



NEVER STOP SERVING®



GVC ONLINE

13 Consecutive Years of 5-Star Levels of Excellence!
5 Consecutive Years of MOAA Communications Awards!
MOAA Legislative Action Center: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>
GVC Membership Information email: info@gvcmoaa.org

SERVING ALL MILITARY, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

***** Sep 2023 *****

PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Wait, what, it’s late September already? Hard to believe summer is over, where has the time gone? That being said, your chapter has been busy; support for JROTC Summer Camp, meeting with elected officials, a Red Wings baseball game, our recent chapter dinner and several members attending the New York Council of Chapters Annual Convention at Tioga Downs, Nichols, NY.

And on top of that, there is much to come as well. But perhaps the big news for the chapter was the recent announcement the chapter was awarded yet another MOAA Five-Star Levels of Excellence Award... for the 13th consecutive year! This doesn’t happen by accident, your chapter officers and board of directors work hard at meeting and exceeding the criteria to earn this award. And we thank our Past President, Jim Nielsen, for leading the effort for this recent award.

I can tell you the board is committed to continue the hard work to lead this chapter on its path of excellence and keep the streak alive!

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Sun 29 Oct 2023, 1 pm / 2 pm
Location: Spencerport Legion Post
Guest Speaker: Ellen Adams, Board of Directors Chair, Veterans Outreach Center and Major, USAF, Retired
Designated Charity: Wreaths Across America

Sun 3 Dec 2023
Location: Brook Lea Country Club
Program: Annual Holiday Party
Designated Charity: Veterans Outreach Center & VOC Winter Clothing Drive (New Only!)

Sat 16 Dec 2023
Wreaths Across America (GVC Supported)
New York State Veterans Cemetery - Finger Lakes (formerly Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery), Western New York National Cemetery, Bath National Cemetery, and Arlington National Cemetery.

MOAA National & the Genesee Valley Chapter are nonpartisan.

Sat 23 Mar 2024 (PLEASE NOTE DAY!)
Location: Spencerport Legion Post
Program: ROTC/JROTC Awards Dinner
Designated Charity: The MOAA Foundation

Sun 28 Apr 2024, 1 pm / 2 pm
Location: Rochester Yacht Club
Guest Speaker: TBD
Designated Charity: Honor Flight Rochester

Sun 9 Jun 2024, 1 pm / 2 pm
Location: Canandaigua Yacht Club
Guest Speaker: TBD
Designated Charity: Veterans Outreach Center

GVC Support of JROTC Summer Camp
The Genesee Valley Chapter and many members provided financial support for 10 cadets of the Northeast College Preparatory High School JROTC to attend the JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge (JCLC), 26-30 June 2023, at Camp Oswegatchie, Croghan, NY (about 30 miles east of Watertown, as the crow flies). The motto of Camp Oswegatchie is, "Enter to Learn, Leave to Lead."

The 2023 JCLC objectives included: Leadership development in a challenging environment, discipline, teamwork, self-confidence, while providing training not normally available on campus, and to participate in citizenship-building exercises with their peers in a military setting.

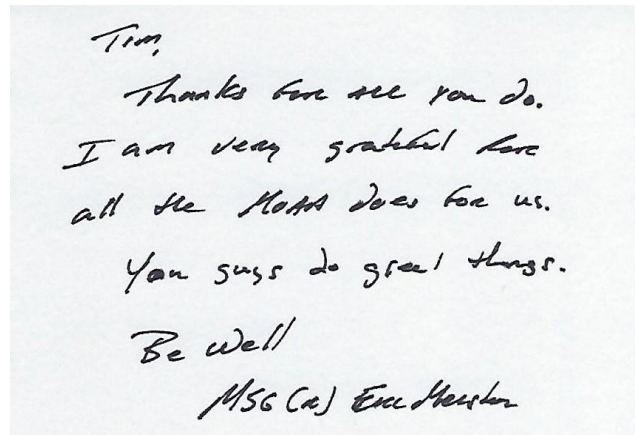
In case you are wondering about the caliber of the NE College Preparatory HS JROTC program, their Honor Guard program is quite distinguished, and have presented our Nation's colors in the past at the NFL Cincinnati Bengals/Buffalo Bills divisional playoff game in Orchard Park, an NBA Boston Celtics/Portland Trail Blazers game in Boston, where the Celtics had requested an all-female color guard team, and most recently an MLB Cleveland Guardians game, all of which are supported by fundraising.

