



Twelve 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 *** October 2022



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

October - 10/23/2022, Canandaigua American Legion, Post 256, beginning at 1:00 PM, dress will be business casual. We are honored to welcome Captain Jonathan P. Guagenti – C17 pilot from 2021 Afghan Mission as our speaker.

You will recall the withdrawal from Kabul, Afghanistan ordered by the White House in August 2021. Our service members did what they always do... complete the mission to the best of their ability. The aircrews that flew many of those missions were all drill-status Airmen from the 105th Airlift Wing at Stewart AFB, NY. These airlift missions ranged from delivering an Army Special Operations helicopter to their final mission of transporting the 13 service members killed in action at the airport from Kabul to Kuwait, earning the pilot a Distinguished Flying Cross and all other crew members the Air Medal, each with the V device for Valor.



Members - The Chapter needs your Help! A significant fund raiser for the Chapter is your support of Wreaths Across America (WAA). The Chapter is supporting WAA for the

following cemeteries - Samson Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Western New York (WNY) National Cemetery and the Bath National Cemetery. You may support other cemeteries as well. For each Wreath donated under our Sponsorship Group ID (NY0118P) the chapter receives \$5.00.

One method to donate is to use the "Sponsorship Form" attached. If you want to donate wreaths to more than one cemetery, you will need a separate form for each cemetery. We will have extra forms at the October and December dinner (we want you to attend) or let me or one of the Board members know.

An easy way to donate is on the web - WWW.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org/NY0118P. The web site main page should say "**Genesee Valley Chapter ---**". Click on "Sponsor Wreaths" The little down arrow in the "Location to Support" will list all 3 cemeteries plus the Arlington Nation Cemetery.

The key in the web address is the **"/NY0118P"** at the end of the web address. NY0118P is the Chapter's Sponsorship Group ID. *If you unaware of the WNY National Cemetery it is 2 years old and located right off the Pembroke Thruway exit. Like the Bath National Cemetery the WNY National Cemetery is a beautiful*

cemetery. I recommend you visiting the cemetery(s).

Wreath laying at the cemeteries will be done on December 17, 2022 at each cemetery.

Chapter Annual Dues The chapter annual dues have been \$20.00 per year for over 10 years. The chapter bylaws specify any change in the annual dues has to “be determined by the membership at a membership meeting after receiving the recommendation of the Board of Directors”. The Board is recommending the dues be raised to \$25.00 per year beginning in January 2023. The proposal will be presented to the membership at the December 4 holiday dinner.



September Guest Speaker. Nick Stefanovic was an enlisted Marine who served 3 tours in the middle east, the last in a remote outpost in Afghanistan. His polite description of a rough transitioning from active duty to eventually getting a Bachelor and Master Degrees was awe-inspiring. He is now the Director of Veterans Service Agency Monroe County, NY. He is an outstanding example that there is hope for our veterans.

Upcomong Events

Upcoming Honor Flight Rochester Dates

Mission 75 (60 Vets) Oct 22-23

www.honorflightrochester.org

October - 10/23/2022, Canandaigua American Legion, Post 256, beginning at 1:00 PM, dress will be business casual. We are honored to welcome Captain Jonathan P. Guagenti – C17 pilot from 2021 Afghan Mission as our speaker. Buffet dinner cost of \$40. *Donations for this event on the reservation form to be made to Honor Flight Rochester.*

November 11/2/2023 Next Board of Directors

Meeting: Wednesday, November 2, 2022, at 4:30 PM at the MRB Group, 145 Culver Road, Rochester, NY 14620.

