

GVC ONLINE

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8 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 UNIFORMED SERVICES, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES * Aug 2026 *****

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Late Summer Greetings from the Genesee Valley Chapter! We've had two great events since our last newsletter, our Jun 14th dinner at CYC and our Red Wings baseball game on Jul 19th. Both events were exceptional, the dinner from a guest speaker standpoint and the baseball game from an outcome and such an amazing good evening for a baseball game! More about that later...

Next month's dinner will also be special, as we are excited to have retired Major General Stacy Babcock, USAR, as our guest speaker. MG Babcock retired as the Chief of Staff for the US Army Reserve Command, Fort Liberty, NC.

MOAA's Summer Advocacy in Action is underway, with details within this newsletter. Bottom line, please use MOAA's Legislative Action Center to send letters on the three issues of interest to your Senators and Representative.

Honor Flight Rochester Missions:

Msn 97, Sep 19-20, 2026 (59 vets)

Msn 98, Oct 3-4, 2026 (21 vets) / (Dwyer-Bus)

Msn 98, Oct 3-4, 2026 (59 vets)

Msn 99, Oct 24-25, 2026 (59 vets)

Unique to Mission 98 is a co-mission effort of a flight and a bus trip, where the bus will arrive in DC to join the M98 flight memorials tour itinerary and also plan to arrive back at the Rochester airport at the same time as the M98 flight, for a joint welcome home ceremony!

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

For each chapter dinner, one charity is chosen for donations; September's dinner charity is Honor Flight Rochester:

<https://honorflightrochester.org/>

Sun 13 Sep 2026, 1 pm / 2 pm

Location: Canandaigua Yacht Club

Guest Speaker: MG Stacy Babcock, USAR

Designated Charity: Honor Flight Rochester

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

Sun 25 Oct 2026, 1 pm / 2 pm
Location: Spencerport American Legion
Guest Speaker: Pawsitivity for Heroes
Designated Charity: Wreaths Across America

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

Sun 21 Mar 2027, 1 pm / 2 pm
Location: Spencerport Legion Post
Program: ROTC/JROTC Awards Dinner
Designated Charity: The MOAA Foundation
Sponsor ROTC/JROTC Students/Families

Sun 25 Apr 2027, 1 pm / 2 pm
Location: Rochester Yacht Club
Guest Speaker: TBD
Designated Charity: Honor Flight Rochester

Sun 13 Jun 2027, 3 pm / 4 pm NOTE TIME!
Location: Canandaigua Yacht Club
Guest Speaker: CAPT Frank Michael, MOAA
New Chapter Officers Installation Ceremony
Designated Charity: Veterans Outreach Center

June Dinner - 25th Anniversary 9/11 Remembrance

Maj Gen Dawne Deskins gave a riveting firsthand accounting of the events on 9/11/2001 working in the Northeast Air Defense Sector (NEADS, now EADS), Rome, NY. General Deskins portrayed the confusion, lack of information, but also the lean forward posture taken by NEADS commanders, aircrew and air traffic control (ATC) to mitigate roadblocks from a system that normally didn't utilize direct communication between NEADS and ATC, to include leaning

forward to launch alert fighter aircraft to attempt the intercept of possible and actual hijacked aircraft as relayed by ATC.

In one instance, NEADS sent unarmed F-16 aircraft to intercept United Flight 93 with the prospect of ramming the aircraft if necessary.

My brief synopsis of her briefing doesn't do it justice... even in light of the outcome on that morning, there were many heroes that day.



Maj Gen Dawne Deskins, USAF (Ret) briefs GVC MOAA members on her experience working in the Northeast Air Defense Sector (NEADS) on the morning of 9/11/2001.



Maj Gen Dawne Deskins and GVC President, Tim Vaughan, at GVC Dinner Jun 14, 2026.

GVC Red Wings Baseball Game

Genesee Valley Chapter members, family and guests enjoyed the evening at ESL Ballpark watching the Red Wings beat the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp, 11-2, on a great baseball night!



GVC Red Wings Game Night, Sun, Jul 19, 2026.



A few GVC Members, Family and Friends enjoy the Red Wings Game Night, Sun, Jul 19, 2026.



GVC Treasurer Ashley & Clint Coldwell

JROTC 2026 Summer Camp Support

GVC and individual member donations supporting both Rochester Early College Int'l HS and Padilla HS JROTC units at their 2026 Summer Camp, or formally known as JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge (JCLC) at Camp Oswegatchie, New York, has grown over the past few years, which is truly generous and outstanding!

