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SERVING ALL MILITARY, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

***** Aug 2024 *****

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Pleasant Finger Lakes Summer greetings to all! How has your Summer been? Your Genesee Valley Chapter has been busy since our last newsletter in May, which you will see in the comments below.

But we're not done... we have a great line up of chapter dinners and guest speakers for September and October (see notes below), along with our annual Holiday Dinner in December, which includes a winter clothing drive for VOC and our "Ugly Holiday Sweater" contest!

Keep an eye out for details in the newsletters.

As you have seen, with each chapter dinner we target one specific charity for donations; so with September's dinner we are asking for your support of Honor Flight Rochester. Find out more about Honor Flight Rochester and upcoming missions here: <https://honorflightrochester.org/>.

Upcoming Honor Flight Rochester Missions:

Mission 85: September 14-15, 2024

Mission 86: October 5-6, 2024

Mission 87: October 26-27, 2024

If you haven't been to an Honor Flight Welcome Home, I highly recommend it... for many it is a welcome home they never received.

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Sun 8 Sep 2024, 1 pm / 2 pm

Location: Canandaigua Yacht Club

Designated Charity: Honor Flight Rochester

Guest Speaker: Lt Col John Norvell, USAF, Ret

NY Council of Chapters Convention 2024

15-18 Sep 2024 (Sun-Wed)

Peek'n Peak Resort, Clymer, NY 14724

Sat 26 Oct 2024, 11 am / 12 pm

****Note Day/Time Change****

Location: Bella Pasta

Designated Charity: Wreaths Across America

Guest Speaker: Dan Caster, Career CIA Officer

MOAA National & the Genesee Valley Chapter are nonpartisan.

Sun 8 Dec 2024, 1 pm / 2 pm

Location: Brook Lea Country Club

Program: Annual Holiday Party

... and Ugly Holiday Sweater Contest!

Designated Charity: Veterans Outreach Center and winter clothing drive

September Dinner Guest Speaker News

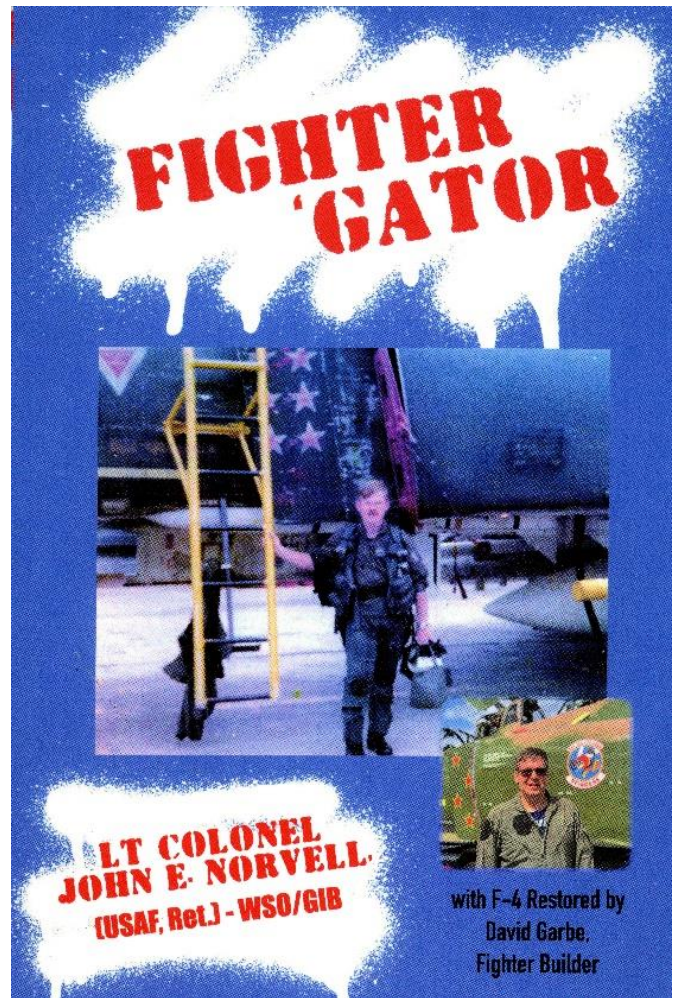
We are very excited to have Lt Col John E. Norvell, USAF (Ret), decorated air combat Vietnam veteran as an F-4 Phantom II Weapons System Officer (WSO) or commonly referred to as a GIB (Guy in Back!) and his friend, David Garbe, who built the front half of an F-4 fighter, as guest speakers for our upcoming September 8th chapter dinner.

