reviewed Falcons Landing Chapter's Mission Statement and MOAA's national and state structure. He also discussed FL Chapter's membership distribution, auxiliary, budget, activities, including veterans outreach through established veterans aid organizations, presentations in the community, MOAA awards (5 Star and Communications), publications, and website.

**Secretary's Report:** The April 2021 Board Meeting Minutes were published

**Treasurer's Report:** Peter Scott. Financials thru April 2021

Opening Balance (1 April):

\$15,083

Income: Dues—\$132 Expenses: \$3,069 (Poppies—\$36, Candy—\$33, Scholarships—\$3,000)

Closing balance:

\$12,146

**New Business:** Balanced checkbook vs. bank statement for April. We were awarded two grants by MOAA National: \$2,250 LVFS Outreach and \$900 Covid relief. Our application for a Loudoun County Human Services grant was denied. Out-briefed by the County Director for next year but am not optimistic, because LVFS is not a fit for their program. Motions approved for quarterly donation to LVFS, \$3,000, and to pay Falcons Landing \$23 for reproduction.

**Membership Report:** Lowell Jones.

	Premium Members	Surviving Spouses*	Honorary Members	Total
As of				
December 31, 2020	119	63	0	182
May 19, 2021	121	62	1	183

\*Surviving Spouses = Auxiliary

Total National Members: 178 (97%); Total National Life Members: 122 (67%)

**Legislative Report:** Bob Manning. Briefed select items of interest to members.

The May 2021 report was compiled and published.

**Auxiliary:** Vicki Estey. Volunteer hours for April 2021: 81. April was national volunteers' month –email sent to the current volunteers plus to last year's volunteers (who were actively volunteering prior to Covid) -to extend thanks; to review the current volunteer program; and to query each about his/her intent to continue, once Covid restrictions are lifted. Four Premium members and 2 surviving spouses agreed to continue. Called to request a meeting to discuss future plans and how best to integrate volunteers back into The Johnson Center and West Falls (and Hillside House).

**Public Affairs:** Don McCarthy. A second article has been sent to MOAA for publication.

**Speakers Program:** Max Johnson. 6 May 2021, Shepherds Center via Zoom by Marc Barthello: Vietnam History, Policy, War. Briefing was well received with many questions from veterans in the audience.

**JROTC:** Stan King. FL Chapter scholarships awarded on 1 May to the Chantilly Academy AFJROTC:

LGEN John S. Pustay \$1,000 Scholarship was awarded to Cadet Joshua Mikhael.

FL Chapter \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to Cadet Chris Cipolla.

FL Chapter \$500 scholarship was awarded to Cadet Sharon Arulpragasm.

FL Chapter \$500 scholarship was awarded to Cadet William Healey.

**Personal Affairs:** Kathy Trossbach. Working with two residents on issues with closing the estate, choosing funeral homes, and discussing end of life issues with family. Delivered one consolation note and First Steps document.

**Loudoun Veterans and Family Support (LVFS):** Howard Schue.. Five veterans were helped in the last reporting period. Two cases were Covid-related. These were largely repeat requests from recipients in a poor state. Assistance efforts are shared with other Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs).

**Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC):** Bob Manning. 2021 Meeting schedule: 3<sup>rd</sup> qtr Meeting on July 13, virtual. 4<sup>th</sup> qtr Meeting on October 5 at Patriots Colony live. Meeting with CDR Linc Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of VCOC, May 21 at Falcons Landing.

**Loudoun County Community Veteran Engagement Board (LCCVEB):** Jim Mullen. The Executive Committee is meeting to update plans for the remainder of the year. The next bimonthly Veterans Engagement Board meeting is June 15 and will continue to be virtual.

**The Gathering:** Bill Hilsman. Announcements of future events are waiting for the Ballroom opening.

**President's Updates:** Bob Manning. Presented Lowell the 2020 5-STAR Communications Award for the Newsletter Category. Bob also was responsible for the same award for Website categories.

Memorial Day Program. We will recognize WWII veterans by honoring their surviving spouses. We have identified 13 spouses so far and will work on a method to encourage self-reporting.



On behalf of the Falcons Landing Chapter of the Military Officers Association in America (MOAA), Bob Manning, President, welcomed the Falcons Landing Community to join in song, prayer, reflection, and fellowship in celebration of this Memorial Day Remembrance. The program was televised from the Ballroom at Falcons Landing on Channel 970. After the singing of the National Anthem, Chaplain Jeff Payne followed with the Invocation.



Bill Hilsman was the first speaker. He recited the poem "In Flanders Field", written by World War I Colonel John McCrae, a surgeon with Canada's First Brigade Artillery. It expressed McCrae's grief over the "row on row" of graves of soldiers who had died on Flanders' battlefields, located in a region of western Belgium and northern France.

Phil Walsh followed with a short history of the Poppy Lady, Moina Belle Michael, who inspired the use of red poppies as a symbol of remembrance of veterans who served in wars.

Prior to the program, thanks to Tiffany Plante, the Community Life team and the Free Sprit group, over 650 red poppies were distributed to all residents and staff at Falcons Landing.