These two units represented 20 of the 110 JROTC cadets from 7 WNY schools taking part in the JCLC. Both JROTC instructors say the JCLC experience leaves a life changing experience for their cadets and are truly grateful for the donations from the chapter & members. How do you say "no" to that?



Padilla HS JROTC Cadets show off their JCLC 2026 Summer Camp Swag!



Rochester Early College Int'l HS JROTC Cadets take aim at the Archery Range at Camp Oswegatchie, Croghan, NY



MOAA Advocacy in Action 2026 Summer Campaign

<https://www.moaa.org/summeraia>

Expanding the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) to military spouses.

WOTC expired at the end of 2025. Reauthorizing it – and adding military spouses as an eligible group – would give employers a meaningful incentive to hire a population that has faced stubbornly high unemployment for more than a decade.

Restoring GLP-1 coverage for TRICARE For Life Beneficiaries.

In August 2025, TRICARE ended coverage of GLP-1 medications for TFL beneficiaries being treated for obesity-related conditions. Thousands of retirees are now paying out of pocket or going without treatments that were improving their health.

Supporting combat-injured veterans with the Major Richard Star Act.

Combat-injured veterans who were medically retired before reaching 20 years of service currently lose a dollar of earned retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation they receive. Legislation to correct that injustice has strong bipartisan support and multiple paths forward in Congress.

Take Action Now at the MOAA Legislative Action Center:

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

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

***Editorial Note:** The abbreviated speech extract below is from **Jim Carman**, MOAA's Vice President for Council/Chapter and Member Support, and is a very powerful reminder why your membership is the lifeblood of MOAA's advocacy mission...*

Why Does MOAA Matter?

"I'll give you three reasons...

– 5.5 million – 260,000 – and 67,000.

5.5 Million... What do I mean by 5.5 million?

That's the **number of veteran and military caregivers** in the United States based on research sponsored by the Elizabeth Dole Foundation, 5.5 million!

And many of these caregivers are caring for veterans of America's most recent wars – the long and painful Iraq and Afghanistan campaigns.

Would you be surprised if I told you there are nearly 32,000 wounded in the Iraq campaign and 20,300 wounded in the Afghanistan campaign?

And many of these wounded, ill, and injured veterans have young families. They still have children at home – they're actively parenting... And in many cases the primary caregiver needs to work outside the home to make ends meet.

Caregivers for older generations of veterans have challenges too – in many cases their health is very fragile, and they need outside support...

Enter the Elizabeth Dole Foundation – founded by the former Senator from North Carolina – and focused on supporting the needs of caregivers for wounded, ill, and injured veterans.

One of the first things Senator Dole did upon establishing her foundation in 2012 was to reach-out to MOAA for assistance in producing an online guide for the legal and financial aspects of military caregiving. MOAA stepped-up and launched the online guide for the Legal and Financial Aspects of Military Caregiving in early 2014; www.moaa.org/caregiver is visited about 1,000 times per month and has become a valued resource for military caregivers.

MOAA also championed passage of the VA Mission Act, which expanded eligibility for a monthly caregiver stipend, access to health insurance, and respite care to all generations of veteran caregivers. **To these 5.5 million military and veteran caregivers – MOAA matters!**

260,000... the number of new-joins we need to attract into military service each year to sustain the All-Volunteer Force. With a pool of 20 million potential recruits in the prime age range for military service, you wouldn't think finding 260,000 recruits would be a problem. But only about 4 million meet basic entrance requirements when you consider academic, fitness, and character considerations.

Moreover, this pool shrinks to about 400,000 when you consider a propensity to serve, often influenced by family and mentors who have worn the uniform. So, our pool of 20 million shrinks to 400,000, and this is the same talent pool every corporation and college in America is also trying to bring onboard.

And now with the lowest unemployment rate in 50 years, about 4.5 percent, the recruiters' job is much more complicated.

That's why the \$18 million dispersed annually to 1,800 students by the MOAA Charities' Scholarship Fund is so important.

Additionally, many local MOAA councils and chapters award scholarships to rising JROTC and ROTC students, helping to positively influence the next generation of military officers. These local council and chapter programs awarded nearly \$1 million to rising undergraduates last year. When combined with MOAA's program, that makes nearly \$19 million in annual support for higher education from MOAA members.

Many of these young people are favorably inclined to accept the rigors of military service and ensure the future of the All-Volunteer Force. **260,000 new accessions each year, that's another reason why MOAA matters!**

And Finally, 67,000... That's the number of surviving spouses impacted by the required offset of the Survivor Benefit Plan, basically an insurance annuity paid for by the servicemember with years of service or monetary premiums in retirement or both, against Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. The latter is an earned VA benefit when a service member's death is due to a service-connected condition.

