MOAA GENESEE VALLEY CHAPTER

NEVER STOP SERVING®

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 * Nov 2026 ***

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

And we're off… I think it's full-on transition into the early Holiday Season as many stores are already displaying Christmas decorations and have the shelves loaded with Christmas candy! Thank goodness the serious cold temperatures and white-stuff has not arrived.

We just held our October dinner and it was very enlightening! Alan Bartlow and his service dog "Goose" joined us, and Alan explained the pairing process and how his life has changed now that he has Goose by his side. More about the dinner in the pages that follow.

We also returned from the NYS Council of Chapters convention at the end of September and that is always a great opportunity to meet and greet new and old friends from the other chapters from across the state. More about the convention in the pages that follow.

On the first weekend in October, I had the privilege to be the Keynote Speaker for Honor Flight Rochester's Mission 98! Although exciting to have been selected, it was also very humbling to stand in front of HFR's largest mission to date.

Next month's dinner will be here before you know it and it is always a great time; it is our annual Holiday Dinner and Ugly Sweater Contest, which has turned out to be great fun over the past several years!

Honor Flight Rochester Missions:

MSN 100, Dates TBD, First Mission in Spring!

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

With each chapter dinner we target one specific charity for donations, with December's dinner we are asking for your support of the Rochester Veterans Outreach Center (VOC). Find out more about the Rochester Veterans Outreach Center:

https://veteransoutreachcenter.org/

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

October Dinner – Alan Bartlow, USMC, Iraqi & Enduring Freedom Veteran

USMC veteran, Alan Bartlow, gave us a detailed overview of how he came to be paired with his service dog, Goose, through the ***Pawsitive for Heroes*** program, and how, since their pairing, he and Goose are inseparable.

Goose began his 10-months of training with inmates at the Groveland Correctional Facility, and then several months of training with Alan earning their American Working Dog Association (AWDA) certification March 20, 2026.

Alan also explained that although Goose is a highly trained service dog, with his focus primarily on him, his daughter, Avery, has a very special relationship with Goose as well, dropping food on the floor when "Dad" is not looking!

Kind of a funny side-story during Alan's presentation. Alan had told us Goose, "would charge through hell with a squirt gun" for milk bone marrow treats and chewy milk bones. So with that information in hand we grabbed some of each and placed them on a shelf in the podium to give to Alan after his presentation. Alan didn't see the treats, but the scent got Goose's attention and he was soon moving in to scope out the treats!



Alan Bartlow, USMC Veteran, briefs GVC members & guests on his pairing with Goose, while Goose suddenly realizes his favorite treats on a shelf in the podium!



(L-R) Alan Bartlow, GVC President, Tim Vaughan, & 1st Vice President, Keith Harris present Alan with Milk Bone treats for Goose!



GVC President, Tim Vaughan (Center) & the Bartlows, (L-R), Avery, Leah, Alan & Goose!

NYS CoC 2026 Annual Convention

As NYS CoC President, Norma Weissend, noted in her convention wrap-up email, "The 54th Annual NYS Council of Chapters Convention was a huge success!

She went on to say, "Our annual convention is a wonderful opportunity to renew statewide friendships, celebrate the camaraderie that comes from our shared military service, and reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that the benefits we, and all servicemembers, have earned are fulfilled."

Dr. Viviana DeCohen, Commissioner, NYS Veterans' Services & USMC Veteran, spoke at the Sunday welcome buffet dinner. You can be sure, Commissioner DeCohen is, "A staunch advocate for veterans, she continues to lead NYS Veterans' Services with energy, persistence, and a focus on solutions."

We also had Maj Gen April Vogel speak at the Monday banquet dinner, where she underscored MOAA's core mission: advocating in Congress and in our communities to protect the earned benefits of servicemembers and their families.



GVC Group Photo after the Monday Banquet: (L-R) Maj Gen April Vogel, CAPT Frank Michael, CDR Jim Nielsen, Ann Nielsen, Kathy Green, Peter Ingalsbe, Norma Weissend, Tim Vaughan, and Barb Green.

Awards were also presented at the banquet, with the Genesee Valley Chapter earning the MOAA Levels of Excellence Award-5 Stars, MOAA COL Marvin J Harris Communications Awards, both Print-Newsletter and Website, also both 5 Star awards, for CY2025.



(L-R) Maj Gen April Vogel, Tim Vaughan, GVC President, CAPT Frank Michael, present the three award certificates.

Honor Flight Mission 98!
Keynote Speaker Perspective…

Following just a few days after the NYS CoC convention, Honor Flight Rochester had its largest mission, veteran-wise, to date, by executing hybrid flight and bus missions enabling 80 veterans to participate in the mission. This mission also crossed the 5,000 veterans flown mark since Honor Flight Rochester started operations in 2008.

I was honored and privileged to have been invited to be the Keynote Speaker for the Welcome Home Ceremony at the Rochester airport.

The precision in which the challenges of many moving parts took place to make this hybrid style mission happen with perfection is a testament to the hard work of HFR leadership and the many, many volunteers, who are always smiling!

Every time I attend an HFR mission welcome home parade through the terminal, I always think to myself that you cannot put a price on the pride you see in the faces and the smiles of the veterans returning from their mission.



GVC President, Tim Vaughan, addresses HFR M98, 80 veterans, during the Welcome Home Ceremony on Sun Oct 4, 2026. Photo credit: Honor Flight Rochester, with permission.



(L-R) HFR M98 Emcee, Kristi Blake, WHEC News 10 NBC Anchor, GVC President, Tim Vaughan, and Honor Flight Rochester President, Kim Gould.

It's Not Too Late… You can still sponsor wreaths until Wed 3 Dec 2026.

