

# NEWSLETTER



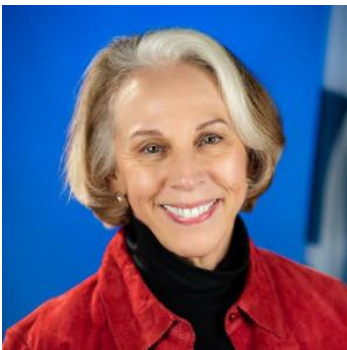
MAY 2026

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [arlingtonretiredteachers.org](http://arlingtonretiredteachers.org)

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This final newsletter for the “school year” of 2025-26 especially gives you the details for our annual spring luncheon, coming up on **May 20**. The article below tells you about the luncheon program, and **pages 8-9 give signup details. You must sign up before May 12**. There are other important messages and summaries to note, as well – read on for health insurance info, scholarship news, Celebrations of Life, and more!!

## **Arlington Gem Libby Garvey Will Be the Speaker at Our May 20 Luncheon!**



Libby Garvey began her public service career right out of college, teaching English with the Peace Corps in the Central African Republic. She and her husband, Kennan, returned to the United States and settled in Arlington in 1976. Libby worked at Peace Corps headquarters in DC and then as a legislative aide to Congressman Lee Hamilton. Libby and Kennan settled in Fairlington in 1977 and had two children. For a number of years Libby was the Executive Director of the Mount Holyoke College Washington Internship Program in DC while at home caring for their two daughters.

In 1992 Libby became active in the successful effort to have an elected, rather than appointed, school board in Arlington. As her children entered APS, Libby saw inequities in the school system and a poorly run Capital Improvement Program that her efforts to change did not affect, so she ran for SB herself. She was on the SB for 15 years and was Chair five times. During this time APS made major strides in closing the achievement gap between different racial groups of children and renovated or built new almost every school in the County -- pretty much all the projects were on time and on budget.

In 2012 Libby won a special election for the County Board and served until December of 2024. She chaired the County Board three times, including during the 2020 Covid epidemic. In 2024 she announced that she would not run again saying that both her head and her heart were telling her it was time to step down from public office. Libby’s elected public service to Arlington spanned 28 years.

Since then, Libby has started a website and blog focused on supporting good local government and saving our national democracy. She began a regular banner drop on the Fairlington bridge over I395 at the end of February 2025 when she went out and stood by herself with an upside-down American flag and a Ukrainian flag to protest the treatment of Volodymyr Zelensky at the White House. She was joined two days later by a neighbor who then brought two friends. And more flags. The group is now regularly about 12 people with message banners and many flags. The messages are seen by about 15,000 vehicles an hour. No Kings 2 brought 400 people to the bridge. Libby is also active with the Abundance Network which is based in

California and works to support local elected officials in order to make local government effective at getting things done. She is one of five mentors for the first Abundance Fellowship Program.

Finally, Libby is the caregiver for her almost 98-year-old mother. Libby considers both her caregiving and resistance work her major jobs at the moment. Although, to be clear.... she is not a paid protestor...or blogger. ☺ **Be sure to come to our fabulous buffet luncheon on May 20 to hear Libby's talk and celebrate the USA's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday!** [See the information about the luncheon, with reservation slip, on pages 8-9.]

## GOODBYE TO NANCY KING, OUR PAST AND UPCOMING PRESIDENT



**Nancy Ward Garvin King** died unexpectedly on **March 25, 2026**, at Virginia Hospital Center following complications from surgery which was necessitated by a fall in her basement which broke her femur and damaged her replaced knee.

Nancy was born **August 15, 1943**, in Chicago, Illinois to Harold Ward Garvin and Shirley Garvin (Mueller). Her father was a doctor and officer in the U.S. Navy, meaning Nancy moved around as a child, spending time in places like Kodiak, Alaska before her family eventually settled in Los Angeles, California.

