

EDUCATE - INFORM - CONNECT

29 February 2024





A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT:

"Moving Forward" has been the Constant Motto from this office to meet our goals and objectives during my tenure as your president. The chapter leadership has worked very hard and

long to increase our membership and accomplish some very difficult mandates and objectives. At one time, our chapter was small in comparison to other AUSA chapters, but our chapter leaders have moved the needle upward for our chapter to achieve status as a potential best chapter award.

As you read through our newsletter, you will find many new ideas and our accomplishments, but we still need your input and support. In a couple of months, we will be heading into our 4th Quarter and end of the year cycle, June, which means elections for our two top positions, President and 1st Vice-President...if interested, please contact our Nominating and Elections Committee Chair, Dave Sitler - and don't forget to vote.

Check out the newsletter for various activities our board will be addressing for this quarter, especially, our upcoming fundraising Army Birthday Golf Tournament- we can use your support as player, sponsor or donor.

Our number one goal is always membership, therefore, if interested, contact us via email, text, or just call.

Finally, our prayers go out to members that had passed away this year, and those that need extra prayers during their recoveries

Moving Forward

Thomas (Tom) House President, Central Virginia Chapter

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

12 Mar 2024, 1800hrs. - Chapter leadership meeting @ Hull Street Branch of Richmond Public Library. 1400 Hull Street.

27 Mar 2024, 1800hrs - Chapter Social and general membership meeting. VFW Post 9808, 7168 Falg Lane, Mechanicsville. Agenda includes remarks by BG Todd Hubbbard, Dir. Joint Staff, VANG. Separate email invitation forthcoming.

April-May 2024 - Chapter elections for President and First Vice President (Programs). Details forthcoming.

9 April 2024, 1900hrs. - Chapter leadership meeting. Location TBD.

20 April 2024, 1000-1200 - Chapter support to OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORTS, Charlottesville, VA. See

TBD May 2024 - Chapter Spring Fling - Social and General Membership Meeting.

17 May 2024, 1700-1830 -- Chapter support of US Army Recruiting and Signing Day @ Virginia War Memorial, Richmond.

31 May 2024, - Spring Newsletter Published 8 June 2024, - Military Appreciation Night, Richmond Kickers Soccer, 7pm kick-off, Richmond Stadium

10 June 2024 - Army Birthday Golf Tournament and Fundraiser @ Hunting Hawk Golf Club, See flyer at back of Newsletter.





EDUCATE - INFORM - CONNECT

29 February 2024



BG MARTIN TAKES COMMAND OF VIRGINIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Source: www.va.ng.mil

RICHMOND, Va. -

Col. Charles B. Martin Jr. was promoted to brigadier general and formally took command of the Virginia Army National Guard from Brig. Gen. K. Weedon Gallagher during a change of command ceremony Jan. 6, 2024, at Defense Supply Center Richmond, Virginia.



Maj. Gen. James W. Ring, the Adjutant General of Virginia, presided over the traditional exchange of organizational colors symbolizing the transfer of command from Gallagher to Martin as the Virginia National Guard's Assistant Adjutant General - Army. The 29th Infantry Division Band performed ceremonial music for the event.

"Please join me in congratulating him on his selection as the next Assistant Adjutant General – Army," said Ring. "He is a proven leader who brings a broad range of experience including domestic mobilizations in support of Operation Noble Eagle and a combat deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has served as the Chief of the Joint Staff since January 2023 and in command and staff positions at every echelon within the Virginia National Guard."

Martin will lead the Virginia Army National Guard and provide mission readiness guidance in the areas of training, personnel management, command logistics, facilities, and maintenance to support more 7,000 Army National Guard Citizen-Soldiers. Martin assumed his duties as Chief of the Joint Staff in early 2023 after previously commanding the Fort Barfoot-based 183rd Regiment, Regional Training Institute.

"To the Soldiers of the Virginia Army National Guard: I will work tirelessly to ensure our units are manned, equipped, trained, stationed, resourced and better prepared when we're called into service of the commonwealth and the nation," said Martin. "I look forward to working with you all and for the privilege of being able to continue to serve this great formation."



