



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



**FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER LEGISLATIVE REPORT**  
**DECEMBER 2020**

**THE CONGRESS:**  
**BETTER LATE THAN NEVER . . . Oh, WAIT!**

**\*The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA 2021), which both Houses of Congress agreed to and sent to the White House, has JUST been VETOED by the President and will return to the Hill, where it is expected that both houses of Congress will override this veto. I've been holding this report in abeyance, hoping to have good news to share, but no such luck.**

**\*The latest Continuing Resolution is due to expire on Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, the day BEFORE the Senate is due to return from Holiday break, in order to prepare to override the presidential veto of the NDAA. This would seem to indicate that there will have to be a change in the Congressional calendar. Otherwise, the government will come to a screeching halt at midnight on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Are we having fun yet? What's at stake for us? Well, let's see, there's the pay raise for our active duty troops, the hold on military medical personnel and reorganizing of military medical facilities, the maintenance of military housing, and the addition of three conditions to the list of ailments connected to Agent Orange. So, yes, there are some critical legislative issues.**

**\*Just so you know who the players are – the Ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee, Representative Mac Thornberry (R-TX), will retire at the end of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress. So, when the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress convenes in January, the Ranking member, that is the senior member of the party NOT in the majority, will be Congressman Mike Rogers (R-AL).**

**\*We are, of course, still looking forward to the TWO Georgia Senate seat run-offs on January 5<sup>th</sup> to determine which party will control the Senate, where the Biden administration cabinet appointees, including Secretary of Defense nominee, retired Army General Lloyd Austin, will face an up/down**

vote. There are some, on both sides of the aisle, who have some heartburn with the idea of a retired military man overseeing the Pentagon.  
If you need me – I'll be hiding under my desk!

#### **VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS (VCOC):**

On the Commonwealth front, you should know that the VCOC is a member of the Joint Leadership Council (JLC) of Veterans Service Organizations and, as such, has one member of this organization nominated by our MOAA state-wide organization and appointed by the governor. They meet four times per year, and at the October 2020 meeting, the following initiatives were proposed for action in 2021:

- \*Income tax subtraction for certain low-income disabled veterans
- \*Promote the hiring of Virginia National Guard and Reserve personnel
- \*Expand real estate property tax relief for surviving spouses of military members
- \*Extending state park passports to disabled veterans
- \*Extend partial tax relief exemption for retired military members.

There are others, but I offer these so you can see that there are some real “softballs” among these initiatives. AND THEN there are some real HARDBALL issues, which it would be fair to call a “wish list”. The last item on this list is the least likely to get passed.

#### **MOAA:**

As always, the MOAA Magazine is a wealth of information. The December 2020 issue, pages 14-24, give you chapter & verse on TRICARE coverage, and a great section on Caregiver support. Don't miss it!

Finally, you need to know that our Falcons Landing MOAA has sustained a 5 STAR reputation for a significant number of years. Part of that has been the legislative report – and I attribute that reputation significantly to my predecessor, Oliver Carter. That said, since I am about to take on new Resident Council responsibilities, I am unable to walk & chew gum, simultaneously, and feel it necessary to hand-over the Legislative report. It would be a real shame if we lost our current rating with MOAA National because nobody was willing to step up & take over. There – have I sufficiently guilted you yet? Don't tell MOAA National, but I steal a lot of their stuff, both from the magazine, and the website. I also keep up with news broadcasts and a couple of government websites, but this isn't brain surgery, and I will be more than willing to help a newbie get comfortable.

**So please give it some thought & make YOUR contribution to our MOAA Chapter.**

**WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

**Clair Wylie  
Legislative liaison**