



## GVC ONLINE

**16 Consecutive Years of 5-Star Levels of Excellence!**

**8 Consecutive Years of MOAA Communications Awards!**

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

**GVC Membership Information email: [info@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:info@gvcmoaa.org)**

**Pay online for GVC Dues, Dinners & Events:**

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

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**SERVING ALL MILITARY, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

**\*\*\* May 2026 \*\*\***

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### ***PRESIDENT'S CORNER***

Greetings from GVC HQ! We just wrapped up our April dinner meeting with Honor Flight Rochester President, Kim Gould, and it was fantastic! More about that later...

Next month will also be special, as we are excited to have retired Major General Dawne Deskins, USAF, as our guest speaker. Maj Gen Deskins worked in the Northeast Air Defense Sector (NEADS; now the Eastern Air Defense Sector or EADS) back in September 2001.

As part of Team New York, two members of the chapter spent the week of April 13-16, in Washington DC, working the halls of Congress to advocate for the four issues MOAA focused on this year. There is more to read on this subject later in the newsletter.

### **Honor Flight Rochester Missions:**

Mission 95, May 16-17, 2026 (59 vets)

*(M95 is the First HFR All-Female Mission!)*

Mission 96, Jun 13-14, 2026 (59 vets)

Three GVC women-veterans will be taking part in HFR's Mission 95: COL Barbara Green, USA (Ret), Lt Col Norma Weissend, USAF (Ret), and CWO2 Kathy Crelot, USN (Ret).

Find out more about Honor Flight Rochester:

**<https://honorflightrochester.org/>**

### ***UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS***

**Mon 18 May 2026, 7 pm, ESL Ballpark**

***"Our Community Salutes" (OCS)***

HS Enlistee Recognition Ceremony for WNY.

This will be GVC's third year supporting OCS.

For each chapter dinner, one charity is chosen for donations; June's dinner charity is the Rochester Veterans Outreach Center.

**<https://veteransoutreachcenter.org/>**

**Sun 14 Jun 2026, 1 pm / 2 pm**

**Location: Canandaigua Yacht Club**

**Guest Speaker: Maj Gen Dawne Deskins,**

**USAF (Ret) – 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 9/11 Focus**

**Designated Charity: Veterans Outreach Center**

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**MOAA National & the Genesee Valley Chapter are nonpartisan.**

**Sun 19 Jul 2026, 5:05 pm First Pitch  
Rochester Red Wings Baseball Game  
ESL Ballpark, Rochester**

**Sun 13 Sep 2026, 1 pm / 2 pm  
Location: Canandaigua Yacht Club  
Guest Speaker: TBD  
Designated Charity: Honor Flight Rochester**

**Sun 27 Sep – Wed 30 Sep 2026  
NYS Council of Chapters Convention  
Location: Hotel Saranac, Saranac Lake, NY**

**Sun 6 Dec 2026, 1 pm / 2 pm  
Location: Brook Lea Country Club  
Program: Annual Holiday Party  
... and Ugly Sweater Contest!  
Designated Charity: Veterans Outreach Center  
and NEW Winter Clothing Drive**

**Sat 19 Dec 2026 – Theme: “Remember Me”  
National Wreaths Across America Day  
Mission: Remember... Honor... Teach...**

### ***April’s Honor Flight Rochester Dinner***

As I noted earlier, we had the honor to have as our guest speaker, Kim Gould, Honor Flight Rochester (HFR) President, to talk about the history and latest events going on with HFR.

The first mission of the year, Mission 94, returned on April 19<sup>th</sup>, which means HFR has flown 4,824 veterans since their beginning in 2008... and Kim was on their first mission! If you’ve never been to welcome home these veterans, you owe it to yourself to go and be a part of the masses of people who line the corridors of the airport to welcome them home! There are not enough words to describe the pride, smiles on the faces, and even in some cases, the tears in the eyes of these heroes.

As Kim noted in her presentation, time after time, these veterans proclaim these missions are the “Trip of a Lifetime.” She also relayed that many times, family members contact her to let her know that these missions have done what they could never do, and that is to get the veterans to open up and talk about their

experiences while serving, sometimes seeing and experiencing things they never previously wanted to talk about.



