



FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
20540 FALCONS LANDING CIRCLE, #P1
POTOMAC FALLS, VIRGINIA 20165



Falcons Landing Chapter Legislative Report

APRIL 2020

THE CONGRESS:

- **CORONAVIRUS-19 continues to hold center stage. A \$400 Billion dollar small business administration paycheck protection package could come to a vote in the Senate as early as Monday, April 20th and the House will conduct a conference call, Monday afternoon. Included in this proposal, expect approximately \$50 Billion for economic injury disaster loans, \$75 Billion for hospitals, and \$25 Billion for coronavirus testing.**
- **Proforma congressional sessions are expected until at least May 4th. The President wants the Senate to vote on nominees and there are whispers of an administration threat to adjourn the Congress, if this doesn't happen. Article 10 of the Constitution indicates that there are certain instances in which this can be done, HOWEVER, it's not a given. Are we having FUN yet?**

- **S-760: The Support for Veterans in Effective Apprenticeships Act was signed by the President on March 26, 2020.**
- **HR=6446: on April 3, 2020, Rep Clay Higgins(R-LA) introduced a bill which would allow the President to delay the 2020 Census, indefinitely. The dates currently under consideration are June 1st for extension and October 1st for official completion of the count. There are serious questions regarding the constitutionality of such a proposal. This has the potential to impact the makeup of the Virginia General Assembly races in 2021**

THE COMMONWEALTH:

Governor Northam has signed legislation setting Election Day (November 3rd) as a state holiday, to enhance voting opportunities. Early voting, 45 days prior to Election Day, WITHOUT A STATED EXCUSE, and extending voting hours to 7am to 8pm(!), are also part of this new law.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD):

***Say HELLO to the latest Acting Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) – former Under Secretary of the Army, and Retired Navy Judge Advocate General, James E.**

McPherson, who was designated the dubious distinction of relieving Thomas Modly on April 7, 2020. Congratulations, Sir, but the administration has indicated every intention to nominate Kenneth Braithwaite, RADM, USN(retired), and current US Ambassador to Norway as the next (permanent?) SECNAV.

***Late-breaking news is the extension of a hold on military transfers into June. This is likely to contribute to all sorts of upheaval for personnel and readiness.**

MOAA ACTION ITEMS:

We have a great deal on our plates, these days. The April 2020 MOAA Military Officer Magazine continues to be a wealth of information on the latest issues of critical importance to us. Check out pages 14-23. Additionally, our MOAA Website has a wealth of information. If you click on ADVOCACY, then go to LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER, you will see the issues requiring our most urgent attention.

***HR-333 is the STAR ACT, a piece of legislation meant to secure full concurrent receipt for combat-related medical retirees, with fewer than 20 years of service.**

I want to respectfully invite your attention to the COVIDVIRUS-19 RELIEF FUND, to support military and veteran families, and sponsored by MOAA. Life members are requested to consider an online tax-exempt donation of \$20(which would generate about \$3million, if all participate). See MOAA.org on the website for more information on this special opportunity to help our fellow military brethren in this extraordinary time of the pandemic.

WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

**Clair Wylie
Legislative Liaison**

NEVER STOP SERVING