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GVC ONLINE

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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

***** Mar 2024 *****

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well, we are off and running, just completing our first dinner meeting of the calendar year and also one of our favorite to do, the ROTC/JROTC MOAA Awards for the Rochester area programs. This year we included two other awardees and presented chapter award certificates to individuals nominated by those groups; more about the dinner later...

Hot Tip: Winter is not over, watch out for Black Ice... that's all I'm going to say!

This time of year always seems to move fast, as our next chapter dinner is fast approaching, and we are excited to have the Associate Director of the VA Finger Lakes Health Care system as our guest speaker, Shawn J. De Fries. He also happens to be a retired Army Major and we very much look forward to his briefing on VA operations in our area. Please come and join us at the dinner, the flyer and RSVP form is included in this newsletter.

With each chapter dinner we target one specific charity for donations, with April's dinner we are asking for your support of Honor Flight Rochester. Find out more about Honor Flight Rochester: <https://honorflightrochester.org/>.

Upcoming Honor Flight Rochester Missions:
Mission 82: April 20-21, 2024
Mission 83: May 25-26, 2024
Mission 84: June 15-16, 2024

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Sun 28 Apr 2024, 1 pm / 2 pm

Location: Rochester Yacht Club

Guest Speaker: Shawn J. De Fries, Associate Director, VA Finger Lakes Health Care & MAJ, USA, Ret

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

MOAA National & the Genesee Valley Chapter are nonpartisan.

Sun 8 Sep 2024, 1 pm / 2 pm

Location: Canandaigua Yacht Club

Designated Charity: Honor Flight Rochester

Guest Speaker: TBD

NY Council of Chapters Convention 2024

15-18 Sep 2024 (Sun-Wed)

Peek'n Peak Resort, Clymer, NY 14724

Sun 27 Oct 2024, 1 pm / 2 pm

Location: Spencerport Legion Post

Designated Charity: Wreaths Across America

Guest Speaker: TBD

Sun 8 Dec 2024, 1 pm / 2 pm

Location: Brook Lea Country Club

Program: Annual Holiday Party

... and Ugly Sweater Contest!

Designated Charity: Veterans Outreach Center

NYS Lifetime Liberty Pass

NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic

Preservation is now offering Lifetime Liberty Passes.

A Lifetime Liberty Pass offers discounted use of state parks, historic sites, and recreational facilities operated by the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NY State Parks) and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Once issued, the Lifetime Liberty Pass will never expire.

Additional information, including Eligibility, How to Apply as a Veteran and How to Apply as a Gold Star Parent, Spouse, or Child, and a complete listing of benefits, restrictions, and rules, refer to the Lifetime Liberty Pass Guidelines for Use in the link below.

<https://parks.ny.gov/admission/lifetime-liberty-pass.aspx>

GVC MOAA ROTC/JROTC Awards Dinner

We had the privilege to honor several cadets and midshipmen from area ROTC/JROTC programs and in addition this year we presented MOAA Genesee Valley Chapter award certificates to cadets from two groups, the Naval Sea Cadets and the 209th Regiment of Cadets.

Unfortunately, the two Army ROTC units we also present awards to had scheduling conflicts with this year's date and could not attend, but we have plans to attend awards programs at each unit to present the awards.

Pictured below are the awardees at from the awards dinner on Saturday, March 23, 2024:



GVC MOAA ROTC/JROTC Award Recipients, L-R: Midshipman Priya Wingood, UR NROTC; Cadet Jessica Klein, RIT AFROTC; Cadet Major Dalbert Ortega, Rochester ECI HS JROTC; Cadet Alejandro Serra, NE College Prep HS JROTC; and GVC Commitment to Leadership Excellence Award Recipients, L-R: Cadet 1SGT Javon K. Davis, 209th Regiment of Cadets; and Cadet CPO Matthew Hogg, Naval Sea Cadets. Unable to attend: SUNY Brockport Army ROTC Cadet Mark Tellgren and RIT Army ROTC Cadet Nolan Field.

When we listened the commanders and/or instructor cadre talk about their awardees, it was truly outstanding to hear the accolades and leadership qualities of these young individuals, some on the brink of being commissioned in their service, others thinking about enlisting in a service, with each well prepared for the future!

MOAA 2024 Advocacy in Action (AiA)

This year's campaign will take place the week of 15-18 April 2024, where all members of Congress are visited on one day, 17 April, in Washington DC; New York's team will visit 28 legislative offices. Further details below.

