



## **Eleven Consecutive Years of MOAA 5-Star Levels of Excellence!**

**Serving All Military, Veterans and their Families in the Finger Lakes and**

**Greater Rochester Area \*\*\* Never Stop Serving \*\*\* Feb 2022**



### **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

Spring is coming (*we hope*) and your Board has been working hard to prepare for our spring events. We had a Zoom meeting in January to discuss medium and longer term objectives to increase existing member participation and recruit new members. Topics included Technology Upgrades, simplify Dinner Reservations & Donations, Facebook Presence, Newsletter, Website, MOAA ROTC/JrROTC Awards, Recruitment, Fundraising and Membership. It was a very good meeting with different views presented. We will implement changes as we feel are most beneficial.

In February we had a meeting to finalize the program for the ROTC Awards dinner in March. The meeting included an extensive discussion on various methods of recruiting. The simplest and most practical approach is PERSONAL REFERENCES. If you know of someone who is or could become a member, invite them to attend a meeting.

We welcome relatively new members; Kevin Saunders, Kathy Crelot, Joanne Parks, Ragesh Raghavan, and Jean Vaughan. Jean is a spouse and our new Secretary. She is doing an excellent job. Ragesh has become active in board meetings and has volunteered to Chair the Recruitment Campaign.

Board Meeting Attendance – All GVC members are encouraged to attend and participate in board meetings, except voting. If you have a subject you would like to discuss with us, or you are interested in helping with one of the programs we working on or have another sister organization your would like us to support, please feel free to attend the next Board meeting or contact one of our Board members. We welcome your participation. If you are interested in a copy of the Board minutes, contact Jean Vaughan or Jim Nielsen and we will send you a copy. The next Board Meeting is Wednesday, March 16 at 4:30 at MRB Conference Room, 145 Culver Rd, Rochester, NY

GVCMOAA.org  
our Web Site?



of information on  
our activities. Visit the site today to review all the information. At the next dinner there will be a test to see if you visited the site.

Have you visited  
There is a great deal  
our chapter and our

In similar fashion visit our Facebook page. There is a lot of information there as well. You can get the page from our Web Site by clicking

on Links at the bottom of the left column, or by visiting [www.Facebook.com/](http://www.Facebook.com/) and then click on search and enter “[Genesee Valley Chapter Of The Military Officers Association.](#)”

Alternative Get Togethers – For a change of pace to our normal dinners, some suggestions we have had include Week Day Luncheon, and Pot Luck family picnic in late summer or early fall. If you are interested in either or both of the approaches let our Secretary or Jim Nielsen know. If you willing to help set up an event please let us know.

### Upcoming Events...

*If you know a potential member, invite them to attend a chapter dinner! Engage current members to attend a chapter dinner!*

**Wednesday March 16: Board of Directors**  
At MRB 145 Culver Rd, Rochester, NY  
4:30 PM to finished. Open to GVC Members.

### **Saturday Mar 26, 2022: GVC MOAA ROTC Awards Dinner**

*NOTE the date is Saturday, March 26, 2022* is our MOAA ROTC awards dinner. Please join us and help us recognize local outstanding cadets and midshipmen who will receive the MOAA ROTC Award. See attached flyer for details! The dinners at Brook-Lea Country Club, 891 Pixley Rd, Rochester, NY 14624, 1 pm / 2 pm.

**Sunday Apr 24, 2022:** GVC/MOAA Dinner, Rochester Yacht Club, 5555 St Paul Blvd, Rochester, NY 14617, 1 pm / 2 pm.

**Sunday Jun 12, 2022:** GVC/MOAA Dinner, Canandaigua Yacht, 3524 County Rd 16 (West Lake Rd), Canandaigua, NY 14424, 1 pm / 2 pm.

### **Wreaths Across America 2021 Wrap-up**

We had a very successful Wreaths Across America campaign, where over 127 wreaths were donated in GVC's name/identifier. Wreaths were placed by volunteers at Sampson

Veterans Memorial and Western New York National Cemeteries on Sat Dec 18, 2021.