Lt Col Norvell will read some excerpts from his book, “Fighter Gator” and show videos of missions he flew in Vietnam, and his friend David Garbe will discuss and show slides of his building of the front half of an F-4 Phantom he now displays at air shows... like the Rochester Air Show at the beginning of this month.



Lt Col Norvell speaking at the Canandaigua library on Veterans Day 2022

Note: Lt Col Norvell will have copies of his book, “*Fighter Gator*” available for sale and will sign them for you! Cost is \$20/book.



GVC Happenings...

Peter Ingalsbe, Jean and I participated in the “Our Community Salutes” event for Monroe County, in which 72 high school seniors were recognized and ceremoniously sworn into the military service they had chosen to serve in. It was heartwarming to see and speak to so many young people anxious and excited to begin their military service and perhaps career.



Our Community Salutes (OCS) is a national, non-profit organization helping communities recognize, honor and support high school seniors who plan to enlist in the U.S. Armed Services after graduation and to provide parents/guardians of enlistees with community support as their son or daughter transition into military service. Find out more at: <https://www.ourcommunitysalutes.org/>

On May 26th I was honored to have been the Keynote Speaker for the return of Honor Flight Mission 83, where 61 veterans had gone to Washington DC; 1 WWII veteran, 4 Korea veterans, 4 Cold War veterans, 9 Cold War/Vietnam veterans, and 43 Vietnam veterans. It was truly an honor to welcome home so many of America's Heroes; seeing the pride on their faces as they exited the jetway at the gate was enough to choke anybody up.



Honor Flight Rochester President, Rich Stewart and GVC President, Tim Vaughan greet a Mission 83 Veteran and their Guardian at ROC.

GVC Members in Action on Memorial Day

The picture below shows GVC members Russ Green (l) and Ken Carlsen (r) planting flags at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery on Memorial Day 2024. (Kathy Green helped, but not pictured.)

Russ Green notes, "We (GVC) are one of seven veteran units from the Veterans Memorial Council planting flags at veterans' plots at that cemetery. We do the same at Riverside, Mount Hope and White Haven Cemeteries."



Finger Lakes Community College President Speaks to GVC Members

We were honored to have Robert Nye, President of the Finger Lakes Community College and retired Army Colonel speak to us at our June 9th dinner, who reminded us about the commitment to continuing to serve after service.

On top of the significant accomplishments during his military career, Dr Nye felt the need to continue to serve, which led him down the path toward education. He has set the Finger Lakes Community College up for success and more importantly, for the students who enroll. The value of the education to the graduates is significant; he sees it in the faces of the students across the many programs FLCC offers.



FLCC President, Dr Robert Nye & GVC President, Tim Vaughan at June 9th Dinner.

Dr Nye is one of our newest GVC members!



GVC member, Ashley Coldwell is pictured with Dr Robert Nye; Ashley's daughter is a student at Finger Lake Community College!

JROTC Summer Camp Support

As I've mentioned many times in these newsletters, the members of this chapter are incredibly generous, and this is no exception. The chapter itself and many members sponsored JROTC Cadets attending Summer Camp in late June to build teamwork and leadership skills.

The Thank You note from Lt Col Bill Carr, JROTC Instructor Cadre, who is also a GVC member, and the pictures below highlight the impact these donations make on these cadets.