JROTC HIGHLIGHT MANCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL

THE LANCER BATTALION

PRIDES ITSELF ON GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY by: CW3 Aiesha Rasulala, USA RET

The Manchester High School Lancer Battalion JROTC program is led by CW3 (R) Aiesha Rasulala and SFC (R) Freddie Williams. The program, located in Chesterfield County,



Virginia, about 20 minutes west of Richmond has a current enrolment of 88 student cadets who pride themselves on giving back to the community. Chief Rasulala and SFC Williams ensure the cadets understand the community's pivotal role in helping them become better citizens.

The school year 2023/2024 has been extremely busy for the Manchester Lancer Battalion. Cadets worked with Veterans and Athletes United to put together the Dog



Tag Flag, which consists of 7,000 dog tags, replicating the United States flag laid over caskets of the fallen. Cadets also helped keep their local communities clean by participating in the Fall Cleanup.

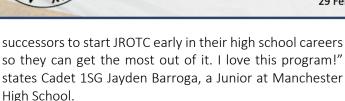
In addition to academics and community service, the Lancers also compete athletically. SFC (R) Williams also led the cadets to the National Raider Competition and Richmond's Best of the Best Competition at Pocahontas State Park. Lancer cadets earned several trophies - a huge accomplishment for the Lancer Raider Team, as they just started competing locally and nationally last year. Of the 500 schools that competed, the Lancers took 33rd place at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Understanding how important it is to learn and grow, Lancer cadets also conduct visits to local middle schools to inform them of the many opportunities that JROTC affords them. "I think it is important for our





29 February 2024



The Lancer Battalion military ball in March will be the highlight of the year and will feature a night of military formal protocols, achievements, and recognitions,

honoring cadets for their hard work. We will also bid a fond farewell to our graduating class of officers and noncommissioned officers as they enter the next chapter of their young lives.



CHAPTER OFFICERS & ADVISORS

Executive Committee

1SG Tom House, USA RET: President

LTC Dave Sitler, USA RET: Vice President for

Programe

LTC Erik Peterson, USA RET: Secretary & 2nd Vice

President for Individual Membership:

Mr. Brian Fortier: Vice President for Community

Partners

LTC Bob Sempek, USA RET: Treasurer & Immediate

Past President:

COL Leif Johnson, USA RET: Vice President for YPP

and Editor Chapter Newsletter

MG Tim Williams, USA RET: Vice president for

Reserve & National Guard affairs

Ms. Jackie Fuller: Vice President for Diversity,

Equity, and Inclusion

Council of Advisors

BG Walt Mercer, USA RET – Distinguished Senior Advisor

COL Tom Stephen, USA RET – Employer Support to the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)

LTC Ron White, USA RET – Government Affairs

COL Mike Flanagan, USA RET – Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA), Southern Virginia

COL Aaron Stanek, USA RET

Mr. Pete Svoboda

Mr. James Boykin

Want to do more?

Thanks to your engagement and support the Chapter continues to grow, and we are looking for new and energetic volunteers so we can continue to provide quality events that support our Army community. On-the-job training will be provided. Benefits: Doing Good & Feeling Good!

Vacant Chapter Leadership Positions Include:

- Vice President for Charlottesville Area
- Vice President for ROTC/JROTC Programs
- Vice President for Army Civilian Affairs
- Vice President for NCO and Soldier Programs
- Advisor for Army Recruiting

Interested? Please contact Tom House, Chapter President at thouse5857@aol.com

CHAPTER COMMUNITY PARTNERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

AUSA Community Partners are businesses and organizations seeking nearby opportunities, partnerships and recognition. They honor those who make personal sacrifices to protect American freedoms, seek out tangible ways to support our troops and are invested in seeing their organizations thrive in their local communities.

These Community Partners demonstrate to the central Virginia community that they support Soldiers and their families while strengthening their own organizational and business objectives.



EDUCATE - INFORM - CONNECT

29 February 2024



"When we look to be involved in the community and pay back, in some way, the sacrifice of Soldiers and families, AUSA is where we look first." - Don Lisenbee, Northrop Grumman

Aorta Medical Inc.

