



2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

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

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

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

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**PRESIDENT'S CORNER:**



As we approach our summer break, we will witness an historic election cycle through the fall. We have many things to think about, consider, and act on. As military officers, no matter what your status is: former, retired, or currently serving; it is incumbent on us to take action to ensure our fellow veterans are properly being taken care in return for their sacrifices.

As members of the Genesee Valley Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, we have a powerful voice on Capitol Hill. Your membership in our Chapter **AND** MOAA matters. You have a voice in your own Congressional districts and state and local elections. Your letters to them matter. Our New York Council “**Storming the Hill**” team took to the halls of Congress in April to lobby for legislative issues that, as former MOAA president Vice Admiral Ryan once said, concern the “one weapon system that never fails: **PEOPLE.**” You can help to get your own Representative on board by visiting <http://www.moaa.org/> and go to the “Take Action” tab and then click on “Legislative Action Center.” Some of the current hot issues include:

**Eliminate the SBP-DIC Offset:** Urge congressional leaders to find the money needed

to end unfair financial penalties imposed on thousands of military widows. Under current law, 63,000 military widows are penalized \$15,000 a year because military service caused their service-member's death. The law requires deduction of the VA annuity for the service-caused death from the Survivor Benefit Plan annuity purchased by the retiring service-members. This is called the military "widows tax."

**Active Duty Pay:** For the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row, according to Personnel Subcommittee chair Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) this Administration has failed “to allow service-members' pay to keep up with the private sector wage growth.” DoD thinks the proposed 1.6 percent increase is great because it's the largest raise in four years. However, it is still below the average American's 2.1 percent raise, and still under the raise required by law.

**Blended Retirement System:** Under current law, the new system cuts military retired pay by 20%, but provides up to a 5% government match to service-members' deposits in federal Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) accounts. Government matching begins when a service-member reaches three years of service. DoD's budget proposes delaying government matching until the fifth year of service. This proposal directly counters one of the main reasons why Congress originally approved the change to retirement: to provide a retirement benefit to more service-members, especially the majority who do not stay for twenty years. “Let me be

clear. It is our commitment to the many service-members who go out on deployment before reaching their fifth year of service that they, too, have earned some retirement,” said Graham.

**Your vote matters.** Today’s political climate is harmful to the protection of our freedom, for which too many have fought and paid the ultimate price. We have taken an oath to “support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same.” I know that you, like me, still take that oath seriously and remain committed to join as “One Powerful Voice” to preserve that oath.

**MEMBERSHIP:** GVC currently stands at nearly 125 members. All but eight are MOAA members. Remember, Chapter membership and MOAA National membership are separate and require separate dues. If you are not a national MOAA member, I invite you to investigate the different levels of membership. Also, please make sure you are paid up on your annual Chapter dues. The Chapter does NOT send dues notices out. If you are not sure, please contact 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Membership Chair Ken Carlsen.

I’d like to formally recognize Chapter members Lt General Charles McCausland, USAF (Ret) and COL Larry Feasel, USA (Ret) who have become **MOAA Life Members**. Thank you for your commitment to the MOAA organization.

I also would like to formally welcome Heidi Carr, CAPT (former), USA to our Chapter and MOAA National as well.

**NYS CoC ANNUAL CONVENTION:** This will be our 44<sup>th</sup> consecutive Council annual meeting. To my knowledge, no other council has had more consecutive meetings. Several of your Board Members and their spouses will attend this meeting 13-16 September at Fort William Henry Hotel and Conference Center on Lake George. Please visit [www.gvcmoaa.org](http://www.gvcmoaa.org) for more information.

**NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:** Sunday, 5 June 2016 at the Canandaigua Yacht Club. Our guest speaker will be Daniel Ballister, a USNA graduate-turned-entrepreneur. Daniel, the son of Chapter Secretary Joe and Nancy Ballister, and few of his fellow Academy alumni will tell us the story of how the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia was instrumental in their journey to make the best hot sauce ever! I hope that you will join us for some good food and good company before the summer break.

**HONOR FLIGHT:** Mission #47: 21-22 May and Mission #48: 18-19 June. Witnessing the welcome home for these veterans on Sunday is an awesome event! They usually arrive at ROC around noon. You won’t be disappointed!

**UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES:**

**21 May 2016:** Armed Forces Day – On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Days. The single day celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under the Department of Defense. Enjoy!

**26 May 2016:** Happy 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Genesee Valley Chapter of MOAA!

**30 May 2016:** Memorial Day – I know you will participate in the solemn ceremonies of your hometown to honor those who gave their lives for our country.

**14 June 2016:** Happy Birthday US Army and Flag Day.

**4 August 2016: Happy Birthday Coast Guard!**

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

**GVC AUXILIARY: From the MOAA**

**Website:** May 6, 2016 Current law imposes a severe financial penalty of up to \$15,000 a year on the surviving spouse of an active duty or retired member who dies of a service-caused condition. That's because the VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payable for the service-caused death is deducted from their

servicemember-purchased Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity. This is known as the “widows tax.”

