



2011, 2012, 2013

# GENESEE VALLEY CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA NEWSLETTER



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**Serving Members and Their Country**

**April 2014**

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**



Spring is here, spring is here. That's what the calendar says, but I am a bit skeptical and will not put away the snow shovel just yet as I was shoveling a foot of snow off the sidewalk, deck and driveway a week ago. The trout don't even believe it since most of them have delayed their spawning runs up the tributaries from the lakes, messing with the minds of those who set 1<sup>st</sup> of April as the opening day of Trout season. By now you may know where my mind is wandering. But for now let's talk about Chapter business.

**The March 10<sup>th</sup> general business meeting** was well attended as the Chapter members were interested in hearing the ROTC and JROTC unit commanders and the cadets and midshipmen who received the MOAA medal. This medal is given to

those who exhibit leadership and academic achievement in their programs. Members were impressed by the dedication of these young men and women who have chosen to serve their country as members of an all-volunteer force. Our guest's thoughts that afternoon are perhaps best characterized in thank you notes sent by two of the ROTC Commanders:

"Thank you again for hosting us and sponsoring the awards program, we really appreciate it. We have a lot of hard working and well deserving cadets and your award is one of the 'bigger' more prestigious ones"; "Thanks it was another nice event by the chapter"; and a JROTC awardee penned, "Thank you for giving me this award. It is a great honor to be recognized by the MOAA organizational members".

The Chapter owes its thanks and appreciation to Bob Zale for his work as a liaison with the ROTC and JROTC units and for bringing their stories to the Chapter. A note of thanks also goes to USAA who provided a substantial grant that enabled us to honor our future leaders.



**The next Chapter Meeting** will be the Daisy Flour Mill on April 27th at 1300. The program will provide us with a look into the future use of commercial drones or, as the current jargon calls them, UAVs - Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. Major news stories over the past months indicated that Amazon and FedEx are exploring the use of UAVs to deliver packages and an enterprising individual was caught (at the time it was illegal) delivering a six pack of beer to ice fishermen on one of the lakes in Minnesota. The guest speaker will be Brian Pitre, Managing Member of SkyOp LLC., a Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Business. His company provides photo and video services using a six rotor, battery powered UAV. A few of his applications include Agriculture, Construction, Inspection, Insurance, Media and Marketing, Public Safety and Real Estate. Brian is a long time member of the Canandaigua Lake Chapter of Trout Unlimited and serves as the Coordinator for Project Healing Waters. This program supports the recovery of veterans with PTSD by introducing them to the sport of trout fishing and taking them on trout fishing trips.



SKYOP UAV Pilot Brian Pitre and cameraman Dan Albert.

### **Federal Legislative Action.**

The 2014 MOAA Storming the Hill will take place on April 9th. Over 160 MOAA Council and Chapter Presidents from all 50 states, together with members of the National MOAA Board of Directors and Headquarters Staff, plus members of MOAA's active duty, Guard, Reserve, Spouse and Auxiliary will take part in this event and visit all 535 representatives and senators to support the following 4 primary initiatives. NYS Council of Chapters President, Ben Margolius, his wife Sue and Vice President Peggy Phillips will be visiting some of the members of the New York Congressional delegation.

- Sustain Military Pay and Benefits. The 2015 budget submission proposes several significant pay and benefit cuts which are inconsistent with the extreme sacrifices exemplified by the last 12 years of war. These cuts include capping pay below the Employment Cost Index for the second straight year, reducing the Basic Housing Allowance by 5% and

reducing commissary savings for uniformed service families.

- **Reject Disproportional TRICARE Fee Hikes.** DOD has once again proposed four-figure annual health fee hikes for virtually all retirees of all ages, asserting health cost are exploding and unsustainable. MOAA rejects the claims and the fee hikes as wrong. DOD's own data show the trend in health cost changes is down, not up.
- **Eliminate Harmful Sequestration Cuts.** The Budget Control Act of 2011 established automatic budget cuts known as sequestration and put America's national defense capabilities at greater risk. Unless the current law changes, the Defense Department will have to cut an additional \$54 billion in 2016 and some \$269 billion over the following 5 fiscal years.
- **Address Remaining Inequities for Retirees, Survivors and Recalled Guard/Reserve.** VA disability offset law makes thousands of disabled military retirees, survivors forfeit part or all of their service-earned retired pay or Survivor Benefit Plan income to fund their own VA disability compensation.

