



**Nine Consecutive Years
of
5-Star Levels of Excellence!**

2010 – 2011 – 2012 – 2013 – 2014 – 2015 – 2016 – 2017

2018

VISIT US AT GVCMOAA.ORG

SERVING MEMBERS AND THEIR COUNTRY

***** NEVER STOP SERVING *****

October 2019



PRESIDENT'S CORNER Can you believe Fall is already upon us and the leaves are changing colors? Where did Summer go? And I'll forgo comments about the "white stuff" until the next newsletter!

It's been a busy time since our last newsletter... four members of the chapter's leadership team attended MOAA's North Eastern Region Council & Chapter Leadership Workshop in Hershey, PA 6-7 Sep 2019. Chapter Presidents, Membership Chairs, Legislative Chairs, Surviving Spouse Liaisons and State Council leaders were authorized attendees. This was MOAA's biggest workshop to date with approximately 130 fellow MOAA chapter and council leaders from about 13 states! Topics presented and discussed included an overview of MOAA National operations across

many fronts, chapter management training, legislative training, surviving spouse liaison training and finally, a marketing workshop, which was a first-ever event for these workshops. Overall a very worthwhile training event shared with fellow chapter and state-level leaders.

In addition to the NER workshop, the NYS Council of Chapters Convention just wrapped up in Fishkill, NY, where I was honored to accept on the chapter's behalf the 2018 Five-Star Levels of Excellence Award, the ninth consecutive year the Genesee Valley Chapter has earned this distinction! Additionally, I was honored to receive the Col Marvin J. Harris Communications Award on behalf of the chapter and our past president, Peter Ingalsbe, for his work as the print newsletter editor; congratulations Peter!

The traditions of excellence for this chapter do not happen in a vacuum or because of one individual; this is a team sport with many moving parts, managed by many dedicated people... THANK YOU ALL!



MOAA 5-Star Levels of Excellence Award, GVC's Ninth Consecutive Year!



Col Marvin J. Harris Communication Award GVC COL Peter Ingalsbe, Newsletter Editor

Honor Flight Challenge. After a wonderful presentation by Honor Flight Rochester President, Rich Stewart, at our Chapter Dinner on September 15th, we are continuing Rosemary Luzum's Honor Flight Rochester Challenge to December. We have already received many generous donations that will support almost two additional veteran participants. Honor Flight Rochester just completed Mission 68 on Sun Sep 29th; if you happened to see any of the press coverage you can't deny the excitement and pride the veterans show after their visit to the memorials in Washington D.C. There were 59 Veterans on Mission 68, 2 from WW II, 9 from the Korean War, 37 Cold War veterans and 11 from the Vietnam War. Please consider

accepting this challenge... you can send your check, made out to Honor Flight Rochester, to:

Norma Weissend
 GVC Treasurer
 4587 Ridge Rd
 Canandaigua, NY 14424

And if you have already participated in the challenge... THANK YOU!!!

Board of Directors Vacancy. We still have an opportunity to serve on our chapter board as the Legislative Chair. Norma Weissend has graciously offered to fill this role until we find a permanent volunteer. If you are interested and think you might be a good fit, please contact me or any board member.

Spouses Club. The Spouses Club of GVC MOAA will meet for lunch at Richardson's Canal House in Pittsford on Thursday October 17, 2019 at noon. Please contact Signe Zale via email sigbobzale@aol.com or (585) 594-8422 to RSVP. This will be the last luncheon of this year, the next lunch will be in the Spring of 2020. Check here for future luncheon dates. On a side-note, my wife, Jean, and I joined the ladies for lunch at the Monroe Golf Club last month and had an outstanding lunch and wonderful time visiting and providing some updates and information on chapter activities and MOAA National training, legislative and advocacy operations.