To all my fellow members of our MOAA chapter,
 I deeply appreciate your support to JROTC for Summer Camp. Members generated enough support to send 12 inner city High School Cadets for free to Summer Camp this year. Many of these kids have never experienced anything outside the City of Rochester. None of them know the adventure and life skills that await them in the Adirondacks at Camp Oswegatchie. You all helped MAKE that happen for them. On behalf of all our Cadets and Cadets, Thank you!!

Sincerely,
 Bill Carr



JROTC 2024 Rock Wall Challenge



JROTC 2024 Archery Skills Training



JROTC 2024 Canoeing and Kayaking

GVC Riverie Cruise

The chapter's 2024 summer cruise was on the Riverie, sailing the Genesee River through Lock 33 in Rochester, and was enjoyed by all who went! Highlights included transiting Lock 33, some fantastic lunches and the weather was absolutely fabulous, barely a cloud in the sky!



The Riverie Passing Through Lock 33

The Wall that Heals in Yates County

Preface: Jean and I, and Norma and Guy visited The Wall that Heals in Penn Yan on Saturday 10 Aug 2024.

As you may know, "The Wall that Heals," is a ¾ size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, with over 58,000 individual service members names on The Wall. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial seems more personal to me than all the others because of all the individual names listed on each of the panels of the wall.



Almost all of "The Wall that Heals" East Wall



GVC President, Tim Vaughan; GVC member and The Wall that Heals Co-Chair, Win Harper; and GVC Past President, Treasurer and NY Council of Chapters Vice President, Norma Weissend.



Elizabeth Harper, Win's wife, assists a couple with a rubbing of the woman's brother's name.

MOAA Advocacy in Action (AiA) 2024 Summer Campaign

MOAA priorities for Advocacy in Action 2024 Summer Campaign:

Junior Enlisted Pay Raise

Restoring the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)

Concurrent Receipt

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

Keep up with the latest on these issues and others through **The MOAA Newsletter**.

GVC Support Coordinators

If you need help, contact:

Nancy Swanson, (585) 944-5637, or
Tim Vaughan, (585) 412-6425

Your Chapter Dues at Work...

GVC donates to Honor Flight Rochester, the Veterans Outreach Center, Wreaths Across America and The MOAA Foundation. Additionally, we conduct MOAA ROTC/JROTC awards programs each spring for cadets and midshipmen. We are extremely grateful for the support of our membership toward these programs.

GVC Chapter Dues

GVC chapter dues are due each January and are \$25/year. You may contact Norma Weissend at nweissend@gvcmoaa.org if you have a question concerning your dues status. Your membership matters and 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.

Did you know 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? Reach out to Kathy if you have any questions regarding Surviving Spouse membership.

Check out MOAA's Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter by emailing mssvc02@gmail.com or go online at: [MOAA - Surviving Spouse Corner](#)

GVC/MOAA BOARD MEMBERS

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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, September 8, 2024
Canandaigua Yacht Club**

3524 County Road 16 (West Lake Rd), Canandaigua, NY 14424

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

ENTRÉE CHOICES / \$45 each

Delmonico Steak & Baked Potato, or
Chicken & Artichoke French & Wild Rice, or
Grilled Salmon Bruschetta & Wild Rice

All meals come with:

Salad, Vegetable, and
Berry Burst Cake
Coffee, Tea and Cash Bar

Guest Speaker:

**Lt Col John E. Norvell
USAF Retired
Vietnam F-4 Phantom WSO/GIB
Author: Fighter Gator
Signed Book Copies Available: \$20**

Reservations due ASAP, but NLT Wednesday Aug 28, 2024

Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Monday, Sep 2, 2024

Questions: Jean Vaughan (716) 239-0383 / jvaughan@gvcmoaa.org

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 September 8, 2024, GVC MEETING at
Canandaigua Yacht Club, 3524 County Rd 16 (West Lake Rd), CDGA, NY 14424**

ALL Name(s) Attending: _____

Steak _____ Chicken _____ Salmon _____

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

Honor Flight Rochester 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**

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

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



Aug 2024 Newsletter

First Class Mail



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