



# GENESEE VALLEY CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA NEWSLETTER



2010 AND 2011

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Serving Member and Their Country

June 2013

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Memorial Day.** At times it seems that commercialization of the holiday has taken over the deeper meaning of the sacrifices of



those who have given their lives in the defense of the freedoms and ideals of our great nation. The history of this holiday dates back to three years after the Civil War ended, in 1868. The

Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30. It is believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country. Gen. Logan's order for his posts to decorate graves in 1868 read "with the choicest flowers of springtime" he urged: "We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. ... Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic." Local springtime tributes to the Civil War dead already had been held in various places. Approximately 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day, many of them in the South where most of the war dead were buried. In

1966, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, New York, the "birthplace" of Memorial Day. There, a ceremony on May 5, 1866, honored local veterans who had fought in the Civil War. Businesses closed and residents flew flags at half-staff. Supporters of Waterloo's claim say earlier observances in other places were informal, not community-wide, or one-time events. By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it was still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May. This move has been a point of contention to this date. Today, small American flags, instead of flowers, are often placed to decorate the graves of veterans. And, as a fitting tribute to the fallen, flags are flown at half-staff until noon.

The origins of special services to honor those who die in war can be found in antiquity. The Athenian leader Pericles offered a tribute to the fallen heroes of the Peloponnesian War over 24 centuries ago that could be applied today to the 1.1 million Americans who have died in the nation's wars: "Not only are they commemorated by columns and inscriptions, but there dwells also an unwritten memorial of them, graven not on stone but in the hearts of men." To ensure the sacrifices of America's fallen he-

roes are never forgotten, in December 2000, the U.S. Congress created the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance. The commission's charter is to "encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides them so much freedom and opportunity," by encouraging all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation. As Moment of Remembrance founder Carmella LaSpada states: "It's a way we can all help put the memorial back in Memorial Day." Another way is to attend one of the Memorial Day ceremonies with your children and grandchildren and pass on the importance and meaning of this day by your example. (Some of this information taken from the VA web site and other historical sources)

**Some Thoughts.** As I reflect on my two years as your President, I can say it has passed by very quickly. Yes, it has been a great deal of work, but that has been made a lot easier by all of the officers, Board members, Spouses Club and members who have volunteered their time, talent and treasure to support our Chapter's mission to serve our active duty servicemen and women, veterans and their families.

Over the past couple of months, I have had the opportunity to experience the leadership, spirit and dedication of the cadets and midshipmen who have chosen to serve our nation. The three venues were varied. Our awards dinner for those receiving the MOAA medal gave us the opportunity to see the great diversity of those seeking a college degree and commission in one of the four military services. Next, Rosemary and I attended the Navy Ball with the University of Rochester NROTC midshipmen and their

guests. What a great evening with some formality and a great deal of originality (and spontaneity). The midshipmen and their dates seated at our table were actually interested in my career choice and the many duty stations. However, we never did grasp some of the music and dance steps. The last was the Awards presentation at the U of R Chapel. It was great to see the parents and friends beaming with pride seeing their children receiving recognition for all their hard work on the path to commissioning and the various organizations that support that work by providing distinctive medals, plaques and military uniform items. These experiences were refreshing from the perspective of seeing first hand the quality of leaders that are taking the places of those who have served and, for me, a renewed spark to serve their needs as they transition to active duty.

Speaking of active duty, it was great to have Captain Jim Caggy as our guest speaker and his fiancé Emily Carver at the April dinner meeting. It was as if we had known him for a long time because of our Chapter's outreach support of his Company during its deployment to Kuwait and his monthly newsletters to our Chapter. He was extremely frank about the operations of his unit and the long-term effect of military operations in the area. His unit will necessarily undergo a rebuilding process as the result of the loss of many NCOs who have decided to leave the Guard and pursue a more stable civilian career. On a personal level, he faces a challenging job market as he transitions to a civilian career and a move to Northern Virginia with his fiancé. We wish them success and happiness in their journey.