In the pictures below, you will see the cadets at Camp Oswegatchie and a Thank You note from MSG Eric Meister, USA, Ret. A sincere thank

you to all who supported these cadets, enabling them to attend summer camp.



JROTC Cadets at Camp Oswegatchie



MSG Eric Meister Thank You Note

GVC Red Wings Game... & an Air Show!
This year's GVC Red Wings baseball game on Sunday 13 August 2023, was a huge success! Twenty-five GVC members, family and friends took part in a great day at Innovative Field, where the game was high scoring and went into an extra inning... but unfortunately, the Red Wings bats couldn't keep pace with the Lehigh Valley IronPigs and they lost the game. On a positive note, as it turned out, the Rochester Air Show was also taking place that day and late in the game, Innovative Field seemed to be a USAF Thunderbirds rally and turn-around point before heading back to continue their show at the Rochester Airport. There were many Thunderbird flyovers at the stadium, which was a huge hit with the crowd, and at one point may have even distracted the players as they all looked to the sky during a flyover of the field! Can you blame them???



GVC Day at a Red Wings Game!



GVC Red Wings Game & an Air Show Too!

As you can see in the pictures, the sunshine and light, puffy clouds were a perfect backdrop for both the Red Wings game and an impromptu Air Show for attendees!!!

Chapter Legislative Team Meets with New York Assemblyman Brian Manktelow

A GVC legislative team of Tim Vaughan, Norma Weissend and Barb Green recently met with New York Assemblyman Brian Manktelow in his Lyons district office on 10 August 2023. He is a member of the Standing Committee on Veterans' Affairs and we spoke on veteran issues and the legislative priorities of MOAA. Assemblyman Manktelow was well versed on veterans' issues and to offer his help in our legislative efforts, if needed. We had a great visit and were honored to have been able to speak with Assemblyman Manktelow on MOAA's legislative mission!



NY Assemblyman Brian Manktelow, Norma Weissend, Barb Green and Tim Vaughan

GVC Member Donations are Incredible!

The amazing amount of GVC member donations was mentioned in the last newsletter, but I'd like to point out that at a recent board of directors meeting, our Treasurer, Norma Weissend, presented the board with a Sep 2022 thru Jun 2023 chapter dinner recap spreadsheet, which included charitable donations and dinner sponsorships (ROTC/JROTC) from you, the members of GVC, and you know what it showed? Chapter members, in that timeframe, have donated over \$1,750! I'll let you do the math, but we do six chapter dinners each year; this is truly amazing!!! And this does not include the direct donations to help with the JROTC summer camp this past June; we had no visibility on these donations. Thank you for caring; your generosity does not go unnoticed!

GVC September Dinner Recap

At our recent September chapter dinner, we were honored to have as our guest speaker, Brigadier General Michael W. Bank, Assistant Adjutant General for Air, New York National Guard, who is also "Dual Hatted" as the Air National Guard Assistant to the Commander of the US Air Force Expeditionary Center (AFEC). General Bank talked about the status of the New York Air National Guard, among the largest in the country, with five Air Wings, stating they are vibrant, staffed with highly motivated personnel and support our Nation and State on a daily basis. He also spoke about the Brazilian military partnership with the State of New York

as part of the State Partnership Program, that will celebrate its fifth anniversary in 2024. General Bank also gave a presentation of the mission and the laydown of the units of the AFEC that literally reach around the globe.



Brig Gen Michael W. Bank Briefing on the US Air Force Expeditionary Center



Tim Vaughan, Brig Gen Michael W. Bank, and Norma Weissend

We would also like to welcome our newest member and his spouse, Win & Elizabeth Harper who attended the dinner as guests and left as members of MOAA & GVC—Welcome!

Legislative Corner... Take Action!

<https://www.moaa.org>

From the MOAA Home Page: click on Advocacy, then on Legislative Action Center. Then click on the “Sign Up” button in the upper right corner of the page. Once there you will see the Active Legislative Campaigns MOAA is engaged in with prepared letters you can send directly to your legislative representatives. You

may send them unamended or add reasons from your own experience why you would support that issue.

If anyone would like help in signing up for Quorum or the Newsletter, you are welcome to contact Barb Green, Legislative Chair, @ bgreen@gvcmoaa.org.

