

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

Pay online for GVC Dues, Dinners & Events:

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

SERVING UNIFORMED SERVICES, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES * Sep 2026 *****

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Early Fall Greetings from the Genesee Valley Chapter! Cooler nights are definitely a signal we're working our way into full Fall weather soon. Well, we've been busy this past month, with a recent outstanding chapter dinner program with guest speaker, MG Stacy Babcock, talking about her experience with Honor Flight Rochester on the all-female mission back in May. I was honored to attend the RIT Air Force and Army ROTC led 25th anniversary 9/11 remembrance ceremony at RIT, which included many students, faculty and First Responders, playing TAPs at 0846, 0903, 0937 and 1003, key moments on that horrific day. More about these events later in the newsletter.

Next month's dinner will also be special, as we are excited to have Dave College, US Army and Iraq war veteran, from "Pawsitive for Heroes" talk about their programs providing highly trained service dogs to veterans, helping restore independence, confidence, and quality of life.

MOAA's Summer Advocacy in Action wrapped up August 30th, and according to Maj Gen Vogel, MOAA VP for Government Relations, "Together, you and other advocates sent more than 18,000 messages to Capitol Hill in support of the three issues affecting currently serving families, combat-wounded veterans, and retirees." We also thank you for being a key part of MOAA's Grass Roots advocacy by using the Legislative Advocacy Center: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>

Honor Flight Rochester Missions:

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)

MSN 100, TBD, First Mission in Spring!

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

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 2026 Wreaths Across America campaign here:

[GVC - Wreaths Across America](#)

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: Dave College,
Pawsitive for Heroes

Targeted 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!

Targeted 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

Targeted Charity: The MOAA Foundation

Sponsor ROTC/JROTC Students/Families

Sun 25 Apr 2027, 1 pm / 2 pm

Location: Rochester Yacht Club

Guest Speaker: TBD

Targeted 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

Targeted Charity: Veterans Outreach Center

September Dinner – MG Stacy Babcock Honor Flight Rochester – A Unique Perspective

MG Stacy Babcock gave attendees a detailed firsthand experience on her May 2026, Honor Flight Rochester all-female Mission 95 experience, including some thoughts on the incredible value of the overall experience, not just for her all-female mission, but for all veterans going on Honor Flight missions.

Some of her insights included observations of the multitude of volunteers who operate like a well-oiled machine and all of them look like they are excited to be there supporting the mission!

Besides the incredible visits to the many memorials in Washington DC, the ability to bond with other veterans is a benefit that is hard to ignore... and much of that veteran-to-veteran bonding happens after the tours are over and the veterans are back at the hotel winding down. MG Babcock implied that is where the veterans really open up about their service, and often much more so than with their own families back home.

It was an honor to hear MG Babcock's perspective on her Honor Flight Rochester experience!



MG Stacy Babcock, USA (Ret) briefs GVC MOAA members on her Honor Flight Rochester all-female Mission 95 experience.



GVC President, Tim Vaughan, "Coins" MG Stacy Babcock at the GVC Dinner Sep 13, 2026.

"But Wait, That's Not All..."

Also included in the September Dinner...

We had a great turnout at the dinner (darn near maxed out room seating!) with many special guests, which enhanced the overall event.

Our guests included some familiar faces and previous chapter dinner guest speakers: Kim Gould, HFR President, and Tracy Williams, HFR Trip Coordinator; Sue Smith, Director, Ontario County Veteran Services; RIT Army ROTC guests, LTC Mike Sim, Professor of Military Science, along with five cadets, Melina Columba, Namrita Jit, Alyssa Knott, Gabriella Januschka, and Casey Juance. We also had Jason Richards and Regina Deck from the VA Finger Lakes Health Care System. In addition, we had Kristine Gardner, NYS Department of Veterans Services, and Kari Pardun, SUNY Brockport Veteran Program Coordinator.

And as I say at the end of each chapter dinner, none of this happens without you, the members, attending on a regular basis... we sincerely appreciate your support of our programs at each and every dinner!



HFR MISSION 95 GVC Alumni



(Back, L-R): CAPT Nancy Fine, CWO2 Kathy Crelot, LCDR Cynthia Nelson, Lt Col Norma Weissend, COL Barbara Green, Guardian Mary Welsh; (Front, L-R): Tracy Williams, HFR, Kim Gould, HFR, MG Stacy Babcock, Guardian Heidi Welsh, and COL Nancy Bird.

RIT Army ROTC & MG Babcock



(L-R): LTC Mike Sim, Cadets Melina Columba, Alyssa Knott, MG Stacy Babcock (RIT Army ROTC Alumni), Gabriella Januschka, Namrita Jit, Casey Juance.

Saturday, December 19, 2026

Sponsor Wreaths Now...

[GVC - Wreaths Across America](#)



Speaking of Honor Flight Rochester...

GVC member CDR Ann Marie Dinino flew on HFR Mission 97, which returned on Sun 20 Sep 2026, and we were there to welcome her home!



CDR Ann Marie Dinino, HFR Mission 97

Wreaths Across America 2026

GVC - Wreaths Across America

The 2026 “**Remember Me**” Wreaths Across America Campaign is currently underway.

Wreaths Across America Day: Sat 19 Dec 2026.

GVC Sponsor Locations: (Cemetery CODE)

NYS Vets. Cem. - Finger Lakes (NYSVMC)

WNY Nat’l Cemetery (NYWNYC)

Bath Nat’l Cemetery (NYBNCB)

Arlington Nat’l Cemetery (ARLING)

You can sponsor wreaths at other locations using the “Search” function on the website.

