



2010 – 2011 – 2012 – 2013 – 2014 – 2015

**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      \*\*\*      October 2016**

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**



Baseball is almost over. Football has started. Autumn is definitely in the air and we are getting ready to put the golf clubs away (almost) and get the snow shovels out. The **44<sup>th</sup> NYS Council of Chapter**

**Convention at Lake George** proved to be a wonderful culmination to a great summer.

Many kudos to the **Capital District Chapter** for hosting a hugely successful Convention. Relaxation, fun, and a gorgeous setting mixed with old friends and new friends in the special camaraderie known only to military members and their spouses.

We spent several hours learning of the accomplishments and lessons learned from six of the other 10 Chapters in NY. We were very pleased to have MOAA National guests attend as well: **COL Barry Wright**, USA Ret, and his wife Barbara, and **ADM Walter Doran**, USN Ret, and his wife, Ginny. COL Wright is the Director of Council and Chapter Affairs. ADM Doran is on the MOAA Board of Directors and in line for more responsibility at MOAA.

After each Chapter President had their turn at speaking about their own Chapters, COL Wright highlighted the importance of Chapter influence

in their Legislative Districts; members increasing use of online tools (Dues collection, webinars, reaching out to non-Chapter MOAA National members); as well as some Chapter Support Programs in danger of elimination due to a precarious return on investment. We will discuss these in more depth at the next Chapter meeting.



**Enjoying lunch at Lake George.** Left to right: COL Barry Wright, Kathy Green, LTCOL Russ Green, COL Barb Green, Rosemary Luzum.

The **Council of Chapters Memorial Service** was held inside Fort William Henry on a

beautiful afternoon. All of the names of all Chapter members who had passed in the last year were read by **Council President COL Ben Margolius and Lt Col Ed Schreiber**, with a single solemn ring of a bell.

The Convention was such a success that, much to the consternation of organizers Skip Bebernitz and Ed Schreiber of the CDC, we all voted to return to Lake George for next year's Convention. As we well know, it is no simple job to host a conference of this magnitude and complexity; to prepare for work as well as enjoyment. So we all agreed that each Chapter will contribute in some way to the preparation for the 45<sup>th</sup> NYS CoC. Ben will be working with other Chapter leaders.

### **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**™

The Board has an exciting and honorable endeavor for this fall. Our Chapter has become a sponsor for **Wreaths Across America**™ for the NYS Sampson Veterans Military Cemetery. This is a 501(c)(3) corporation whose mission is to Remember, Honor, and Teach. Their main effort involves “coordinating wreath laying ceremonies on Saturday 17 December 2016 at Arlington, as well as veterans’ cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond.”

You can donate at:

<http://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org>. Their main web page opens with a video and two red buttons – Donate and Volunteer. Click **Donate** and a box will open. Choose the link to “Sponsor a wreath at my local cemetery” and it will open a page where you can search for the Sampson Veterans Memorial page. Or, you can type this URL into your browser: <https://wreaths.fastport.com/donateLocation.htm?page=25646&relate=14898> and go directly to the cemetery page, which allows you to find our Chapter among the fundraising groups. Our group code is NY0118P

The price of one wreath is \$15, and are generally sold in packs of 5. The wreaths that are donated in the name of our Chapter will be placed at the Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Dec 17 at noon. If you would like to attend the ceremony and assist in placement of the wreaths, it starts at 1200 hrs. There are only 325 graves, and we, along with some other groups, are already 60% of the way there, but we have only four volunteers to place the wreaths so far. It would be very kind of you to volunteer, but not necessary. You may donate and just attend the ceremony if you wish. This is also a fund raiser for us, as for each wreath donated on behalf of GVC, we will receive \$5.00 back from the Wreaths Across America organization. So please share this info far and wide!

### **MOAA NATIONAL CONVENTION**

I will have attended the MOAA National Convention in Arlington, VA by the time our October 30<sup>th</sup> Chapter meeting takes place. I look forward to accepting our 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive 5-Star Level of Excellence Award on behalf of our Chapter!