Moreover, the vast majority of the 67,000 families impacted by this injustice are junior enlisted families. It costs them about \$13,000 annually.

Repealing this offset has been a very high priority of your association for years and, with your help, we brought the repeal across the finish line late 2019. Thanks to your efforts, we were able to marshal 77 co-sponsors in the Senate and 383 co-sponsors in the House.

Leaders of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees – Democrats and Republicans – came together to pass this important legislation. It's a clear demonstration that bipartisanship can – and still does – work.

No military or veterans service organization worked harder to eliminate the Widow's Tax than your Military Officers Association!"

Here is some feedback from a text received from a surviving spouse in St. Augustine immediately after the President signed the legislation:

"I just want to express my thanks to MOAA for your continuing efforts to lobby for the repeal of the widow's tax. With MOAA's encouragement, I met with one of Senator Rubio's staffers to express my concerns. You are doing a great job representing us!"

This is grass roots advocacy in action, and this is what our councils and chapters do across the country every day!

For those 67,000 widows impacted by the SBP/DIC offset, MOAA matters!

Conclusion: 5.5 million, 260,000 and 67,000! MOAA matters to these people!

If you like G.I. Bill transferability, Tricare for Life, the VA Mission Act, the 14.5 percent pay raise for junior enlisted personnel contained in the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act, and elimination of the Social Security Offset and the Widow's Tax on SBP, then I think you should thank the Military Officers Association of America.

But, our work gets more challenging every day.

Only 100 members of Congress have served, making it a continuing priority to educate and inform members of Congress and their staffs on the unique needs of the military and veteran community.

A second factor is the ballooning national debt, totaling about \$38 trillion, and expanding by another \$1.2 trillion this year, in what is basically a healthy peacetime economy.

Against this challenging backdrop, your membership is the engine that powers all of this good work!

Your advocacy support, membership generation, and impactful community engagement make a huge difference!

“That’s why MOAA matters!”

Farmington AMVETS Women Veterans Dinner Info & Schedule
<https://amvetsny332.org/>

CompeerCORPS Male Veterans Dinner
www.compeerrochester.org/compeercorps

GVC Support Coordinators

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

GVC Chapter Dues - \$25 Annually

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.

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

Your Chapter Dues at Work...

GVC supports Honor Flight Rochester, the Veterans Outreach Center, Wreaths Across America, MOAA Charities, and support. MOAA ROTC/JROTC awards programs each spring. 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 regarding Surviving Spouse issues and MOAA 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 2025 - 2027

President: Tim Vaughan, Col, USAF (Ret)

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ROTC/JROTC & 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, September 13, 2026

Canandaigua Yacht Club

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

1300 - Social Hour (Cash Bar) / 1400 – Dinner

ENTRÉE CHOICES

Breaded Pork Coleta Milanese.....(**\$36**)

Chicken Parmesan over Pasta.....(**\$36**)

Salmon Bruschetta & Wild Rice.....(**\$40**)

Vegetarian Mediterranean.....(**\$33**)

All meals come with:

Salad, Italian Bread w/Butter

House-made Cheesecake w/Apple Topping

Coffee, Tea and Cash Bar

Reservations/Payment due ASAP, but NLT Wednesday, Sep 2, 2026

Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Friday, Sep 4, 2026

Questions?: Ashley; acoldwell@gvcmoaa.org

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

Participants may be photographed or recorded for MOAA chapter products.

Guest Speaker

MG Stacy Babcock, USAR (Ret)

**Honor Flight Rochester
– A Unique Perspective**

Please RSVP & Pay Here:

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



**RESERVATION FORM FOR SUNDAY, September 13, 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:

Breaded Pork Coleta Milanese \$36 ea x _____ or

Chicken Parmesan over Pasta \$36 ea x _____ or

Salmon Bruschetta & Wild Rice \$40 ea x _____ or

Vegetarian Mediterranean \$33 ea x _____

Check included for (#) _____ Meal(s); Total \$ _____

Make an Honor Flight Rochester 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

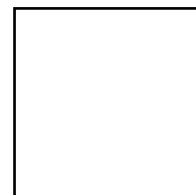
c/o Ashley Coldwell

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



Aug 2026 Newsletter

First Class Mail



Wegmans **MRB** | *group*



An advertisement for MOAA Insurance Plans. It features a dark blue header with the MOAA logo (three vertical bars) and the text "MOAA® INSURANCE PLANS". Below this, the slogan "Standing with you at every stage." is written in large, bold, white letters. At the bottom, the phone number "1-800-247-2192" and the website "www.moaainsurance.com/plans" are listed in white. A small number "100392" is visible in the bottom right corner of the ad.

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