*Honor Flight Rochester President, Kim Gould, speaks to GVC members at the Rochester Yacht Club on Saturday, April 25, 2026.*



*L-R: Keith Harris, CDR, USN (Ret), left, and Tim Vaughan, Col, USAF (Ret), right, pictured with HFR President Kim Gould. Keith & Tim were Keynote Speakers for Honor Flight Rochester Welcome Home Ceremonies, Missions 93 & 83, respectively.*





*L-R: Norma Weissend, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), HFR President Kim Gould, & Kathy Crelot, CWO2, USN (Ret). Norma & Kathy are scheduled to go on Mission 95, HFR's first all-female veteran mission, May 16-17, 2026.*

The Genesee Valley Chapter has a long history with, and strong ties to Honor Flight Rochester and is proud to support its mission to honor America's Veterans for their many sacrifices.



***MOAA Advocacy in Action 2026  
-- The DC "Hill Day"***

AiA Team New York was led by GVC's own Norma Weissend as the New York Council of Chapters President, along with myself and Matt Sprenger, President of the Mid-Hudson Chapter. Team-NY also had two MOAA staff and one MOAA Board member visiting NY legislators.

Although our AiA "Hill Day" is complete, AiA 2026 is far from over... MOAA needs YOUR grass roots advocacy effort to get these issues passed into law.

**Take Action Now at the  
MOAA Legislative Action Center:**  
<https://moaa.quorum.us/>

- **Shutdown Fairness Act (S. 3168)**
- **Military CARE Act (H.R. 6796)**  
(Military Care, Access, Reporting, and Evaluation (Care) Act)
- **GUARD VA Benefits Act (H.R. 1732)**  
(Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding VA Benefits Act)
- **Major Richard Star Act (S. 1032 / H.R. 2102)**

Each of these issues has a dedicated point paper that does a deep dive into the issue, which can be found on the MOAA AiA website:

[www.moaa.org/AiA](http://www.moaa.org/AiA)

Each year for AiA Hill Day, MOAA has a full-page ad in "The Hill" newspaper and the language is incredibly powerful and impactful. Here is this year's language:

**"BUDGETS ARE NEGOTIABLE.  
EARNED BENEFITS ARE NOT."**

**Team NY, AiA "Hill Day"**



L-R: Erin Cardinal, Matt Sprenger, Norma Weissend, Tim Vaughan, Caitlin Grover, & Myles Caggins III. Erin & Caitlin are MOAA Staff, while Myles is a MOAA Board Member.



L-R: Matt Sprenger, Norma Weissend, Tim Vaughan, & Myles Caggins III, standing by for a meeting with Senator Schumer’s Staff.

**Grass Roots Advocacy is Year Round!**  
 ANYONE, yes ANYONE, can use the Legislative Action Center...

**MOAA Legislative Action Center:**  
<https://moaa.quorum.us/>  
**Take Action Now!!!**

**When MOAA Speaks, Congress Listens!**

**GVC Earns MOAA Awards – Again!**

Did you notice the front page of the newsletter? GVC has earned MOAA’s 5-Star Levels of Excellence Award for the 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, and MOAA’s 5-Star COL Marvin J. Harris Communications Award (Newsletter & Website) for the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year! We are very proud of earning these accomplishments, which means your chapter’s officers and board members work hard to further MOAA’s mission and meet their standards. But it doesn’t happen alone; this chapter does well because we have a very supportive membership in terms of participation at chapter meetings and the incredibly generous donations for the charities we promote for each of our dinner meetings. Congratulations to the officers and board, and congratulations to our membership for many years of ongoing support!



L-R: Caitlin Grover, Tim Vaughan, Samantha Bevins, Norma Weissend, Tyler Scharff, Myles Caggins III, Matt Sprenger, & Erin Cardinal; post-meeting with Senator Gillibrand’s Staff, Samantha & Legislative Fellow, Tyler.

**NYS Council of Chapters Convention**

Registration is open for the 2026 NYS CoC 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention! This year’s convention is being held at the beautiful Hotel Saranac in Saranac Lake, NY, Sun 27 Sep to Wed 30 Sep. An email went out with the registration packages, but you can also register online via the Council’s Cheddar Up website:

<https://nycoc.mycheddarup.com>

or use the QR Code below:



You never know who you’re going to run into... Team NY crossed paths with New York National Guard leaders, MG Ray Shields, The Adjutant General and Assistant Adjutant General for Air and NY Air National Guard Commander, Maj Gen Gary Charlton... what a great surprise!