A sincere thank you to all who donated to Wreaths Across America in GVC's name: Nolan's On The Lake LLC, Wegmans Food Markets (Geneva), Althea Mix-Bryan, Barbara Diebold, Gayle Lossman, Jamie Scotland, John Davis, Karen Phillips, Kathleen Crelot, Lynn Sphar, Marion Mench, Margret Merino, Michael Szczygiel, Nancy Swanson, Norma Weissend, Peter Ingalsbe, Richard Lent, Rosemary Luzum, Russ & Kathy Green and Tim & Jean Vaughan.

Remember the Wreaths Across America mission:

**REMEMBER** our fallen U.S. veterans.

**HONOR** those who serve.

**TEACH** your children the value of freedom.

### **2022 GVC Membership Dues**

Friendly GVC dues reminder... If you haven't already, it's time to pay your 2022 chapter dues. Annual dues are still ONLY \$20!

Please remember GVC dues are separate from MOAA National dues.

The chapter also offers Life Membership options, please check out [www.gvcmoaa.org](http://www.gvcmoaa.org) for Life Member rates.

Please send your GVC dues payment to:

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

*If you know a potential member, invite them to attend a chapter dinner! Engage current and potential members to attend a chapter dinner!*

**Spouses Club.** Spouses Club activities continue to be on hold due to COVID-19.

**GVC Support Coordinators.** If you need help contact Nancy Swanson, (585) 905-0346, or Tim Vaughan, (585) 412-6425. They may not be able to help you directly or in person, but

may be able to coordinate help, support or information you are looking for or may need.

### Your Chapter Dues at Work...

Much of the activity the chapter normally supports has been on hold or limited due to COVID-19. However, the chapter has made donations to Honor Flight Rochester and the Veterans Outreach Center. Additionally, the chapter has been able to present MOAA ROTC awards to cadets/midshipmen at U of R, RIT and SUNY Brockport.

### Honor Flight Rochester

*Honor Flight Rochester has recognized GVC as a "Proud Sponsor" for 2021 and was awarded the plaque shown below for that honor. This honor is all due to the efforts and commitment of Rosemary Luzum, in honor and memory of her husband, Past GVC President Jerry Luzum, CAPT, USN and the "Luzum HFR Challenge" in which GVC members donated \$2,096 to Honor Flight Rochester, which was a passion of Jerry's, as well as another Past GVC President and HFR Co-Founder, Edwin "Woody" Mench, Col, USAF.*



### Surviving Spouse Liaison

We are in need of a volunteer to fill the Surviving Spouse Liaison position. Please contact Jim Nielsen, or any board member, to discuss this opportunity. Furthermore, you don't have to be a surviving spouse either and it really

doesn't involve that much work... but we could certainly use the help!

### MOAA's 2022 Legislative Priorities

On Dec 27, 2021, MOAA released its 2022 Legislative Priorities... just over a dozen of them. See all of them here:

[MOAA - Protecting Pay, COLA, and TRICARE Top MOAA's 2022 Legislative Priorities](#)

"For 2022, we are continuing the momentum established over the previous year to carry our efforts into the second session of Congress. It is important to note all co-sponsors carry over, as do our messages and continued engagements.

Continuity and consistency of effort will be paramount to success — and we are closing in on many of these issues, so stay plugged in and ready to engage your legislators. There are other issues not listed here that are also being worked by our full staff of lobbyists. Our priorities will be shaped throughout the year depending on concurrent successes or emerging issues that warrant an all-hands approach.

We appreciate your grassroots efforts, which shore up all the work we are doing in the Capitol region. You can [follow us online](#) for updates on our progress."

### MOAA's 2022 "Advocacy in Action"

In an effort to advocate for these priorities at the grassroots level, MOAA's annual "Advocacy in Action" legislative push will take place virtually or locally, in the month of April. Our best opportunity to engage may be when legislators are home during Congress' spring break (April 11-22).

