

<https://gvcmoaa.org/>

14 Consecutive Years of 5-Star Levels of Excellence!

6 Consecutive Years of MOAA Communications Awards!

MOAA Legislative Action Center: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>

GVC Membership Information email: info@gvcmoaa.org

Pay online for GVC Dues, Dinners & Events:

<https://gvc-payments.mycheddarup.com>

SERVING ALL MILITARY, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

***** Feb 2025 *****

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I don't know about you, but I think this Winter has been steadily colder than the past several years. But the good news is we're on the downhill side, headed to Spring. Looking back, it's amazing how fast the holiday season flies by and bam, we're over a month into the New Year. And with the new year comes chapter dinners and events back on the calendar.

First up is our GVC Amerks hockey game on Sun 22 Feb 2025. Emails have gone out on this and the past two year's games have been a fun outing of Amerks hockey, camaraderie and maybe an adult beverage... or two.

Next up is our annual MOAA ROTC/JROTC Awards dinner on Sun 23 Mar 2025, where we recognize six individuals within those programs who were nominated by their respective commanders. The professional qualities and high caliber of these awardees is always impressive and leads us to believe the future of the US military services will be in good hands.

With each chapter dinner we target one specific charity for donations, with March's dinner we are asking for your support of The MOAA Foundation. The MOAA Foundation creates, enhances, expands, or supports high-impact, proven-successful programs and services for servicemembers and veterans of all ranks, and their families. Find out more here:

<https://charities.moaa.org/>

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

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

MOAA National & the Genesee Valley Chapter are nonpartisan.

Sun 8 Jun 2025, * 3 pm / 4 pm *****

Location: Canandaigua Yacht Club

Guest Speaker: CAPT Frank Michael, MOAA
New Chapter Officers Installation Ceremony
Designated Charity: Veterans Outreach Center

GVC Holiday Dinner Recap

The Ugly Holiday Sweater contest was another great success! Past President, Peter Ingalsbe, took home the prize this year, with his very ugly holiday sweater! In addition, we had some Christmas word jumble and icon deciphering to guess the names of Christmas songs. If you haven't made it to our holiday dinner, please consider joining us this year!

In addition to the Holiday Dinner, our winter clothing drive for the Veterans Outreach Center was a great success as well, filling three large plastic bags with new winter clothing items, such as hats, gloves, socks, t-shirts, underwear and such, which was delivered to the VOC. The generosity of GVC members is always so heartening, knowing the items will support veterans in a time of need.



Ugly Holiday Sweaters were out in full-force at the GVC Holiday Party in December!

Wreaths Across America Campaign 2024

www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org

Our Wreaths Across America campaign was very successful, with nearly 185 wreaths sponsored in GVC's name. And although it was a cold day, the Sun was out, and it was a beautiful day to Honor veterans and their family members laid to rest at the cemeteries the chapter sponsors wreaths for. We are truly grateful for the very generous sponsorship of wreaths toward our campaign.



*Wreaths Across America Day, Dec 14, 2024
NYS Veterans Cemetery – Finger Lakes*

Veterans Memorial Council 2025 Legislative Breakfast

VMC's annual Legislative Breakfast was held Jan 11, 2025, with numerous elected officials attending to discuss and address veteran issues.



L-R: Rochester Mayor Malik Evans; US Congressman Joe Morelle; NY Assemblyman Demond Meeks; Monroe County Legislator Rick Milne; and NY Assemblyman Brian Manktelow

Online Chapter Dues & Event Payments

GVC has migrated to “Cheddar Up” as a payment portal for members and donors of affiliate chapters and councils.

Want to pay your annual chapter dues?
Cheddar Up!

Want to donate to one of the chapter dinner designated charities? Cheddar Up!

Want to RSVP and Pay for attendance at a chapter event (dinners, sporting events, etc.)?
Cheddar Up!

There are two ways to access the Genesee Valley Chapter (GVC) Cheddar Up portal: via the GVC weblink or, via the GVC QRC; both are shown below.

<https://gvc-payments.mycheddarup.com>



Note: GVC only sees the last four digits of your credit card when using Cheddar Up.

There is no need to sign up for a Cheddar Up account, unless you want one.

GVC Treasurer, Norma Weissend, is the GVC point of contact for Cheddar Up. If you have questions or get stuck, contact Norma: nweissend@gvcmoaa.org.

Farmington AMVETS 2025 Women Veterans Dinner Schedule

Our friends from the Farmington AMVETS Post 332 sponsor a women veterans dinner several times a year... information/schedule below.

Are you a woman that served in the U.S. military? If so, come join fellow women Veterans for a free dinner and find out what resources and services are available for women veterans in our community.