Wreaths Across America - GVC Page **GVC - Wreaths Across America**

GVC QR Code: NY0118P



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 our ROTC/JROTC and veteran programs each year and we would be honored with your support of the GVC Campaign.

REMEMBER our fallen U.S. veterans.

HONOR those who serve.

TEACH your children the value of freedom.

The 2026 suspense for ALL wreath orders is Wed 2 Dec 2026. Orders received after this date will be applied to next year’s event (2027).



RIT AF & Army ROTC 9/11 Remembrance



RIT AF & Army ROTC Cadets stand in observance of their 9/11 25th anniversary Remembrance Program on 9/11/2026.

MOAA Fall Legislative Action 2026
**MOAA - MOAA President to CNN: ‘Put the
Veteran at the Center’**

A Focus on TCVA: MOAA Online Article
Extracts by MOAA Staff, 9 Sep 2026.

The **Take Care of America’s Veterans Act** can do “a ton of good” for millions in the veteran community, MOAA’s top official told a CNN audience Sept. 9 ... but only if lawmakers vote on the bill before the end of the 119th Congress.

The legislation contains more than 60 individual bills, many of which address critical MOAA priorities.

MOAA supports the legislation alongside more than 20 other stakeholder organizations including The American Legion, Elizabeth Dole Foundation, and Wounded Warrior Project.

**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, and MOAA Charities. 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)

Email: tvaughan@gvcmoaa.org

1st VP, Membership/Recruiting Chair:

Keith Harris, CDR, USN (Ret)

Email: kharris@gvcmoaa.org

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

Email: pcostello@gvcmoaa.org

3rd VP: VACANT

Secretary: Jean Vaughan

Email: jvaughan@gvcmoaa.org

Treasurer: Ashley Coldwell, CWO3, USMC (Ret)

Email: acoldwell@gvcmoaa.org

Member-at-Large: Paul Cannon, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

Email: pcannon@gvcmoaa.org

Legislative Chair & Past President:

Barbara Green, COL, USA (Ret)

Email: bgreen@gvcmoaa.org

Past President & NYS CoC President:

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

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®





WREATHS *across* AMERICA



2026 Sponsorship Order Form

Sponsored wreaths are placed on veterans' grave markers at cemeteries nationwide each December for National Wreaths Across America Day. Your donation ensures a wreath is placed to honor one or more veterans at the participating location of your choice. Thank you for supporting our mission to REMEMBER, HONOR, and TEACH!

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.

CHECK #	CHECK DATE	GROUP ID	LOCATION ID(s)	DOLLAR AMOUNT
		NY0118P	NYSVMC (Finger Lakes)	
		NY0118P	NYWNYC (Western NY)	
		NY0118P	NYBNCB (Bath) ARLING (Arlington)	

GVC MOAA QR Code
Wreaths Across America



Each individual wreath sponsorship is \$17.

If your check is for multiple locations, list each location ID with its dollar amount.

SPONSOR NAME	
PHONE #	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
MAILING ADDRESS	

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Please note in memory/honor of requests do not place a wreath on a specific loved one's grave.

☐ IN-HONOR OF: Let someone know you sponsored wreath(s) for veteran(s) in their honor. We will email them.

→ Provide Email Recipient Name & Email Address, along with Message (optional):

☐ IN-MEMORY OF: Post a veteran's name & message on Wreaths Across America's Remembrance Wall online.

→ Provide Veteran Name for Memory Wall Post and Message (Optional):

Please complete this form and mail it with your check to our address below, or pay with a credit/debit card, PayPal, or GooglePay by sponsoring online at [GVC - Wreaths Across America](#) or by scanning the QR code.

Wreaths Across America

P.O. Box 249

Columbia Falls, ME 04623



WREATHS *across* AMERICA

**GENESEE VALLEY CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

Sunday, October 25, 2026

Ferris Goodridge American Legion Post #330 Spencerport

691 Trimmer Rd, Spencerport NY 14559

1300 – Social Hour (Cash Bar) / 1400 – Program/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

Guest Speaker

Dave College

"Pawsitive for Heroes"

US Army & Iraq War Veteran

Please RSVP & Pay Here:

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

Reservations/Payment due ASAP, but NLT Wednesday, Oct 14, 2026

Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Monday, Oct 19, 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.



**RESERVATION FORM FOR SUNDAY, October 25, 2026 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 \$ _____

If you are so inclined to make a contribution...

Wreaths Across America Donation \$ _____; GVC's Annual Campaign

Pawsitive for Heroes Donation \$ _____; Grand Total \$ _____

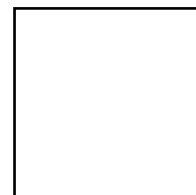
RSVP / Pay / Donate via Cheddar Up: <https://gvc-payments.mycheddarup.com>

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**

***** DRESS: BUSINESS CASUAL *****

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



Sep 2026 Newsletter

First Class Mail



Wegmans **MRB** | *group*



An advertisement for MOAA Insurance Plans. It features 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 a large, bold font. At the bottom, the phone number "1-800-247-2192" and the website "www.moaainsurance.com/plans" are listed. A small number "100392" is visible in the bottom right corner of the ad.

GVCMOAA.ORG

Newsletter Printed by Copy Town Enterprise, Lima, NY