

**Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC) Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Template for Chapters. Replace or delete portions in green. Send with photo, via email, as soon as possible after event. Purple portions will be provided, at-or-after-the-luncheon, by COL Gary Metzinger, [garymetzinger@comcast.net](mailto:garymetzinger@comcast.net) (of VCOC Public Affairs committee & Southside Chapter Legislative) / Melva Mallison, Maj, USAF, Ret, VCOC PAO [melvamaj@cox.net](mailto:melvamaj@cox.net)**

## 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**

**28 April 2009**

## **VIRGINIA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION MEETS 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 councils 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. Senator(s) \_\_\_\_\_ addressed the group of **150**. **INSERT QUOTE(s) here**. Senator Web was presented with a personalized stamp plaque in recognition of his support of veterans, including the new GI Bill.

Members of Virginia MOAA's \_\_\_\_\_ **chapter**, \_\_\_\_\_ (names) had an opportunity to discuss 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, Norb Ryan, and many of his MOAA staff from Alexandria attended. **INSERT QUOTE here**

LTC Green presented a Minuteman Award (statuette) to MOAA staff member, \_\_\_\_\_, in gratitude for his efforts with Year of the Chapter, and thanked MOAA staff for supporting the event. Green also provided an award to \_\_\_\_\_, for coordinating the luncheon logistics in Washington DC the last several years.

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 OF SENATOR(s) – potentially available on VCOC website after the event**

**AND/OR**

**CHAPTER PHOTO. Use photo pertinent to the newspaper's area, identifying the local residence town of pertinent chapter people pictured.**

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

**Identify photographer.**