This year's Advocacy in Action topics:

- Support the Major Richard Star Act (concurrent receipt for combat-injured servicemembers)
- Reduce TRICARE Mental Health Copayments
- Enact a 4.6% Military Pay Raise in the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

More details from [www.MOAA.org](http://www.MOAA.org) here:  
[MOAA - MOAA Announces Dates, Topics for Spring Advocacy in Action Campaign](#)

### **MOAA's New Legislative Action Center**

You may have noticed the new link at the bottom of the first page to MOAA's new *Legislative Action Center*. The extract below is taken from MOAA online, Jan 4, 2022, by Jon Hicks.

"If you frequently engage with your lawmakers on issues key to MOAA's mission, first please accept the sincere appreciation from everyone here at MOAA – your efforts are critical to our success protecting and expanding the earned pay and benefits for the uniformed services and veteran communities."

"Second, you may notice some changes at our [Legislative Action Center](#) and on individual "Take Action" messages. Our new system is designed to make it even easier to reach out to your lawmakers on these issues, as well as track what MOAA is engaging on in the halls of Congress."

This online article also includes a good frequently asked questions (FAQ) section.

You can read the entire article here:

[MOAA - Meet MOAA's New Legislative Action Center](#)

### **Gold Star Families Day Act Would Establish New Federal Holiday, Feb 02, 2022 Extract**

*This article by Leo Shane III originally appeared on Military Times, the nation's largest independent newsroom dedicated to covering the military and veteran community.*

America recognizes troops' time in service each November on Veterans Day, but now a bipartisan group of senators wants to set aside a day for Gold Star families each September to better honor their sacrifices.

On Tuesday, the lawmakers introduced the new Gold Star Families Day Act, which would make the last Monday in September — just about six weeks before Veterans Day — a fed-

eral holiday to recognize families who have lost a loved one while serving in the military.

"For the countless American families spanning generations who have given and sacrificed so much to defend our nation and protect our freedoms and way of life, our country is eternally grateful," said Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa and an Army National Guard veteran.

Ernst and Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., are leading the effort, which would establish a 12th federal holiday in honor of the families. Veterans Day (Nov. 11) and Memorial Day (the last Monday in May) are among the 11 existing ones.

Read the entire article at MOAA online:

[MOAA - Gold Star Families Day Act Would Establish New Federal Holiday](#)

### **Surviving Spouse Corner: End-of-Life Documents**

By: Barbara Ann Bowman, Jan 31, 2022

[MOAA - Surviving Spouse Corner: End-of-Life Documents](#)

Most people would list among end-of-life documents a will, a trust, an advance directive, a DNR (do not resuscitate) order, and a durable power of attorney. But the list of documents that deal with end-of-life issues is much longer. Deeds to real property, beneficiary declaration for life insurance, and the signature card to a bank account are all end-of-life documents. They determine who gets what and through which legal procedure when someone dies.

Fortunately, checklists to help create an end-of-life plan are available through a number of trustworthy organizations. Among them:

- MOAA's [Help Your Survivors Now: A Guide to Planning Ahead](#)
- VA's [Planning Your Legacy](#)
- Military.com's [Military Retiree Survivor Checklist](#)
- State Bar Association articles and forms

## **SBP-DIC Offset: Surviving Spouse Benefit Payments Will Change in February**

By: Kevin Lilley, Jan 26, 2022

[MOAA - SBP-DIC Offset: Surviving Spouse Benefit Payments Will Change in February](#)

Surviving spouses whose benefits increased last year as part of the phased elimination of the Survivor Benefit Plan-Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (SBP-DIC) offset will see another increase on Feb. 1.

MOAA waged a long fight to end this offset, commonly referred to as the “widows tax,” under which the amount of a surviving spouse’s SBP annuity would be reduced, dollar for dollar, by the amount of their DIC payment.

Language in the FY 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) will end the offset by 2023. moved entirely.

Surviving spouses affected by this change should have received a letter from DFAS in December with individualized estimates of your upcoming benefit payments. [Click here](#) for a sample letter, which includes links for more information on eligibility verification, managing your benefits online, tax statements, and the [DFAS Survivor SBP Newsletter](#).