Wreaths Across America Campaign 2023

www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org

The 2023 Wreaths Across America Campaign is underway with this year’s theme of “Serve and Succeed.” Wreaths Across America Day is Saturday 16 December 2023.

The Genesee Valley Chapter sponsors wreaths at these locations: GVC Code: NY0118P

NY State Veterans Cemetery - Finger Lakes (Formerly Sampson) Code: NYSVMC

Western New York National Cemetery Code: NYWNYC

Bath National Cemetery Code: NYBNCB

Arlington National Cemetery Code: ARLING
You can sponsor wreaths at other locations using the “Search” function on the website.

Wreath sponsorship has increased from \$15/wreath to \$17/wreath, so the most common 5-pack sponsorship has gone from \$75 to \$85.

Wreaths Across America directly supports our chapter’s ability to support veteran programs each year and we would be honored with your support of the 2023 GVC WAA Campaign.

REMEMBER our fallen U.S. veterans.

HONOR those who serve.

TEACH your children the value of freedom.



**Wreaths Across America
GVC Wreath Sponsor Page**

GVC Support Coordinators

If you need help, contact Nancy Swanson, (585) 944-5637, or myself, Tim Vaughan, (585) 412-6425. We may not be able to help you directly or in person, but we both have “been around the block” so-to-speak and may be able to coordinate help, support or information you are looking for or may need.

Your Chapter Dues at Work...

GVC continues to make donations to Honor Flight Rochester, the Veterans Outreach Center, Wreaths Across America and the MOAA Foundation. Additionally, we have provided MOAA ROTC/JROTC awards to cadets/midshipmen at U of R, RIT, Brockport, Northeast College Preparatory High School and Rochester Early College International High School. Again, we are grateful for the support of our membership toward these programs.

Speaking of Dues... 2023 & 2024

There are still some GVC members who are behind on payment of their 2023 chapter dues; if you are not sure of your status, please reach out to Rajesh Raghavan, rajesh@gvcmoaa.org to check on your status. And it's not too early to pay your 2024 dues now!

Surviving Spouse Liaison

Our chapter has a new Surviving Spouse Liaison, Kathy Green, and we are happy to have her on board! Surviving Spouses, feel free to reach out to Kathy a give her a big welcome at, kgreen@gvcmoaa.org!

Surviving Spouse Membership

A MOAA member's Life membership will transfer to the surviving spouse upon a death notification to the MOAA Member Service Center (800) 234-6622 or msc@moaa.org. Similarly, the remainder of a Premium membership also transfers until expiration. Premium memberships may be renewed or upgraded to Life membership. Each surviving spouse will receive their own MOAA member number.

Additionally, surviving spouses are invited to join the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter,

which provides a common space for surviving spouses across the country to connect with one another and communicate about challenges and resources available for adjusting to a new life. You can reach out to the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter by emailing mssvc02@gmail.com.

GVC/MOAA BOARD MEMBERS 2023-2025

President: Tim Vaughan, Col, USAF (Ret)

Email: tvaughan@gvcmoaa.org

1st VP: Preston Pierce, MAJ, USA (Ret)

Email: ppierce@gvcmoaa.org

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

Email: pcostello@gvcmoaa.org

3rd VP: Russ Green, USA (Ret)

Email: rgreen@gvcmoaa.org

Secretary: Jean Vaughan

Email: jvaughan@gvcmoaa.org

Treasurer / Past President:

Norma Weissend, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

Email: nweissend@gvcmoaa.org

Member-at-Large & Past President:

Bob Zale

Email: rzale@gvcmoaa.org

Legislative Chair & Past President:

Barbara Green, COL, USA (Ret)

Email: bgreen@gvcmoaa.org

Membership/Recruiting Chair:

Rajesh Raghavan, 2d Lt, USAF (Former)

rajesh@gvcmoaa.org

Past President:

James Nielsen, CDR, USN (Ret)

Email: jnielsen@gvcmoaa.org

Past President:

Peter Ingalsbe, COL, USA (Ret)

Email: pingalsbe@gvcmoaa.org

Surviving Spouse Liaison: Kathy Green

Email: kgreen@gvcmoaa.org

Transition Liaison:

Tim Vaughan, Col, USAF (Ret)

Email: tvaughan@gvcmoaa.org

Your MOAA & GVC Membership Matters!

