



**SOUTHERN MARYLAND CHAPTER**  
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*The*  
**SOUTHERN MARYLAND**  
**NEWSLETTER**



**2007-2009-2010-2012-2013-2014**

**October 2015**

**President's Corner**

Ladies and gentlemen,

Greetings! I hope this finds you safe and warm while the first nor'easter of season passes over.

Your board has been hard at work planning on your behalf. We're introducing a couple of new efforts to raise awareness of MOAA and to engage more with the community.

First, we're introducing the Southern Maryland MOAA Speakers' Bureau. Within our membership we have literally millennia of experience and knowledge, a truly impressive resource that we ought to offer to the community. I've already engaged with the JROTC instructors in our area and they are VERY interested in leveraging the knowledge and abilities of our membership. If you are interested, please contact me (details below). We are very specifically looking for those who have skills to transfer, such as supply experience. I'll gather some information from you for the Bureau, then we'll start to schedule you. It will be entirely based on your availability and geographic location; I will not ask more than you are willing to give.

Second, the chapter is planning to increase community engagement. We're going to

start with Halloween in the Garden at Annemarie Garden in Solomons on October 24. If you've never been, it is a truly special event attended by over 5,000 people, half of whom are children. They walk the path through the forest, collecting candy at booths set up along the way, and the organizations at the booths provide information to the kids and parents. This is a great way for us to raise awareness of both MOAA and Voices for America's Troops, a group for those not eligible to join MOAA. If you are interested in coming out for an hour or two and handing out candy to kids and MOAA literature to adults, please contact me at the number or email address below. We're also asking for donations of candy. We need to provide at least one piece for every child (2,000 to 3,000 kids!). If you would like to donate, please let me know so I can arrange to pick up the candy. For the schedule going forward, save these dates:

17 October: Board meeting at the Pax River Museum, open to all members. We'll be doing the final planning for the holiday celebration.

11 November: (Tentative) We are hoping to join the Leonardtown Veterans' Day parade. We'll let you know more as we develop the details. If anyone has a vehicle they'd like to volunteer for the parade, please let me know - preferably a convertible or

something that opens up like a Jeep Wrangler.

14 November: Holiday celebration at Cafe Des Artistes in Leonardtown. Please join us that day in your finest attire (uniform if it still fits!) for an enjoyable afternoon. Details to follow.

Like I said, your board is working to make some changes that increase awareness in the community while providing opportunities for the membership to engage. Please consider joining the Speakers Bureau and donating some candy for the Halloween in the Garden event.

All the best,  
CDR Phil Campbell, USN  
443-975-9320  
[somdmooa@gmail.com](mailto:somdmooa@gmail.com)

### **Legislative Affairs**

The Legislative Luncheon on 17 Sept was a great success. Every chapter in the state was represented, and all Democrats in the Maryland delegation either attended or were represented. We're looking forward to next year's event, which we hope will be even better!

### **2015 SoMD MOAA Chapter Calendar**

(Details subject to change)

17 Oct 1030 – ***Board*** Mtg – @ Pax River Naval Aviation Museum. Chapter members invited. Planning Holiday Celebration.

24 Oct 1100-1600 – Community Event @ Solomons – Halloween in the Garden at Annemarie Gardens. Manning MOAA booth and handing out candy to children.

11 Nov (TBC) - Community Event @ Leonardtown. Leonardtown Veterans' Day parade. Details to follow.

14 Nov 1300 – Chapter Mtg – Holiday Celebration @ Café Des Artistes, Leonardtown. Formal luncheon.

08 Dec TBD – Board Mtg – @ location TBD. 2016 Chapter event planning session.

**Auxiliary Update:** 'Agent Orange' by Sharon DeVaney, vice chair, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee

After my husband died unexpectedly from a heart attack and the shock wore off, I began to learn about Agent Orange and the part it might have played in my husband's death. Like many veterans his age, he served in Vietnam and I thought he might have been exposed to Agent Orange. He was a Forward Air Controller and flew small planes over combat areas from 1967-1968. After he returned from Vietnam, he was assigned to Strategic Air Command as a B-52 pilot. During 1970-1971, his temporary duty assignments took him from Minot AFB in North Dakota to Thailand where he flew bombing runs over the war zone.

We had a speaker from the VA at one of our monthly MOAA luncheons. He talked about Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). He wasn't specific about who was eligible, but it seemed my husband's death might qualify me for DIC. I already had met with personnel at the VA soon after my husband's death so I would understand my benefits. I was disappointed with the reception and the information I received. I was reluctant to return to the VA to learn more about DIC. Then I met someone who was actively encouraging widows and widowers to attempt to find out about the benefits their spouses had earned through their service.

I used the Internet to learn more about Agent Orange and found a list of presumptive diseases on the VA website. I realized the cause of death on my husband's death certificate was on the VA's list of presumptive conditions, which includes ischemic heart disease, hairy cell and other B-cell leukemia, Parkinson's disease, prostate cancer, chronic lymphocytic

leukemia, Hodgkin's disease, Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, or multiple myeloma.

I made another appointment with the local VA. Fortunately, my appointment was with someone who was very understanding. I was asked to bring all paperwork that showed my husband had been stationed in Vietnam sometime between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975. I brought a stack of papers, including a copy of the Red Cross telegram notifying my husband of our son's birth in May 1968. The VA representative reviewed my paperwork and prepared an application. A few months later, I was awarded DIC.

If your spouse or a family member served in Vietnam and he or she has been diagnosed with one of the presumptive diseases, be sure to learn about possible benefits. For more in-depth information regarding DIC eligibility and the application process, visit the DIC section of the VA's website. If you believe you are eligible for DIC after reading through the information, we suggest you contact a local accredited Veterans Service Organization (VSO) to assist you in filing a claim.

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The Patuxent River Naval Air Museum Association, Inc. is hosting the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum Inaugural Dinner on Friday, November 6th from 7-9:30PM. It celebrates the history of Naval Aviation with the completion of Building A of the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum complex with a special "Pre-Opening" fundraiser dinner. The event will be held in the newly completed building and proceeds from the dinner will be used to defray the costs of the new exhibits and other opening needs. This is a once-only opportunity to experience dinner in the museum prior to opening and to participate in a milestone of museum history. Advance registration is needed: Please RSVP at [www.paxpartnership.org](http://www.paxpartnership.org)

**Agenda:** 6:30PM - 9:30PM with Program beginning at 7:00PM  
Dancing from 9:30PM – 11:00PM featuring the Logan Kraft Band

**Location:** The Patuxent River Naval Air Museum – NEW BUILDING  
22156 Three Notch Road, Lexington Park, Maryland 20653

**Special Guests:**

The Honorable Steny Hoyer (invited), MD Congressman 5th District  
The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland  
The Honorable Charles F. Bolden Jr., Administrator NASA  
VADM Paul A. Grosklags, prospective Commander NAVAIR

**With a Special Award Presentation for:**  
LCDR Harry Errington, USN (Ret)

**Dinner Menu**

Choice of Entree:  
Pork Tenderloin in a Brandy Cream Sauce  
Chicken Chesapeake with Lump Crab  
Vegan Portobello Stack  
Apple Carmel Pie

**Dress:** Semi-Formal Attire

**Cost:** Individual ~ \$175 or Couple ~ \$300

Payment can be made with credit card, check or cash

Please call Mari at 301-863-1900 from 8am – 1pm Tuesday – Friday for payment information

**NOTE – THIS IS EVENT IS NOT A SOMD MOAA CHAPTER EVENT. OUR HOLIDAY DINNER IS THE FOLLOWING WEEK.**