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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

***** Sep 2024 *****

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Fall greetings to all! Hard to believe it's late September already with the big three holidays right around the corner, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

But before we give up on late Summer and pre-Fall, let me mention our recent chapter activities. On Sun 18 Aug 2024, the chapter had a group outing at Rochester Red Wings game.

On Sun 8 Sep 2024, the chapter dinner at the Canandaigua Yacht Club, with guest speakers, Lt Col John Norvell, USAF (Ret), who spoke of his time leading up to his being a back seater in an F-4 Phantom II fighter in Combat in Vietnam and David Garbe spoke about building and refurbishing the front end of an F-4 Phantom II fighter that he now displays at airshows.

Numerous chapter members attended the New York Council of Chapters Convention from 15-18 Sep 2024, where MOAA National staff presented information on Government Relations

and the importance of advocacy, and the latest news on chapter operations policies and procedures, followed by the Council business meeting.

October 26th Chapter Dinner Preview

Our guest speaker for the chapter's October dinner is Dan Caster, who served in the CIA for over 22 years as a Visual Information and Counter Terrorism Operations specialist. He is an Air Force veteran and RIT graduate. Now retired, he devotes his energy to Native American art.

With each chapter dinner we target one specific charity for donations, with October's dinner we are asking for your support of Wreaths Across America. Find out more about GVC's 2024 Wreaths Across America campaign here:

[Overview - Wreaths Across America](#)

Upcoming Honor Flight Rochester Missions:

Mission 86: October 5-6, 2024

Mission 87: October 26-27, 2024

MOAA National & the Genesee Valley Chapter are nonpartisan.

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Sat 26 Oct 2024, 11 am / 12 pm *Note Date*

Location: Bella Pasta

Designated Charity: Wreaths Across America
Guest Speaker: Dan Caster, Career CIA Officer
Informational Briefing: Medicare Advantage
John Hunt, Veterans Benefits Services

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
and winter clothing drive

Sun 23 Mar 2025, 1 pm / 2 pm

Location: Spencerport Legion Post

Program: ROTC/JROTC Awards Dinner

Designated Charity: The MOAA Foundation
Sponsor ROTC/JROTC Cadets/Families

Sun 27 Apr 2025, 1 pm / 2 pm

Location: Rochester Yacht Club

Guest Speaker: **TBD**

Designated Charity: Honor Flight Rochester

Sun 8 Jun 2025, 1 pm / 2 pm

Location: Canandaigua Yacht Club

Guest Speaker: MOAA National Staff
New Chapter Officers Installation Ceremony
Designated Charity: Veterans Outreach Center

Red Wings Game Recap, Sun 18 Aug 2024

It wasn't looking good; the forecast was mostly rain all during gametime. But the Weather Gods showed us some mercy and oh what a beautiful day it turned out to be. A smaller group than normal, but we were part of the 7,594 attendees at the game and had a fantastic time.

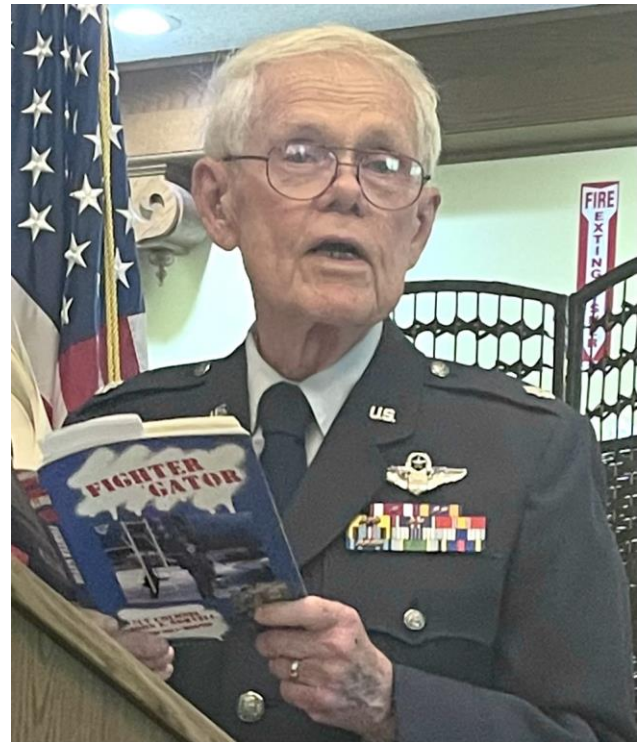


Most of the "Usual Suspects" of GVC!

