



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



The Falcon Flyer

**Falcons Landing MOAA
Chapter Newsletter**

March 2017



CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, March 2017

We recently held our spring quarterly meeting and summarized some chapter goals and activities - being active not passive in support to our residents, to county veterans, and to the larger national veterans community.

This is what YOU did:

In support of our Falcons Landing Family:

- Conducting "The Gathering" Sessions bringing guest speakers to Falcons Landing discussing areas of military and national interest and extending invitations to our non-resident chapter members and others in Loudoun County.
- Supporting our continuing care and assisted living communities with volunteers who visit residents.
- Providing information to our members regarding personal affairs and support to families of our deceased chapter members.

In support of our Local Loudoun Community and to military deployed forces:

- Providing a Speakers Bureau that provides informational lectures to Loudoun and Fairfax organizations (11 lectures in Loudoun County in 2016).
- In partnership with local veteran's organizations (Community Lutheran Church veterans, VFW and American Legion) providing support to Loudoun veterans in need (approximately \$6000 to veterans and their families to date to help them meet immediate needs).
- Providing JROTC Scholarships and certificates of leadership recognition to outstanding cadets at Chantilly High School and Loudoun County High School
- Supporting the "Adopt-A-Platoon" program for deployed forces, which sends care packages for units deployed overseas.

In support of MOAA State and National Programs:

- Working with Virginia Council of Chapters and National MOAA to define veteran's needs and to identify those needs to our state and national legislatures. In 2016 we identified the need for a state veterans services office in Loudoun County. The Department of Veterans Services is opening an office in Loudoun County in 2017.

- Visiting with state and national leaders to address veteran's needs in support of our Loudoun community.
- Responding to MOAA requests for petition to members of Congress sent letters and postcards from our MOAA magazine. In 2016 we focused on an issue that impacts VA financial support to surviving spouses of wounded veterans - the so-called widows tax.

Our funds come from dues and donations from you our members and from your willingness to support us with your time. Our chapter, through its Board of Directors and members, has dedicated over 2000 hours to our programs and community support in 2016. Thank You.



Lt Col James Mullen



US forces deployed in Middle East receive care packages

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. In addition, you would ensure that your surviving spouse would be given full MOAA membership for the rest of her/his life. The cost of your Life Membership will also be reduced by any unused portion of your current MOAA annual membership. A MOAA life Membership indicates your strong support for MOAA's goals. For more information, you can talk to a MOAA representative at (800) 234-6622.

MOAA Chapter Board Meeting, January 19, 2017

Secretary's Report – Minutes of the December 15, 2016 Board meeting were approved by the Board.

Treasurer's Report – Peter Scott gave printed copies of his report to all members present.

Balance, November 30 - \$17,709.69 Balance, December 31 - \$18,076.00

The annual audit of the 2016 books was approved, and the report was accepted by the Board of Directors.

Peter presented a proposed budget for 2017 and listed the bases and assumptions for it.

Opening Balance: \$18,076

Total Income: \$11,521 Total Expenses: \$14,876 Closing Balance: \$14,721

The Treasurer's report was approved by the Board.

Membership Report – Lowell Jones submitted his report in writing prior to the meeting. The Chapter has 190 members. Lowell listed 8 members who were deceased in 2016. For 2016, we recruited 19 new members, and after losing 13 to deaths, moving, medical, and one non-renewal, we added a total of 6 new members.

Legislative Report – Oliver Carter. Principal focus was preparing to attend and participate in the Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC) Quarterly meeting on Sunday 22 January and to finalize which Joint Leadership Council (JLC) 2017 Policy Initiatives would be assigned to certain VCOC chapter reps to present to the State legislators to which we were assigned when "Storming the Hill" on Sunday 23 January. In particular, our MOAA Falcons Landing Chapter wanted me to advocate for JLC Policy Initiative 2017-01, Virginia Veteran and Family Support Services, regardless of what other policy initiatives we would draw. This initiative was rated number one, as we paired up with our neighboring Northern Virginia MOAA chapter from Fairfax. Barbara Goodwin is a member of Northern Virginia and also a resident of Falcons Landing.

Even with our VCOC chapter assigned visits with state legislators spread in 30-minute block times, legislators are often on a vote call at the Capitol before noon and canvassing colleagues on their voting positions. This situation often leaves our VCOC chapter representatives meeting with the legislative assistants on JLC-VCOC policy initiatives.

Auxiliary Report – Emily Bright gave the secretary her report prior to the meeting. There were 42 visits to veterans and 13 other activities – stuffing envelopes was mentioned among these activities.