Nancy graduated from Reseda High School in 1961 and then attended the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). While at UCLA she joined the Chi Omega sorority, and she graduated in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science in elementary education. Later, she would also earn a master's in elementary school administration from Virginia Tech. Following her graduation from UCLA, she began her career as a first- and second-grade teacher in Los Angeles schools. In 1967, she married Robert F. Hemphill, Jr. and the newlyweds settled in Santa

Monica. Later that year, their daughter Elika Anne Hemphill was born.

Nancy later moved to Virginia, where she was a longtime educator and principal in Arlington County Public Schools (APS). She started with APS in 1969 as an elementary teacher at Clay-Fillmore School and then taught at Long Branch Elementary School. She began her administrative career in 1984 at Barcroft Elementary School, where she eventually served as principal. She was then principal at Oakridge Elementary School, serving Arlington Schools for over three decades in total. In 1997, she received a Distinguished Educational Leadership Award from *The Washington Post* in recognition of her outstanding achievements as principal at Oakridge and her efforts to go above and beyond to provide the best possible educational opportunity for every student.

Deeply passionate about serving others and a lifelong advocate for childhood education and literacy, Nancy continued her service to her community after her retirement. She volunteered her time at a number of community organizations, including Reading is Fundamental of Northern Virginia (RIF NOVA) and the Arlington Retired Teachers Association (ARTA). She served in many capacities at RIF NOVA, including as President and Vice President. She also helped start new fundraising efforts to support the organization, including the Book It for Books 5K, which began in 2016 and continues today. Nancy was awarded the Margaret McNamara Award in 2015, the highest annual honor given by RIF NOVA. In 2024, Nancy was awarded the Jerry Shelton Award for Longevity of Service, an honor given to a longtime board member who has actively and continuously served in efforts to advance RIF NOVA's goals. At ARTA, she was the Immediate Past President and current Vice President and intended to serve again as President.

Nancy was a devoted mother, grandmother, sibling, friend, and citizen. She dedicated her life to her family, friends, and community, and she enriched the lives of everyone that she knew. Her compassion and zeal for life could brighten even the darkest of days, as she met all people always with a smile. To know Nancy was to know true selflessness, dedication, and joy, and her impact on her family, friends, and the countless students she served will continue for lifetimes to come.

She is preceded in death by her daughter Elika, her parents, and her husband Tom Loy Jr. She is survived by her sister Sharon Schlund, brother Chuck Garvin and wife Diane Garvin, and brother Kim Garvin

and wife Cyndy Garvin; son-in-law Rich Confalone and grandchildren Leo, Gus, and Daphne Confalone; nephews Dan, Steve, and Jerry Schlund; and ex-husbands Robert Hemphill and Paul King.

**A Celebration of Life will be held on May 17, 2026. Details with time and location to follow.** Please donate in Nancy's name to RIF NOVA and/or the Colorectal Cancer Alliance.

The ARTA Board held an emergency meeting shortly after Nancy King's death and divided up responsibilities for finishing this year without an acting president or vice-president. One of our decisions was to make a donation in her memory to RIF Nova, which was dear to her heart. Quoted is part of RIF's thank you:

*"Thank you for your donation to Reading is Fundamental of Northern Virginia, Inc. (RIF NOVA). On April 12, 2026, you made a contribution of \$1,000 via check. We are honored by your thoughtful donation in honor of our beloved **Nancy King**. We all miss her very much and know that her impact on the RIF NOVA community will continue to be felt for years to come."*

## **ARLINGTON SCHOOLS HEALTH INSURANCE UPDATE**

By Randy McKnight

**APS will extend the healthcare contract for another year for those retirees over 65 and on Kaiser and UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage plans.** The RFP process for retirees under 65 and current employees is underway and is a significant undertaking that requires substantial team resources, including extended hours, to implement successfully. Thus, the RFP process for the 65+ population will not begin until the necessary resources are in place.

