



2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

**GENESEE VALLEY CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
NEWSLETTER**

VISIT US AT [GVCMOAA.ORG](http://GVCMOAA.ORG)

**SERVING MEMBERS AND THEIR COUNTRY \*\*\* NEVER STOP SERVING \*\*\* February 2016**

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER:**



It is with a very heavy heart that I write this month's column. As you may have heard already, the Chapter is deeply saddened by the passing of Past President Jerry Luzum, CAPT, USN (Ret). On Sunday, 31 January, 2016, he peacefully passed away at home, surrounded by his family he loved so much. Calling hours were held on Thursday, 4 February. Rosemary will be having a Memorial Mass for Jerry probably next month, so those of you who may have missed the calling hours will have the opportunity to pay your respects and visit with Rosemary. If one word could sum up the life of Jerry Luzum, it would be service: Service to God, Family, Country, Veterans, and all others. His 29 years of service in the US Navy took the Luzum family all over the world, with Jerry spending a lot of time away from home. He served two deployments to Viet Nam, serving with the Sea Bees on many different projects. As he rose through the ranks, his responsibilities grew and his leadership skills became quite evident. More travel, always taking care of his family and men and women. Never asked anybody to do a job

that he wouldn't do himself. The organizational pyramid diagram from top to bottom existed only on paper for Jerry. He led by example and trusted his team to always do the right thing.

The dedication he had for always serving, especially veterans, was most evident with his work for our Chapter and MOAA, as well as other veteran service organizations and advisory boards. 5 consecutive 5-Star Level of Excellence Awards. The Harris Communication Award. The NYS Intrastate Compact on the Educational Opportunities for Military Families finally passed – the very last State of the Union to do so. Jerry worked relentlessly for all veterans, no matter their status, rank, or affiliation.

Jerry was clearly a man of deep compassion and understanding, out of which came great love, service, integrity, leadership, and honesty. Great love for his God, his family, and his country. We have lost a true leader, noble patriot, an officer, and a gentleman. Heaven has welcomed home His faithful servant. Fair Winds and Following Seas, CAPT Luzum. We shall miss you.

**CHAPTER MEETING – 6 March 2016:** Bob Zale has again worked very hard to put our annual ROTC Awards Dinner together. Chapter members are always very interested to hear the stories of the ROTC and JROTC unit commanders and to meet the cadets and midshipmen who receive the MOAA medal. This medal is given to one cadet in each of the ROTC units who exhibit leadership and academic achievement in their programs. It is

truly incumbent on us, as retired or former officers, to encourage and support these young men and women who **CHOOSE** to serve their country. They need to know that we have been in their shoes, and MOAA and its web of Chapters will continue to mentor them, to advocate for legislation that protects them and their future families, and to support them throughout their careers. Please make a special effort to attend this Chapter Meeting to show your visible support. We also thank USAA, which will provide a substantial grant that will help us to honor our future leaders. Meal choices and details are at the end of this newsletter.

**HONOR FLIGHT ROCHESTER:** The Board of Directors approved to increase the Chapter's donation amount to \$500 to Honor Flight to fund the cost of sending one veteran on an Honor Flight Mission. There 3 spring missions: 30 Apr – 1 May, 21 – 22 May, and 18-19 June.

**Veterans Memorial & Executive Committee Legislative Breakfast:** Russ Green, Kathy Green, Barb Green and I attended the breakfast on 7 February 2016. Local legislators or their assistants were there to hear the needs of area veterans, representing many different service organizations. The hottest topic was the Westfall Road Clinic and its seemingly stalled progress. Nevertheless, the consensus was that the NYS Legislature should get involved now and begin pursuing permits, traffic control, and highway reconstruction considerations now.

**VAMC DONATIONS:** Please do not forget to bring Personal Care items for our vets. There will be a donation box at the check-in table at every Chapter meeting.