GVC MOAA Fund Raiser

GVC support of the Wreaths Across America campaign is beginning again this month. Our chapter earns \$5.00 for every wreath purchased, and last year we earned nearly \$400. In addition to being a good cause, this directly supports our chapter's ability to support veteran programs each year (see the list below under "Your Dues at Work"). Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) corporation whose mission is to: **REMEMBER** our fallen U.S. veterans. **HONOR** those who serve. **TEACH** your children the value of freedom.

In addition to wreath donations, you can join us on National Wreaths Across America Day:

Saturday, December 14, 2019
Wreath laying begins at 10:30 am
Ceremony begins at 12:00 pm
Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery
(NYSVMC)
6632 New York Route 96a
Romulus, NY 14541



Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery

A donation form is attached at the end of this newsletter, but the easiest way to donate is online:

<https://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/>

Select “MENU”
Select “SEARCH LOCATIONS/GROUPS”
Select “Participating Locations”
Type “NYSVMC”
OR
Select “Local Fundraising Groups”
Type “Genesee Valley”
Click the “VIEW” Tab for either Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery or Genesee Valley Chapter – Military Officers Association of America (NY0118P)
Click the “SPONSOR WREATHS” Tab
Select Your Donation!

Your Chapter Dues at Work – We Support...

- Honor Flight Rochester
- U of R, RIT and Brockport ROTC Cadets
- Veterans Memorial Committee
- Rochester Armed Forces Day Luncheon
- National Veterans Golden Age Games
- Battlefields to Ballfields
- Batavia DAV

Address Change? Have you moved? Have you changed your email address? If so, please contact Ken Carlsen or Nancy Swanson at the email address below or write us at:

GVC/MOAA
PO Box 20874
Rochester, NY 14602-0874

MOAA Legislative Issues.

Repeal of the Widows Tax is on the verge of becoming a reality. In a 94-0 vote on Sep 25th, senators advised lawmakers to include language in the final version of the National Defense Authorization Act that would repeal the widows tax.

If you haven't done so, please use MOAA's Legislative Action Center link on their website to contact your elected officials... it's easy and fast. And most importantly, IT MATTERS!

TRICARE in the News

TRICARE & Traveling

Are you planning to travel during the upcoming holiday season? Do you have TRICARE or TRICARE for Life? MOAA has some useful information on “Tips for Traveling With TRICARE” and “Tips for Using TRICARE For Life Overseas.” Go to www.moaa.org and enter these topics in the “SEARCH” window. Regardless of your medical coverage, you should check you plan details before you go.

Federal Benefits Open Season is Coming

November 11 – December 09, 2019

Changes to your TRICARE or FEDVIP plans must be made during open season unless you have a Qualifying Life Event (QLE). A qualifying life event (QLE) includes: retirement, move, marriage, divorce, birth of a child, death of a beneficiary.

If you make no changes during Open Season your current enrollment will continue into the next year. However, you may want to review your plan for benefits and premium changes against other plans offered for 2020. Go to:

<https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/open-season>

You may also let MOAA help you navigate the decision-making process with a one-hour interactive webinar – “[How to Shop for a FEDVIP Dental and/or Vision Plan](#)” – on Wednesday, Oct. 9, at 2 p.m. Eastern.

Go to www.moaa.org to register.

Tim Vaughan, Col, USAF (Retired)

MOAA GVC President

“Never Stop Serving”

Upcoming Events.

Oct 27, 2019: GVC/MOAA Dinner, Farmer’s Creekside Tavern & Inn, Le Roy, NY, 1pm/2pm

Dec 8, 2019: GVC/MOAA Holiday Dinner, Brook Lea Country Club, Rochester, NY, 1pm/2pm

Dec 14, 2019: Wreaths Across America, Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Romulus, NY, 10:30am/12pm

Mar ??, 2020: GVC/MOAA Dinner, Brook Lea Country Club, Rochester, NY, 1pm/2pm

GVC/MOAA BOARD MEMBERS 2019-2021

President: Tim Vaughan, Col, USAF (Ret)

(585) 412-6425

Email: tvaughan1@aol.com

1st VP: James Nielsen, CDR, USN (Ret)

