



2011, 2012, 2013

GENESEE VALLEY CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA NEWSLETTER



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Serving Members and Their Country

May 2014

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Memorial Day. At this time of year, I reflect on two things. First of all Memorial Day. Last year I recounted the history of this special day. This year my thoughts are of the families of those

Chapter members who died during the last year and the eight men of our SEABEE Battalion who died during my first deployment to Vietnam in 1967. I was reminded of their sacrifice each day of the seven years I traveled to the Pentagon/Pentagon City passing Arlington National Cemetery. It became more personal when I served on the Navy Honor Guard rendering a final salute to active duty and retired Naval Officers whose families chose that hallowed ground as a final resting place for their loved one, where over 400,000 men and women who have served this country are buried. I ask each of you to spend a few moments remembering a special service man or woman who has inspired you. At 3 PM on Memorial Day, the

nation pauses for a moment of silence for this purpose. Please be a part of that solemn moment and make it a teaching moment for those who are celebrating that day with you.

Looking Back. The second thought that comes to mind is the Chapter events of this past year. For the third year in a row, we received the 2012 Level of Excellence (LOE) Award for our Chapter. Added to that, we also received the MOAA Col. Marvin J. Harris Communication Award for Unique Communications for the publication of the "How to" Guide to Host a State Convention. In addition, we received many letters thanking us for our support.

Last Meeting. Brian Pitre of Skyop provided great insight into the fast growing industry of Unmanned Aerial Systems and gave us a demonstration of their capabilities with one of his vehicles. A photograph of the Chapter members by the UAV is found in this newsletter. He outlined the many Federal obstacles facing the industry before their full capabilities can be realized. Again, a sincere thank you to Brian and his copilot Andrew for that engaging afternoon.

Looking Ahead. In a few short weeks, we will be submitting the LOE documentation for 2013, hoping to continue the string of 5 Star rankings. And with this, I want to thank all Chapter members who work so hard to make us competitive for this award.

This is going to be a tough year for the Defense Budget, especially since the President's Budget Request contained drastic cuts to funds for our active duty and retired personnel. The House Armed Services Committee did not support 3 of the 4 proposed cuts, but did not address the cuts in retiree, guard and reserve forces. The legislative process has a long way to go, so I ask each of you to visit the "Take Action" section of the MOAA web site and weigh in on these important issues.

On the State level, it would appear that the separate bills regarding the 'Intrastate Compact for the Educational Opportunity of Military Children' have been rolled into an omnibus veteran's bill supported by the governor. This is an obvious 'end around' avoidance of the Assembly Education Committee who have sat on the Assembly version of this Bill for 6 straight years. This is good news, but could mean trouble when it comes before the entire Assembly for a vote, since the issue has been taken out of the jurisdiction of the Education Committee. I will keep you informed if we need to go to a full court press with our local legislators. Their legislative session ends in early June, and if the bill is not passed during this session, it will have to be reintroduced in the fall.

Next Meeting. Todd Baxter, recently selected as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Veterans Outreach Center, will speak to the Chapter of the various services provided to the 68,000 veterans living in this area. The Center was established some 40 years ago by Vietnam Veterans and is considered one of the nation's premier veteran service organizations. He served with the Rochester Police Department for 22 years before being named as the Greece Police Chief, a position he held for 4 years. Prior to his service in law enforcement, he served on active duty in the Army for three years, followed by 19 years in the Army Reserves, retiring as a Master Sergeant with the 98th Division. I am sure his background will be of interest along with the challenges he faces at the Center. Please join us for this last meeting before the summer break.

Summer Break. Enjoy your summer and come back refreshed for next year's program.

Spend some of this time considering volunteering for some facet of our Chapter activities.

Honor Flight. Honor Flight Rochester (HFR) has scheduled Mission 35 for June 14-15, Mission 36 – June 28 – 29 and Mission 37 – September 6 - 7. 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 our meetings.