Camp Holiday Trails

Durabook Federal Inc.

Kelvin Hughes.

If you are a small business owner, entrepreneur, or professional service provider, consider becoming a Community Partner with The Central Virginia Chapter and AUSA. AUSA and the chapter provide a platform to network throughout the area, access to professional development, benefits and discounts, a voice on Capitol Hill, direct support of Soldiers, Army Civilians, Veterans and Army Families while keeping you informed on what is happening to and for your Army.

Please go to <u>www.ausa.org/membership</u> for additional information and application. Or contact Brian Fortier, Chapter Vice President for Community Partners, fortierbj@gmail.com, (804) 364-9846

COL MIKE FLANAGAN, USA, RET CIVILIAN AIDE TO THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (CASA) - SOUTHERN VIRGINIA

Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army (CASAs) are business and community leaders appointed by the Secretary to advise and support Army leaders across the country. CASAs come from many professions including business, education, finance, industry, law, the media, medicine and public service. Each is proactively involved in the community and brings to the position an interest in the Army, a



high degree of business and civic leadership and an ability to influence the public. CASAs are Special Government Employees who agree to serve as representatives of the Secretary of the Army without salary, wages, or related benefits, and are afforded a 3-star protocol

status. Each CASA is committed to supporting all Department of Army Civilians, Soldiers and their Families. In particular, CASAs partner with the Soldier for Life program to assist Soldiers as they transition from the Army.

COL Mike Flanagan, USA RET (West Point class of 1986) is the CASA for Southern Virginia. In his 27year U.S. Army career, COL Flanagan served in a variety of armor and acquisition roles, culminating in his serving as Project Manager for Training Devices (PM TRADE) for U.S. Army PEO Simulation, Training, and Instrumentation (STRI). Previously, he served as Product Manager for U.S. Army Abrams Tank Systems, with responsibility for the lifecycle management of the tanks for the U.S. Army and foreign military sales to Australia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Egypt. Colonel Flanagan's staff assignments included serving as Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, U.S. Army Research and Development Command, and as the Military Assistant for Acquisition to the Secretary of the Army.

As Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth, states, "Recruiting is priority #1 for our CASAs, especially since the CASAs are embedded in our communities and can help engage influencers from mothers to mayors. Each of us in our unique ways, are leveraging our networks to ensure our Recruiters have access to our high schools and can take advantage of events and groups that can best highlight the benefits of service and the opportunities the Army provides."





29 February 2024



On a local level COL Flanagan emphasizes, "In a similar way, our AUSA chapters are perfectly placed to make a difference by reaching out to their local recruiting stations and finding opportunities to partner. One of my favorite examples are chapters that recruit the parents of Future Soldiers to become members -- it's a great way to introduce new Army families to their Army."

BG (R) WALT MERCER AND TEAMMATES RECOGNIZED BY ADJUTANT GENERAL OF VIGINIA

FORT BARFOOT, Va. — Maj. Gen. James W. Ring, the Adjutant General of Virginia, and retired Brig. Gen. Walt Mercer, the outgoing Virginia Department of



Military Affairs Chief Operations Officer, thanked DMA state employees during a recognition luncheon and holiday social Dec. 5, 2023, at Fort Barfoot, Virginia.

During the event, employees reaching employment milestones were presented with gifts, and part-time support staff received certificates of recognition for their role making the agency successful.

"Thanks for the work that each and every single one of you all do every day, not only in support of Maneuver Training Center and Fort Barfoot, but in support of over 9,000 uniformed service men and women, state and federal employees," said Ring during the luncheon. "The work that each of you does individually and collectively drives readiness for us as a National Guard, in support of the Department of Defense and in support of the Commonwealth of Virginia. We could not do the jobs that we do without

your individual work. The work you do is absolutely vital."

"It's always good to see everyone get together like this," said Mercer. "It's a time to have fellowship and hang out a little bit in addition to the awards."