Personal Affairs Report – Kathy Trossbach – Sent one sympathy note, Personal Affairs information, and a requested resource list to a MOAA widow. Answered a few Personal Affairs questions from two residents putting their affairs in order.

Public Affairs Report – Don McCarthy – Gave a recruiting letter about MOAA and our Chapter, signed by James Mullen, to Marketing to give to prospective residents. It includes a full-page list entitled "Benefits of Falcons Landing MOAA Chapter Membership".

Report on The Gatherings – Bill Hilsman

- 1) Thursday, February 9th, Major General "Rosie" Rosenberg USAF (Ret) will present "A Historical View of the National Reconnaissance Space Program." (Rescheduled from January 19th.)
- 2) Thursday, February 16th, Author Yudhijit Bhattacharjee will discuss his recently published book, "The Spy Who Couldn't Spell" -- there will be a book signing. This talk is related to MGen Rosenberg's National Reconnaissance Space Program talk on February 9th.
- 3) Thursday, March 16th, Author John Sexton will discuss his book "Baseball as a Road to God."
- 4) Tuesday, March 21st, Dr. Peter Mandaville, an Academic Islamic Expert, will speak on Islam.
- 5) Thursday, March 30th, Major General Alan Salisbury USA (Ret.) will discuss the "Code of Support" veterans support group that he founded.

Report on Speaker's Bureau/JROTC - Stan King. Updated the Falcons Landing website, and it is now easy to get to MOAA on it where there is information about the Speaker's Bureau. The JROTC dining out is scheduled for the evening after the Board meeting. Stan introduced Dave Belden to Susan Volpe and gave her a copy of information about speakers program and list of speakers.

Veterans Program – Phil Walsh – Coordinated with organizations regarding their attendance at our upcoming Gatherings. They are appreciative about being invited to our Gathering meetings as guests.

MOAA Chapter Board Meeting, February 16, 2017

Secretary's Report - Sally Burdick. The January 19, 2017 Board minutes were approved by the Board.

Treasurer's Report – Peter Scott. Gave printed copies of his report to all present.

Balance, December 31 - \$18,076.00 Balance 31, January 2017 - \$19,041.57

Approved payments (included in 2017 budget): \$1,240 for Adopt-A-Platoon (AAP); \$2,000 for Community Lutheran Church (CLC) veteran's assistance; \$53.65 for copying.

The Treasurer's report was approved by the Board.

Membership Report – Lowell Jones. Submitted his written report prior to the meeting. There are 131 Premium Members, 57 Surviving spouses and 1 Honorary member – total of 189 Members. Chapter received MOAA recruiting bonus for 2016 of \$215 (19 new members).

Legislative Report – Oliver Carter. Request was sent to Chapter members to return legislative letters from the monthly MOAA magazine to respective Senate and House leaders. Oliver attended the Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC) quarterly meeting and Storming the Hill. He met with our legislators: State Senator Barbara Favola and Congressional delegate Kathleen Murphy and their legislative assistants. He also met with the legislative assistants for delegates Richard Sullivan and James LeMunyon. A summary of actions was provided to Board members by email on 29 January.

Auxiliary Report – Emily Bright. Auxiliary members made 53 visits to residents in the Johnson Center. Emily met with the new member of the Residents Council, Hazel Plummer.

Personal Affairs Report – Kathy Trossbach. Submitted report in writing prior to the meeting. Sent personal affairs information and a sympathy card to the family of Joe LaPanna.

Public Affairs Report – Don McCarthy. Submitted a report on the February 16 Gathering to the Loudoun Times. He provided an updated letter to Marketing to give to processing people as part of their information packet. Bill offered to send Don a copy of the information report he sends to Lowell. Don replied that he gets it from Lowell and sends it to Tiffany.

Update on Veterans Program - Phil Walsh. Submitted his report in writing prior to the meeting. Dennis Siepmann is working with an elderly veteran who is needing help with local transportation. Phil is awaiting response from Dennis.

Update on Adopt-A-Platoon (AAP) – Phil Walsh. Submitted his report in writing prior to the meeting. He received an acknowledgement letter for our second donation from AAP President Ida Hagg.

Gathering Meetings in March – Bill Hilsman. On March 16 author John Sexton discusses his book: Baseball as a Road to God at a luncheon meeting. March 21 Dr. Peter Mandaville, Islamic Expert will speak. March 30 is the Gathering and MOAA membership meeting. MG (Ret) Alan Salisbury will discuss the Code of Support Foundation (COSF). He was recommended by a Falcons Landing Board member. It is presented as general membership meeting information for all MOAA members. It is also a joint MOAA and Residents Activity Committee meeting. Resident Activities Committee (RAC) President Harold Wilson will introduce the speaker. It is an opportunity to compare practices to support veterans needs with our Loudoun Veterans and Family Support (LVFS) Program in Loudoun. It is also an opportunity to consider COSF resources to support our LVFS. We intend to invite our partners in LVFS and other veterans support groups in Loudoun.