December – 12/4/2022, Brook Lea Country Club beginning at 1:00 PM, This dinner will be themed encouraging attendees to dress in their “*ugly holiday sweater*” for the event. Music by Bob Neusatz. We also request in addition to monetary donations you donate hats, gloves and/or socks to the Veterans Outreach Center of Rochester. The Board has voted to have a vote on raising the Chapter annual dues to \$25.00 effective January 1,

2023. A motion will be presented to the members present to vote to approve the dues increase.

January 14, 2023 The Rochester Amerks annual Military Salute presented by the Veterian’s Outreach Center on Saturday 14, 2023. The Chapter will be providing special arrangements for the event. Details to be announced at a later date..

March – 3/26/2023, Spencerport American Legion beginning at 1:00 PM. GVC will host our annual ROTC/JROTC dinner event. Dress for this event will be business attire and for the cadets/midshipmen should be ROTC formal. *Donations for this event will be made to Wreaths Across America.*

April – 4/30/2023, Rochester Yacht Club beginning at 1:00 PM, dress will be business casual. *Donations for this event will be to be made to Honor Flight Rochester.*

June – 6/4/2023, Le Roy American Legion beginning at 1:00 PM. Election of officers and MOAA representative as speaker. Dress code will be business. *Donations for this event will be made to Veteran’s Outreach Center of Rochester*

Scheduled Board Meetings:

November – 11/2/2022 for December Dinner– meeting at MRB Group 145 Culver Road, Rochester, NY @ 4:30 PM

January – 1/18/2023 – Long Term Planning – Zoom meeting @ 4:30 PM

February – 2/15/2023 – for March ROTC Dinner – meeting at MRB Group @ 4:30 PM

March – 3/15/2023 – for April Dinner - – meeting at MRB Group @ 4:30 PM

April – 4/26/2023 – for June Dinner – meeting at MRB Group @ 4:30 PM

Dates to remember (some from the Greater Rome Utica Chapter)

October 23 – GVC Dinner

November 6 - Fall Back

November 6 – Veteran’s Day

December 4 – GVC Holiday party

December 7 – Pearl Harbor

December 17 – Wreaths Across America (WAA) wreaths laying

January 14, 2023 Americ’s Veterans Night

March 12, 2023 – Spring Ahead

Spouses Club: The Spouses Club has been disbanded. Remaining monies from the club will be dispersed to the summer camp programs for the JROTC attendees until funds are depleted.

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.

Surviving Spouse Liaison

We are in need of a volunteer to fill the Surviving Spouse Liaison position. 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! Please contact Jim Nielsen, or any board member, to discuss this opportunity.

Quorum - MOAA Legislative Action – Take Action - Join the fight to protect your pay and benefits. MOAA is placing additional emphasis on members supporting their legislative action priorities. They are asking each MOAA member sign up with Quorum. It provides you the opportunity to easily send letters to your legislators concerning Key Advocacy Issues, log your interactions with legislators and more. To login to Quorum go to [MOAA.org/Advocacy](https://www.moaa.org/Advocacy), scroll to the bottom of the page and click on Legislative Action Center, fill out the form to join and then start sending letters.



Wall of Remembrance Unveiled at Korean War Memorial:

The Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance, listing the

names of the war's fallen American troops, was dedicated Wed. July 27, 2022 with a ceremony on the National Mall. Made of 100 granite panels, the wall includes the names of the 36,634 US military veterans who lost their lives during the war as well as the 7,174 Republic of Korea troops who died fighting alongside US forces.

Expansion of VA Caregiver Program to All Eras of Service Remains Set for October Currently, the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers which provides a monthly stipend to qualified full-time caregivers of seriously ill or injured veterans — is open only to veterans who served before 1975 or after 2001. But per a mandate from Congress, the program must be opened to all families by Oct. 1 of this year.

What Will Military Health Closures and Realignment Mean for Your Care? With the recent release of the [Section 718 report](#) on military

treatment facilities (MTFs) to be downsized or closed, MOAA continues its advocacy work to ensure impacted beneficiaries maintain access to quality health care.

Pharmacy capacity at downsized MTFs will remain unchanged – retirees and other TRICARE beneficiaries still will be able to use the MTF pharmacy to fill prescriptions even if they receive medical care from civilian providers.