Tim Vaughan, Col, USAF (Retired)

MOAA GVC President

Never Stop Serving®

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

**Sunday, October 29, 2023
Ferris Goodridge American Legion Post #330 Spencerport
691 Trimmer Rd, Spencerport NY 14559**

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

Buffet Dinner / \$35 each

Sliced Roast Beef w/Gravy,
Chicken French,
Pasta w/Meatless Marinara Sauce

All meals come with:
Salad, Vegetable, Mashed Potatoes and
Dessert Cake
Coffee, Tea and Cash Bar

**VETERANS OUTREACH CENTER
ROCHESTER
BOARD CHAIR
Ellen Adams
Major, USAF (Retired)**

Reservations due ASAP, but NLT Friday October 20, 2023
Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Monday, October 23, 2023
Questions: Jean Vaughan (585) 412-6425, jvaughan@gvcmoaa.org

PLEASE CLIP HERE AND SEND FORM BELOW * DRESS: Business Casual *****

**RESERVATION FORM FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023, GVC MEETING at
Ferris Goodridge American Legion, 691 Trimmer Rd, Spencerport, NY 14559**

ALL Name(s) Attending: _____

Check included for _____ meal(s) at \$35.00 each, **Dinner(s) Total \$** _____

Wreaths Across America Donation \$ _____ **;** **Grand Total \$** _____

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

**GVC MOAA
c/o Jean Vaughan
3464 Lincoln Hill Rd
Canandaigua, NY 14424**

<<< PLEASE NOTE WHERE TO SEND RSVP!

***** DRESS: Business Casual *****



WREATHS *across* AMERICA

GVC MOAA GROUP ID: NY0118P

2023 Wreath Sponsorship Order Form

Sponsored wreaths are placed on grave markers at state and national veterans' cemeteries, as well as at local and community cemeteries each December for National Wreaths Across America Day.

Your donation will ensure the placement of a veteran's wreath for one or more veterans laid to rest at the participating location of your choice.

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 for joining us in our mission to Remember, Honor, and Teach!

SPONSORSHIP TYPE	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Individual = 1 Wreath	\$17.00		
Family = 4 Wreaths	\$68.00		
Small Business = 10 Wreaths	\$170.00		
Corporate = 100 Wreaths	\$1,700.00		

All sponsored veteran wreaths are shipped directly to the location selected by the sponsor on this form. Wreaths are not shipped to individual wreath sponsors.

For quicker processing and the convenience of paying with a credit card, debit card, Google Pay, or PayPal, veteran wreaths may be sponsored online by scanning the QR Code above.

You should be the only one to enter your credit card information at checkout on the Wreaths Across America website. For your security, do not share this information with anyone else who offers to place an order for you. To verify the validity of the QR Code, always check that wreathsacrossamerica.org is part of the web address when sponsoring wreaths online.

If you prefer to pay with a check, please complete this form and mail it along with your check to Wreaths Across America at the address listed in the box above.

CHECK #		CHECK DATE		SPONSOR NAME FOR DISPLAY <i>If different than name on check.</i>	
GROUP ID(s)	NY0118P	NY0118P	NY0118P	EMAIL ADDRESS	
LOCATION ID(s) <i>(CIRCLE ONE)</i>	NYSVMC (Finger Lakes)	NYWNYC (Western NY)	NYBNBC (Bath) ARLING (Arlington)	PHONE #	
DOLLAR AMOUNTS(s)				MAILING ADDRESS	

To split your donation between multiple groups and/or locations, please list the IDs and dollar amounts for each.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

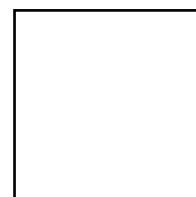
Please note in memory/honor of requests do not place a wreath on a specific loved one's grave.

IN MEMORY OF REQUEST	The "In Memory Of" Name will be listed on the Wreaths Across America online Remember Wall, along with your personal message.
NAME FOR MEMORY WALL POST	
SPONSOR EMAIL ADDRESS	
MESSAGE (optional)	

IN HONOR OF REQUEST	An email will be sent to your chosen recipient from Wreaths Across America letting them know of your donation of sponsored veteran wreaths in their honor.
RECIPIENT NAME	
RECIPIENT EMAIL ADDRESS	
MESSAGE (optional)	

Thank you for supporting our mission to REMEMBER, HONOR, and TEACH!

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



September 2023 Newsletter

First Class Mail



GVCMOAA.ORG

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