This time also gives me the opportunity to look back at the past two years. In 2011, the Board chose to focus on three goals during its term of office: maintain the Chapter's status at a 5 star Level of Excellence (LOE), as determined by National MOAA; increase Chapter membership; and provide meaningful and substantive general meetings. During the last 2 years we have maintained our 5 star LOE status and I am currently finalizing our submission for 2012. In the area of membership, we focused on increasing National MOAA membership, which didn't directly translate to increasing Chapter membership. I think we did well, due to the efforts of Bob Zale and his ROTC/NROTC recruitment and Dave Szczygiel with the Guard units. MOAA, realizing the problem with the previous membership model, has changed the focus and incentives to emphasize Chapter membership. That will also be our focus in the future. In the area of meetings, we have stabilized the time and places and established 6 themes for the meetings. Hopefully, we have filled the themes with interesting speakers over the past year but, as always, we need your feedback. A short questionnaire will be provided at the June meeting for this purpose.

**Next Meeting.** Please make an extra effort to attend the June 9<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting at Burgundy Basin. You will be electing Chapter officers and Board members for 2013-15. This is an opportunity to express your appreciation for the current Board and support those who will be elected. Our guest speaker and installing officer will be Lt Col Bob Bienvenue, USAF (Ret), President, NYS Council of Chapters. Bob has held this position for four years and has had the unique experience of face-to-face contact with New York Senators, Congressmen and

women and their staffs when MOAA and State Council Presidents 'Storm the Hill'.

With this experience, he will undoubtedly share his thoughts on future legislative challenges. There are many of these: capped active duty pay, Chained CPI for benefits, Medicare fix and Sequestration to name a few.

**2013 NYS Council of Chapters Convention.** Information and registration forms are available on the Chapter web site: [gvcmoaa.org](http://gvcmoaa.org). Registration and deposit is required by July 19<sup>th</sup>. An early registration incentive of a free world famous Naples grape pie will be given to the first twenty full couple registrants (18 remain at this time). There are registration packages available at several dollar levels. Please see Russ Green for more information. I want to thank the Planning Committee for their excellent work and would encourage other members to offer to help either before or during the event.

**Honor Flight.** Honor Flight Rochester (HFR) has scheduled Mission 29 for June 15-16. Please try to attend the homecoming of our WWII and Korean War veterans as they return to the Rochester International Airport on board Flight 484 at 10:50 AM on the 16<sup>th</sup>. It is an experience you will long remember.

**VAMC Support.** Please remember to bring toiletries and personal health items to the dinner and deposit them in the box near the entrance.

Gerald (Jerry) Luzum, CAPT, CEC, USN-Ret, GVC President

### **GVC/MOAA Spouses Club**

The Spouses Club had their last regular meeting of the year in May at Monroe's Restaurant in Pittsford. Plans were formed for summer fund raising projects including a Beer Cooler raffle, complete with a variety of beers, to be held at the next regular GVC MOAA luncheon at Burgundy Basin on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to get your tickets for this exciting and useful new raffle prize.



The Spouses Club is collecting donations for four other baskets to be raffled at Webster Village Days in August and Hang Around Victor Days in September. The themes for these baskets are Red, White, and Blue basket and a Coffee and Tea basket. All donations are gratefully accepted. Proceeds from the raffles go to programs that we support throughout the year. Recently we donated funds to the JROTC Leadership Academy for summer courses, the Canandaigua VA Women's Home to purchase a commercial-size washing machine for their facilities and to Operation Military Kids to send children of active duty military to a Rhinos soccer game and give each child a brand new soccer ball.

On July 17<sup>th</sup>, the Spouses Club will meet informally at Richardson's Canal House at noon. All spouses and auxiliary MOAA members are invited to join us.

Please contact Eileen Carlsen at [emc918@frontiernet.net](mailto:emc918@frontiernet.net) or phone 377-5665 for information or reservations.

### **Nominating Committee**

The GVC/MOAA Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for 2013-2015:

President, Gerald D. Luzum, Captain, US Navy-Ret.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Norma Weissend, Lieutenant Colonel, USAF-Ret.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Kenneth H. Carlsen, Commander, US Navy-Ret.