According to the report affected beneficiaries will be able to access health care services through the purchased care component of the TRICARE program.

Veterans Can Start Filing Claims Now for PACT Act Benefits

The Department of Veterans Affairs (<https://www.military.com/benefits/veterans-benefits>) has established a website explaining the details of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics, or PACT Act, and encourages veterans to file claims and apply for health care coverage.

MOAA Virtual Chapters - Virtual chapters promote camaraderie among affinity groups. Learn more about joining (or starting) one. *Virtual Chapters include – MOAA Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates, Surviving Spouse, United States Public Health Service, and Chaplain.* To learn more: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2019-news-articles/heres-why-you-should-join-or-start-a-moaa-virtual-chapter/>

Make a difference. Donate now.

The MOAA Scholarship Fund The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) established the [MOAA Scholarship Fund](#) in 1948 and to this day continues to provide education assistance to children of both officer and enlisted personnel. Those dependents who meet the requirements and qualifications to receive these scholarships and further educational assistance benefits encompass one of the association's founding principles: *education is the cornerstone of a strong democracy.* It is funded by donations from MOAA members, Councils and Chapters, corporations, and others with a desire to help military families.

The MOAA Foundation The MOAA Foundation (TMF, EIN 46-4219250), a 501(c)(3) charitable subsidiary of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), offers grants to MOAA, its councils and its chapters in support of career devel-

opment and community outreach programs and services. These programs and services benefit more than 50,000 currently serving uniformed service members and veterans of all ranks, their families and their survivors each year.

To donate to either or both go to <https://www.moaa.org/content/forms/donate-now/>

Quorum - MOAA Legislative Action – Take Action - Join the fight to protect your pay and benefits. MOAA is placing additional emphasis on members supporting their legislative action priorities. They are asking each MOAA member sign up with Quorum. It provides you the opportunity to easily send letters to your legislators concerning Key Advocacy Issues, log your interactions with legislators and more. To login to Quorum go to [MOAA.org/Advocacy](https://www.moaa.org/Advocacy), scroll to the bottom of the page and click on Legislative Action Center, fill out the form to join and then start sending letters.

Here's Where the NDAA and Budget Bills Stand as the Fiscal Year Wraps Up: The first day of October represents more than just the herald for the coming of autumn: It marks the start of the new fiscal year. Without the necessary authorizations and appropriations, federal agencies can't operate properly. An authorization bill establishes new policies and programs for a federal agency and can reauthorize programs set to expire, while appropriations provide the funding for those authorizations.

Until Congress passes those bills, federal agencies overseeing the eight uniformed services lack the authorizations or funding needed for the annual military pay raise, quality health care coverage, and quality-of-life programs for service members and their families, along with many other support programs and benefits necessary for an all-volunteer force.

Nearly 15,000 Community Pharmacies Are Leaving the TRICARE Network Next Month Approximately 15,000 community pharmacies will leave the TRICARE retail pharmacy network on Oct. 24. Impacted beneficiaries will receive a letter from Express Scripts with a list of alternative in-network pharmacies. Walgreens and CVS remain in-network, as do many grocery store pharmacies and smaller chains.

VA Mulls Pushing Vets to Telehealth Before Offering Local Appointments: The [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) is considering whether veterans' ability to get telehealth appointments should be part of its decision on who is eligible for care outside of VA facilities. Whether that would limit veterans'

access to community care, and where the VA foots the bill for vets to be seen by private doctors, remains to be determined. But the move could alter the wait-time criteria established to get that care, resulting in more former service members receiving treatment from the VA. *Editor's note: This article by Patricia Kime originally appeared on [Military.com](#)*

Welcome to MOAA's COLA Watch page, It is where you'll find a monthly update on the inflation figures used to set the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for payments received by military retirees, disabled veterans, Social Security beneficiaries, and many others receiving federal compensation. [MOAA.org/Advocacy](https://www.moaa.org/Advocacy)