In addition to the service awards and certificates of recognition, Mercer was also honored during the event, one of his last with DMA before retiring as COO effective Dec. 31, 2023. Ring presented

Mercer with the Virginia Distinguished Service Medal, and Col. James C. Shaver Jr., the Fort Barfoot garrison commander, presented him with a special plaque of thanks from the installation.

"Mr. Mercer is retiring after a very distinguished period of service, not only to our United States Army but to the commonwealth through civil service, and most importantly today to the Department of Military Affairs," said Ring. "He truly brought leadership, dedication and service."

"Thanks to the DMA team for the loyalty and hard work and doing what you do no matter the circumstances," said Mercer. "You guys do great work. People see it, and I notice it. It's been almost eight years since I joined this team. When I look back then to where we are now, I feel pretty good about it, and that's because you guys embraced what I was trying to do."

With Mercer's retirement, retired Col. Everton E. Nevers is now in the COO role. Read more about the new COO at https://ngpa.us/27909.

Dod Expands online id Card Renewals

SOURCE: AUSA EXTRA VOL 5 NO 36

Family members, retirees, and other eligible personnel can now skip the badge office and renew their military ID cards online under and expansion of a DoD pilot program.



EDUCATE - INFORM - CONNECT

29 February 2024



The pilot program, which was launched last February, previously was open only to sponsors with a common access card. Now, most retirees and non-CAC holders are eligible for the online service, DoD announced.

"We think modern capabilities like renewing a driver's license online make it easier for people to get what they need when they need it without burdening them with having to take a trip somewhere," Mike Zarlenga, of the Defense Manpower Data Center, said in a DoD news release.

DoD issues about 4.5 million ID cards a year, Zarlenga said. About 2.5 million of those are Uniformed Services Identification cards, and of those, about 1 million are renewals that are eligible for the online option, Zarlenga said.

Uniformed Services Identification cards are issued to retired and reserve members, dependent family members of uniformed service members and other eligible individuals in accordance with DoD policy to facilitate access to benefits, privileges and DoD installations.

Under the ongoing pilot program, eligible ID card holders can apply for renewal online via the ID Card Office. The online option is available for renewals and not initial issue ID cards. It also is limited to applicants within the United States, although officials are working to expand the program elsewhere, according to the DoD news release.

Providing retirees and family members with an online option frees up the badge offices for activeduty and civilian employees.

"We want to enable the ID card sites today to better service the CAC holders who are our mission enablers, "Zarlenga said in the news release. "We want to make sure that people visiting that office can get an appointment when they need one, and they can get their CAC and resume their mission or duties with minimal impact to them or to the department." For more information go to https://www.cac.mil.

CENTRAL VIRGINIA CHAPTER BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP: 4,655

LIFE MEMBERS: 119

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS: 4,070

BASIC MEMBERS: 220 FAMILY MEMBERS: 3

PREMIUM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS: 327

COMMUNITY PARTNERS: 4

MY MEMBER BENEFITS





AUSA has partnered with NovaPoint Capital, a registered investment adviser firm.

Whether you are seeking

financial planning or investment advice, retirement planning as an employee or owner of a business, or accounting and tax planning assistance, NovaPoint can be a value-added partner for you.

For individuals, NovaPoint can work with you to plan and execute a financial and investment strategy to meet your long-term financial goals.

For small business owners and contractors, NovaPoint can work with you on minimizing your tax liabilities while also maximizing your retirement plan assets.

For nonprofit organizations, NovaPoint can work with your Board to develop an investment plan that best meets your organization's financial goals.

Learn more about their qualifications on their <u>public page</u>. Then visit their <u>AUSA page</u> to schedule

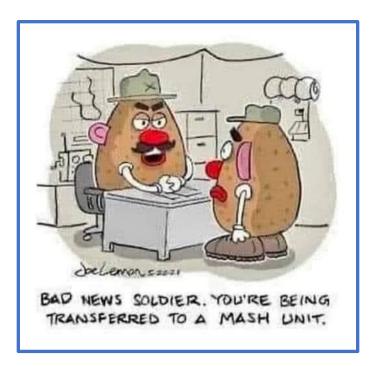


EDUCATE - INFORM - CONNECT

29 February 2024



your 30-minute complimentary consultation and discuss the financial topics where NovaPoint can assist you.