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, Joe L. Anderson, Lieutenant Colonel, USA-Ret.

Secretary, Phillip Tierney, Colonel, USAF-Ret.

Treasurer, Russell L. Green, Lieutenant Colonel, USA-Ret.

Auxiliary Member, Carol Searing

Member at Large, Peter Ingalsbe, Colonel, USA-Ret.

Nominations from the floor remain open and will be accepted at the June meeting. The election will follow the close of nominations.

### **Naval Academy, West Point Meeting**

GVC member Nelson A. Blish, Captain, USN-Ret, [nelson.blish@kodak.com](mailto:nelson.blish@kodak.com) provided this information.

The Veterans Network of Kodak Employees, Naval Academy Association and the West Point Society will host an educational event and dinner on Thursday, June 6, 2013 from 5:30 - 8:30 PM at the Irondequoit Country Club, 4045 East Avenue, Pittsford, New York.

Our guest speaker is Vice Admiral Robert B. Murrett, Deputy Director, [Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism](#) at [Syracuse University](#). He is the former Director of Naval Intelligence and Director, [National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency](#). He will discuss his military experiences and perspectives on national security. Midshipmen and Cadets entering military academies will be recognized.

The event is \$10 for Kodak employees and retirees, other guests \$30. Register at <http://vetnet-event2013@eventbrite.com>. Questions: [Catherine.deconinck@kodak.com](mailto:Catherine.deconinck@kodak.com).

### **NROTC Award at U of R**



On May 1, 2013 CAPT Gerald Luzum, CEC, USN-Ret, GVC President presented the MOAA Midshipman award to Midshipman 2C Ryan Baptiste at the University of Rochester Interfaith Chapel.

### **Book Quest**

Carolyn Richter, owner of the Bindings Bookstore in Albion, NY asked our assistance for her search for "Battle in Common", published by the Genesee Valley Veterans. You can contact Carolyn at: [Carolyn@bindingsbookstore.com](mailto:Carolyn@bindingsbookstore.com) or 585 283-4498

### **In Memoriam**

It is with deepest sympathy we report the following death:

Constance Marie (van Vlymen) Wright, April 13, 2013, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. Connie was an active member of the Spouses Club and later an Auxiliary member

### **Future Meetings**

September 15 Senator's Mansion, Churchville, NY

October 27 Daisy Flour Mill, Rochester

December 8 Green Lantern, Fairport, NY

### **2014**

March 2 or 9, Senator's Mansion (tentative)

April 27 Daisy Flour Mill

June 8 Burgundy Basin, Pittsford, NY

### **Chapter Officers**

President: Gerald "Jerry" Luzum, CAPT, USN-Ret.,

585 396-1406, [roni39@earthlink.net](mailto:roni39@earthlink.net)

1<sup>st</sup> VP: Robert J. Zale, Col, USAF-Ret.,

585 594-8422, [sigbobzale@aol.com](mailto:sigbobzale@aol.com)

2<sup>nd</sup> VP: Kenneth H. Carlsen, CDR, USN-Ret., 585 377-5665,

[kcarlsen@frontiernet.net](mailto:kcarlsen@frontiernet.net)

Member at large: Joe L. Anderson, LTC, USA-Ret.,

585 381-7738,

[andersonresources@yahoo.com](mailto:andersonresources@yahoo.com)

Secretary: Philip Tierney, Col, USAF-Ret., 585 367-8469,

[ptierney@frontiernet.net](mailto:ptierney@frontiernet.net)

Treasurer: Russell L. Green, LTC, USA-Ret., 585 425-4292,

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

## New York State Council of Chapters Convention News Bulletin

On Tuesday, October 15, we will visit the Glenn Curtiss Aviation Museum in Hammondsport. The day will begin with breakfast at 0730 with a business meeting following. We will board a tour bus at 1115 for a scenic drive along Keuka Lake and we will have lunch at the museum. The museum is dedicated to aviation pioneer Glenn Curtiss, Hammondsport's favorite son who is well-known for many significant accomplishments, both in and out of aviation.