Bob Manning returned to the podium and honored the following 19 surviving spouses of World War II veterans: Carol Allen, Rosemary Hsu-Brooks, Lois Coen, Betty Ann Dargan, Barbara Freedman, Helen Gibble, Hannah Goldenberg, Inez Goldstein, Charlene Greener, Dixie Kenyon, Maria Kirkland, Alice Otis, Ellen Padalino, Rose Quinn, Mary Reinhard, Ann Roome, Julia Shawn, Annette Smith, and Fern Walmer

Nearing the end of the program, a powerful and emotional video was shown of a military funeral with full honors at Arlington National Cemetery. In the background the West Point Academy Glee Club sang the beautiful hymn to fallen servicemen called *Mansions of the Lord*.

Max Johnson concluded the program with a heartfelt Benediction, followed by a moment of silence during the playing of Taps.

**The Gathering, June 10, 2021**

By Bill Hilsman

**ALL FALCONS LANDING RESIDENTS AND STAFF ARE INVITED TO JOIN TOGETHER AS BILL HILSMAN WILL PROVIDE INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.**

**The Gathering plans to return to the normal format [almost] starting in August. Normal in the fact that we can have a live audience in the Ball Room. "Almost" in the fact that the program will not be live to Residents in their homes or in the Health Centers until we get our TV systems running properly. The programs will be taped for later presentation on channel 970.**



# The Gathering Presents...

## ***BATTLE OF THE BULGE***

**FEATURING HERB STERN & JERRY SCHUMACHER  
HOSTED BY BILL HILSMAN**



*"I was there."*



*Three film clips shot by combat photographers from both the US Army and the German Army in color with questions from Jerry and answers from Herb.*



## Important Chapter Events, Officers & Directors, Member Status

**General Membership Meets Quarterly.**

**The Gathering - special briefings (sponsored by the MOAA Chapter) open to all Chapter members and Falcons Landing residents. Nominally, one event per month in the Falcons Landing Ballroom.**

**Board of Directors (BOD) meets monthly, as required.**

**Chapter Executive Committee (President, 1st VP; 2nd VP, Secretary, Treasurer) meets as required; acts on behalf of Board on immediate issues.**

**Committees meet at discretion of Committee Chairs.**

**2021 Meeting Schedule: Locations will vary among Zoom, TV Channel 970, or Ballroom**

**BOD nominally 10:00 A.M. on third Thursday of scheduled month**

**Quarterly Membership Meetings at 2:30 or 7:30 PM**

**January 25 - 2021 - Board Meeting**

**February 18 - Board Meeting**

**March 18 - Quarterly Chapter Meeting**

**April 15 - Board Meeting**

**May 19 - Board Meeting**

**May 31 - Memorial Day**

**June - No Board Meeting**

**July - No Board Meeting**

**August 19 - Board Meeting**

**September 16 - Board Meeting**

**October 21 - Quarterly Chapter Meeting**

**November 11 - Veterans Day**

**November 23 - Annual Chapter Meeting**

**December - No Board Meeting**

### 2021 Officers and Directors

**President/Director/Programs: Bob Manning, Col, USA, Ret. (703) 543-9158**

**First Vice President: Phil Walsh, Col, USMC, Ret. (703) 978-4328**

**2nd Vice Pres./Director/Legislative Affairs: Jim Hardy, Lt Col, USMC, Ret. (571) 239-6843**

**Secretary: Mrs. Genevieve Pustay, (703) 444-5284**

**Treasurer: Peter Scott, Col, USA, Ret. (703) 715-7396**

**Director Membership: Lowell Jones, Col, USAF, Ret. (703) 444-9530**

**Director/Surviving Spouse/Auxiliary Affairs: Mrs. Vicki Estey, (512) 749-2810**

**Director/Personal Affairs: Kathy Trossbach, (703) 430-1342**

**Director/Public Affairs: Don McCarthy, Capt, USN, Ret. (703) 430-5608**

**Director/LVFS: Howard Schue, Col, USAF, Ret. (703) 433-2220**

**Director/The Gathering Coordinator: Bill Hilsman, Lt Gen, USA, Ret. (703) 433-1284**

**Director/JROTC/Scholarships: Stanley King, Col, USA, Ret. (703) 281-0825**

**Director/Speakers Bureau: Max Johnson, Col, USA, Ret. (703) 508-3788**

**Member at Large: Bill Suter, Maj Gen, USA, Ret. (703) 909-9810**

**Founder, Past President: John Pustay, Lt Gen, USAF, Ret. (703) 444-5284**

**Past President: Glenn Carus, Col, USAF, Ret. (703) 444-3269**

**Past President: Leo Childs, Maj Gen, USA, Ret. (703) 430-2884**

**Past President: Howard Schue, Col, USAF, Ret. (703) 433-2220**

**Past President: James Mullen, Lt Col, USA, Ret. (703) 444-4741**

### Members Deceased (2nd Quarter, 2021)

**Judy Rothlisberger (05/13/2021)**

**Alyce Martin (05/29/2021)**

**Lois Guzik (06/07/2021)**

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### Welcome New Members (2nd Quarter, 2021)

**Gene Baldrate (04/24/2021)**

**Gary Handley (05/09/2021)**

**Marvin Meinders (06/25/2021)**