

News Release

CONTACT: **CHAPTER MEMBER NAME , RANK, BRANCH OF SERVICE ACTIVE DUTY OR RETIRED
TITLE OF THAT CONTACT
PHONE NUMBER(S) & EMAIL OF THAT CONTACT**

For Immediate Release

Date

VIRGINIA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION MET WITH MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

CHAPTER NAME of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) joined leaders from 16 other chapters and the Virginia Council of Chapters, at a lunch-meeting with Virginia's Congressional delegation April 28 at Rayburn House Office Building in Washington DC. This 24th Annual Virginia MOAA Congressional Appreciation Luncheon occurred one week after Virginia Council president, LTC J. Pat Green, USA, Retired, stormed the capitol with other state and national MOAA leadership. Green noted both events were excellent opportunities to thank national legislators for past support of our nation's military and veterans, plus address specific areas of interest/concern for military, retirees, veterans, and their families.

Virginia MOAA's legislative chair, COL Sam Wilder, USA, Retired, noted "We are advocating for measures to strengthen the all-volunteer force. Specifically, we are asking to increase defense spending percent of GDP, increase the size of our ground forces, prevent the erosion of health benefits, and fully implement the recommendations of the Veterans Disability Benefits Commission."

Virginia's 13 congressional members were each invited to attend, dine with constituents, and address the group of officers and widows/widowers of officers. All but Representatives Rick Boucher and Bobby Scott attended and/or sent representatives. Senator Mark Warner addressed the group of 130. Senator Jim Webb's legislative assistant, William Edwards accepted an award on behalf of Senator Jim Webb - a personalized stamp plaque in recognition of his support of veterans, including the new GI Bill. Edwards is a 10-year Army veteran who staffs Webb's work on the Veterans' Affairs Committee and is managing the GI Bill.

Members of Virginia MOAA's _____ **chapter**, _____ **(names)** discussed issues with _____ **(names of congresspersons)**. **[ALSO Insert a quote or discussion of the interaction here. If your chapter introduced legislators to speak, mention that. You may want to indicate significant veteran legislation mentioned by your Representative(s). Or indicate whether he/she co-sponsors or otherwise supports a particular key bill or bills for Virginia MOAA legislative priorities.]**

MOAA, President, VADM Norb Ryan, USN, Ret, and 23 of his MOAA staff from Alexandria attended. He and LTC Green presented an award to CAPT Gary Hall for coordinating the luncheon logistics in Washington DC the last several years.

LTC Green presented a Minuteman Award (statuette) to MOAA staff member, COL Lee Lange, USMC, Ret, in gratitude for his efforts with Year of the Chapter, and thanked MOAA staff for supporting the event.

An independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization, MOAA has approximately 370,000 members of the uniformed services - active duty, former and retired, National Guard and Reserve nationwide and over 49,000 Virginia members. The Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC) is an affiliation of MOAA's 16 Virginia chapters. The VCOC website, VirginiaMOAA.com, includes both national and state legislative sections. **Put a closing sentence about your local chapter here.**

ATTACHMENTS:

PHOTO. Virginia Senator Mark Warner, addressing Virginia Military Officers Association of America Leaders. Photo by Maj Frank Duckett, USAF, Ret (Virginia Peninsula Chapter Legislative Rep)

AND/OR

CHAPTER PHOTO. Use photo pertinent to the newspaper's area

Give photo caption, including identifying the names, ranks and towns of chapter members pictured.

Identify photographer.

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