Recognizing the inequity, Congress authorized a Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) in 2008 as partial recompense for the SBP-DIC offset. Then-House Armed Service Committee Chairman Ike Skelton (D-Mo.), expressed the intent to continue increasing SSIA and ultimately phase out the widows tax.

SSIA is currently \$275 per month and will increase to \$310 per month next year. But authority to pay it expires October 1, 2017. So unless Congress acts this year, survivors will lose over \$3,700 per year.

The House Armed Services Committee found only enough mandatory spending offsets to extend the SSIA one more year in the FY17 Defense Authorization Bill. But military widows deserve more substantive relief.

**You can help protect these survivors by sending your legislators a **MOAA-suggested message** urging House and Senate leaders to identify the necessary savings offsets to eliminate or phase out the widows tax as both chambers address the defense bill later this month.**

- See more at:  
[http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/Top-Issues/Family/Act-Now-to-Help-Military-Survivors.aspx?utm\\_source=legis&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=03&utm\\_campaign=militarysurvivors#sthash.heSit5MT.dpuf](http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/Top-Issues/Family/Act-Now-to-Help-Military-Survivors.aspx?utm_source=legis&utm_medium=email&utm_content=03&utm_campaign=militarysurvivors#sthash.heSit5MT.dpuf)
- [Marion Mench, Auxiliary Liaison](#)
- 

about permanent MOAA name badges. Of course, if you are a Life Member, you know you are entitled to a gold Life Member name badge at no cost to you. (If you are a Life Member and don't have one, please let us know.) But did you know you can also order white MOAA name badges for the cost \$10? The badges have the National MOAA logo, “Genesee Valley Chapter”, your name, rank, service, and “(RET)”, if appropriate. They are also available for spouses, minus the rank and service line. Please let LTC Russ Green ([russgreen@aol.com](mailto:russgreen@aol.com)) know if you wish to order one.

**Spouses Club:** Six members of our Spouses club met with the Director of Zion House for our April meeting. We learned of the day to day operation of the home and how much the care and compassion is given to our homeless female Veterans who are housed at this remarkable home. Our next meeting will be at Mr. Dominic's Restaurant on May18th. We welcome any spouse to attend this meeting. Please contact Eileen Carlsen at [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

Email: [normaweis@roadrunner.com](mailto:normaweis@roadrunner.com)

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Peter Ingalsbe, COL, USA (Ret) 585-749-3390 (cell)

Email: [pingalsbe@gmail.com](mailto:pingalsbe@gmail.com)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Ken Carlsen, CDR, USN (Ret) 585-377-5665

Email: [kcarlsen32@gmail.com](mailto:kcarlsen32@gmail.com)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President:** Russ Green, LTC, USA (Ret) 585-425-4292

Email: [russgreen@aol.com](mailto:russgreen@aol.com)

**Name Badges**It's been a while since we talked

**Transition Liaison:** Dave Szczygiel  
(see below)

**Member at Large:** Nancy Swanson, Captain,  
USN (Ret) 585-394-1732  
Email: [gns92649@hotmail.com](mailto:gns92649@hotmail.com)

**Secretary:** Joseph Ballister, Lt Col, USAF  
(Ret) 585-334-9775  
Email: [ballister@earthlink.net](mailto:ballister@earthlink.net)

**Treasurer:** James Nielsen, Commander, USN  
(Ret) 585-768-7249  
Email: [jimniels@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jimniels@rochester.rr.com)

**Past President:** Dave Szczygiel, BG, USA  
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Email: [mszczygiel@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mszczygiel@rochester.rr.com)

**Past President:** Robert Zale, Col, USAF (Ret)  
585-594-8422  
Email: [sigbobzale@aol.com](mailto:sigbobzale@aol.com)

**Past President:** Barbara Green, Col, USA (Ret)  
585-330-2708  
Email: [bgreenanc@gmail.com](mailto:bgreenanc@gmail.com)

**Auxiliary Liaison:** Marion Mench  
585-217-1779  
Email: [mosimpli@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mosimpli@rochester.rr.com)

### **FROM TREASURER JIM NIELSEN**

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

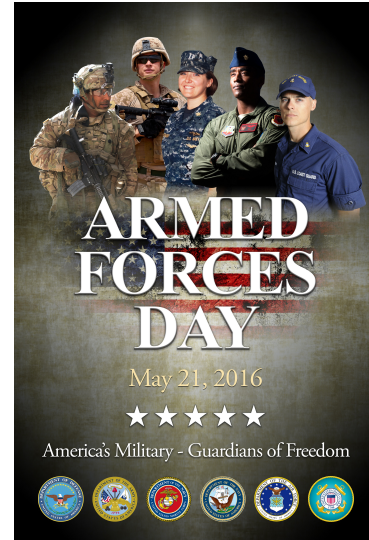
There has been some confusion in the past between chapter versus MOAA National dues. The two are separate and distinct. MOAA National mails its dues notices separately. The Chapter, on the other hand, does not bill for dues, but rather gives notice in the Chapter newsletter when dues are payable.