Wednesday, March 26, 2025
Wednesday, July 16, 2025
Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Time: 6-8 pm, Dinner served at 6:30 pm

Mertensia Lodge
1438 Mertensia Road
Farmington, NY 14425

RSVP to Tammy Bresette, U.S. Army Veteran
bresettetammy178@gamil.com or
(262) 384-1302

CompeerCORPS Male Veterans Dinner

Our friends from the CompeerCORPS Rochester sponsor a male veterans group dinner each month... information below.

Connecting Through Camaraderie!
Enjoy a meal with fellow Veterans and meet representatives from other organizations.

3:30 pm, 1st Wednesday of each month

Golden Corral
450 Jefferson Rd
Henrietta, NY 14623

Must RSVP to
RYoung@compeerrochester.org

USAF Band to Visit Canandaigua

The USAF Heritage of America Band will be performing at the Canandaigua Academy Theater on Saturday, March 22, 2025 @ 7 pm.

Order **FREE** Tickets two ways: Web or QRC
<https://cur8.com/24621/project/129713>



Canandaigua Academy Theater
435 East St
Canandaigua, NY 14424
Sat, Mar 22, 2025 @ 7 pm

Chapter Officers Needed!

We're coming up on the end of two-year terms for all chapter officer positions and are looking for members who would be interested in filling chapter officer and/or Board positions. Volunteers would serve from June 2025 thru June 2027.

If you are interested in serving as a chapter officer, please contact me or one of the following nominating committee members: Pete Ingalsbe, Barb Green or Norma Weissend. Our contact information is listed in the Board of Directors section of this newsletter.

Your chapter needs you!

MOAA Advocacy in Action 2025

MOAA's Advocacy in Action (AiA) will take place on Wed 9 Apr 2025 in Washington DC. Norma Weissend and I are honored to team with New York Council President, Skip Bebernitz to meet with New York's elected officials.

But MOAA's advocacy efforts are truly a year-round endeavor. In December, MOAA Earned a spot on *The Hill's* Top Lobbyist List for the 18th Straight Year as part of *The Hill's* Grassroots category.

Key in on the word "Grassroots" for a minute. That means you, me, and every other MOAA member, including spouses and surviving spouses. We can all assist in this effort by using MOAA's Legislative Action Center, Take Action Now link <https://moaa.quorum.us/>.

According to MOAA's online article, "How MOAA Plans to Build Momentum in the 119th Congress," by Brenden McMahon, 4 Feb 2025, MOAA's top-tier priorities for 2025 reflect the pressing needs of its constituencies:

- **Currently serving:** Improving military housing to support readiness and quality of life.
- **Retirees/veterans:** Advancing the MOAA/Disabled American Veterans (DAV)-authored report *Ending the Wait for Toxic-Exposed Veterans* to ensure timely delivery of earned benefits.
- **Family/survivors:** Passing the Military Spouse Hiring Act to expand employment opportunities.
- **DoD health care:** Enhancing stability and accountability in the military health system.
- **VA health care:** Improving caregiving support for veterans' families.

Numbers Matter on the issues... Help MOAA increase the Grass Roots advocacy contacts with legislators by accessing MOAA's Legislative Action Center to... **Take Action Now!**

<https://moaa.quorum.us/>

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

Have you paid your 2025 chapter dues? If you are not sure of your status, please reach out to Norma Weissend at nweissend@gvcmoaa.org. GVC annual dues are \$25/year. If you've paid already, we are grateful for that! If you haven't paid, please remember to use Cheddar Up! <https://gvc-payments.mycheddarup.com>

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.

Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter

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

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.

Surviving Spouse Corner

MOAA online article, “What to Know About National Cemetery Burials,” by Cheryl Toland, 4 Feb 2025

Servicemembers and veterans, and their spouses, are eligible for burial at national cemeteries. Also eligible are minor dependent children and, under certain conditions, unmarried adult children with disabilities. An eligible spouse and children may be buried in a national cemetery even if they predecease the veteran.

If you or a loved one are considering burial in a national cemetery, here are three helpful considerations:

Locate the nearest cemetery. The VA operates 156 national cemeteries in 42 states and Puerto Rico. However, not every state has a VA cemetery. To find a cemetery close to you, visit <https://gravelocator.cem.va.gov>.

Plan ahead. Make an emotional and stressful time less difficult by completing arrangements in advance. Learn more about the pre-need eligibility determination process, and fill out forms online, [at this link](#). Other needed documents, such as a DD Form 214 or other separation documents, [can be requested online](#).

Know your resources. Don't underestimate what the VA can do for you. You can learn more about VA burial benefits from local VA national cemetery offices, [the National Cemetery Administration](#), and VA regional offices, toll-free at (800) 827-1000.

MOAA's publication *Preparing for the Loss of a Military Spouse* can provide further helpful guidance for getting your affairs in order. Premium and Life members can [download the publication here](#).