MOAA Level of Excellence - Jim Mullen. Jim said that he would email a copy of the form he fills out for the MOAA Level of Excellence Award to Board members.

New Business

Elections – MOAA suggests forming a nominating committee early in the year (seeking a key recruiter now). The November 2017 Annual Meeting will elect new officers and affirms board members. Bill asked the members present if they would continue in their present jobs and each said yes they would.

Oatlands has identified plans for a WWI and WWII event at Oatlands on July 15 & 16. The organizer invites us to participate with an exhibit and to attend as visitors (possibly a 1940s swing dance). Do we want to participate? Peter said that we did not get a whole lot of business for last year's event.

The Gathering , February 9, 2017

“I Was There from the Start” ~ by Phil Walsh (slightly edited)

These are the words we heard from Maj. Gen. Bob “Rosie” Rosenberg, USAF (Ret.), as he began telling us the history of the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO). Rosie recounted a unique and riveting story to his fellow Falcons Landing residents about our nation’s efforts over a period of 65 years to develop and deploy the most ambitious and technologically advanced space-based reconnaissance systems ever conceived – a story shrouded in utmost secrecy by the U.S. Government for most of those 65 years. Rosie told that story from the perspective of a dedicated Air Force officer who actually lived it much of his 30-year career and who, over those many years, was personally responsible for many NRO mission successes.

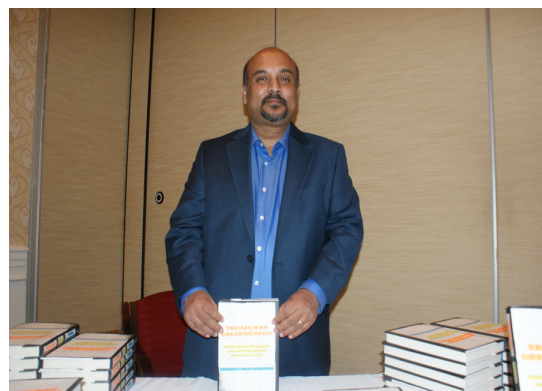
We were joined for the presentation by Yudhijit Bhattacharjee and his wife Jen Demascio. He is the author of “*The Spy Who Couldn’t Spell*,” a recently published true story about a traitor who stole thousands of NRO photos and intelligence reports to sell to our enemies, the subject of our subsequent Gathering on February 16. The impetus for developing breakthrough U.S. reconnaissance capabilities, and subsequently establishing the NRO, was the launch of the Russian Sputnik satellite system in 1957. Despite immense technical challenges and almost equally daunting bureaucratic obstacles, the long-term U.S. response eventually achieved worldwide, space-based land and sea surveillance capabilities. It is truly a remarkable story of American ingenuity and technical prowess, the direct result of the dedication, skill, and perseverance of a cadre of military and civilian space engineers who are unsung heroes in the annals of U.S. military history. Rosie pointed out that many of these distinguished government servants did or still do reside at Falcons Landing – such as Lew Allen, Bob Geiger, Paul Kaminski, Bruce Brown, Richard Picanso, Howard Schue, Jack Chain, and someone worthy of special recognition and thanks, Rosie’s wonderful wife of almost 60 years, Marge.



Bill Hilsman, Marge & Rosie Rosenberg,
Jen Demascio & Yudhijit Bhattacharjee

The Gathering , February 16, 2017

Our featured speaker was Yudhijit Bhattacharjee, a renowned, award-winning writer whose features and essays on espionage, cyber crime, science, and medicine have appeared in *The New Yorker*, the *New York Times Magazine*, *National Geographic*, *Wired*, and other US magazines. Yudhijit told us the true story of Brian Regan. Before Edward Snowden’s infamous data breach, the largest theft of government secrets was committed by an ingenious traitor whose intricate espionage scheme and complex system of coded messages were made even more baffling by his dyslexia. His name is Brian Regan, but he came to be known as The Spy Who Couldn’t Spell. Yudhijit made his presentation based upon his recently published book *The Spy Who Couldn’t Spell*. This was especially entertaining for those who enjoy spy and mystery novels. There was a book signing after the talk.