These are MOAA's three selected topics for the 2024 Advocacy in Action (AiA) campaign with a brief rundown on each issue:

1. Pay Full BAH (Basic Allowance for Housing)

Issue: In 2015, DoD started reducing BAH to 95% of housing costs, at a 1% reduction each year until 2019.

Impact Example: A married E-5 with dependents may see a \$373-a-month cut in take-home pay due to out-of-pocket costs from BAH cost-sharing, compounded by base pay increase decrements and retirement contributions.

2. Pass the Major Richard Star Act

Issue: The Major Richard Star Act will allow combat-injured veterans to receive their earned retirement pay and their disability compensation without offset.

Impact: Congress partially fixed this injustice in the FY 2004 NDAA. What wasn't corrected includes those who were injured in combat and forced to retire before completing 20 years of service, resulting in an offset where their retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of disability provided by the VA.

DoD is responsible for retired pay, and VA is responsible for disability compensation. These are two different payments for two different purposes.

3. Protect TRICARE For Life (TFL)

Issue: There is no enrollment fee for TFL, but beneficiaries must pay Medicare Part B premiums. However, In the Congressional Budget Office report, *Options for Reducing the Deficit 2023-2032*, it included two concepts to generate mandatory spending savings through unprecedented TFL fees:

Concept A: An annual enrollment fee would require Medicare-eligible beneficiaries who choose to enroll in TFL to pay \$575 for

individual coverage or \$1,150 for family coverage per year.

Concept B: A cost-sharing concept would introduce an \$850 deductible. TFL would not cover any of the first \$850 of a beneficiary's Medicare cost sharing. After the deductible was satisfied, TFL would cover only 50% of the next \$7,650 in Medicare cost sharing. This means TFL beneficiaries could face up to \$4,675 in cost sharing per year.

From FY 2013 to FY 2017 DoD included TFL fee proposals in five consecutive administration budget requests that, thankfully, were not adopted.

Help Support MOAA AiA 2024:

Use MOAA's Legislative Action Center, <https://moaa.quorum.us/> and ***Take Action Now!***

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.

2024 GVC Chapter Dues

Have you paid your 2024 chapter dues? GVC annual chapter dues are \$25/year. If you are not sure of your status, please reach out to Norma Weissend at nweissend@gvcmoaa.org. Paid your dues already? We sincerely thank you!

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.

NY Yankees Military Salute Weekend

NY Council of Chapters President, Skip Bebernitz, forwarded this information concerning the New York Yankees hosting a Military Appreciation Weekend from Friday, August 30th to Sunday, September 1st, 2024, against the St. Louis Cardinals, and sounds like a great opportunity to see a Yankees game!

Each ticket includes a Yankees Military shirt.

Click the link to purchase tickets individually.

[Military Appreciation Weekend 2024](#)

Pricing is as follows:

300-400 Level:	\$45/ticket
200-Level:	\$70/ticket
Field-Level:	\$90/ticket

You can also organize your day through the point of contact below. He will be happy to help set up your desired seat location!

Josh Katz
Sales Associate, Group Inside Sales
27-Time World Champions
New York Yankees
One East 161st Street
Bronx, NY 10451
jkatz@yankees.com
(646) 977-8195 (Call or Text)

GVC/MOAA BOARD MEMBERS 2023-2025

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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, April 28, 2024
Rochester Yacht Club
8555 St Paul Blvd, Rochester, NY 14617
1300 - Social Hour (Cash Bar)
1400 - Dinner**

ENTRÉE CHOICES / \$45 each

Stockyard Sirloin or
Balsamic Chicken or
Citrus Salmon

All meals come with:
Garden Salad, Mashed Potatoes &
Seasonal Vegetables
Dessert & Coffee
Cash Bar

GUEST SPEAKER:

SHAWN J. DE FRIES
Associate Director
VA Finger Lakes Health Care
(& Retired Army Major)

Reservations due ASAP, but NLT Wednesday April 17, 2024

Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Friday, April 19, 2024

Questions & Late RSVP to: Norma (585) 727-6190

Participants attending the event may be photographed or recorded for MOAA chapter products.

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

**RESERVATION FORM FOR SUNDAY April 28, 2024, GVC MEETING at
Rochester Yacht Club, 8555 St Paul Blvd, Rochester, NY 14617**

ALL Name(s) Attending: _____

Stockyard Sirloin _____ Balsamic Chicken _____ Citrus Salmon _____

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

Make an Honor Flight Rochester 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: Business Casual *****

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



March 2024 Newsletter

First Class Mail



Wegmans **MRB** | *group*



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