Wreaths Across America Day
Saturday, December 19, 2026

Sponsor Wreaths Now…

GVC - Wreaths Across America

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)

GVC Code: NY0118P

Wreath sponsorship is $17/wreath; if you are so inclined, the most common wreath sponsorship is a 5-pack, which is $85.

GVC Fall 2026 Legislative Action

GVC 1st VP, Keith Harris, coordinated with Kari Pardun, SUNY Brockport's Coordinator of Transfer & Veteran Programs, to attend their Military Monday's program on October 12, 2026, where we set up two laptop computers for students to send letters to their Congressional delegation via MOAA's Legislative Action Center.

Keith and I were very pleased with the receptiveness and numbers of students willing to "Take Action", many of which had some sort of veteran connection in their family.

You can read more about our visit to SUNY Brockport in the ***Westside News*** link below.
https://westsidenewsny.com/features/2026-10-16/suny-brockport-students-petition-congress-for-veterans-benefits/



GVC President, Tim Vaughan, assists a SUNY Brockport student in using MOAA's Legislative Action Center to "Take Action!"

You too can "Take Action!" via the MOAA Legislative Action Center:

Please take a few minutes to make sure your voices are heard on MOAA's legislative priorities.

https://moaa.quorum.us/

Local Advocacy for NY Disabled Veterans Tax Exemption

In New York, Veterans with a 100% Permanent and Total Disabled (100% P&T) rating may be eligible for full tax exemption in New York State if their municipality "opts in". In the ***Westside News*** link below, learn how GVC MOAA approached a local school district to request a resolution to adopt full tax exemptions for their community's 100% P&T Veterans.
https://westsidenewsny.com/features/2026-09-18/local-veterans-groups-advocate-full-tax-exemptions-for-disabled-comrades/

Cyber Crime / Consumer Fraud Alert

Healthcare Open Season is upon us… beware!

How to Spot a Postcard Scam Targeting Veterans
August 24, 2026, BCP Staff
https://www.militaryconsumer.gov/blog/how-spot-postcard-scam-targeting-veterans

Veterans across the country have reported getting postcards in the mail saying they (or their spouse) might qualify for extra monthly veterans benefits.

But the "Veterans Savings Program" mentioned in the mailer doesn't actually exist.

It's just a scammer phishing for personal or financial information.

If you get a postcard like this:

- **Don't respond.**
- **Contact the VA directly**
  -- VA Benefits Hotline at 1-800-827-1000
- **Spread the word.** Sign up for email updates to get the latest on scams at **https://www.militaryconsumer.gov/**

If you spot this or another VA benefits scam, report it to the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov and to the VA at VSAFE.gov or 1-833-38V-SAFE.

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? Want to pay your 2027 dues early? 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

Stop Paying Annual Dues…
Become a Chapter Life Member! (See below)
GVC Life Membership Dues Schedule:

Age	Dues	Age	Dues
<45	$360	71-75	$160
46-50	$350	76-80	$110
51-55	$330	81-85	$55
56-60	$310	86-89	$35
61-65	$270	90+	FREE
66-70	$210		

Contact Keith Harris, GVC Membership Chair at **kharris@gvcmoaa.org**

Is your member profile current? Go to **www.moaa.org** or call the MOAA Member Service Center at (800) 234-6622 (MOAA).

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®

MOAA®
GENESEE VALLEY CHAPTER

GENESEE VALLEY CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Sunday, December 6, 2026
Brook Lea Country Club
891 Pixley Road, Rochester (Gates), NY 14624

1300 - Social Hour (Cash Bar)
1400 - Dinner

ENTRÉE CHOICES…
Ribeye Steak w/Saut'd Mushrooms…. **$40**
Chicken Cordon Bleu….. ….. ….. ….. **$30**
Grilled Salmon….. ….. ….. ….. ….. … **$33**
Vegan Meal….. ….. ….. ….. ….. ….. . **$25**

All meals come with:
Dessert
Coffee, Tea and Cash Bar

❄ **UGLY HOLIDAY SWEATER** ❄
** **CONTEST!** **
Please Bring NEW Winter Clothing for Veterans Outreach Center: Hats, Gloves, Socks, & such

Please RSVP, Pay & Select Meals Here:
https://gvc-payments.mycheddarup.com

Reservations/Payment due ASAP, but NLT Wednesday Nov 25, 2026
Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Mon, Nov 30, 2026
Questions? Contact Ashley via email; acoldwell@gvcmoaa.org

PLEASE CLIP AND SEND FORM BELOW ** **DRESS: Holiday Attire!** **
Participants may be photographed or recorded for MOAA chapter products.

RESERVATION FORM FOR SUNDAY, December 6, 2026 GVC MEETING at Brook-Lea Country Club, 891 Pixley Rd, Rochester (Gates), NY 14624

ALL Name(s) Attending: _____

Phone # _____ Email: _____

Check included for _____ Meal(s) Ribeye Steak $40 ea x_____

Chicken Cordon Bleu $30 ea x_____; Grilled Salmon $33 ea x_____

Vegan Meal $25 ea x_____ **// If you are so inclined to make a contribution…**

Veterans Outreach Center $_____; 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: Holiday Attire!** ***
(Ugly Holiday Sweater Optional, but FUN is mandatory!)

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

Nov 2026 Newsletter

First Class Mail

Wegmans
MRB | group
GENESEE VALLEY CHAPTER MOAA est. 1961
MOAA INSURANCE PLANS
Standing with you at every stage.
1-800-247-2192
www.moaainsurance.com/plans
100392

GVCMOAA.ORG

Newsletter Printed by Copy Town Enterprise, Lima, NY