



Press Release- For Immediate Release

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Peninsula Chamber Welcomes New CEO and Says Good-bye to Retiring CEO

On March 1, 2018, **Robert S. McKenna** takes the helm as the President/CEO of the Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce. He was selected from over 185 applicants from across the country. A Newport News resident, Bob is a retired U.S. Navy Captain and graduate of the United States Merchant Marine Academy at King's Point, NY. He served in the U.S. Navy for 27 years as a Surface Warfare Officer with many deployments and senior command positions.

Dan Chenoweth, Chairman of the Chamber Board of Directors said, "Bob's extensive leadership experience, at the highest level, is what separated him from all the other applicants. We wanted someone who can continue our focus on regional collaborative leadership and who has a proven record of team building".

Since his retirement from the U.S. Navy, Bob he has worked as a government contractor supporting the US Navy, and as a U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs community liaison on the Peninsula, working to enhance educational and employment opportunities for transitioning service members and their families. He has served on the Secretary of Veteran and Defense Affairs' Peninsula Local Planning Group for Transitioning Services members, coordinated by the Peninsula Chamber for then-Secretary John Harvey.

Bob is married, and he and his family reside in Newport News where he is active in coaching youth athletic programs.

Retiring Chamber CEO Mike Kuhns, who departs on March 31st, said, "Bob will be able to hit the ground running and lead the Chamber to the next level. He is an engaging leader who understands the impact of collaboration. What more could the Chamber ask for?".

Kuhns and McKenna will work together for the month of March. Kuhns will remain in Newport News and continue his engagement with the Thomas Nelson Community College Board as Vice Chair; HRIC's Foundation for Innovation, and supportive organizations for the Newport News Fire Department.

ABOUT THE VIRGINIA PENINSULA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

The Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce (VPCC) serves the Cities of Newport News, Hampton and Poquoson; and James City County and York County.

VPCC is a business association, with over 1400 members and associates, which "Connects Business with Opportunity" through Facilitation, Advocacy, Communication and Education.

The VPCC takes a leadership and advocacy position on pro-Peninsula and pro-business public policy impacting the Virginia Peninsula business community. The VPCC hosts a series of educational, and leadership programs, including the annual State of the City Series; the Peninsula Executive Leadership Forum; LEAD Peninsula, Military Job Fair; Pink Bag Lunches; and Business Connections, in addition to numerous business roundtables.

The VPCC is located at 21 Enterprise Parkway, Suite 100 in Hampton. For more information, call 757.262.2000 or email info@vpcc.org.

Connect to the Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce online at www.vapeninsulachamber.com and via LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Google+.

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