GVC Dinner Recap, Sun 8 Sep 2024

We were honored to have Lt Col John E. Norvell, USAF, Retired, decorated air combat veteran of the Vietnam War, F-4 Phantom II Weapons System Officer, Author of the book, "Fighter 'Gator," and David Garbe, Co-Author of "Fighter 'Gator" and F-4 Restorer/Builder speak to members about his path to becoming an F-4 GIB, or "Guy in Back" and flying combat missions. As a member of the 13th Tactical Fighter Squadron stationed at U Dorn RTAFB in 1973, he flew on the last "unofficial" F-4 bombing mission of the Vietnam War to launch from that base. Lt Col Norvell also showed home movies of his experience flying in the F-4 on his combat missions.

His co-author, David Garbe, talked about the Herculean effort to restore and rebuild the front end of F-4 tail #720 that he displays at airshows. The "before" and "after" pictures showed it was truly a labor of love... and the final product looks better than any that ever rolled off the McDonnell Douglas assembly line in St Louis!



Lt Col John Norvell, USAF (Retired), reading a passage from his book, "Fighter 'Gator"

If you are interested, you can find the book, "Fighter 'Gator" online at www.amazon.com.



(L) Lt Col John Norvell, (C) GVC President, Tim Vaughan, and (R) David Garbe

Informational Briefing on TRICARE for Life & CHAMPVA Friendly Medicare Advantage

At the next Chapter meeting on Sat, 26 October, John Hunt, Veterans Service Benefits, will offer a presentation on a TRICARE for Life and CHAMPVA friendly Medicare Advantage Plan.

Veterans Service Benefits works with retired Veterans on Medicare who have TRICARE for Life or CHAMPVA to educate them about Medicare Advantage Plans that they have historically been unable to obtain.

These plans are sponsored by USAA and AARP and give the veteran and their spouse (or surviving spouse) the following benefits (at NO COST), that they would otherwise not have been entitled to:

- Hearing, Dental & Vision Benefits
- An over-the-counter allowance each month for OTC products (anywhere from shampoo and razors to Tylenol and Zyrtec, all the way to wrist guards and grab bars)
- \$75-\$80 a month BACK for each person for their Medicare Part B premium (going up to \$95-100/month in 2025) in the form of a Part B Rebate
- Gym membership that includes such programs as “Silver Sneakers”

These plans are not advertised on TV or the radio. Veterans Service Benefits gets the word out by spending time at military bases, VA

functions and properties, retirement functions and other organizations such as the VFW, American Legion and the MOAA.

Prior to 2021, if someone on TRICARE For Life or CHAMPVA were to sign up for a Medicare Advantage Plan, it would cancel out their TRICARE/CHAMPVA eligibility. These new programs are specifically built to work with them.

These plans, named the Honor and Patriot Plans come at NO COST to the Veteran or Spouse. Veterans Service Benefits will give a short presentation about them and will stay until after the meeting for questions and answers.

Open enrollment is right around the corner (October 15-December 7) but with a special enrollment period open in NYS, these plans can be effective as early as October 1, 2024.

Wreaths Across America Campaign 2024 www.wreathscrossamerica.org

The 2024 Wreaths Across America Campaign is underway with this year’s theme of “Live with Purpose.” **Wreaths Across America Day is Saturday 14 December 2024.**

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 is \$17/wreath; if you are so inclined, the most common wreath sponsorship is a 5-pack, which is \$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 2024 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**



The suspense for ALL wreath orders is Monday, November 25, 2024. Orders received after this date will be applied to next year's event (2025).

NY CoC/MOAA Staff Advocacy Discussion

At this year's Council of Chapters Convention, MOAA VP of Government Relations, Maj Gen April Vogel, USAF (Ret), talked about the impact and importance of Grass Roots advocacy at the chapter level. Her first slide started with:

Why Advocacy?

