

News Release Template (updated after) – Replace green portion with chapter-unique info and send to local Military and civilian newspapers – both news editors and community news contacts.)

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

For Immediate Release

Date

CONGRESS MET WITH VIRGINIA MILITARY OFFICERS

Leaders of **CHAPTER NAME** of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) enjoyed lunch with Virginia's congressional delegation April 27 at the Russell Caucus Room in the Senate Office Building in Washington DC. The 25th Annual Virginia MOAA Congressional Appreciation Luncheon, led by MOAA's Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC) president, COL Sam Wilder, USA, Retired, and 1st Vice President/Legislative Chair, COL Don Kaiserman, USA, Ret, was timed to follow MOAA's storming of capitol hill with other state and national MOAA leadership the previous week. Wilder noted:

“This luncheon has become one of the Virginia Council's signature events. It is our opportunity to thank our Congressional leaders for what they have done for our military – active, guard and reserve – for our veterans, our retired military and families. No other council in MOAA does this and we have been doing this for 25 years! This luncheon is also an opportunity to express to our Congressmen our deep concerns about the need to keep our national defense strong and to protect the healthcare for the men and women who serve and sacrificed for their country.”

COL Kaiserman pointed out that the annual luncheon is a chance to focus the attention of Virginia's 13-member congressional delegation on priority issues. He stressed that legislative objectives are not focused primarily on retirees or veterans, but support those serving of all ranks, and their families and survivors. VCOC's top objective is to strengthen the military's volunteer force. Specifically, they press to increase the size of ground forces, prevent the erosion of health benefits, and help widows and wounded.

Senator Jim Webb, our sponsor for the meeting room, addressed 135 Virginia chapter officers and surviving spouses of officers, as did Senator Mark Warner and nine of Virginia's eleven Representatives.

Members of the local _____ **chapter,** _____ **(names)** discussed issues with _____ **(names of congresspersons the chapter was seated with).** **[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 MOAA staff from Alexandria attended. COL Barry Wright, USA, Ret, received the “Minute Man Award”, in gratitude for his support of Virginia chapters and Council.

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 about 49,000 Virginia members. The Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC) is an affiliation of MOAA's 18 Virginia chapters. The VCOC website, VirginiaMOAA.com, includes both national and state legislative sections. **Insert a closing sentence about your local chapter here, including contact info.**

ATTACH:

**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.
Photos will also be provided by VCOC PAO on VirginiaMOAA.com website the
night after the luncheon. MOAA photographer professional photos may be
available at a later date (and will come in handy for chapter newsletters and
websites, but not quick enough for a timely news release). You may also refer
reporters to this link to obtain photos from VCOC website:
<http://virginiamoaa.com/nationallegislative/2010congressionallunch.html>**