## **Farmington AMVETS 2025 Women Veterans Dinner Schedule**

Farmington AMVETS Post 332 hosts a women veterans' dinner on Wednesdays, 1800-2000, March 18, July 22, and October 21, 2026, at the Mertensia Lodge, Farmington.

<https://amvetsny332.org/>

RSVP to: Tammy Bresette, (262) 384-1302, or [bresettetammy178@gmail.com](mailto:bresettetammy178@gmail.com).

## **CompeerCORPS Male Veterans Dinner**

Male veterans group dinner on the first Wednesday of each month, 1530-1630, Golden Corral, Jefferson Rd. Find out more:

[www.compeerrochester.org/compeercorps](http://www.compeerrochester.org/compeercorps)

POC: [RYoung@compeerrochester.org](mailto:RYoung@compeerrochester.org)

## **GVC Support Coordinators**

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

## **GVC Chapter Dues**

Have you paid your 2026 chapter dues? If you are not sure of your status, please reach out to Keith Harris at [kharris@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:kharris@gvcmoaa.org).

Reminder: GVC annual dues are \$25/year and are separate from MOAA National dues.

Use Cheddar Up to pay dues, it's fast & easy!

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

Want to Stop Paying Annual Dues...

Become a Chapter Life Member!

Contact Keith Harris, GVC Membership Chair at [kharris@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:kharris@gvcmoaa.org)

## **Your Chapter Dues at Work...**

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

## **Surviving Spouse Liaison**

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

[kgreen@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:kgreen@gvcmoaa.org) regarding Surviving Spouse issues and MOAA membership.

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

*Editorial Note: Online Cyber Crime is an ever-present and persistent threat. This MOAA online article reinforces a basic philosophy: always think potential scam or fraud before you act in the online cyber world.*

## **Social Media Fraud Losses Topped \$2 Billion in 2025, FTC Reports (Extract)**

By: MOAA Staff, Kevin Lilley, Apr 29, 2026

[https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/finance/social-media-fraud-losses-topped-\\$2-billion-in-2025/](https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/finance/social-media-fraud-losses-topped-$2-billion-in-2025/)

Reported losses to social media scams totaled \$2.1 billion in 2025 according to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), \$200 million more than the previous year and about eight times more than the amount lost to social media fraud in 2020.

Facebook scams accounted for \$794 million of the losses, with \$425 million coming from WhatsApp, \$234 million from Instagram, and the remaining amount from other platforms, the FTC reported in an April 27 news release.

*Types of fraud included:*

**Investment Scams**

**Romance Scams**

**Business and Product Scams**

## **More Types of Fraud**

Reported losses from scams that began on a website or an app reached \$1.1 billion in 2025, according to the FTC – the same figure as reported losses from phone calls. Text scams (\$639 million) and email scams (\$569 million) rounded out the list.

In 2024, military-connected consumers – servicemembers, veterans, and families – reported \$548 million in scam losses.

The wide majority of those reports came in two categories: Investment scams (\$208 million) and impostor scams (\$200 million).

Some impostors may present themselves as VA officials seeing information about a claim or promising access to a new benefit, only to steal a veteran's personal data. Others could take advantage of a service connection and pose as a military member in financial crisis or as a military-friendly charity. These and other military-specific scams can make the service-connected community more vulnerable to fraud.

MOAA's Scam and Fraud Prevention Resources webpage, <https://www.moaa.org/content/benefits-and-discounts/finance/moaas-scam-and-fraud-prevention-resources/>, offers dozens of articles addressing multiple types of scams, but some general prevention tips apply in most any instance:

**Slow Down:** Scammers rely on victims making quick decisions and ignoring red flags. If you're asked to "act now" or "respond immediately," push pause.

**Always Verify:** Check out any suspicious engagements using trusted resources and confirmed contact information. Be wary of unsolicited emails, texts, calls, or social media messages – tech-savvy scammers may skirt caller identification software or design messages that appear to be from a charity or financial institution.

**Reality Check:** If an investment promises unrealistic returns or a seller offers a deep discount on premium merchandise, don't ignore the red flags.