In addition, APS will be transitioning to ACH debit/credit for all retirees who currently pay their premiums by check, **effective January 1, 2027**. This change will help eliminate the need for manual payments, as APS is experiencing issues with the current process. **A notice and the necessary forms will be mailed to all retirees.**

### **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

How will you get the "notice and the necessary forms" if your address at APS is not your current address? Update your address with APS, as soon as there is a change. APS has received over 100 pieces of returned mail. Need more motivation to update your contact information with APS? Open Enrollment material and any additional announcements will be sent via US mail. Additionally, those turning 65 must enroll in Medicare Part B. To update info, contact by phone **703-228-2726** or email [\*\*hr.support@apsva.us\*\*](mailto:hr.support@apsva.us)

### **RETIREE NEWSLETTER**

APS plans to develop a retiree newsletter that will debut in the fall. The newsletter will be distributed electronically. APS welcomes retirees' suggestions of topics for the newsletter.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

For benefits-related inquiries, contact Ahmad or Alyson at [\*\*benefits@apsva.us\*\*](mailto:benefits@apsva.us).

## **MEMBERSHIP AND 2026 DIRECTORIES**

Every year we have a hard time getting some people to remember to renew their memberships. Each year, renewal forms are sent out in early August and the vast majority of renewals come in within a month – a reasonable time. It is not reasonable to need to email, call, and/or write to remind people over and over that they will be dropped if they don't pay their dues, but it happens every year, which delays publication of the directory. [Even after extending the deadline from October 31 to December 31 and adding a late fee after that, each year there have still been too many late payers.]

- Those of you receiving this newsletter should expect to receive the **2026 directory** in May. [Those who have not paid the 2025-26 dues have been dropped.]

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- The upcoming directories [as true since 2015] will have an **A by the name of an ARTA lifetime member** and a **V by the name of a VRTA lifetime member**. Those dues must be paid separately: you aren't an ARTA lifetime member if there is only a V by your name, and vice versa! **Having one or the other does not make you a lifetime member of both.**
- Since it will still be a while before you receive the new directory, as usual there is a list of corrections near the end of this newsletter, so use your old 2025 directory to make a note of those.
- **When the membership renewal form arrives during the summer, please renew promptly for 2026-27.** Thank you for continuing your ARTA membership!
- **And a sidenote from Cathy Eckbreth:** My special thanks to all of our members who have responded to the annual letter asking for donations to the ARTA Future Educators Scholarship Fund. Remember that you can donate at any time during the year!

← **LOOKING BACK: MARCH and APRIL 2026**



## **Richard Derbyshire, Master Gardener**

On **Wednesday, March 11**, ARTA members had the privilege of learning about the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia. In the 1860's the Land Grant Program allowed for many colleges (other than the Ivies) to create classes and programs which fit with the American agrarian society. In 1914 Virginia Tech became a land grant college and is also the headquarters for Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia (MGNV) which boasts 30 chapters. To become a Master Gardener, Richard shared the requirements needed, available on the Master Gardeners Website. ([mgnv.org](http://mgnv.org))

The (free) offerings available to us include Bon Aire Parks Sunny/Shade Gardens, 1 Plant Sales with an incredible variety and staff to help those with questions. Public Education Programs have expanded from pre-Covid with 15-20 attending live to post-Covid Zoom classes with 126,000 viewing! For those who need plant advice, MG provides a Help Desk (live and phone questions answered) at the Fairlington Community Center. Plant Clinics, Small Trees Make Big Canopies (Free Trees) and so much more. As educators, perhaps the most rewarding was Richard's photos of his commitment to furthering gardening projects in schools, education facilities and juvenile detention centers. (Williamsburg MS, Arlington Traditional ES and the NV Juvenile Detention Center, while supporting Carlin Springs, Barcroft, Drew and Fleet Elementary Schools. All in all, Richard Derbyshire shows that he cares about Northern Virginia and he "gets our kids." Our thanks for his presentation. [And thanks to **Mary Ann Bell** both for arranging for the program and writing this summary!]