### **HONOR FLIGHT ROCHESTER:**

The Homecoming for the 50<sup>th</sup> HFR mission on 2 October 2016 at ROC was amazing! About 45 veterans and their escorts were greeted by

hundreds of well-wishers who all sincerely expressed their thanks for each veteran's service and sacrifice. It was great to give them the Welcome Home they deserved so long ago. Our own Marion Mench was an emissary for HFR 50, in memory of her husband, our Past President, and HFR co-founder Woody Mench. There is one more mission this year on the weekend of 22-23 October 2016.



**Welcoming Home HFR Mission 50:**

L-R: Jim and Ann Nielsen, Barb Green, John Wright, Marion Mench, Norma Weissend, and JJ Miller, who enthusiastically shook hands and welcomed home each veteran as they went by!

- Lever styles handles on faucets, pullout sprayer at sink in kitchen
- Front control cooktop and side-by-side refrigerator
- Raised dishwasher and front loading washer and dryer
- Higher toilets and easily accessible shower

When considering necessary changes for aging in place, unbiased assessments by a Certified Aging-In-Place specialist (CAPS) can identify the unique needs of an older adult.

[www.nahb.org/caps](http://www.nahb.org/caps) is a resource to identify area CAPS services.

Adapted from information from the Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee.

Marion Mench  
Auxiliary Liaison

**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.

**SPOUSES COMMITTEE:**

**Surviving Spouses  
Aging in Place**

We are all getting older and, as we age, would like to remain in the comfort of our own homes. The best living environment for our aging selves is safe, comfortable, preserves our independence, accommodates our need for assistance, supports our lifestyle, and is affordable for a long time.

Experts delineate the most dangerous areas of our home: kitchen, bathroom, and stairs. Here are some modifications to consider:

- Ramps at home entrances and steps; handrails at existing steps and porches
- Remote-controlled blinds/shades plus lever-style door handles
- Adequate indoor and outdoor lighting

**NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:** Sunday, 30 October 2016 at The Red Osier Landmark Inn. Chapter member Will O'Donnell will give us a much needed and highly relevant briefing on Identity Theft: How to Prevent or Recover. See the last page for details and the reservation form. I hope to see you there!

Norma E. Weissend, LtCol, USAF (Ret),  
President

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

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**Introducing Board Member:** Joseph C.  
Ballister Lt. Col., USAF (Ret)

Joe was commissioned an ROTC Air Force 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in 1957 and was called to active duty in November of the same year. His first operational assignment was as a personnel officer at Donaldson AFB in Greenville, South Carolina. While stationed at Donaldson, Joe met and married Nancy Hagan and they were soon reassigned to Lajes Field in the Azore Islands. After two years at Lajes Field, Joe was reassigned to Air Rescue Headquarters at Orlando AFB in Florida. He left active duty in October 1962. He joined the ANG 158<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Squadron, Burlington, Vermont in 1963 as a personnel officer. Several years later, the Ballisters relocated to Rochester and Joe joined the AFR 914<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Group in Niagara Falls where he served as the public affairs officer until his retirement in 1985.

Joe is a St. Michael's College graduate and fellow alumnus with Gen. Joseph Dunford, USMC, current Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He and Nancy have four grown children. Joe is a retired attorney and has been a MOAA member since 1998.

**GENESEE VALLEY CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
Sunday 30 October 2016**

**Red Osier Landmark Inn  
6492 E Main Rd Stafford NY  
Telephone: (585) 343-6972**

**1300 - Social Hour - Cheese and Crackers w/ cash bar  
1400 – Dinner**

**ENTRÉE CHOICES**

Prime Rib

Baked Salmon

Chicken Almond

**Reservations due ASAP but NLT Tuesday, 25 October 2016**

Please clip use form provided below

***Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Thursday, 27 October 2016***

**Questions: Norma – 585.746.2904 [normaweis@roadrunner.com](mailto:normaweis@roadrunner.com)**

**RESERVATION FORM FOR 30 OCTOBER 2016 MEETING at the RED OSIER**

**PLEASE CLIP HERE AND SEND**

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ALL Name(s) Attending:

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Please indicate number of each meal desired:

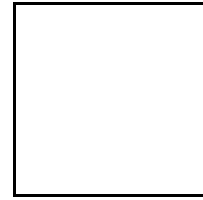
Prime Rib \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**GVC MOAA  
c/o Norma Weissend  
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**October 2016 Newsletter**

**First Class Mail**

