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SERVING MEMBERS AND THEIR COUNTRY * NEVER STOP SERVING *** February 2020**



PRESIDENT'S CORNER Wow, that was fast! the Holiday Season has come and gone and all that remains are the credit card bills! We had another fantastic holiday dinner function at the Brook Lea Country Club, great fun, great camaraderie and great entertainment! A big thank you to Kathy Green and Signe Zale for their support of the Spouses Club with beautiful handmade jewelry and bake sales at the dinner. I'd also like to thank those that brought hats for our Hats for Heroes drive for the Rochester Veterans Outreach Center.

We're already into the second month of the New Year and I hope you are off to a great start!

The past three months have been busy ones from a legislative standpoint, especially with the President signing the FY 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) on December 20, 2019! more about that later!

We also closed out the Rosemary Luzum Honor Flight Rochester (HFR) challenge, with donations totaling over \$1,900, which is simply amazing! A very special thank you to all of the HFR contributors listed below:

Rosemary Luzum, Paul Costello, David Szczygiel, Vivian Kennely, Helena Krebs, John Davis, Francis Balik, Timothy Vaughan, Ken Carlsen, Richard Lo Tempio, Jim Nielsen, Franklin Russell, Marion Mench, Peter Ingalsbe, Barbara Green, Russell Green, Louis Malucci, Judy Buffano, Willard Brown, Charles McCausland, Norma Weissend, Spouses Club, Copy Town Enterprise (where our newsletter is printed) and cash from the Honor Flight Donation box from chapter dinners.

We also had a very successful Wreaths Across America campaign, where wreath donations in GVC's name/identifier added to the total of 635 wreaths designated for the veteran gravesites at the Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Sat Dec 14, 2019. A sincere thank you to all who donated to Wreaths Across America: Norma Weissend, David Szczygiel, Peter Ingalsbe, Ken Carlsen, Marion Mench, Willard Brown, Jim Nielsen, Rosemary Luzum, Tim Vaughan, Nancy Swanson, Barb Green. The

<http://takeaction.moaa.org>

MOAA National & the Genesee Valley Chapter are nonpartisan.

following also donated, but unfortunately, the WAA report only includes first name and last name initial and I had trouble matching GVC members to these listings: Francis B, Robert S, Jamie S, Sally O, Len V and Marjorie B. In addition to individual donations, we had one corporate sponsor this year, Wegmans, which we are very grateful for.

Remember the Wreaths Across America mission:

REMEMBER our fallen U.S. veterans.

HONOR those who serve.

TEACH your children the value of freedom.

MOAA Matters!

Am sure you see it in your monthly MOAA magazine or perhaps online at the MOAA website, www.moaa.org, but MOAA is constantly working legislative issues on behalf of all veterans and MOAA is one of the leading organizations to do so. When you see calls from MOAA to contact your elected officials, please don't hesitate to use MOAA's Legislative Take Action Center, <http://takeaction.moaa.org>, which will guide you through the issues, prepare a memo and automatically find your elected officials for the issues you select.

FY 2020 NDAA Highlights

Big, big news, and frankly, it's much overdue... the FY 2020 National Defense Authorization Act eliminated the Survivor Benefit Plan-Dependency Indemnity Compensation (SBP-DIC) offset or what is referred to as the Widows Tax... however... the elimination will be phased in over three years, beginning in 2021 and increasing incrementally until spouses receive 100% of both their SBP and DIC benefits in 2023. MOAA's relentless advocacy and pursuit in this regard paid off and the MOAA staff deserve kudos for their monumental accomplishment!

This too is huge... also included in the FY 2020 NDAA, was the establishment of our Nation's newest and sixth branch of the armed forces... welcome United States Space Force (USSF)! The USSF was established within the Department of the Air Force and will be stood up over the next 18 months and will have a four-star general, known as the Chief of Space Operations (CSO), who serves as the

senior member of the USSF and is also a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

And the FY 2020 NDAA directly affects your pocketbook if you use TRICARE. Enrollment fees, Retail and Mail-order Pharmacy fees have increased.

Enrollment fees for retirees who entered service prior to Jan. 1, 2018. TRICARE Prime: \$300 (single)/\$600 (family), up from \$297/\$594; TRICARE Select: No fee.

Enrollment fees for retirees who entered service after Jan. 1, 2018. TRICARE Prime: \$366 (single)/\$732 (family), up from \$360/\$720; TRICARE Select: \$471 (single)/\$942 (family), up from \$462/\$924.

Retail pharmacy fees. \$13 for 30-day supply of generic, \$33 for brand name, \$60 for non-formulary (up from \$11, \$28, and \$53, respectively).

Mail-order pharmacy fees: \$10 for a 90-day supply of generic, \$29 for brand name, \$60 for non-formulary (up from \$7, \$24 and \$53, respectively).

Note: No fees for 30-day supplies for generic and brand-name drugs from military treatment facilities (MTFs). However, take note of the story below, access to MTFs may disappear.

And one bright spot in this area... There were no TRICARE For Life enrollment fees or deductibles in 2020.

MOAA Legislative Issues & Items of Interest MOAA's Legislative Mission for 2020

- Protect Your Health Care Benefit
- Keep Military Pay and Benefits Strong
- Support Military Families
- Concurrent Receipt for All Retirees
- Support the Total Force
- Better, Faster DoD/VA Services
- Strengthen and Support All Uniformed Services

Something to Keep an Eye On...

