

Military Officers Association of America Virginia Council of Chapters hosts 27th Virginia Congressional Appreciation Luncheon

Honoring the 13 members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation for their continued loyal support of the U.S. Military Community, more than 100 members of Virginia's Council of Chapters (VCOC) from the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) came together from throughout the Commonwealth on Tuesday, May 8, for their 27th Congressional Appreciation Luncheon held at the Capitol Hill Club in Washington, D.C.

Receiving special recognition was Congressman Randy Forbes of the 4th Congressional District as he was presented the "Legislator of the Year" award for the support he gives to military service members, retirees and veterans, day in, day out.

Other Congressmen that included, Rob Wittman (District 1), Scott Rigell (District 2), Bob Goodlatte (District 6), Gerry Connolly (District 11), Robert Hurt (District 5), and Bobby Scott (District 3) spoke to the grave challenges we share as a nation.

Congressman Hurt stated that the nation must "honor the valor and dedication of those who went before us" but what is being proposed today for cutting out our forces would "jeopardize the future of our country."

Congressman Rob Wittman was more direct by saying that the Congress should not be asked to balance the budget "on the backs of our veterans." Congressman Rigell, a member



Members of the Virginia's Council of Chapters (VCOC) from the Military Officers Association of America pose with Congressman Randy Forbes. Also pictured is local resident Al Peschke, who is standing at the right of Forbes.

elect officials accountable and that the nation must "meet the obligation to those who serve..." Also coming to address the group was Senator Mark Warner who agreed that the nation must honor the commitment they made to all veterans, but advised that all proposed cuts to the military budget need to be reviewed at the same proportion as everything else.

While members of the Virginia Delegation may differ in their approach on how to tackle

from the attendees as he made point after point of how the nation asks service men and women to "raise your hand and serve" the nation.

It is up to the Congress to make sure that the nation keeps its promise to "take care of you if you take care of us...for that is what you have done," he said.

That is why we must take the issue of how the armed forces are equipped, manned and readiness sustained to the American people, for the

tary in the world."

Congressman Forbes received a standing ovation as he accepted his award, stating he was "honored and humbled to be selected by such a group of noted veterans like MOAA." Colonel Don Kaiserman, President of the Virginia Council, asked all who were present to support the Congressman's efforts in the "Defend the Defenders" town hall style rallies that are being scheduled throughout the country; with the first one

veterans in the Commonwealth of Virginia and over 45,000 of them are MOAA members.

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the nation's largest officers association with 370,000 members from every branch of service, including active duty, retired, National Guard, Reserve, and former officers and their survivors.

MOAA is a nonprofit and politically nonpartisan organi-