**Lynn Ray**, an AARP volunteer, joined us at our **April 8 meeting** to present "**Decluttering & Downsizing: You Can't Take It with You!**" about the how's and whys of how we accumulate stuff and helpful tips to manage it. She encouraged us to include kids and grandkids on this decluttering journey, devoting 10 minutes at a time and concentrating our efforts on a 2x2 space using the four-pile strategy: keep, sell, donate, trash.



ARTA members supplemented the PowerPoint presentation with tips of their own, and questions centered on which organizations would accept particular items for donation in addition to Goodwill and the Salvation Army. Among those mentioned included Buy Nothing, a FB group, Freecycle, Pathways, Wider Circle, Queen of Peace, Green Drop, Food for Others, libraries, and Casa Mariflor located in the Arlington Unitarian church lot.

I would be interested in compiling a detailed list with more specific information to be included in the fall newsletter. If you have tips about organizations you have donated items to in the DMV, please email me at [ventaruchL2@gmail.com](mailto:ventaruchL2@gmail.com). ~ Judy Jankowski [Thank you, Judy, for the summary and the pictures!]

With Heartfelt  
*Sympathy*

**IN MEMORIAM**



In addition to the tragic loss of Nancy King and sympathy to her family, we offer sympathy to the families in the deaths of the present or past members below.

**CELEBRATION OF LIFE: Judy McKnight** died just before Christmas, as was announced in the last newsletter, but her husband, Randy McKnight, has provided this new information: The celebration of **Judy McKnight's** life will be at **2 pm, Saturday, May 16, 2026, at H-B Woodlawn, 1601 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22209**. The celebration at the school will last about an hour. A reception will be held across the street at *Quinn's on the Corner*, 1776 Wilson Blvd. Parking is available in the school's 19th Street North parking garage.



**Jeanne Kathryn (Kay) Flatin** passed away peacefully on February 4, 2026, surrounded by her family. Born May 20, 1933, she was 92. Kay was in a retirement community and very alert until she passed on February 4, 2026, from complications from pneumonia and heart failure. Married in 1955 to Bruce Flatin, she traveled with him to his first international posting with the U.S. State Department in Kabul, Afghanistan, launching a life of global adventure. Their subsequent overseas assignments took them to Sydney, Australia (1961-1963), Berlin, Germany (1964-1969), and back to Kabul during a tumultuous period (1977-1979). Each foreign posting brought new challenges and more than a few harrowing moments as the wife of a diplomat. Kay took all of it in stride. Having taught general elementary education in classrooms around the world, Kay brought her global perspective to the final chapter of her career as a dedicated ELL (English Language Learner) specialist at Randolph Elementary School in Arlington, VA. She retired in 2000 and moved to Richmond after Bruce died in 2022. **For more details on Kay's exciting journey, see [https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/timesdispatch/name/jeanne-flatin-obituary?id=60855193&utm\\_source=webshareapi&utm\\_medium=share\\_button&utm\\_campaign=wsapi\\_mobile\\_beta](https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/timesdispatch/name/jeanne-flatin-obituary?id=60855193&utm_source=webshareapi&utm_medium=share_button&utm_campaign=wsapi_mobile_beta)**



**Barbara Ratchford [January 29, 1936 – March 9, 2026]** of Davie, Florida passed away early in the morning of **March 9, 2026** in her home in Davie, FL, after a valiant battle with cancer. In 1981, Barbara and husband Bill moved to Northern Virginia where she captivated a new generation of students as a teacher of English at Yorktown High School. She saw teaching as a noble calling and a way to serve the community. Barbara incredibly carried on her career for 50 years total in the classroom. In her retirement, Barbara moved to be nearer her sister and brother-in-law in Davie, FL. There she carried on her deeply held belief in community and giving back as a vibrant member of the River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation. **More details at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/davie-fl/barbara-ratchford-12777064>**