CHAPTER TO HOLD OFFICER ELECTIONS

The Central Virginia Chapter will hold officer elections in the coming months. Per the chapter bylaws, the chapter President and First Vice President (Programs) are the two elected officers in the chapter. Nominations will be open in April, with on-line member voting in May and new officer induction in June/July. A forthcoming email will provide more details.

TRICARE & MEDICARE - TURNING 65

REMAINING TRICARE-ELIGIBLE

If you're entitled to premium-free Medicare Part A, you must also have Medicare Part B to keep TRICARE, regardless of your age or place of residence (exceptions to this rule are discussed in the *Delaying Medicare Part B Enrollment* section). Once you have

both Medicare Part A and Part B, you automatically receive TRICARE benefits under TRICARE For Life (TFL). TFL

is the health plan for TRICARE beneficiaries who have Medicare Part A and Part B. Medicare Part C (Medicare Advantage plans) and Part D (prescription drug coverage) aren't required for you to have TFL coverage.

Keeping your information up-to-date in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) is key to ensuring effective, timely delivery of your TRICARE benefits.

TURNING AGE 65 CHECKLIST

- Sign up for Medicare Parts A and Part B
- Review your information in DEERS to make sure it's current

TFL is an individual entitlement. Coverage is only for the Medicare- and TRICARE-eligible beneficiary. This means your new TFL coverage at age 65 doesn't extend to family members. Your spouse younger than age 65 would remain eligible for TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select until they turn age 65 and become eligible for Medicare Part A and Part B.

Your birth date determines when you become entitled to Medicare and when you should sign up for Medicare Part A and Part B. Your TFL coverage begins on the first day you have both Medicare Part A and Part B coverage.

Follow these guidelines to avoid a break in your TRICARE coverage:

- If your birthday is on the first day of the month, you become eligible for Medicare on the first day of the month before you turn age 65. Sign up for Medicare between two and four months before the month you turn age 65.
- If your birthday falls after the first day of the month, you become eligible for Medicare on the first day of the month you turn age 65.
 Sign up for Medicare between one and three months before the month you turn age 65.



EDUCATE - INFORM - CONNECT

29 February 2024



AUSA Premium Members, Association Members, and their dependents (to include children, spouses, and grandchildren) are eligible to apply.

MAY 13, 2024.

Please verify your membership on the application form to expedite the application process. If you do not know your AUSA membership number or that of your sponsor, please contact AUSA Member Support at membersupport@ausa.org or 1-855-246-6269.

MILITARY EXPERIENCE IS NOT A REQUIREMENT FOR MANY SCHOLARSHIPS. APPLICANTS MAY APPLY TO ALL PROGRAMS FOR WHICH THEY QUALIFY WITH A SINGLE APPLICATION.

Go to https://scholarship.ausa.org to start your application.





Statewide Strategic Plan 2024-2029

VISION

Make Virginia the best state for service members, veterans, and their families to live, work, lead, and raise a family.

STRATEGIC GOALS

GOAL 1	Increase labor force participation rate for transitioning service members, veterans, and their families to maximize economic outcomes.	
GOAL 2	Make Virginia the easiest state for service members, veterans, and their families to transition, reskill, and upskill.	
GOAL 3	Altract more transitioning service members, veterans, and their families to move to Virginia through tangible economic incentives.	
GOAL 4	Honor veterans' service, sacrifice, and legacy by promoting and providing high quality programs and services.	
GOAL 5	Reduce obstacles to reliable and affordable housing options for transitioning service members, veterans, and their families.	
GOAL 6	Reduce the rate of homelessness for veterans and their families in Virginia.) W



EDUCATE - INFORM - CONNECT

29 February 2024

















We Talk the Talk Now, Walk the Walk



Greater Charlottesville

Come out to support our high school seniors that have committed themselves to joining the *Armed Services* after graduation.

Enjoy a ceremony of patriotism and community support.

A Free Community Event.