Yudhijit Bhattacharjee

The Gathering, March 16, 2017

By Bill Hilsman

This Gathering was something different—really different. This Gathering was a baseball luncheon with hotdogs, hamburgers, beer, soda, and cookies. Like any baseball game, we began by singing our National Anthem, and ended stretching a lot and singing *Take Me Out to the Ballgame*. New York University's President Emeritus John Sexton was our speaker and talked about his book *Baseball as the Road to God*.

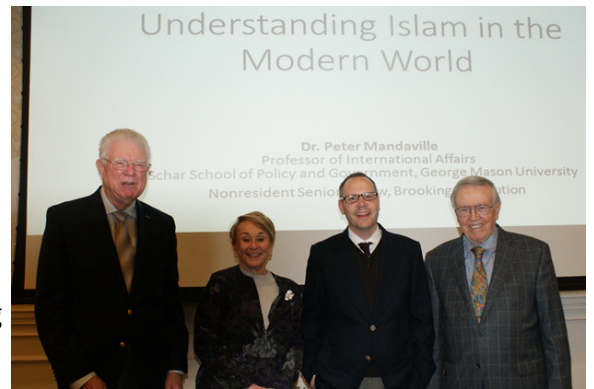
Yes, his talk and the book have great stories of baseball and his beloved Brooklyn Dodgers—the World Series they won in 1955, the arrival of Jackie Robinson, and the integration of races in baseball. But this talk and the book are so much more. As the title indicates, it is also about religion. He is able to weave together different aspects, feeling, and appeal of baseball and religions of the world. But he goes further. He puts you in the mix. So many times I saw myself in as he talked, as well as in the book. I am sure others did as well. The afternoon was special for many of us, we remembered an event of the past, and as they occur in the future, we will say, “I do remember that!”



L to R, Michael Delaney, John Sexton, Bill Delaney, Bill Hilsman

The Gathering, March 21, 2017

Understanding Islam in the Modern World. This, indeed, was the topic of our Gathering on March 21, with a guest lecture by Dr. Peter Mandaville, Professor of International Affairs, Schar School of Policy and Government, George Mason University! In addressing this very timely and complex subject, Dr. Mandaville began by providing our residents a short history of Islam. He explained Islam's core tenets or “five pillars” that are derived from key Islamic scriptural sources and then discussed the major differences among the various Islamic sects that exist in the world today. Dr. Mandaville delved into many of the more controversial and politically sensitive aspects of Islam such as the shar'iah law, jihad, and Islamic-related political organizations in a wide-ranging and informative question and answer session. Dr. Mandaville's long and broad experience living in Saudi Arabia, working in the U.S. State Department, conducting extensive research in academia and publishing books on this subject made him exceptionally qualified to lead such an interesting and informative discussion. We at Falcons Landing thank Dr. Mandaville for a most interesting and enjoyable evening.



L to R: Harold Wilson, Linda Childs, Dr. Mandaville, Bill Hilsman

Legislative Affairs Report Information

Our Chapter's monthly Legislative Report (electronic version) is a well-known, comprehensive coverage of important bills and issues being addressed by the Congress. If you are not receiving this document (by email), please contact Oliver Carter or Lowell Jones to put your name and email address on our list. To review MOAA legislative activities visit MOAA.org and select the “Take Action” tab. National MOAA and The Falcons Landing Chapter, MOAA, are politically non-partisan but seek to remain informed on political matters of concern to veterans at both the state and local levels.

MOAA Chapter General Membership Meeting, March 30, 2017

This year's first quarterly meeting of the Falcons Landing MOAA Chapter on 30 March 2017 featured a report to the membership of our "Chapter in Action," as well as a special Gathering presented by the CEO of the Code of Support Foundation, MG Alan Salisbury, US Army (Ret.).

The report on our Chapter in Action described three specific areas of support:

Support of our Falcons Landing family

- Sponsoring "The Gathering" sessions
- Direct support to the Johnson Center and West Falls
- The program "Are Your Personal Affairs in Order?"