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Email: jim99n@gmail.com

2nd VP / Membership Chair:

Ken Carlsen, CDR, USN (Ret)

(585) 377-5665

Email: kcarlsen32@gmail.com

3rd VP: Willard Brown, COL, USA (Ret)

(585) 442-8996

Email: wgbrown@frontiernet.net

Member-at-Large: Larry Feasel, COL, USA

(Ret) (585) 381-6604

Email: LFEASEL1@rochester.rr.com

Secretary: Nancy Swanson, CAPT, USN (Ret)

(585) 905-0346

Email: gns92649@hotmail.com

Treasurer / Legislative Chair /

Past President: Norma Weissend, Lt Col,

USAF (Ret) (585) 727-6190

Email: normaweis@roadrunner.com

Past President: Peter Ingalsbe, COL, USA

(Ret) (585) 749-3390 (Cell)

Email: pingalsbe@gmail.com

Past President / Transition Liaison:

Dave Szczygiel, BG, USA (Ret) (585) 346-3736

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Past President: Barbara Green, COL, USA

(Ret) (585) 330-2708

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Spouse Liaison: Marion Mench

(585) 217-1779

Email: mosimpli@rochester.rr.com

Spouses Club Liaison:

Email: Signe Zale: sigbobzale@aol.com

2019 GVC Member Dues

Annual dues are ONLY \$20!

Send your dues payment to:

GVC MOAA

c/o Norma Weissend

4587 Ridge Rd

Canandaigua, NY 14424

Check out GVCMOAA.ORG for special Life Member rates.

Four Reasons Why MOAA Matters...

What follows are partial extracts of a speech given by MOAA National's Jim Carman, Vice President of Council/Chapter and Member Support, at the NYS CoC Convention Banquet 25 Sep 2019 in Fishkill, NY... Great stuff here!

1. 5.5 million; that's the number of veteran and military caregivers in the United States based on research sponsored by the Elizabeth Dole Foundation. The Elizabeth Dole Foundation was founded to support America's 5.5 million military caregivers. One of the first things the foundation did was to reach-out to MOAA for assistance in producing an online guide for the legal and financial aspects of military caregiving. MOAA stepped-up and launched the online guide for the Legal and Financial Aspects of Military Caregiving in early 2014, which is visited about 1,000 times per month and has become a valued resource for military caregivers. You can view it here, www.moaa.org/caregiver. MOAA also championed passage of the VA Mission Act, which expanded eligibility for a monthly stipend, access to health insurance, and respite care to all generations of veteran caregivers.

2. 900,000; that's the number of National Guard and reserve activations since 2001. Multiple deployments, family support issues and the difficulties in transitioning on and off healthcare plans led MOAA to recently partner with the Reserve Officers Association to host an impactful National Guard and Reserve Family Forum, which has identified a number of gaps in pay, benefits, and quality of life programs for reserve and Guard families. Increased awareness of their situation strengthens our advocacy agenda and our connection with reserve component members and their families.

3. 260,000; the number of new joins we need to assess into military service each year to sustain the All-Volunteer Force. The pool of potential recruits, nearly 20,000,000, vs. those that meet basic entrance requirements is dwindling. And now with the lowest unemployment rate in 50

years, the recruiters' job is much more complicated. That's why the \$9 million dispersed annually to 1,300 students by the MOAA Scholarship Fund is so important and it does great work for both officer and enlisted families.

4. 67,000; that's the number of surviving spouses impacted by the required offset of the Survivor Benefit Plan. There's not another insurance plan in America where an annuity payment would be reduced by a government benefit – Congress and the courts would never allow it! Moreover, the vast majority of the 67,000 families impacted by this injustice are junior enlisted families. It costs them about \$12,000 annually. Repealing this offset is a very high priority of your association and we're making remarkable progress. However, correcting this injustice will cost about \$6 billion over 10 years. Although members of Congress support fixing the problem, they have failed to find an adequate way to pay for it. Against this backdrop, your association continues to educate and inform members of Congress about this injustice and support repeal, as contained in the House version of the NDAA. Clearly, it's past time to right this fundamental wrong!