**Edith (Edie) Smolinski, 87**, passed away peacefully on **April 6, 2026**, at Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads. Born on November 27, 1938, in Bemus Point, New York, she attended Bemus Point High School, where she was a valedictorian, graduated from SUNY Oswego, and later earned master's degrees from both the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech. In 1972, Edie and her husband settled in Falls Church, Virginia where Edie devoted her career to education in Fairfax County Public Schools. She began as a middle school mathematics teacher and went on to serve as school counselor and later Director of Counseling. Both she and her husband of 62 years, Tom Smolinski, were active in ARTA leadership. Tom preceded her in death last year. **A Celebration of Life and reception will be held on Sunday, May 31, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads. For more details, see**

**<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/falls-church-va/edith-smolinski-12823036>**



**Former member Laura Simpson Keller, November 14, 1950 - February 17, 2026** Laura, 75, passed away on Tuesday, February 17th, 2026 in the company of family and friends in Alexandria, VA. Laura taught many different grades across her thirty-five-year career as an elementary school teacher. Laura began her career teaching Kindergarten at McKinley Elementary in 1972 and following an extended maternity leave resumed at Tuckahoe Elementary where she taught until retiring in 2008. It was during her tenure at Tuckahoe that she and a cohort of Tuckahoe teachers earned their MA from George Mason University. Laura looked back fondly at her three and a half decades of teaching and cherished the many lifelong friends she made over the years at McKinley and Tuckahoe.

Back in February, **Scott Taylor**, the head of the Arlington Black History Museum (ARTA did a field trip there), announced that his 90-year-old father passed away. **Judy Jankowski**, ARTA's Concerns Chair, sent a sympathy card to Scott on behalf of ARTA.

## **MERGING OF SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS by Randy McKnight**

On March 10, Nancy King, Lynn Juhl, Cathy Eckbreth, and Randy McKnight met with Jennifer Owens, President & CEO of The Arlington Community Foundation and Natalia Muniz-Martin, Program Manager of ACF. The purpose of the meeting was to combine the funds from *The Future Educators Scholarship Fund* and the *Jack Wilson ARTA Scholarship Fund* to create one scholarship fund. The new fund, *The Future Educators Scholarship Fund*, will continue to award two scholarships each year. The total amount of each scholarship has been raised to \$15,000, providing the student with \$3,000 a year for up to 5 years. The student can use the fifth year to complete a bachelor's degree or pursue a master's degree.

Due to the amazing generosity of ARTA members, this new fund over the next few years will reach an endowed level that will guarantee that ARTA can award scholarships in perpetuity. Merging the funds will also ensure that the amounts awarded by each scholarship would not diverge over time. Every dollar you contribute to this fund gets us closer to the endowment goal, and if we exceed that, will allow us to increase the award amount or the number of scholarships given in the future.

Given that the “Cost of Attendance” at a state university can be as much as \$43,000 a year, the impact of ARTA’s scholarships might appear to be small, but the opposite is true. Both scholarships are need based, and the students have few financial resources to meet the “Expected Family Contribution.” For many low-income students, our scholarship can meet up to 100% of what a student’s out-of-pocket costs are after the college calculates their financial need and provides other aid.

If you have questions about any aspect of the scholarships, send them to Randy McKnight at [trmckn@gmail.com](mailto:trmckn@gmail.com).

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Concerns Chair Judy Jankowski** requests that ARTA members who learn of a member’s **death** to please notify **her** immediately so that we can inform our members of pertinent details/arrangements. Remember to also notify her of any occasion – both happy and sad -- for which she should send a card. Call or text her at **571-236-4058** or email to [ventaruchL2@gmail.com](mailto:ventaruchL2@gmail.com).

Remember to send any interesting newsletter items to **me, your editor**, by **August 18, 2026 to go into the next issue (for Sept.-Oct. 2026)**. Send to: Ellen S. Bartlett, 908 North Daniel Street, Arlington, VA 22201-1930, call me at 703 524-3312, or email me at [ellenbartlett@verizon.net](mailto:ellenbartlett@verizon.net)

**INPUT NEEDED:** The **ARTA Board** will be meeting in **June** to finalize plans for next year’s programs [2026-27]. Please let us know any ideas you have for programs you’d like to attend!

### LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY, 2026 SESSION -- Submitted by Jeanne Trabulsi

The **2026 General Assembly** delivered important progress on school safety and student well-being, but core challenges remain unresolved. Final action during the Governor’s review and reconvened session can still strengthen outcomes for Virginia’s students and educators.

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#### Key Issues

Teacher Pay Remains Uncompetitive

- Proposed raises do **not** place Virginia on a path to the national average.
- One-time bonuses fail to support long-term recruitment and retention.
- Staffing shortages—especially in high-needs schools—persist.

**We need:** Meaningful, ongoing salary increases that stabilize the educator workforce.

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#### School Funding Is Structurally Insufficient

- Additional K-12 funding does not fix long-standing underinvestment.
- Core costs—staffing, special education, student supports—continue to exceed funding formulas.

**We need:** Sustainable investments that reflect real classroom costs.

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#### Equity Gaps Persist

- Students facing barriers (special education, at-risk populations, community schools) remain underfunded.

**We need:** Targeted resources to ensure all students can succeed.

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#### What We Appreciate

This session advanced legislation that improves:

- School safety and threat-assessment training
- Student mental health supports
- Internet and digital safety instruction
- Access to public education for all students

## ARTA OFFICERS 2026-27

We have a very partial slate of officers for 2026-27. These officers will be installed at our luncheon on May 20, but we need others:

**President: Needed!!**

**Secretary: Terry Bratt**

**Vice President: Needed!**

**Treasurer: Randy McKnight [Angie Osgood, Asst.]**

We are still looking for ARTA members to step forward to ensure the future viability of the association. Please consider the following available leadership roles:

**President**, who assumes the major responsibility for guiding the organization, with constant input from the Board, especially from the

- **Vice President**, who oversees the year's programs. The Board members also share ideas and arrange for speakers, as needed
- **Members-at-Large**, who would like to get involved before jumping in for a major role. This has been quite successful
- Please contact **Lynne** at 703-536-2550 or 703-598-7355 if you are interested in any role and would like to discuss becoming an active member of the ARTA leadership team!

### BITS AND PIECES

**Shirley Bratton** would like to let friends know that she suffered a stroke in February and is recovering well with the help from her daughter Ann Marie. She would love to hear from APS friends: **Shirley Bratton, 25 Manor Drive, Edinburg, VA 22824**

**Karen Darner** was sorry she did not get a chance to say goodbye to all of her friends before her move to Westminster Village in Bloomington, IL, where she will be near her niece. When her apartment there became available sooner than expected, her niece flew down to help her pack and they left right away! **See the new address under "Changes," p. 8.**

### UPDATED INSTRUCTIONS TO GET A VISITOR PASS TO FT. MYER...NOW CALLED JBM-HH (Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall)

**People who have a DoD (Dept. of Defense) ID or a Military ID or Military Dependent ID, do not need a pass. They need to show their REAL ID and their DoD ID.**

**For everyone else, request a 24-hour base access pass by  
visiting: <https://pass.aie.army.mil/jbmhh/>**

- Online access request applications are for a **24-hour pass only**.
- Please request online no more than 10 days ahead or less than three days prior to the date access is needed.
- Online registration is limited to personnel who have a state issued REAL ID driver's license and/or state issued identification card or PASSPORT. All other forms of ID must be processed in-person.
- Active requests begin when you enter your information online and end when the pass expires.
- If approved, your pass will be embedded onto the identification used to register for your online pass. **Present that identification to the Access Control Personnel upon entry to the installation.**
- This system **requires** the use of a **mobile phone** that can **receive text messages** for pass approval, denial, or resubmission notifications. If you do not have a mobile phone, you will be required to visit the **Visitor Control Center** during business hours
- 



- or if outside business hours be processed “in-lane” when you arrive to the installation. Bring your REAL ID or PASSPORT.
- **If you do not receive a text response within 48 to 72 hours or have any questions, call the VCC during regular business hours at 703-696-0186/0189 for assistance.**
- **REAL ID:** Visitors will need to ensure their State Identification/Driver's License is "REAL ID" compliant/Enhanced ID or have a **secondary form of Identification** [as a **PASSPORT**] to validate their noncompliant-REAL ID regardless of online pass approval before entry is granted.