What seems incredible to me is that many of these initiatives are being studied by the Military Compensation Retirement and Modernization Commission (MCRMC), established by Congress which is to report to the President and Congress by May 1,

2014. And, after a period of review and vetting, some/all of these initiatives could be submitted to the Congress as part of the 2016 budget. So jumping the gun with piecemeal, budget driven changes before the study concludes appears to be a rash decision and a waste of the MCRMC's time and effort. What is more incredible is that DOD submitted its 2015 budget with these initiatives included after Secretary of Defense, Chuck Hagel stated, "Continuous piecemeal changes will only magnify uncertainty and doubts among our service members about whether promised benefits will be there in the future".

My plea is that you stay informed and make your voice heard by your local senator or representative, either in person or by written correspondence. The MOAA web site home page, "Take Action icon", is an excellent source for scripted (which may be changed to fit your needs) email messages on these and other topics.

**Medicare/TRICARE Fix.** For the 16<sup>th</sup> time, the Congress voted to delay a 24% cut in Medicare payments to doctors slated to take effect on April 1st. The 'one' year delay to April 1, 2015, gives Congress more time to find a permanent solution estimated to cost \$138 billion.

### **State Legislative Action.**

And then there were Three. This is not the NCAA's esteemed "Final Four", but a reference to the last three states who have failed to join the "Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children" - New York, Minnesota and New

Hampshire. Senate bill 1213 has been sponsored by Senator Ranzenhofer, co-sponsored by 5 other senators and sent to the Senate Education Committee for action. Assembly bill 5787 has been sponsored by Assemblyman Benedetto, co-sponsored by Assembly Minority Leader Kolb, Assemblywomen Lupardo, Assemblyman Johns and Assembly Majority Leader Morelle has signed on as a multi-sponsor. This bill has been sent to the Assembly Education Committee. Now that the budget has been passed, we have to press our senators and members of the Assembly to get the legislation out of committee to the floor of both houses for a full vote before the end of the legislative session. All of the MOAA Chapters in New York are pressing for the passage of this important piece of legislation.

#### **Educational and Volunteer Opportunity.**

Empire State College has a Graduate Certificate in Veterans Studies. The certificate is designed for veterans who want to serve other veterans; active-duty personnel interested in a career serving veterans; veterans service officers; military family members who wish to advocate more effectively and others. Courses are taught on-line and may be started in the fall, spring, or summer terms. The courses are Veterans Services and Public Policy; Veteran Outreach, Services and Advocacy; Veteran programs and Benefits; and Military and Veterans Culture and Developing Cultural Competency. Admission requires submitting an official transcript of your

bachelor's degree along with a completed application. Acceptance will require candidates to apply to the master's degree program and complete the full admission process. The Program Coordinator is Penny Coleman at [penny.coleman@esc.edu](mailto:penny.coleman@esc.edu). The college will soon introduce an undergrad certificate program in Veteran Studies.

**Honor Flight.** Honor Flight Rochester (HFR) has scheduled three more missions for the first part of this year:

Mission 34 – May 17-18 Returns at 11:00

Mission 35 – June 14-15 Returns at 11:00

Mission 36 – June 28 – 29 Returns at 11:00

Please try to attend the homecoming of our WWII and Korean War veterans as they return to the Rochester International Airport. It is an experience you will long remember. An Honor Flight donation box is located on the check-in table at all meetings.

The value of **Personal Care Donations for VAMC** last year totaled \$167. Thank you, and don't forget to bring these items to our general meetings and place in the box on the check-in table.

**Armed Forces Day Luncheon** will be held at the Diplomat Party House on May 17<sup>th</sup>, starting at 1200. See Russ Green for tickets.

**Memorial Day Ceremony** will be held at the Rochester War Memorial at 3 PM on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. This service recognizes all Monroe County veterans who died during the last year. Russ Green and I will be placing the GVC wreath during the service. Please consider attending this event.

Thanks to Russ Green and Ken Carlsen who volunteered to place the flags in the Veterans' Section at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery on Memorial Day weekend.

**In Memory.** Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of recently deceased members CDR William Bruckel, USN (ret) and CW4 George Burandt, USA (ret).

**Welcome.** Please join me in welcoming our newest Chapter members, CAPT Richard Claus, USN (RET) and his wife Joanne, CAPT Michael Chan, Active ANG and his wife Teresa, CAPT Tom Brovarone, USN (Ret) and his wife Susan.

