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GVC ONLINE

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MOAA Legislative Action Center: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>
GVC Membership Information email: info@gvcmoaa.org

SERVING ALL MILITARY, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

***** Nov 2023 *****

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well that was fast, a tease of some 70 degree temperatures, then BAM, temperature drops about 30 degrees... won't be long now, so get your winter mindset and preparations going!

We've had a busy Fall with the New York Council of Chapters Convention late September where council officer elections were held, a business meeting and MOAA National staff briefings. In last month's newsletter, the chapter had just been notified it was awarded another MOAA Five-Star Levels of Excellence Award. These awards were presented at the Council Convention Banquet, which I was honored to accept on behalf of the chapter.

We also just had a chapter dinner October 29th. In addition to the chapter dinners in the upcoming events to the right, we are going to try another Rochester American Hockey game on Sunday 18 February, so please save the date.

Our upcoming Ugly Holiday Sweater contest is back for this year's annual Holiday Dinner and Party, so get your sweater's ready... Ugly Holiday Sweaters are encouraged, but not mandatory, so please don't let that keep you from joining us!

In addition to the Holiday Dinner, we are continuing our winter clothing drive for the Veterans Outreach Center; we are asking you to bring new hats, gloves, socks and such, which will be delivered to the VOC after the dinner.

And please don't forget our annual campaign to support Wreaths Across America, about which you can find more information later in the newsletter.

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Sun 3 Dec 2023

Location: Brook Lea Country Club

Program: Annual Holiday Party

Designated Charity: Veterans Outreach Center & VOC Winter Clothing Drive (New Only!)

MOAA National & the Genesee Valley Chapter are nonpartisan.

Sat 16 Dec 2023

Wreaths Across America (GVC Supported)

New York State Veterans Cemetery - Finger Lakes (formerly Sampson), Western New York National Cemetery, Bath National Cemetery, and Arlington National Cemetery.

Sun 18 Feb 2024, 3:05 pm Puck Drop

Rochester Americans Hockey Game

Location: Blue Cross Arena

Additional Details to Follow...

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: Robert K. Nye, President, FLCC & COL, USA, Retired

Designated Charity: Veterans Outreach Center

GVC Members Participate in Honor Flight

Two GVC members participated in Honor Flight Rochester's Mission 80, Sep 30 – Oct 1, 2023. Russ Green as a veteran and Paul Cannon as a Guardian escort. They have each been gracious enough to provide a few paragraphs about their experience on HFR Mission 80!

Russ Green, Honor Flight Mission 80

The day started early, with a 4 AM check-in with Honor Flight Mission 80 at the ROC Airport. After a short flight to Baltimore, we were herded into buses for the drive to Washington. The first order of business on the bus was "mail call", where we each received a number of letters written by local school children, ranging in age from nine to seventeen. The letters were moving, and it was obvious that the kids possessed a short military bio on each of us. I have personally replied to each one I received.

Once in Washington, our first stop was the WWII Memorial. This was important for me, since I had a number of family members who were involved in many of the campaigns remembered on the memorial: Corregidor, Pearl Harbor, Mariannas, Ardennes Forest, North Africa & Sicily. Our second stop included the one of most significance to me – the Vietnam Memorial. I found the name of one college mate etched on the wall. Other memorials followed in quick succession – Lincoln, Korean War, Air Force, FDR, and Marine Memorials. The most important stop was the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers and the changing of the guard. A moving ceremony to be sure. After this very busy day, we returned to our hotel in Baltimore for an evening reflecting, imbibing, and eating dinner.

The next morning, our return to the Rochester Airport was like the icing on the cake. Our reception "parade" through the airport and welcome home ceremony were truly moving. Even though I had experienced this once before a dozen years ago as a "Guardian", being on the receiving end of all this made it all the more important to me. Speaking of Guardians, I was escorted on this trip by my daughter, Christina, who is an Army & Afghanistan veteran. She supported me in every way on the trip and was by my side every minute. This trip is one I will not soon forget.



Russ Green, Honor Flight Mission 80



***Russ Green & Daughter, Christina,
Honor Flight Mission 80***

***Paul Cannon, Guardian for Larry Snyder,
Honor Flight Mission 80***

I was an Honor Flight Guardian for Larry Snyder on Honor Flight Mission 80. Larry was motivated to submit his application due to a recommendation from folks he drilled with in the Army Reserve, those he served with as an Honor Guard, and his wife's father who went on a previous flight. He waited about four years until he got the call to go. By the time the call came, he had relocated to Florida. After receiving the invite, he flew back to Rochester just to take the flight, and requested a local escort for the mission, and I had volunteered to be a Guardian and was contacted and that's where I come in.