Honor Flight Rochester 2025 Missions Start

Mission 88, May 3-4, 2025

Mission 89, May 31 – June 1, 2025

New VA Secretary Douglas A. Collins' Message to Veterans and VA Employees

5 Feb 2025

<https://news.va.gov/press-room/secretary-collins-message-to-veterans-and-va-employees/>

It is my life's honor to serve America's Veterans as secretary of Veterans Affairs, and I thank President Donald J. Trump as well as the U.S. Senate for their confidence in me.

America is the greatest nation on Earth precisely because of the Veterans willing to step forward and defend our freedom. I've witnessed this firsthand throughout my two decades in the military, as I've served with some of the finest men and women our nation has to offer.

In addition to being a Navy Veteran, I am an Air Force Reserve colonel and chaplain. During my time in the military, I've learned that leadership is about listening, serving, motivating and setting a good example for those around you. That is the approach I will bring to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

When President Trump offered me this job, he gave me simple instructions: take great care of America's Veterans. Here is how we're going to accomplish the task the president has set out for us:

We're going to deliver timely access to care and benefits for every eligible Veteran, family member, caregiver and survivor.

We're going to put Veterans at the center of everything VA does, focusing relentlessly on customer service and convenience.

We're going to challenge the status quo in order to find new and better ways of helping VA beneficiaries.

We're going to celebrate the vast majority of VA employees who do a great job every day and hold employees accountable when they fall short of the mission.

We're going to provide Veterans with the health care choices they have earned while maintaining and improving VA's direct health care capabilities.

And we're going to do a better job reaching Veterans at risk of homelessness or suicide – especially those who have had no contact with VA.

My commitment to my fellow servicemembers and Veterans will serve as my compass for the way ahead, and I am honored to be working with the men and women of VA to accomplish our noble and vital mission.

Together, we will strengthen VA so it works better for America's heroes. Let's get to work.

Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM) for Living Veterans -- *Apply for Pre-Need Below:*
<https://www.vlm.cem.va.gov/livingveteranhome>

Where Veterans Use their Own Words and Imagery to tell their military and life story.

Legacy

The legacies we leave behind comes in many forms whether it be a fulfilling career, an extended family, contributions to communities, financial assets, and more. The memorials that accompany a Veteran's life are also an important legacy, so that family members, friends, and others can understand and appreciate the unique Veteran experience.

Self-Authored Content

VA's Veterans Legacy Memorial, the largest online memorial site dedicated to America's Veterans, now offers the opportunity for you, the Veteran, to privately provide your own images, autobiographies, military and life timelines, and historical documents, so that when you pass away, your contributions will be automatically added to your publicly-visible VLM page, as content authored by you.

Who Can Use This Feature?

Currently this feature is open to those Veterans who have been approved for pre-need eligibility

for burial in a VA national cemetery. Pre-need is a process where you can apply to find out in advance if you can be buried in a VA national cemetery, and it can help make the burial planning process easier for your family members in their time of need.

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, LTC, 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, Col, USAF (Ret)

Email: rzale@gvcmoaa.org

Legislative Chair & Past President:

Barbara Green, COL, USA (Ret)

Email: bgreen@gvcmoaa.org

Membership/Recruiting Chair:

Norma Weissend, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

Email: nweissend@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 March 23, 2025
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

Salad, Vegetable, Mashed Potatoes and
Dessert
Coffee, Tea and Cash Bar

**GVC MOAA ROTC/JROTC
AWARDS DINNER
Honoring Cadets/Midshipmen
from
ROTC: UR, RIT & SUNY Brockport;
JROTC: Rochester ECI HS &
Padillo HS**
Please RSVP & Pay Here:
<https://gvc-payments.mycheddarup.com>

Reservations due ASAP, but NLT Wednesday March 12, 2025

Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Monday, March 17, 2025

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

PLEASE CLIP HERE AND SEND FORM BELOW * DRESS: BUSINESS *****



**RESERVATION FORM FOR SUNDAY March 23, 2025 GVC MEETING at
Ferris Goodridge American Legion Post #330, 691 Trimmer Rd, Spencerport NY 14559**

ALL Name(s) Attending: _____

Phone # _____ **Email:** _____

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

Sponsor ROTC/JROTC Cadets/Midshipmen Family Dinners \$ _____;

MOAA Foundation Donation \$ _____; **Grand Total \$** _____

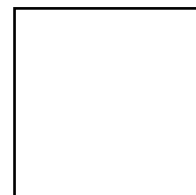
Please RSVP & Pay via Cheddar Up: <https://gvc-payments.mycheddarup.com>

Or, 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 *****

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



Feb 2025 Newsletter

First Class Mail



Wegmans **MRB** | *group*



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at every stage.**

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