Beneficiaries with questions about the SBP-DIC changes can contact DFAS at (800) 321-1080. Beneficiaries with questions about their myPay online account can call (888) 332-7411. Surviving spouses interested in more information about MOAA’s advocacy and charitable causes, or in furthering any one of MOAA’s [survivor-related advocacy efforts](#), may be interested in joining MOAA’s Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter; get more information [at this link](#).

## **Congress Approves Space for Global War on Terrorism Memorial on National Mall**

MOAA Online, Dec 21, 2021 (Extracts)

[MOAA - Congress Approves Space for Global War on Terrorism Memorial on National Mall](#)

The Global War on Terrorism Memorial at the National Infantry Museum outside Fort Benning, Ga., was dedicated in 2017. Congress has paved the way for another memorial to be built on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

## **GVC/MOAA BOARD MEMBERS 2021-2023**

**President:** James Nielsen, CDR, USN (Ret)

Email: [jnielsen@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:jnielsen@gvcmoaa.org)

**1st VP:** Richard LoTempio, CW5, USA (Ret)

Email: [rlotempio@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:rlotempio@gvcmoaa.org)

**2nd VP:** Paul (Keely) Costello, CAPT, USN

Email: [pcostello@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:pcostello@gvcmoaa.org)

**3rd VP:** Russ Green, USA (Ret)

Email: [rgreen@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:rgreen@gvcmoaa.org)

**Secretary:** Jean Vaughan

Email: [jvaughan@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:jvaughan@gvcmoaa.org)

**Treasurer / Membership / Past President:**

Norma Weissend, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

Email: [nweissend@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:nweissend@gvcmoaa.org)

**Member-at-Large:**

Preston Pierce, MAJ, USA (Ret)

Email: [ppierce@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:ppierce@gvcmoaa.org)

**Surviving Spouse Liaison:** VACANT

**Past President & TOPS Liaison:**

Tim Vaughan, Col, USAF (Ret)

Email: [tvaughan@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:tvaughan@gvcmoaa.org)

**Past President:**

Peter Ingalsbe, COL, USA (Ret)

Email: [pingalsbe@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:pingalsbe@gvcmoaa.org)

**Legislative Chair & Past President:**

Barbara Green, COL, USA (Ret)

Email: [bgreen@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:bgreen@gvcmoaa.org)

**Spouses Club Liaison:** Signe Zale

Email: [szale@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:szale@gvcmoaa.org)

## **Remember... MOAA matters and to Never Stop Serving!**

**Tim Vaughan, Col, USAF (Retired)**

**MOAA GVC Newsletter Publisher/Editor**

**“Never Stop Serving”**

**Dinner Reservation information are on the next page.**

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

>>> \*\*\* **SATURDAY** \*\*\* <<< **March 26, 2022**

**Brook-Lea Country Club  
891 Pixley Road, Rochester (Gates), NY 14624**

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

**ENTRÉE CHOICES / \$45 each**

NY Strip w/Sauteed Mushrooms or  
Classic Chicken French or  
Grilled Salmon w/Raspberry Sauce

All meals come with:  
Salad, Vegetable and  
Ice Cream w/Creme de Menthe Dessert  
Coffee and Cash Bar

**MOAA ROTC AWARDS**

**Dinner**

**Honoring Army, Navy & Air Force  
Cadets/Midshipmen  
from**

**Reservations due ASAP, but NLT Wednesday March 16, 2022**

Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Friday, March 18, 2022

**Questions: Norma (585) 727-6190**

**PLEASE CLIP HERE AND SEND FORM BELOW**

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**RESERVATION FORM FOR SATURDAY March 26, 2022 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: \_\_\_\_\_

NY Strip \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken French \_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Salmon \_\_\_\_\_

Check included for \_\_\_\_\_ meal(s) at **\$45.00 each, Dinner Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Make a Donation to the chapter! \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Grand 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**



**Feb 2022 Newsletter**

**First Class Mail**



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**Newsletter Printed by Copy Town Enterprise, Lima, NY**