MOAA matters to these people! If you like G.I. Bill transferability, Tricare for Life, the VA Mission Act, and elimination of the Social Security Offset on SBP – then I think you should thank the Military Officers Association of America.

Against the challenges of a dwindling number of veterans in Congress, ballooning national debt and seeking common ground today's politics, your membership is the engine that powers all of this good work!

That's why MOAA matters!

**GENESEE VALLEY CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

October 27, 2019

**Farmer's Creekside Tavern & Inn
1 Main St, Le Roy, NY 14482**

**1300 - Social Hour (Cash Bar)
1400 - Dinner**

ENTRÉE CHOICES

Sirloin Steak with a Lemon Aioli, Vegetables & choice of Mashed Potatoes or Fries

Chicken, Pan Seared, then Baked, Breast, Wing, Thigh and Leg with a Pan Gravy, Mixed Vegetables and Rice "Pilaf"

Salmon, Grilled, then Baked, with a Fennel-Carrot Puree and Forbidden "Black" Rice

**ROCHESTER VOC
GUEST SPEAKER!**

Rosemary's Challenge for
Honor Flight Rochester
is Still Ongoing...

Please Consider a Donation!

Reservations due ASAP but NLT Friday October 18, 2019

Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Questions: Norma (585) 727-6190

PLEASE CLIP HERE AND SEND FORM BELOW

**RESERVATION FORM FOR October 27, 2019 GVC MEETING at
Farmer's Creekside Tavern & Inn, 1 Main St, Le Roy, NY 14482**

ALL Name(s) Attending:

Please indicate number of each meal desired:

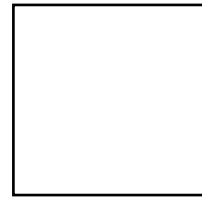
Steak _____ Chicken _____ Salmon _____

Check included for _____ meal(s) at **\$30.00 each, TOTAL \$**_____

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

**GVC MOAA
c/o Norma Weissend
4587 Ridge Rd
Canandaigua, NY 14424**

**Genesee Valley Chapter
Military Officers Assn of America
PO Box 20874
Rochester, NY 14602-0874**



August 2019 Newsletter

First Class Mail





WREATHS *across* AMERICA

Wreath Sponsorship Form

Sponsored wreaths are placed on grave markers at state and national veterans' cemeteries, as well as at local, community cemeteries each December. Wreaths may also be sponsored online at www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org. If you wish to make your sponsorship with a credit card, please visit our website for a secure online transaction.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Please make checks payable to:
Wreaths Across America
PO Box 249
Columbia Falls, ME 04623

Call 877-385-9504 with any questions.
Thank you for your sponsorship and joining us in our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach!

Sponsorship Type	Price	Quantity	Total
Individual = 1 Wreath	\$15.00		
Mailed "In Honor" card = If you wish to send a physical honor card telling someone of your sponsorship, please see "In Honor" section below. The \$2 fee is required for this mailing.	\$2.00		
Family = 4 Wreaths	\$60.00		
Small Business = 10 Wreaths	\$150.00		
Corporate = 100 Wreaths	\$1,500.00		
		Grand Total	

GRAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED ON THIS FORM

In Honor of:

Below, please provide email or mailing address of "In Honor of" recipient so we can notify them of your sponsorship in their honor. If you have a specific message please write it on the back of this sheet.

Email address: _____

Mailing address: _____

In Memory of:

This name will be listed on our online memory wall. Below, please provide name, rank, branch of service and state resided.

Branch of Service: _____

Rank: _____

State: _____

Please note, ALL sponsored wreaths are shipped directly to the location and NO wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.

Location ID: NYSVMC Fundraising Group ID: NY0118P

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Cash: _____ Total: _____ Date Received: _____

Total No. Checks: _____ Reconciled: _____

MO: _____

Entered: _____

GEN: _____