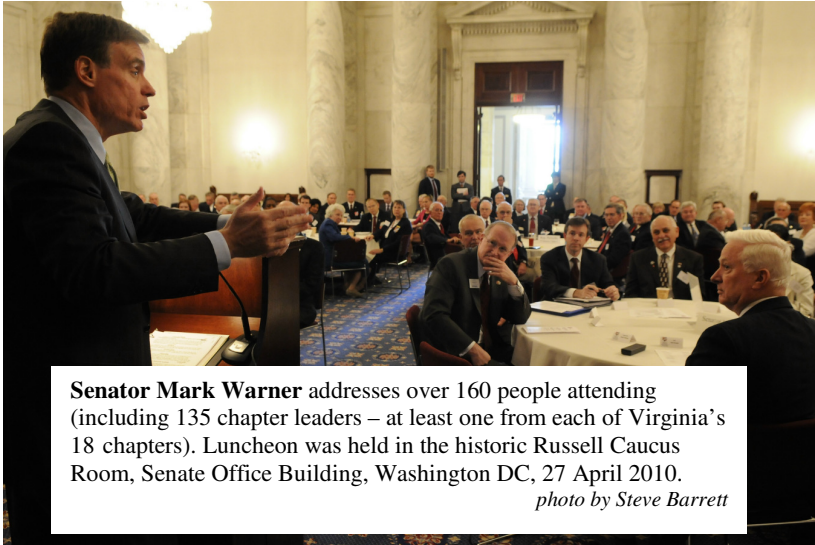


**25th ANNUAL
CONGRESSIONAL APPRECIATION LUNCHEON**
Virginia chapters, VCOC & MOAA made it a Success!

Since a picture is worth a thousand words, here are a few thousand words. More are available on VCOC website VirginiaMOAA.com in "Legislative National" section.



VCOC president, Col Sam Wilder, USA, Ret, greets Virginia **Senator Jim Webb**. Photo & story were on MOAA website next morning. Webb sponsored VCOC use of Senate Room. *photo courtesy of MOAA, by Steve Barrett*



Senator Mark Warner addresses over 160 people attending (including 135 chapter leaders – at least one from each of Virginia's 18 chapters). Luncheon was held in the historic Russell Caucus Room, Senate Office Building, Washington DC, 27 April 2010. *photo by Steve Barrett*

MOAA president, Vice Adm Norb Ryan, Jr., USN, Ret thanked VCOC & MOAA members for leading by example – "it inspires us all." *photo by Steve Barrett*



Both US Senators and all but two representatives spoke. Most dined with MOAA chapter members. Each legislator was introduced by a Virginia chapter leader of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC) President, Sam Wilder said "This luncheon is our opportunity to thank our congressional leaders for what they have done for our military. It also is an opportunity to express to our congressmen our deep concerns about the need to **keep our national defense strong** and to **protect the health care** for the men and women who serve and sacrificed for their country."

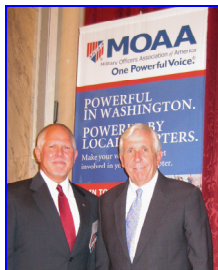


Mount Vernon chapter – host chapter for the luncheon. A few of the many attendees from MVC-MOAA pose with District 11 Representative, **Gerry Connolly**, at center. Chapter president, Gary Hall, USN, Ret, was the capitol coordinator for the luncheon as he has been for many years. What a superb job they all did. *photo by MOAA professional photographer, Steve Barrett*



Col Don Kaiserman, USA, Ret, VCOC 1st VP & Legislative Chair at podium. The VCOC legislative committee works with Virginia national and state legislators throughout the year. *photo by Steve Barrett*

Maj Michael Patierno, USA, Ret, Shenandoah Valley Chapter with 10th District Representative **Frank Wolf**
photo by VCOC PAO Melva Mallison



Col Barry Wright, USA, Ret, receiving **Minuteman Award** (presented by VCOC president, Col Sam Wilder, USA, Ret). Wright is MOAA's Deputy Director Chapter & Council Affairs. *photo by Melva Mallison*

1st District Representative, **Rob Wittman** (amidst 3 tables-full of MOAA constituents) *photo by Melva Mallison*



No media attended, though reporters were invited by Public Affairs Officers (PAOs) of Mount Vernon chapter, Virginia Peninsula chapter and VCOC. MOAA PAO & Magazine Editor attended. VCOC provided a news release template for chapter use and posted photos on website the night of the luncheon (MOAA professional photos were provided later). The first chapter article published in a local paper was by George C. Marshall chapter.