Norma E. Weissend, LtCol, USAF (Ret)  
[President](#)

#### **GVC AUXILIARY:**

It was noted in the September newsletter, MOAA was planning on bringing out a new publication, **The Survivor's Guide**. It is now available along with two other appropriate publications: **Help Your Survivors Now: A Guide to Planning Ahead** and **Survivor's Checklist: First Steps for Moving On**.

These are available as downloads from the MOAA website ([www.moaa.org/infoexchange](http://www.moaa.org/infoexchange)). They are also available from MOAA in hard copy.

Marion Mench, Auxiliary Liaison

**Spouses Club:** The spouses club was able to raise over \$300.00 from crafts, raffles and bake goods at the last Holiday Party in December. We were saddened to hear of the passing of Ret. Captain Jerry Luzum. In honor of his memory we donated money to Honor Flight and sent a plant to Rosemary. Our next meeting will be March 16<sup>th</sup> at Phillips European Restaurant, we welcome any spouse to attend this meeting. Please contact Eileen Carlsen @ [ecarlsen32@gmail.com](mailto:ecarlsen32@gmail.com) , or 585-377-5665 if you are able to attend.

#### **GVC/MOAA BOARD MEMBERS 2015-2017**

**President:** Norma Weissend, Lt Col, USAF (Ret) 585-746-2904  
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**Secretary:** Joseph Ballister, Lt Col, USAF  
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**Treasurer:** James Nielsen, Commander, USN  
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**Past President:** Robert Zale, Col, USAF (Ret)  
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Signe Zale: [sigbobzale@aol.com](mailto:sigbobzale@aol.com)

### **FUTURE MEETING DATES:**

24 April 2106 – Tentative location Burgundy Basin

5 June 2016 – GVC Annual Meeting Dinner – Tentative location Canandaigua Yacht Club

### **FROM TREASURER JIM NIELSEN**

**Dues Reminder: 2016 chapter dues of \$20.00 are payable at the beginning of the year.**

There has been some confusion in the past between chapter versus MOAA National dues. The two are separate and distinct. MOAA National mails its dues notices separately. The Chapter, on the other hand, does not bill for dues, but rather gives notice in the Chapter newsletter when dues are payable.

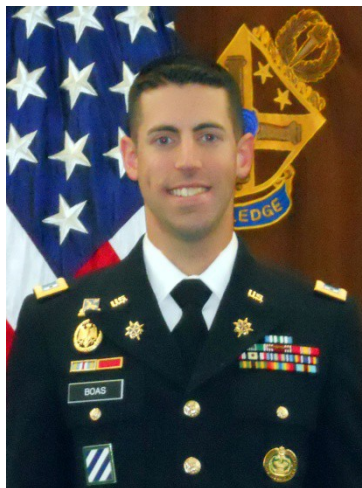
If you are interested, you can stop all future dues payments entirely by becoming a Life Member. Life Memberships are based on your age, according to the following schedule:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Life Dues</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Life Dues</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Life Dues</u>
<45	\$360	61-65	\$290	81-85	\$150
46-50	350	66-70	270	86-89	110
51-55	330	71-75	230	90+	No charge
56-60	310	76-80	190		

You may send your check to Jim (see below) or include your payment with your dinner reservations. Make checks out to:

**Genesee Valley Chapter MOAA**  
 c/o CRD James Nielsen  
 17 Woodward Drive  
 Le Roy, NY 14482

If you have questions concerning your dues payments, past or present, contact Jim at 585-768-7249 or email [JimNiels@Rochester.rr.com](mailto:JimNiels@Rochester.rr.com)



**GVC Member Awarded Bronze Star**

GVC member CW2 Ryan A. Boas has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for service after his most recent deployment to Afghanistan, which ended in Oct 2015. CW2 Boas enlisted in the Army in 2003. He rose to the rank of Sergeant First Class before graduating from Warrant Officer Candidate School and being appointed as a Warrant Officer One in Nov 2011 and advanced to CW2 in Nov 2013. He has been a member of the Genesee Valley Chapter since 2012.