Learn more about avoiding and reporting scams on the FTC website: <https://consumer.ftc.gov/scams>

## GVC/MOAA BOARD MEMBERS 2025 - 2027

**President:** Tim Vaughan, Col, USAF (Ret)

Email: [tvaughan@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:tvaughan@gvcmoaa.org)

**1st VP, Membership/Recruiting Chair:**

Keith Harris, CDR, USN (Ret)

Email: [kharris@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:kharris@gvcmoaa.org)

**2nd VP:** Paul (Keely) Costello, CAPT, USN

Email: [pcostello@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:pcostello@gvcmoaa.org)

**3rd VP:** VACANT

**Secretary:** Jean Vaughan

Email: [jvaughan@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:jvaughan@gvcmoaa.org)

**Treasurer:**

Ashley Coldwell, CWO3, USMC (Ret)

Email: [acoldwell@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:acoldwell@gvcmoaa.org)

**Member-at-Large:**

Paul Cannon, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

Email: [pcannon@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:pcannon@gvcmoaa.org)

**Legislative Chair & Past President:**

Barbara Green, COL, USA (Ret)

Email: [bgreen@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:bgreen@gvcmoaa.org)

**Past President & NYS CoC President:**

Norma Weissend, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

Email: [nweissend@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:nweissend@gvcmoaa.org)

**Past President:**

James Nielsen, CDR, USN (Ret)

Email: [jnielsen@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:jnielsen@gvcmoaa.org)

**Past President:**

Peter Ingalsbe, COL, USA (Ret)

Email: [pingalsbe@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:pingalsbe@gvcmoaa.org)

**Surviving Spouse Liaison:** Kathy Green

Email: [kgreen@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:kgreen@gvcmoaa.org)

**ROTC/JROTC & Transition Liaison:**

Tim Vaughan, Col, USAF (Ret)

Email: [tvaughan@gvcmoaa.org](mailto: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, June 14, 2026  
Canandaigua Yacht Club  
3524 County Road 16 (West Lake Rd), Canandaigua, NY 14424  
1300 - Social Hour (Cash Bar) / 1400 – Dinner**

**ENTRÉE CHOICES**

- Brined Pork Loin & Baked Potato.....(**\$37**)
- Chicken Marsala & Wild Rice..... (**\$37**)
- Grilled Salmon Bruschetta & Wild Rice.(**\$40**)
- Vegetarian Mediterranean..... (**\$33**)

**All meals come with:**

- Salad, Seasonal Vegetables &  
Apple Awesome a la mode  
Coffee, Tea and Cash Bar

**Reservations/Payment due ASAP, but NLT Wednesday June 3, 2026**

Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Friday, Jun 5, 2026

**Questions?: Ashley; [acoldwell@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:acoldwell@gvcmoaa.org)**

PLEASE CLIP AND SEND FORM BELOW **\*\* DRESS: BUSINESS CASUAL \*\***

*Participants may be photographed or recorded for MOAA chapter products.*

**Guest Speaker  
Maj Gen Dawne Deskins  
USAF (Ret)  
9/11: 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Focus**

**Please RSVP & Pay Here:**  
<https://gvc-payments.mycheddarup.com>



**RESERVATION FORM FOR SUNDAY June 14, 2026 GVC MEETING at  
Canandaigua Yacht Club, 3524 County Rd 16, Canandaigua, NY 14424**

ALL Name(s) Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate number of each meal desired:**

- Brined Pork Loin & Baked Potato** ..... \$43 ea x \_\_\_\_\_ or
  - Chicken Marsala & Baked Potato** ..... \$37 ea x \_\_\_\_\_ or
  - Grilled Salmon Bruschetta & Rice** ..... \$40 ea x \_\_\_\_\_ or
  - Vegetarian Mediterranean** ..... \$33 ea x \_\_\_\_\_
- Check included for (#) \_\_\_\_\_ Meal(s); Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make a Veterans Outreach Center Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Grand Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

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

Or, RSVP, Pay and Donate by mail; please make checks payable to **GVC MOAA** and mail to:

**GVC MOAA  
c/o Ashley Coldwell  
1153 Johnson Rd  
Palmyra, NY 14522**

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



**May 2026 Newsletter**

**First Class Mail**



*Wegmans* **MRB** | *group*



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