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)
President

Introducing Boardmember Norma

Weissend, Norma Weissend received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mathematics in 1978 from SUNY Potsdam and reported to USAF Officer Training School that same fall. After receiving her commission in December 1978, her first active duty assignment was back to college at Texas A&M University for three semesters of intense Meteorology coursework. Her next assignment was Base Weather Forecaster and Wing Weather Officer to the 2nd Bomb Wing, 8th Air Force at Barksdale AFB, LA. She then served as an Instructor for Staff Weather Officer Courses at ChanuteAFB, IL.

Upon separation from active duty in 1983, Norma re-settled in her home area of Victor-Canandaigua and immediately joined the NY Air National Guard at the 107th Fighter Wing in Niagara Falls, NY as its Intelligence Officer. She witnessed its conversion to the 107th Air Refueling Wing in 1994. The refueling mission provided many TDY opportunities to support worldwide Joint Military Operations such as Operation Joint Forge in Pisa, Italy, Operation Northern Watch at Incirlik AB, Turkey and Operation Enduring Freedom in

Oman. She retired in 2003 as the Wing Chief of Intelligence with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Norma's civilian career has encompassed over 30 years of Informational Technology, including software design, development, support, technical instruction, assessing, procuring, and implementing educational technology in the Finger Lakes region. Norma currently works as a Senior Technical Support Specialist with Williamson Law Book Company. She lives in the Canandaigua area and has 3 children and 6 grandchildren.

GVC/MOAA Boardmembers 2013-2015

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Past president: Robert Zale, Col, USAF (Ret), 585-594-8422 Email: sigbobzale@aol.com

Auxiliary Liaison: Carol Searing, 585-586-8993, Email: cws1@usadatanet.net

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.



SKYOP Picture taken April 27, 2014 at our GVC/MOAA meeting



SKYOP UAV Pilot Brian Pitre and cameraman Dan Albert.

"Thanks to all who have paid their dues for 2014 (and beyond). This will be the last notice published in the newsletter. The Chapter does not mail statements. Please forward your dues for \$15.00 for 2014 (or \$30.00 for 2014-15) to Chapter Treasurer LTC Russell Green, 2 Winding Brook Dr, Fairport, NY 14450. You may also consider Chapter Lifetime Membership, according to the following schedule:

| <u>Age</u> | <u>Life dues</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Life Dues</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Life</u> |
|-------------|------------------|------------|------------------|------------|-------------|
| Dues | | | | | |
| <45 | \$270 | 61-65 | 220 | 81-85 | 110 |
| 46-50 | 265 | 66-70 | 200 | 86-89 | 80 |
| 51-55 | 250 | 71-75 | 170 | 90+ | No charge |
| 56-60 | 235 | 76-80 | 140 | | |

For your convenience, you may also add your dues payment to your dinner reservation.

I'm happy to report that you can now **pay your Chapter dues online**, if you wish. Go to 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

Future GVC/MOAA Meetings:

September 14, Johnson House, Chili, NY

October 26, Daisy Flour Mill

December 7, Burgundy Basin

Genesee Valley Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
53rd Year, Fourth Meeting

Sunday, June 8, 2014

Guest Speaker Mr. Todd Baxter
President and CEO of Veterans outreach Center

Burgundy Basin
1361 Marsh Road
Pittsford, NY 14534

(Exit 26 off I 490 toward Pittsford, turn on Marsh Rd. toward Post Office on corner)

1300 Cocktails and Cheese and Crackers

Entrees

Sirloin Steak w/ Wild Mushroom Aus Jus
Poached Salmon w/ Lemon Garnish
Chicken Marsala

Dessert

Vanilla Ice Cream w/ Raspberry Melba Sauce

Reservations due Saturday May 31, 1200. Please use form provided.

Cancellations NLT Wednesday, June 4.

Reservations for June 8 Meeting

Name _____

Spouse _____

Guest Guest _____

Beef _____ Chicken _____ Fish _____

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 _____

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