Support of our local community and deployed forces

- Our Chapter Speakers Bureau
- Our partnership with local veterans organizations to support veterans in need
- JROTC scholarships
- Support to the "Adopt a Platoon" program

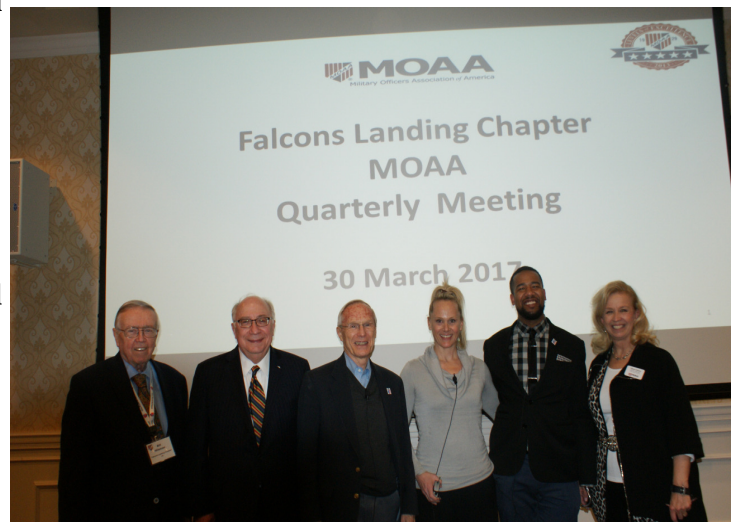
Support of MOAA national and state veterans programs

- Work with the Virginia Council of Chapters to define veterans' needs
- Visits with national and state legislative leaders
- Response to MOAA requests for letters and cash from MOAA magazine to members of Congress

Our guest speaker for the Gathering was MG Alan B. Salisbury, USA (Ret.). MG Salisbury is the founder and CEO of the Code of Support Foundation (COSF), a unique and very successful national undertaking to provide a broad range of privately provided support services to needy veterans. MG Salisbury was joined in his visit to Falcons Landing by his wife Florence, Ms. Kristina Kaufmann, Executive Director of COSF, and Mr. Phil McMillan, a military veteran and COSF Case Coordinator.

MG Salisbury described the mission and strategic approach adopted by COSF to link needy veterans with an unprecedented array of support services nationwide – all made available by a network of private service providers. Veterans with common or specialized needs are put in contact with "Case Coordinators," such as Phil McMillan, who have access to resource providers nationwide via a "cloud-based resource navigation platform" (called *PATRIOTlink*) designed and operated by COSF. Case Coordinators are specially trained to tailor and coordinate support services for veterans based on their individual needs and home locations. 600 troops, veterans, and family members were supported by COSF in 2016.

The Falcons Landing MOAA Chapter's current efforts to coordinate local veteran assistance with the American Legion (AL), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the Community Lutheran Church via the Loudoun Veterans Family Services (LVFS) program is in many ways a microcosm of the COSF -- albeit much less technically sophisticated. Thanks to MG Salisbury's nationwide campaign to expand and institutionalize the COSF, an opportunity now exists to possibly enhance the effectiveness of our local LVFS program in new and very meaningful ways.



Bill Hilsman, Ed Rodriguez, Alan Salisbury, Kristina Kaufmann, Phil McMillan, Allison Hickey

Important Chapter Events

General Membership Meets Quarterly

The Gathering (The Forum) - special briefings open to all Chapter members and Falcons Landing residents (sponsored by the MOAA Chapter), nominally one event per month

Board of Directors (BOD) meets monthly

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

Committees meet at discretion of Committee Chairs

2017 Meeting Schedule:

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

General Membership Meetings at 2:00 or 7:30 PM

January 19 – BOD: Swearing-In

July 20—BOD

February 16 – BOD

August 17—BOD

March 30 - General Membership Mtg.

September 28—General Membership Mtg.

April 20 – BOD

October 19—BOD

May 18 – BOD

November 9 -Annual Meeting

June 22 - General Membership Mtg.

December 21—BOD

2017 Officers and Directors

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

First Vice President (Acting): Bill Hilsman, Lt Gen, USA, Ret. (703) 433-1284

Second Vice President: Oliver Carter, Lt Col, USAF, Ret. (703) 444-6938

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

Secretary: Ms. Sally Burdick, USN, (Aux) (703) 430-9104

Director/Chairman Personal Affairs: Ms Kathy Trossbach (703) 430-1342

Director/Chairman Programs: Col, Phil Walsh, USMC, Ret. (703) 978-4328

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

Director/Chairman Auxiliary Affairs: Ms. Emily Bright, DoD, (Aux) (703) 433-2606

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

Director/Scholarships & Speakers Bureau: Stanley King, Col, USA, Ret. (703) 281-0825

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

Director/MOAA and VCOC Liaison: Marvin Murray, Lt Col USA, Ret. (703) 430-1786

Director-at-Large: David Belden, Col, USAF, Ret. (703) 444-4820

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

Members Deceased

(1st Quarter/2017)

Joe LaPanna 01/06/17

Lucille Harker 03/06/17

Welcome New Members

(1st Quarter/2017)

Benjamin Romero 02/10/17

Richard Gentz 02/20/17