Registration Required.

Lane Auditorium Albemarle County Office Building 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville

SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH, 10 AM

If you are enlisting and have not been contacted, please reach out to dac@cvillechamber.com

SPONSORS: AS OF 2/23/2024 Defense Affairs Committee, Charlottesville Chamber of Commerce

Albemarle County

PrintSource

Mission BBQ

USAA

Navy Federal Credit Union

Parade Rest

Hourigan

US Army Reserve

UVA ROTC Departments

Blue Star Families of Central Virginia

Red Cross of Central Virginia

American Legion Post 74

City of Charlottesville Fire

Department

Albemarle County Fire Department

UVA Foundation





EDUCATE - INFORM - CONNECT

29 February 2024



Proceeds go to AUSA's Central Virginia Scholarship Fund and Chapter programs that support local Soldiers, Army Families, and Veterans.

Mad Golf Skill Contests:

- Closest to the Pin
- Longest Drive
- Best Putt

Format: Captain's Choice Foursomes
Shotgun start
Price Includes Green Fees, Range Balls,
Cart, and Lunch

\$100 through 31 March 2024 \$110 if 1 April 2024 or later

Price per player:

Register online at:

www.birdease.com/CentralVirginiaChapterArmyGolf

0



Mail-in registrations must include a Team POC, each player's name, email and phone number. Make checks payable to: Central Virginia Chapter, #2809 and mail to Bob Sempek, 14208 Cove Ridge Court, Midlothian, VA 23112.



0730 - 0830 Registration

0800 - Start of putting contest

0840 - 0850 Tribute to the Nation; Announcements

0850 - 0900 Disperse to T-Boxes

0900 - 1300 Tournament play

1300 - 1400 Lunch and awards



For more information, contact Dave Sitier: dksitier@aol.com







29 February 2024



Please help the chapter support your Army Community in central Virginia,

Become a sponsor or donor today!

Tournament Sponsorship Opportunities

Title Sponsor

\$5000

- Company Name & Logo on Printed Material
- Your Company Banner Displayed at Registration
- 3 Tournament Teams
- Longest Drive Sponsor
- 3 Hole Sponsorships

Gold Sponsor

\$2500

- Company Name & Logo on Printed Material
- Your Company Banner Displayed at Registration
- 2 Tournament Teams
- Closest-to-Pin Sponsor
- 2 Hole Sponsorships

Silver Sponsor

\$1500

- Company Name & Logo on Printed Material
- 1 Tournament Team
- Breakfast/Lunch Sponsor
- 1 Hole Sponsorship

Bronze Sponsor

\$1000

- Company Name & Logo on Printed Material
- 1 Tournament Team
- Driving Range Sponsor
- 1 Hole Sponsorship

Corporate Sponsor \$500

- Company Name & Logo on Printed Material
- 1 Tournament Team
- 1 Hole Sponsorship



Beverage Cart Sponsor \$500

- Name recognition in tournament program
- Sponsor name on beverage cart

Lunch Sponsor

- \$300
- Name recognition in tournament program
- Company sign in awards lunch area
- Company recognition at lunch

Driving Range Sponsor \$250

- Name recognition in tournament program
- Company sign at practice range

Putting Contest Sponsor \$250

- Name recognition in tournament program
- Company sign on putting green

Longest Drive Sponsor \$250

- Name recognition in tournament program
- Company sign at longest drive tee box

Closest-to-Pin Sponsor \$25

- Name recognition in tournament program
- Company sign at closest-to-pin tee box

Breakfast Sponsor

- Name recognition in tournament program
- Company sign in breakfast area

Hole Sponsor \$15

- Name recognition in tournament program
- Signage at 1 hole

On-line sponsorship, donation, and payment can be made at:



or www.birdease.com/ CentralVirginiaChapterArmyGolf



Mail-in sponsorship and payment should include: Sponsorship level, Company or Individual name, and a POC with email and phone number.

Make checks payable to: Central Virginia Chapter, #2809 and mail to Bob Sempek, 14208 Cove Ridge Court, Midlothian, VA 23112.