Larry stated the best part of the trip was the ability to discuss service history and service memories with me, other veterans, and those supporting Honor Flight as volunteers. He said seeing the monuments was nice, but really cherished the get together after the evening dinner. He cherished the camaraderie, as many people hung around afterwards to fellowship. He was glad he did the trip and would recommend it to anyone who served.

As far as being a Guardian, I was honored to serve as a Guardian, and being a veteran myself,

also felt a similar appreciation for the mission of Honor Flight. It has motivated me to submit my name for a future flight to go with an escort, either someone who has served, or a dependent who has not. I also look forward to the after-hours personal engagement with all the other veterans and escorts. I wanted to spend time with fellow GVC member, Russ Green, who was there with his daughter, but due to the time constraints didn't even get a chance to engage.

The impact for me, especially touring the monuments, was thinking about all who have served and especially those who have given their all for this great country. All Americans, especially elected officials, owe it to veterans, living and deceased, to reflect on why the memorials are there and what they represent.

The opportunity to engage with all the mission 80 veterans, and their escorts sharing their own appreciation for the mission was rewarding, as were the welcome home activities at the Rochester airport. I think many of those veterans that have served probably didn't get the homecoming welcoming activities that we all experienced that day at the airport, it was truly moving.

Finally, as small as the veteran community is here in Rochester, it is not uncommon to bump into other veterans that have either served, or volunteered to support Honor Flight, and that in and of itself, was also rewarding to know we are a "connected" group.



Larry Snyder (L), Paul Cannon (R)

GVC October Dinner Recap

At our recent October chapter dinner, we were honored to have as our guest speaker, Ellen Adams, Board Chairperson for the Veterans Outreach Center and retired USAF Major. She gave an overview of the VOC's operations and activities in a "What's New and Where We're Going!" presentation. Points of interest included a Morale Center, Quartermaster Services, Veterans Treatment Court, Veterans Job Placement, a 46-bed Veterans Homeless Shelter called the Richards House and a host of many other activities that keeps their program vibrant and relevant to veterans seeking help and assistance. The VOC is the chapters designated charity for the December Holiday Dinner, which includes monetary and new winter clothing items (see dinner flyer).

Legislative Corner... Take Action!

<https://www.moaa.org>

This is a repeat because it is important and MOAA needs your help in their advocacy efforts; many of these issues may affect you or someone you know directly.

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.

Need help? Please contact Barb Green, Legislative Chair, @ bgreen@gvcmoaa.org.

Wreaths Across America Campaign 2023

www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org

Wreaths Across America Day is Saturday 16 December 2023, with this year's theme of "Serve and Succeed." If you sponsor wreaths, please do so prior to Tue 28 Nov 2023 so they will count for this year. In addition, wreath sponsorship has increased from \$15/wreath to \$17/wreath, so the most common 5-pack sponsorship has gone from \$75 to \$85.

In order to be sure GVC get the credit for the wreaths you sponsor, please insure you use the GVC Group Code: NY0118P

Cemetery selections will be in the drop-down menu from the GVC Wreaths Across America webpage. You can also sponsor wreaths at other locations using the "Search" function on the website.



**Wreaths Across America
GVC Wreath Sponsor Page**

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.

Governor Hochul Celebrates Federal Funding Award for New York's First State Veterans Cemetery

(29 Sep 2023 Press Release Extract)

- NYS Veterans Cemetery - Finger Lakes Came Under State Ownership in February 2023
- National Cemetery Administration to Provide \$3.951M for Expansion and Improvements

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced the award of nearly \$4 million in federal funding to support expansion and improvement projects at the New York State Veterans Cemetery - Finger Lakes, the first veterans cemetery owned and operated by New York State. This builds on the Governor's announcement of the formal establishment of the State cemetery in February 2023, and marks an important milestone that will help ensure the State can provide dignified burial options for New York's veterans and their families for generations to come.

"Our veterans give so much for us, it is only right they have a dedicated, dignified space to rest," Governor Hochul said. "The establishment of this cemetery is a proud achievement of my administration, and I am thankful for my partners who have made this possible. This federal funding will ensure the cemetery is maintained to the highest standards as it so rightfully should."

Overseen by the New York State Department of Veterans' Services, the New York State Veterans Cemetery – Finger Lakes occupies 162 acres along Seneca Lake in Romulus, Seneca County and is adjacent to Sampson State Park. The site has 147 acres of land available for development and construction projects to ensure it serves as an honored resting place for New York State's heroes for generations to come. The Cemetery is located at the site of the former Sampson Naval Training Station and Sampson Air Force Base, where hundreds of thousands of service members trained during World War II and the Korean War. The site later functioned as a temporary college and a separation center for service members being discharged, and officially closed in 2000. The Cemetery is located near Waterloo, the community recognized as the birthplace of Memorial Day.

