

Concerned MWR PATRONS
P.O. Box 57, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060
www.concernedmwrpatrons.org

May 13, 2008

The Honorable John W. Warner
Senator from Virginia
225 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4601

Dear Senator,

We call your attention to a matter affecting your constituents, which we have raised with the political representatives to the Fort Belvoir BRAC Board of Advisors. This issue, which if allowed to proceed on its own momentum, could adversely affect the quality of life of active duty and retired military who consider the Fort Belvoir Golf Facility as a military benefit they have earned.

Current Army planning calls for siting of the National Museum of the United States Army (NMUSA) off Kingman Road on the North 36 Golf Facility. While we regret the selection of this site, we understand the Army's preference for it, since local political/installation BRAC planning effectively eliminated more desirable Fort Belvoir locations. The issue is not that we object to the need for a NMUSA or even its final siting. The issue we oppose is the latest planned downsizing of the FBGF from 36 to 27 holes in 2010 to make room for the NMUSA construction. The closing of the South-9 Golf Course in 2007 as part of BRAC and the planned downsizing for the North-36 means Army leadership is pointed towards reducing Fort Belvoir's golf facilities from 45 to 27-holes in three years - a 40% reduction without restitution. These are Morale, Welfare, and Recreational (MWR) facilities that were paid for with Non-Appropriated Funding (NAF) that was generated through patron spending at military facilities.

Army leadership has indicated the issue of NMUSA siting and any possible downsizing has yet to be decided. All indications points to a July decision on the matter by Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installation and Environment, Keith Eastin. To ensure Army leadership understands the full impact of any decision to downsize the FBGF to a 27-hole layout, we prepared an *Impact Study* and forwarded it to Army leadership on April 28, 2008. A copy of its executive summary is attached and the full report is posted on our web site. It challenges the validity of Army claims that a 27-hole golf facility will more adequately suit Fort Belvoir's needs. Moreover, it shows that 36-holes can be retained by building replacement holes on land contiguous to the residual holes not affected by the NMUSA footprint at a cost of \$1.6 to 2.8 million or 1-2% of the \$200+ million estimated NMUSA costs. This is a simple decision resulting in a win-win solution.

This restitution of golf holes lost to BRAC or other Army construction is not new. Fort Meade is doing it as part of 2005 BRAC. Restitution provides a way for the Army to support the interests of the NMUSA and retain the quality of life and recreational needs of the current and future veterans from all services. We need more from Army leadership than an assurance it will consider restitution. We need action to make it happen.

We ask for your active participation in support of the restitution of the 45-holes of golf as described in our *Impact Study*. Anything less will be an erosion of a military benefit, will fester as a divisive issue, and will contradict the values of the "Total Army Family".

Very Respectfully,

Edward (Ted) H. Cummings, Colonel, USA (Ret)
(703) 978-0966; Email:tedcummings@verizon.net
for the Concerned MWR PATRONS

2 Incl: Letter and Executive Summary

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May 13, 2008

The Honorable James Webb
Senator from Virginia
144 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4604

Dear Senator,

We call your attention to a matter affecting your constituents, which we have raised with the political representatives to the Fort Belvoir BRAC Board of Advisors. This issue, which if allowed to proceed on its own momentum, could adversely affect the quality of life of active duty and retired military who consider the Fort Belvoir Golf Facility as a military benefit they have earned.

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May 13, 2008

The Honorable James P. Moran
Representative, 8th District of Virginia
2239 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4608

Dear Representative,

We call your attention to a matter affecting your constituents, which we have raised with the political representatives to the Fort Belvoir BRAC Board of Advisors. This issue, which if allowed to proceed on its own momentum, could adversely affect the quality of life of active duty and retired military who consider the Fort Belvoir Golf Facility as a military benefit they have earned.

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May 13, 2008

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
Representative, 10th District of Virginia
241 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4610

Dear Representative,

We call your attention to a matter affecting your constituents, which we have raised with the political representatives to the Fort Belvoir BRAC Board of Advisors. This issue, which if allowed to proceed on its own momentum, could adversely affect the quality of life of active duty and retired military who consider the Fort Belvoir Golf Facility as a military benefit they have earned.

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May 13, 2008

The Honorable Thomas M. Davis III
Representative, 11th District of Virginia
2348 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4611

Dear Representative,

We call your attention to a matter affecting your constituents, which we have raised with the political representatives to the Fort Belvoir BRAC Board of Advisors. This issue, which if allowed to proceed on its own momentum, could adversely affect the quality of life of active duty and retired military who consider the Fort Belvoir Golf Facility as a military benefit they have earned.

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