



GENESEE VALLEY CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA NEWSLETTER



2010, 2011, 2012

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Serving Members and Their Country

October 2013

FROM THE PRESIDENT



It is with deep sorrow that I have to report the death of Col Phil Tierney after a long and courageous struggle with illness. He served the Chapter for many years as Board Secretary, Newsletter Editor and

Public Relations contact and never hesitated to step up to the plate when help was needed. Personally he was a friend, mentor and source of levity when things got a little tense. In a recent letter attached to the MOAA Leadership Award for Phil from VADM Ryan, president of MOAA, the admiral noted "You are commended for your dedication and 'servant leadership' to the Genesee Valley Chapter/MOAA." This award was created to honor deserving chapter officers whose exceptional performance merits special recognition. Our thoughts, prayers and deepest sympathy go out to Joan and the Tierney family.

Chapter Leaders Symposium: Norma Weissend, Ken Carlsen, Joe Anderson and I attended the quadrennial Northeast Regional Symposium in Hershey, Pa. The workshops were divided into three groups, one for Council and Chapter management, one for Membership Chairmen and the

other for Transition Liaison officers. The format was based on short presentations by MOAA staff and then Chapters sharing experiences on the various issues. So you got both the cookbook approach and some interesting 'out of the box' solutions. In addition, you had the opportunity to network with Chapter leaders from what is normally thought of as the Northeast, but extends south to Kentucky and west to Indiana. It was also encouraging to talk to three young naval officers from the New York City area who are starting a new Chapter in that area. Their courage and enthusiasm was contagious. VADM Ryan, as always, exhibited that quiet determination and enthusiasm for our mission. He coins himself as not only the CEO but also the CLO – the Chief Listening Officer and it certainly showed during the event by being available and listening. One initiative that will be rolling out from MOAA on a test basis in Virginia is a group of MOAA VA Claims Advisors. MOAA has recruited lawyers, on a pro bono basis, to go through the VA training program and help those submitting claims and with a goal of reducing the backlog. With all the help that currently exists, about 50% of the claims are rejected due to a lack of documentation. This initiative is designed to make a difference and reduce the backlog. VADM Ryan closed with a comparison of MOAA with a stock, 'our value is our membership and our dividends what we accomplish'.

2013 NYS Council of Chapters

Convention: As host Chapter, I want to thank the great Convention Planning Committee who have spent the last 14 months putting together a great program that I am sure will be enjoyed by representatives from MOAA headquarters, Council officers and members from the 9 NYS Chapters. Members who served on that Committee are Kathy and Russ Green, Barb Green, Joe Anderson, Joe Ballister, Eileen and Ken Carlsen, Phil Tierney and when Phil became ill, Jim Nielsen volunteered to help us out. I hope you all enjoy the fruits of your labor.

Legislation: When I met with Congressman Chris Collins in September, he said that he didn't see any way that the Government would not be shutdown due to the lack of appropriations bills to keep it running. At the time, I was taken aback by his lack of optimism. As I write this piece 10 days into the shutdown, the only progress is the possibility that the Debt Ceiling would be raised for 6 weeks, in hopes that a more permanent solution can be found during that time. In my view, there are five issues that must be addressed. Debt ceiling must be raised to preserve our economy in the short run and in the future we must reduce our debt and not pass it on to our children. 2014 Appropriation Bills or a Continuing Resolution must be passed to keep our government operating and not suffer from the loss of productivity due to staff furloughs and shutdowns. Sequestration, already passed into law, should be repealed. For the most part, it is a 'blind' percentage cut across the board, with little account for priorities. By the way, the 2014 Budget Requests were made under the assumption that Sequestration would be repealed. If it is not, the Defense Budget would have to be reduced by an additional \$50 Billion in 2014. In the 2014 Appropriations Bills or Continuing Resolution, the active duty pay raise should

remain at 1.8% as required under current law. The President has recommended a 1% pay raise. This is not the message we want to send to our all volunteer force who have sacrificed so much for our nation. The fifth issue is the Medicare fix. With no Congressional action by January, Medicare payments to doctors will be reduced by 24%. I can't imagine that all the doctors now providing care to Medicare, and, by extension, Tricare for Life patients, will continue to provide that care.