Healthcare , Medicare & OPM Open Season

Health Insurance Marketplace®

Enroll or renew from November 1 to December 15 for coverage to start January 1.
Check www.healthcare.gov for additional info.

Changing Medicare Plans

MOAA Military Officer Magazine (MOM) Extract, November 2023, Capt. Paul J. Frost, AFC®, USN (Ret) and Karen Ruedisueli.

If you want to change your Medicare plan, you can do so in the appropriate Medicare open season: (OM = Original Medicare)

Oct 15 through Dec 7 is for OM enrollees who want to switch to an Advantage plan or join OM from an Advantage plan. New plans start Jan. 1.

Jan 1 through Mar 31 is for Advantage plan members who want to switch Advantage plans or join OM. The new plan starts the next month after the company processes the request.

If your income drops because of a change such as divorce, retirement, death, you can appeal your income level and Part B premium amount.

Check www.medicare.gov for additional info.

Federal (OPM) Healthcare Open Season

FEHB/FEDVIP: 13 Nov through 11 Dec 2023
Check www.opm.gov for additional info.

TRICARE: 13 Nov through 12 Dec 2023

Check <https://tricare.mil/> for additional info.

Understand Your Long Term Care Insurance Options

By MOAA Staff Member Lila Quintiliani; this article is worth a read.

Check the MOAA website link below for the complete article:

[MOAA - Understand Your Long Term Care Insurance Options](#)

Key points to consider for Long Term Care:

Know the Costs – and the Limits

Know the Coverage Types

Know the Criteria

Know Your Possible Premium Increases

Know Your Tax Benefits

Know Your Alternatives

Know How to Prepare

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

Have you paid your 2023 chapter dues? If you are not sure of your status, please reach out to Norma Weissend at nweissend@gvcmoaa.org. And it's not too early to pay your 2024 dues! Reminder: GVC annual chapter dues are now \$25/year.

Stop Paying Annual Dues...

Become a Chapter Life Member! (See below)
GVC Life Membership Dues Schedule:

Age	Dues	Age	Dues
<45	\$360	71-75	\$160
46-50	\$350	76-80	\$110
51-55	\$330	81-85	\$55
56-60	\$310	86-89	\$35
61-65	\$270	90+	FREE
66-70	\$210		

Surviving Spouse Liaison

Kathy Green is the chapter's Surviving Spouse Liaison (SSL). You may contact Kathy 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 spouse has 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)

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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

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Treasurer / Past President:

Norma Weissend, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

Email: nweissend@gvcmoaa.org

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Bob Zale

Email: rzale@gvcmoaa.org

Legislative Chair & Past President:

Barbara Green, COL, USA (Ret)

Email: bgreen@gvcmoaa.org

Membership/Recruiting Chair:

VACANT

Past President:

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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, December 3, 2023

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

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

ENTRÉE CHOICES / \$45 each

Ribeye Steak w/Sauteed Mushrooms or
Chicken Primavera w/Spinach, Artichokes
and Red Peppers or
Grilled Salmon w/Raspberry Sauce

All meals come with:
Salad, Vegetable and Dessert
Coffee and Cash Bar

❄️ UGLY HOLIDAY SWEATER ❄️

**** CONTEST! ****

**Please Bring New Winter Clothing
for Veterans Outreach Center:
Hats, Gloves, Socks, & such**

🎵🎵 Entertainment by Bob Neusatz! 🎵🎵

Reservations due ASAP, but NLT Wednesday November 22, 2023

Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Monday, November 27, 2023

Questions: Norma (585) 727-6190; nweissend@gvcmoaa.org

PLEASE CLIP HERE AND SEND FORM BELOW * DRESS: Ugly Holiday Sweater! ***
Ugly Holiday Sweater Optional, but NOT mandatory!**

**RESERVATION FORM FOR Sunday December 3, 2023 GVC MEETING at
Brook-Lea Country Club, 891 Pixley Rd, Rochester (Gates), NY 14624**

ALL Name(s) Attending: _____

Phone # _____ Email: _____

Please indicate number of each meal desired:

Ribeye Steak _____ Chicken Primavera _____ Grilled Salmon _____

Check included for _____ Meal(s) at **\$45.00 each, Meal(s) Total \$**_____

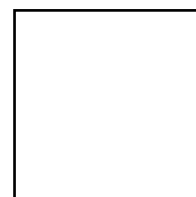
Veterans Outreach Center Donation \$_____ **Grand Total \$**_____

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

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

***** DRESS: Ugly Holiday Sweater! ***
Ugly Holiday Sweater Optional,
but NOT mandatory!**

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



November 2023 Newsletter

First Class Mail



GVCMOAA.ORG

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