CW2 Boas is currently an All-Source Intelligence Technician for the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. His previous assignments include: Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Fort Sam Houston, Texas; and Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia. He has deployed twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom – to Camp Taji in 2005 with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division and to Camp Cropper from 2007-

2008 as part of the Joint Interrogation and Debriefing Center. He has also deployed twice to Afghanistan – to Forward Operating Base Salerno in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from 2012-2013 and to Bagram Airfield in support of Operation Freedom’s Sentinel in 2015, both with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division.

His military education includes Warrant Officer Basic Course, Warrant Officer Candidate School, Anti-Terrorism Officer Basic Course, DoD Threat Vulnerabilities Course, Foreign Disclosure Officer Course, Unit Movement Officer Course, Basic Analyst Manager’s Course, Security Manager’s Course, Distributed Common Ground System-Army (DCGS-A) Course, All-Source Analysis System (ASAS)-Light Basic Operator’s Course, and Army Basic Instructor’s Course. He received an Associate of Science Degree in Intelligence Operations with Honors from Cochise College in 2010. He has also taken numerous courses through Alfred University, Troy University, Monroe Community College, and Central Texas College, as well as received Army ROTC training from Saint Bonaventure University and Rochester Institute of Technology.

His military awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Army Meritorious Unit Commendation with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal with two Knots, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with two Campaign Stars, Iraq Campaign Medal with one Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with Numeral Three, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon with Numeral Four, NATO Medal with Bronze Star (ISAF and Afghanistan Clasps), Air Assault Badge, Drill Sergeant Identification Badge, German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge in Gold, and Norwegian Foot March Badge in Bronze (first award). Additionally, he was a General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award nominee in 2015. He has also placed first in the *“ARMY” Magazine Photo Contest*, the *All-Army Digital Photography Contest*, the *Military Officers Association of America Photo Contest*, and been a finalist in the *Art In Embassies Photo Contest*.

**CW2 Boas is the son of Keith and Carol Anne Boas, and nephew of LTC Russ Green, USA (Ret) and Kathy Green and Col Barbara Green USA (Ret).**

Bob Zale has again coordinated with all local ROTC/Jr. ROTC organizations for our March 6<sup>th</sup> Annual ROTC Awards dinner. We hope to see you at this great occasion to meet the cadets and midshipmen. Reserve your meals using the form below.

**GENESEE VALLEY CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

**Sunday 6 March 2016**

*Whittier Party House  
88 Whittier Rd. 594-4500*

**1300 - Social Hour - cash bar**

**1400 - Dinner**

**ENTRÉE CHOICES**

Chicken French with rice  
Broiled Haddock with rice  
10-12oz prime rib au jus with baked potato  
All dinners served with salad, seasoned vegetables, rolls & butter, coffee or tea and sherbet

**Reservations due ASAP but NLT Wednesday March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Please clip use form provided below  
***Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Friday March 4th***

**Questions: Norma – 585.746.2904**

**CLIP HERE AND SEND**

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**RESERVATION FORM FOR 06 March 2016 MEETING at  
Whittier Party House**

ALL Name(s) Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate number of each meal desired:

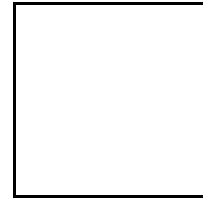
Chicken French \_\_\_\_\_ Broiled Haddock \_\_\_\_\_ Prime Rib \_\_\_\_\_

Check for \_\_\_\_\_ meal(s) at **\$30.00 each**

Please make checks payable to **GVC MOAA** and mail to:

**GVC MOAA  
c/o Norma Weissend  
4587 Ridge Rd  
Canandaigua, NY 14424**

**Genesee Valley Chapter  
Military Officers Assn of America  
PO Box 20874  
Rochester, NY 14602-0874**



**February 2016 Newsletter**

**First Class Mail**