**New Life Members.** COL Peter Ingalsbe, USA (Ret) and Lt Col Norma Weissend, USAF (Ret), thank you for dedication and service to the Chapter and MOAA.

- Gerald "Jerry" Luzum, CEC, USN (Ret), President

**Spouses Club.** Spouses met at Monroe Restaurant on March 19<sup>th</sup>. We decided to have a beer and snack raffle again this June at our Final Dinner Meeting. Elaine Vitone will donate the cooler. We nominated a committee to gather names for our election of new officers. This will be done at our next meeting. Our next meeting will

be April 16<sup>th</sup> at noon time at Monroe Restaurant on Monroe Ave. (Old Spring House) at noon time. Please let Eileen know if you will be coming. A reminder e-mail will be sent, and calls will be made to those who do not have e-mails.

- Eileen and Kathy

**Vacation trip ?** Jim Tille is putting together a two week bus trip through the Pacific Northwest, US National Parks and into Canada during the second week in June for approximately \$1600. Jim has sponsored several trips for NYS MOAA members in the past. If interested, contact Jim through his email address: [jimtille@yahoo.com](mailto:jimtille@yahoo.com).

### **2014 Dues !!**

The Chapter does not mail statements. 2014 dues are now due. Dues are \$15.00 payable to GVC/MOAA. I would be happy to receive your check for \$30.00, which is two year's dues, simplifying your checkbook and my accounts. Please mail your check to me at:

LTC Russell L. Green 2 Winding Brook Drive Fairport, New York 14450
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### **Or add your dues to the dinner reservation.**

I'm happy to report that you can now pay your **Chapter dues online**, if you wish. Go to [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org), click on "Chapters" in the red bar, then click "Online Chapter Dues Payment" on the top right side, then "Join or Renew your Chapter dues" and follow the directions.

- Russ Green, LTC, USA (Ret), Treasurer



**GVC/MOAA ROTC/NROTC/JROTC Awards Dinner**  
March 9, 2014, Rochester, New York



**L to R: CAPT Luzum (President, GVC/MOAA), Cadet Swearingen and MAJ Graham (Army ROTC Rochester Institute of Technology(RIT)), Cadet Harvey and LTC Miranda (JROTC Early College International HS), MSG Meister and Cadet Hernandez (JROTC Leadership Academy, Charlotte HS), LtCol Lagerquest and Cadet Brown (USAF ROTC RIT), CAPT Bartkoski (NROTC University of Rochester) and LTC Fletcher (Army ROTC SUNY Brockport)**

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**WANTED!**  
**GVC MOAA Dinner Program Coordinator**

Seeking an individual or team to make dinner program arrangements and coordinate reservations for GVC dinner programs. The collective planning skills among the members and spouses is formidable! Put those skills to work to make a real difference to the organization. For details, give Barb Green a call at 585-330-2708.

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**Genesee Valley Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
53rd Year, Fifth Meeting  
Sunday, April 27, 2014**

Gatherings at the Daisy Flour Mill  
1880 Blossom Road  
Rochester, New York  
585-381-0180

1300 Cocktails and Cheese and Crackers

1400 Dinner  
Selections

Roast Pork Loin w/ Sweet Potato Pancakes  
Italian Marinade Grilled Chicken with Sauteed Artichoke and Fresh Tomato  
Baked Salmon w/ Mustard crème Fraiche

Dessert

**Reservations due Saturday April 19, 1200. Please use form provided below.**  
Cancellations NLT Wednesday, April 23.

**Future Meetings:**

June 8, 2014 – Burgundy Basin

**Reservations for April Meeting**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Guest \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Pork \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon

Payment is enclosed for the following:

meal(s) at \$25.00 each, totaling \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ years dues at \$15.00/year, totaling \_\_\_\_\_

Lifetime dues for age \_\_\_\_\_ , totaling \_\_\_\_\_

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Check enclosed for a total of: \_\_\_\_\_

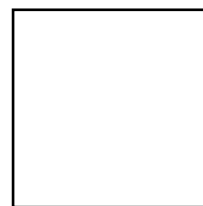
For more information/questions, or if your reservation may be late in arriving at the PO Box, call Barbara Green at 585-330-2708.

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

GVC MOAA  
PO Box 20874  
Rochester, NY 14602-0874



**Genesee Valley Chapter  
Military Officers Assn of America  
151 Galvin Court  
Farmington, NY 14425**



**April 2014 Newsletter**

**First Class Mail**