The list is long, but all very important to the quality of life for our active duty, Reserve and Guard servicemen and women and veteran population. Make your voice heard by contacting your congressman and senators, their staffs or by sending scripted emails via the MOAA web site under the "Take Action" icon. As I recall, last year approximately 700,000 emails from MOAA members were sent to members of Congress. It makes a difference, numbers count.

New Board Member and Newsletter

Editor: The Board has appointed Joe Ballister to fill the vacancy of Secretary and Peter Ingalsbe to fill the position of Newsletter Editor. Thanks to both for their willingness to accept these new responsibilities.

Military Support and Outreach: We are currently sponsoring the 222nd Military Police Company out of Auburn. Dave Szczygiel is in contact with their Commander and the Family Readiness Group and all is going well during their deployment to Qatar. As they near the end of their mission, we can expect more involvement in the Welcome Home and Stand Down. Keep them in you thoughts and prayers. See Dave Szczygiel comment below.

Honor Flight: Honor Flight Rochester scheduled its last mission for the year.

Mission 32 – October 19-20.

For 2014 please try to make one of the return flights. It is an experience you will long remember. Donations to send a WWII veteran to Washington DC may be made in the collection box at our meetings or to our Treasurer, Russ Green.

General Meeting: The next meeting will be at the Daisy Flour Mill on October 27th at 1 PM. **(Due to the lateness of the newsletter reservations are now closed)**

Our guest speaker will be Ontario County Historian Dr. Preston Pierce. Preston is the Past President of the Finger Lakes Chapter of MOAA and one of our newest members. He will be aboard the Canandaigua Lady Dinner Cruise to give us a history of the area on October 14th. His topic for our meeting will be an Orientation to the various Organizations that foster the study of Military History and collecting of Military artifacts. Joan Tierney will be in attendance and we will take time to reflect and honor Phil. Please join us.

Gerald 'Jerry' Luzum, CAPT, CEC, USN (Ret), President, GVC/MOAA

Military Out reach report The 222nd MP Company, NYARNG has been deployed in Qatar for almost 4 months and are at the half way point of deployment. I received an e-mail from Major Berg the unit command indicating the soldiers are adjusting to there mission very well. They are looking forward to the upcoming cooler season.

When I receive new information or 222nd MP news letters, I will have our secretary pass them on via e-mail. Please remember 222nd soldiers in your thoughts and prayers.

Anyone wishing to support our military outreach program can send or give donations to our treasurer.

Russ Green, LTC, USA-Ret.
2 Winding Brook Drive
Fairport, NY 14450

Dave Szczygiel, BG, USA-Ret.
Military Outreach Liaison

Save the date: The holiday meeting will be December 8th at the Green Latern, Fairport.

Genesee Valley Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
53rd Year, Second Meeting
Sunday, October 27th, 2013

Gatherings at Daisy Flour Mill
1880 Blossom Road
Rochester, NY 14625
585-381-0180

1300 Cocktails and Cheese and Crackers

1400 Dinner

Selections

Petite Tenderloin w/ Baked Potato
Italian Marinade Grilled Chicken with Sauteed Artichoke and Fresh Tomato
Baked Salmon with Mustard Creme Fraiche w/ Long Grain and Wild Rice Pilaf

Program

Dr. Preston Pierce, Ontario County Historian, will join us, fresh off his stint as historical narrator for our Canandaigua Lady cruise at the 2014 Council of Chapters Convention.

Reservations due (ASAP) but NLT Noon Saturday, October 19. Please use form provided.
Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Friday, October 25.

If you know reservation won't reach PO Box by Saturday, October 19, call Barbara Green @ 585-330-2708.

Please make every attempt to make reservations early, to minimize confusion. If you do get it in the mail late for some reason, please call.☺

Reservation for October 27th Meeting

Name _____ Spouse _____

Guest _____ Guest _____

Beef _____ Chicken _____ Salmon _____

Make check for _____ meal(s) at \$25.00 each totaling _____ is enclosed.

Please make checks payable to GVC MOAA and mail to the following address:

GVC MOAA
PO Box 20874
Rochester, NY 14602-0874