**Request a 24-hour base access pass by visiting: <https://pass.aie.army.mil/jbmhh/>**

Any questions contact Michele Milden at [mbmilden@aol.com](mailto:mbmilden@aol.com) or 703-244-5151.

**Continue for the luncheon reservation information.**



## ANNUAL MAY LUNCHEON INFORMATION

This year’s luncheon will be held at **Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, but in the newly renovated Spates Hall Conference Center, located at 214 McNair Road, Fort Myer, VA 22211.** As you enter, the **Sergeant Major of the Army Room** will be on the right for our socializing and eating. Also different this year, we will have a **Chef’s Choice Buffet Luncheon for \$35** (service charges & gratuities are included). Your choices include all of the following: Mixed Green Salad, Rolls & Butter, Chicken with a White Creamy Butter & Caper Sauce, Roast Beef Tips with Madeira Sauce, Pasta Primavera, Roasted Potatoes, Roasted Mixed Vegetables, as well as Chocolate Cake and Apple Pie for dessert. Coffee, Iced Tea, and Water are included. There will be a **Beverage Station** with small bottles of red and white wines for \$6.00 and assorted sodas at \$2.50 (cash only). **This year’s theme will celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of America.**

**Please reserve your seat(s) by completing the clip-off form below, and send it with your check to Michele Milden by May 12, 2026.** We have to give Spate Hall a guaranteed number by the 13th. Due to security, please plan ahead (4 to 7 days) to reserve an *Online Visitor Pass* at [https://pass.aie.army.mil/steps/terms\\_of\\_use](https://pass.aie.army.mil/steps/terms_of_use). Carpooling is encouraged for ease of entry to the base. Those who wish to join a carpool, should check that off on the RSVP slip. We will try to accommodate.

**Date of Luncheon:** Wednesday, May 20, 2026 (Note: Third Wednesday in May!)

**Time:** 12 noon - 2:30 p.m. -- For ease in entering and parking, be there by 11:15 a.m. and allow plenty of time to get in as some cars get more screening.

**Place:** Spates Hall Conference Center, 214 McNair Road, Fort Myer, VA 22211. **Because of security changes, anyone who does not have a Department of Defense (DoD)-issued ID is to go online to enter the base only through the Hatfield Gate - Washington Boulevard at South 2nd Street in Arlington. A government-issued PICTURE ID IS REQUIRED (Real ID Driver’s License or Passport) and a PRINTED COPY of your Online Visitor Pass (https://home.army.mil/jbmhh/my-fort/all-services/access-gate-info) must be presented at the gate.**

**Cost:** \$35.00 - Make check payable to ARTA and mail along with slip below to Michele Milden, 5829 Colfax Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22311-1013 (to arrive by May 12).

**Directions:** The Hatfield Gate is accessed from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street off Washington Blvd or S. Fillmore St. Once through the gate you will be directed to the Pass Lane, Search Lane, or Visitor’s Center. At exit, bear right and take first left onto McNair Rd. Spates Hall will be on the left with ample parking across the street. Take right into parking lot. If you need more information, call the **Visitor’s Center** at 703-696-0186/0189 or consult their web site at <https://home.army.mil/jbmhh/my-fort/all-services/access-gate-info> or call Michele Milden @703-244-5151.

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Clip and return this form with check made payable to ARTA  
**MAY 20, 2026 LUNCHEON RESERVATION**  
(May 12, 2026 deadline for return to Michele Milden, 5829 Colfax Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22311-1013.)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # with area code \_\_\_\_\_ # of Reservations @ **\$35.00** \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to take passengers? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Do you need to carpool? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



*Happy 250<sup>th</sup>, USA!!*