He became the "fastest man on earth" in 1907 when he set a world record of 136 mph on an eight cylinder motorcycle he designed and built. A reproduction is in the museum. The original is in the Smithsonian. In 1908 Curtiss was credited with the first "pre-announced" public flight of an aircraft in America. Named the June Bug, it is in the museum, one of several historic aircraft on display (see attachment). Curtiss also invented ailerons, a method of controlling an aircraft in flight which replaced "wing-warping," the method used by the Wright brothers.

Curtiss made a little known but extremely important contribution to the Hammondsport champagne industry. The pressure in champagne was forcing corks out of bottles during shipment. The producers approached Curtiss and asked for help. Curtiss assigned the project to one of his machinists. The result is the twisted wire hood that now adorns just about every cork on a bottle of champagne produced anywhere in the world. A toast to Glenn Curtiss every January 1<sup>st</sup> would be fitting.

Curtiss gave the first demonstration of aerial bombing to Army and Navy representatives at Keuka Lake in an attempt to give credence to the notion that airplanes had a potential for war-time use. In addition to making the airplane a practical reality, Curtiss pioneered in the design of seaplanes and flying boats. Curtiss built the U.S. Navy NC-4 Flying Boat, the first aircraft to successfully cross the Atlantic Ocean. Navy aircraft carrier operations are a direct result of Curtiss's influence.

Curtiss began his aviation career in earnest as a member of the Aerial Experiment Association. The group which included Alexander Graham Bell focused on getting a man into the air. Curtiss had a unique relationship with Bell. Bell's wife Mabel was deaf, a fact that had a profound influence on Bell's scientific pursuits. Curtiss's sister Rutha was also deaf and as a boy Curtiss learned sign so he could communicate with his sister. At the AEA meetings, sometimes Mabel would be present and Curtiss would sign to her to enable her to understand the conversation, a gesture which endeared him to Bell and they remained lifetime friends.

Curtiss's amazing career was tragically terminated in 1930 when at the age of 52 during an appendectomy he developed a blood clot that ended his life. Curtiss is remembered today as the Father of Naval Aviation and the founder of the American aircraft industry.

The tour bus will return to the Inn at Canandaigua at about 1700 with Installation Banquet to follow soon after. The details will be in the convention schedule which will be available at registration.

Joseph Ballister LtCol, USAF-Ret ([jballister@earthlink.net](mailto:jballister@earthlink.net))  
Public Relations Chair

**Genesee Valley Chapter Military  
Officers Association of America  
52<sup>nd</sup> Year, Sixth Meeting**

**Sunday, June 9, 2013**

**Burgundy Basin  
1361 Marsh Road  
Pittsford, NY 14534**

1300 Cash bar/cheese and crackers

1400 Dinner

Salad

**Selections:**

- > Poached Salmon with Lemon Garnish
- >
- > Combo Sirloin Steak with Marinated Chicken Breast
- >
- Dessert

**Program**

Our guest speaker and installing officer will be Lt Col Bob Bienvenue, USAF -Ret, President, NYS Council of Chapters. Bob has held this position for four years and has had the unique experience of face-to-face contact with New York Senators, Congressmen and women and their staffs when MOAA and State Council Presidents 'Storm the Hill'.

**Reservations for June 9, 2013 Dinner  
Due no later than noon, June 1, 2013  
Cancellations NLT Wednesday, June 5, 2013**

**Make checks payable to GVC/MOAA and send this form with your check to:**

**COL Barbara Green, USA-Ret  
P.O. Box 20874  
Rochester, NY 14902-0874**

**Genesee Valley Chapter  
Military Officers Assn of America  
4833 Purcell Road  
Hemlock, NY 14466-9607**



**June 2013 Newsletter**

**First Class Mail**



**Reservation for the June 9<sup>th</sup> GVC/MOAA Meeting**

_____	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Spouse</b>
_____	
<b>Guest</b>	<b>Guest</b>

**Combo \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_\_**

**Make check for \_\_\_\_\_ meal(s) at \$25.00 each and dues for \_\_\_\_\_ totaling**

**\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.**