From My Navy HR

Safe Helpline: All Safe Help Line services are anonymous, confidential and tailored to support members of the DOD community and their loved ones affected by sexual assault. Contact: Call: 877-955-5247, Chat: [Online.SafeHelpLine.org](https://www.safehelpline.org) and Discuss: [SafeHelpRoome.org](https://www.safehelpline.org)

Veterans Crisis Line – Dial 988 and then press 1 They provide 24/7 confidential crisis support for Veterans and their loved ones. The Veterans Crisis Line can help even if you're not enrolled in VA benefits or health care. Chat online or Text 838255

What is NFAAS: Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System (NFAAS) standardizes a method for the Navy to account, assess, manage, and monitor the recovery process for personnel and their families affected and/or scattered by a widespread catastrophic event. NFAAS provides valuable information to all levels of the Navy chain of command, allowing commanders to make strategic decisions which facilitate a return to stability.

NFAAS allows Navy Personnel to do the following:

- Report Accounting Status
- Update Contact
- Location Information
- Complete Needs Assessment
- View Reference Information**

GVC/MOAA BOARD MEMBERS

2021-2023

President: James Nielsen, CDR, USN (Ret)

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Email: jim99n@gmail.com

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Email: rlotempio@gvcmoaa.org

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

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Secretary: Jean Vaughan

Email: jvaughan@gvcmoaa.org

Treasurer / Membership / Past President: Norma

Weissend, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

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Surviving Spouse Liaison: VACANT

Past President & TOPS Liaison:

Tim Vaughan, Col, USAF (Ret)

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Past President:

Peter Ingalsbe, COL, USA (Ret)

Email: pingalsbe@gvcmoaa.org

Legislative Chair & Past President:

Barbara Green, COL, USA (Ret)

Email: bgreen@gvcmoaa.org

Spouses Club Liaison: Signe Zale

Email: szale@gvcmoaa.org

Remember... GVC MOAA matters!

Never Stop Serving!



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 /NY0118P 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 Codes: Bath National Cemetery **NYBNCB** WNY National Cemetery: **NYWNYC** ; Sampson Cemetery: **NYSVMC**;

Location ID: circle **ONE** code from above _____ Sponsorship Group ID: **NY0118P** _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Cash: _____ Total: _____ Date Received: _____

Total No. Checks: _____ Reconciled: _____

MO: _____

Entered: _____

GEN: _____



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

**Sunday, October 23, 2022
American Legion Canandaigua Post #256
454 N Main St, Canandaigua, NY 14424**

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

**BUFFET STYLE MEAL
\$40/person**

Beef Tips w/Sauce
Chicken Marsala
Pasta w/options for Red Sauce,
Alfredo Sauce and/or Broccoli

All meals come with:
Salad, Vegetable, Rolls and Dessert
Coffee and Soda

***** Don't Miss!!! *****

**Guest Speaker
Capt Jonathan P. Guagenti
C-17A Pilot
New York Air National Guard
Afghanistan Withdrawal
August 2021**

Reservations due ASAP, but NLT Wednesday October 12, 2022

Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Tuesday, October 18, 2022

Questions: Norma (585) 727-6190

PLEASE CLIP HERE AND SEND FORM BELOW... ATTIRE: BUSINESS CASUAL

**RESERVATION FORM FOR October 23, 2022 GVC MEETING at
American Legion Canandaigua Post #256
454 N Main St, Canandaigua, NY 14424**

ALL Name(s) Attending: _____

Check included for _____ attendee(s) at **\$40.00 each, TOTAL \$**_____

Make an Honor Flight Donation through 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

Or late RSVP email NWeissend@GVCMOAA.org

Genesee Valley Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
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Rochester, NY 14602-0874

October 2022 Newsletter

First Class Mail



WWW.GVCMOAA.ORG

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