In MOAA Newsí Military Medical Facilities Will Stop Treating Families, Retirees. This may not apply locally, but if you snowbird near Military Treatment Facilities, you could potentially be affected. This is fallout from the FY 2017 NDAA, which directed the focus of the Military Health System to be on readiness. MOAA's website has numerous articles on this topic www.moaa.org, but see MOAA's Feb 11, 2020 story by Karen Ruedisueli for more information... "Throughout this process, please be assured MOAA's focus is protecting the military health benefit for service members and retirees, their families, and survivors."

MOAA's Storming the Hill 2020

MOAA's Storming the Hill 2020 will take place in conjunction with MOAA's Council Presidentsø Seminar, March 23-26, 2020. New York's attendees will be NYS Council of Chapters members Peggy Phillips, President, Skip Bebernitz, Vice President, and our own Norma Weissend, Western Regional Vice President.

Letter to President Trump From Veterans Groups Seeks Addition of 4 Presumptive Diseases to Agent Orange List

Seven veterans service organizations (VSOs) have united to call on President Donald Trump to use his executive powers and add four scientifically connected presumptive diseases to the list of veteransø [diseases associated with Agent Orange](#).

MOAA co-signed the letter with the Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America, Fleet Reserve Association, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and AMVETS following the [VA notification](#) that the department would await the results of two studies that are scheduled to be released in late 2020 before making any changes to the list of presumptive conditions.

The four presumptives -- bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, Parkinson-like symptoms, and hypertension -- affect at least an estimated 83,000 veterans.

Use MOAA's Take Action link to contact your elected officials on this matterí now!

<http://takeaction.moaa.org>

2020 GVC Membership Dues

Good News, Bad News...

The Bad News firstí If you haven't already, it's time to pay your 2020 chapter dues. Now for the Good Newsí Annual dues are *STILL ONLY* \$20! That's less than \$1.67 a month, how can you beat that???

Please send your dues payment to:

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

The chapter also offers Life Membership options, please check out GVCMOAA.ORG for Life Member rates.

Board of Directors Vacancy. We still have an opportunity to serve on our chapter board as the Legislative Chair. If you are interested, please contact me or any board member.

Spouses Club. Stay tuned for future Spouses Club activitiesí If you'd like to get involved or get notified of future GVC MOAA Spouse Club events, please contact Signe Zale via email sigbobzale@aol.com or (585) 594-8422.

ROTC / JROTC Awards Dinner

Sun March 22, 2020 is our ROTC/JROTC awards dinner. Please join us and help us recognize local outstanding cadets who will receive the MOAA ROTC / JROTC Award. See attached flyer for details!

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

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
- Veterans Outreach Center

Upcoming Events.

Mar 22, 2020: GVC/MOAA Dinner, Brook Lea Country Club, Rochester, NY, 1pm/2pm

Apr 26, 2020: GVC/MOAA Dinner, Nolan's Restaurant, Canandaigua, NY, 3pm/4pm

Jun 7, 2020: GVC/MOAA Dinner, Canandaigua Yacht Club, 1pm/2pm

GVC/MOAA BOARD MEMBERS 2019-2021

President: Tim Vaughan, Col, USAF (Ret)
(585) 412-6425

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1st VP: James Nielsen, CDR, USN (Ret)
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Email: LFEASEL1@rochester.rr.com

Secretary: Nancy Swanson, CAPT, USN (Ret)
(585) 905-0346

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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

Email: mszczygiel1@rochester.rr.com

Past President: Barbara Green, COL, USA
(Ret) (585) 330-2708

Email: bgreenanc@gmail.com

Surviving Spouse Liaison: Marion Mench
(585) 217-1779

Email: mosimpli@rochester.rr.com

Spouses Club Liaison:

Email: Signe Zale: sigbobzale@aol.com

Surviving Spouses Resources & Information

MOAA publishes brochures on many subjects.

Three that are particularly relevant to me as the
Surviving Spouse Liaison are:

Help your Survivors Now: A Guide to
Planning Ahead

Survivors Planning Guide: A Handbook for
One of Life's Toughest Assignments

Survivors Checklist: First Steps for Moving On

At our next dinner meeting, I will have copies of
these brochures available. If you are not
planning on attending and wish a copy of any of
these brochures, please phone me at (585) 662-
5954, and I will be sure you will get them.

Please be aware these, and many other helpful
brochures, are available free of charge from
MOAA to all but Basic members. Check the
MOAA website, www.moaa.org, for a complete
list of publications.

Marion Mench

Surviving Spouse Liaison

Remember... MOAA matters!

Tim Vaughan, Col, USAF (Retired)

MOAA GVC President

“Never Stop Serving”

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

**March 22, 2020
Brook Lea Country Club
891 Pixley Road, Rochester (Gates), NY 14624
1300 - Social Hour (Cash Bar)
1400 - Dinner**

ENTRÉE CHOICES / \$35 each

House Salad, Rolls & Butter
Petit Filet Mignon w/Sautéed Mushrooms
Chicken Cordon Bleu w/Supreme Sauce
Sole Almondine Lemon Beurre Blanc
Dessert

**ROTC / JROTC AWARDS DINNER
Honoring Army, Navy & Air Force Cadets
from
UR, RIT & SUNY Brockport**

**Reservations due ASAP but NLT Monday March 16, 2020
Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Tuesday, March 17, 2020
Questions: Norma (585) 727-6190**

PLEASE CLIP HERE AND SEND FORM BELOW

**RESERVATION FORM FOR March 22, 2020 GVC MEETING at
Brook Lea Country Club, 891 Pixley Rd, Rochester (Gates), NY 14624**

ALL Name(s) Attending: _____

Please indicate number of each meal desired: _____

Petit Filet Mignon _____ Chicken Cordon Bleu _____ Sole Almondine _____

Check included for _____ meal(s) at **\$35.00 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**



February 2020 Newsletter

First Class Mail