Given the fierce competition for limited funding, strong advocacy on the Hill is essential to ensure that earned servicemember benefits are not compromised in the name of cost savings

Most servicemembers and their families are not in a position to represent their own interests

National-State legislative efforts/building critical mass through advocacy

Maj Gen Vogel also put up a slide that showed GVC was second among chapters and the council in Legislative Action Center Registrants, 18, and second in the number of Actions Taken, 67. A sincere thank you to the 18, but there is also room for improvement.

The point here is in the last bullet from Maj Gen Vogel's first slide above; "critical mass through advocacy" is gained by numbers... and in the advocacy business, **Numbers Matter!!!**

ADVOCACY REMINDER...

In every newsletter we include how to access MOAA's Legislative Action Center to...
Take Action Now! <https://moaa.quorum.us/>.



Maj Gen Vogel, MOAA VP Government Relations at NY CoC Convention

NY CoC Convention – 15-18 Sep 2024 @ Peek 'N Peak (PK2) Resort, Clymer NY

Forty-seven Chapter members from across the State met at PK2 near Jamestown to discuss advocacy issues and be invigorated to "Never Stop Serving." National MOAA sent Senior Director for Chapter and Council Affairs, Frank Michael, CAPT, USN (Ret) and the VP of Government Relations, April Vogel, Maj Gen, USAF (Ret).

GVC always sends a strong contingent, 12 in all this year. Additionally, 6 of the 7 state-wide Chapters were represented, for a total of 47 attendees.

Where Maj Gen Vogel emphasized MOAA's main goal of **ADVOCACY** (see write-up above), CAPT Michael emphasized advocacy

cannot happen without MEMBERSHIP and a concerted involvement. He highlighted the opportunities for all members to get involved by participating in the Legislative Action Center (Take Action!), attending monthly MOAA “Roundtable” Zoom meetings, which highlight a different topic each month, and supporting your local veteran community through outreach and involvement. Real advocacy begins at the local, grassroots level.

Lastly, the annual Council Convention is an opportunity to establish new, and maintain old, friendships with like-minded veterans across the state and enjoy the camaraderie that military members cherish. Attending a convention also gives you the opportunity to visit different areas of New York State. Mark your calendars for next year: 28 Sep-01 Oct 2025. Plans are underway to hold the convention in the gorgeous Saratoga area. ALL ARE INVITED!

GVC Support Coordinators: Need Help?

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 grateful for membership support of 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 regarding Surviving Spouse issues and MOAA membership.

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 2023-2025

President: Tim Vaughan, Col, USAF (Ret)

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Surviving Spouse Liaison: Kathy Green

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Email: tvaughan@gvcmoaa.org

Your MOAA & GVC Membership Matters!

Tim Vaughan, Col, USAF (Retired)

MOAA GVC President

Never Stop Serving®



WREATHS *across* AMERICA



Wreath Sponsorship Order Form

GVC Wreath Sponsor QRC

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.

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.

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		

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 or by visiting: www.wreathscrossamerica.org (Search Sponsorship Group NY0118P)

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 wreathscrossamerica.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
LOCATION ID(s)	NYSVMC (Finger Lakes)	NYWNYC (Western NY)	NYBNBC (Bath) ARLING (Arlington)
DOLLAR AMOUNTS(s)			

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 ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

Saturday, October 26, 2024

Bella Pasta

2500 Ridgeway Ave, Rochester (Greece), NY 14626

1100 - Social Hour (Cash Bar)

1200 - Dinner

BUFFET MEAL* / \$35 each

Roast Beef w/Au Jus,
Chicken Marsala, or
Penne and Red Sauce
Roasted Potatoes, Rolls and Butter
Salad w/Italian and Ranch Dressing
** Contact Norma for any Dietary Requests*

All meals come with:

Dessert
Coffee, Tea and Cash Bar

Guest Speaker:
Dan Caster
Career CIA Officer
Former USAF & RIT Alumni
<<=====>>
Medicare Advantage Program
Informational Presentation
John Hunt, Veterans Service Benefits

Reservations due ASAP, but NLT Wednesday Oct 16, 2024

Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Monday, Oct 21, 2024

Questions: Norma Weissend (585) 727-6190 / nweissend@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 SATURDAY October 26, 2024, GVC MEETING at
Bella Pasta, 2500 Ridgeway Ave, Rochester, NY 14626**

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 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**



Sep 2024 Newsletter

First Class Mail



Wegmans **MRB** | *group*



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at every stage.**

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