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:

### **Spouses Club Liaisons:**

Karen Murphy: [kcarlom@icloud.com](mailto:kcarlom@icloud.com)

Signe Zale: [sigbobzale@aol.com](mailto:sigbobzale@aol.com)



<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

**GVC Member Profiles**



Colonel Barbara M. Green, USA-Ret., GVC Past President and current Board Member.

Colonel Green is a Rochester native, graduating from Arcadia High School in Greece before pursuing her BSN at the Niagara University School of Nursing. Her first professional nursing position was in the Medical Intensive Care unit at Strong Memorial Hospital, where she worked for eighteen months before accepting a Direct Commission into the Army Nurse Corps. She attended Officer's Basic at the Academy of Health Sciences in Fort Sam Houston, Texas, then moved to her first assignment at Walter Reed Medical Center, Washington, D.C. Unsure of whether she wanted to make the Army a career, she left Active Duty for a brief period after completing her obligation, but continued at Walter Reed for weekend drills while attached to a Reserve unit in Maryland.

It didn't take long for Barb to appreciate the advantages of the military and return to Active Duty. She was sent to Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii as a staff nurse in Surgical Intensive Care, later moving to Medical Intensive Care as the Head Nurse. Needless to say, she enjoyed every minute of her time in Hawaii, both on and off duty.

From Hawaii Barb returned to Fort Sam Houston to attend the Advanced Officer Course then stayed on in the Army-Baylor University Masters Program in Health Administration. She completed one year of didactic study there, then moved on to Dwight David Eisenhower Army Medical Center in Fort Gordon, Georgia, for a one year Administrative Residency. That prepared her to move into what is termed a "utilization tour" as a Nurse Methods Analyst, a role she assumed at Madigan Army Medical Center at Fort Lewis, Washington. She had the opportunity there to work on one of the early VA/DOD Sharing Agreements that allowed Madigan to share services with American Lake VA.



Fort Sill, Oklahoma, was Barb's next stop, where she became the Chief of Ambulatory Nursing, responsible for the Emergency Room, 12 outpatient clinics, Reception Center and three outlying clinics providing either Troop Medical or Occupational Health support in remote areas of Oklahoma and Arkansas. She had to reserve an aircraft to visit her outlying clinics and, frustrated by having more senior officers usurp the small fixed wing she had scheduled, opted to travel in a helicopter that accommodated only one person beyond the pilot and co-pilot. She never had to cancel a trip again!

After Fort Sill, Barb moved homeward to become the Deputy Commander of Nursing at Fort Drum, NY, serving the 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. She learned a great deal about “out of network” care serving such a large population of soldiers and families with no inpatient medical facility. It was unique to have military providers privileged and practicing in civilian hospitals and ensuring the continuum of care was maintained. During this assignment Desert Shield/Desert Storm took all but one military nurse to go overseas, to be back-filled by an array of wonderful Reserve nurses.

West Point was Barb's next assignment, where she was initially assigned as the Assistant Chief Nurse, then later became the Deputy Commander of Nursing once again. She considered this to be one of her most rewarding assignments, being at the site of such rich history and tradition.

Barb completed her military career back at Tripler Army Medical Center. She returned as Chief of Ambulatory Nursing and after transitioning the clinics to their respective “product lines” became Chief, Clinical Services Branch of Quality Services Division. She retired from Tripler in 1998. After working as the Assistant Administrator at Kona Community Hospital in Kealahou, Hawaii. She came home to Rochester in 2000 to take a position as Medical VA Care Line Manager at Canandaigua VA and Rochester Outpatient Clinic. She retired from the VA in May of 2005, consulted briefly for Soyring Consulting in St. Petersburg, Florida, then returned to clinical work at Highland and Strong Memorial until her final retirement in May 2015.



**GVC Members and Guests at our April Chapter Meeting. L-R: Ann Nielsen, Eileen Carlsen, Ken Carlsen, Kathy Green, Russ Green, Ron Damrath, Diane Sadowski, Jim Nielsen**

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

**Sunday 5 June 2016**

**Canandaigua Yacht Club  
3524 County Rd 16 (West Lake Rd) Canandaigua**

**1300 - Social Hour - Cheese and Crackers w/ cash bar**

**1400 - Dinner**

**ENTRÉE CHOICES**

Steak au Poivre

Chicken French

Cedar Plank Salmon

Dessert: Berry Burst Cake

**Reservations due ASAP but NLT Friday, 27 MAY 2016**

Please clip use form provided below

***Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Thursday, 2 June 2016.***

**Questions: Norma – 585.746.2904 normaweis@roadrunner.com**

**PLEASE CLIP HERE AND SEND**

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**RESERVATION FORM FOR 05 June 2016 MEETING at the Canandaigua Yacht Club**

ALL Name(s) Attending:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate number of each meal desired:

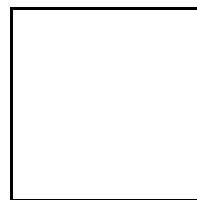
Steak \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_\_

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**



**May 2016 Newsletter**

**First Class Mail**

