

CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER, NEW YORK MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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4-Star Chapter – 2016, 2015 & 2009



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT

This year's **NYS Council of MOAA Chapters Convention** was a huge success. *Ed Scheiber* deserves thanks for making the arrangements with the various venues. *Tom "Hospitality Room" Lenahan* organized a Hospitality Room that was beyond compare. He coupled this with a generous donation from the Adirondack Brewing Company of two 1/6 kegs of fantastic tasting *bear* and an informative tour of the brewery. [Editor's note: *That's no typo – one keg was Adirondack's Bear Naked Ale – and so*

smooth!!] If you missed this year's convention or if you

were one of the satisfied participants, mark your calendar for *next year's convention which will be based out of the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve Base on 10-13 September 2018.*

The 15 October luncheon meeting will have three focuses. The first will be *the Solomon National Cemetery*. The Director of the Cemetery will be our guest speaker. The second will be an emphasis donating to *"Wreaths Across America"*. This will be our third year. Last year we donated 69 wreaths which was more than double the previous year. Let's shoot for 100 this year. You can not only donate yourself but if you know of a business that

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The Adirondack Brewery
(Photo by Russ Green, Genesee Valley Chapter)

is proud to show their patriotism ask the owner/manager to consider contributing. Thirdly, Nick Liaconnia will be presenting *lapel pins commemorating Viet Nam Era Service*. If you served on active duty in the Armed Services anywhere in the world during the duration of the war you are eligible to receive and wear the pin. Nick just needs a 2-3 sentence bio of your service. Please send these bios to me either at ebuberni@nycap.rr.com or my USPS address of 11 Fremont Lane, Troy, NY 12182-1428 NLT 9 October 2018.

One of the best benefits of Chapter membership is the camaraderie shared at Chapter meetings. I hope to see you and enjoy this benefit with you on 15 October at the Edison Club!

Skip Bebernitz 🍷




Bell from the USS Saratoga, Gerald B. H.
Solomon National Cemetery
(Photo courtesy VA NCA www.cem.va.gov)

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

NEXT MEETING/LUNCHEON – Sunday October 15, 1300 - 1600 hours at the Edison Club, Rexford, NY [The luncheon reservation form is on page 7.]

GUEST SPEAKER: Howard Porter, Jr., Director, Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery

REMINDER: Please get your reservation and payment to **CHRIS COSTIGAN NOT LATER THAN Wednesday morning October 11**. The Edison Club needs a final count by the Wednesday before our meeting. If you plan to attend, even if you aren't 100% sure, please pay in anticipation. If for any reason you can't attend, we will refund your payment.

HIGHLIGHTED CHARITY for this edition → WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA™ 

Wreaths Across America™ is a 501(c)(3) corporation whose mission is to **Remember, Honor, and Teach**. Their main effort involves "coordinating wreath laying ceremonies on a specified Saturday in December at Arlington, as well as veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and

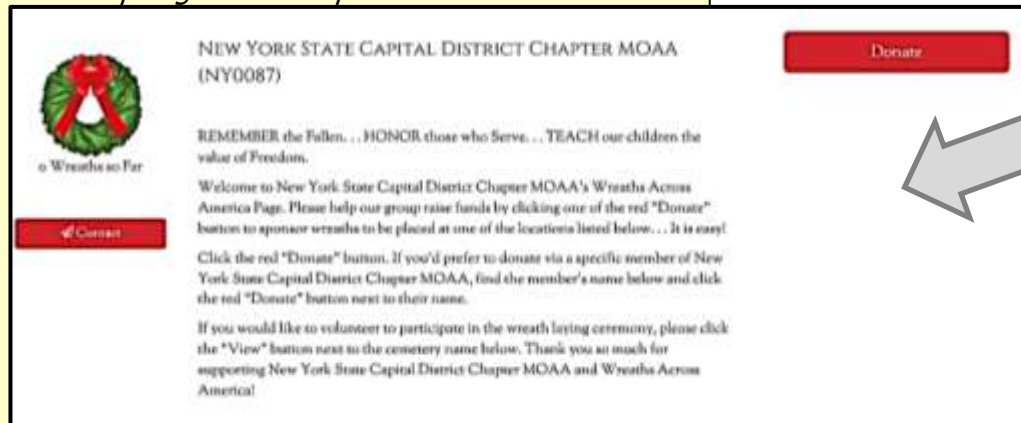
Our chapter is a fundraising sponsor of Wreaths Across America™.

Last year we set a target for 65 wreaths, and beat that by sponsoring 69! **Our goal for 2017 is 100 wreaths.** Anyone may donate through our sponsorship, and we encourage you to invite friends and family to donate through our Chapter.



The cost to sponsor a wreath is **\$15**. You can donate at <http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org>. Their main web page opens with a video and two red buttons – Donate and Volunteer. Click **Donate** and a box will open. Choose the link to "Sponsor a wreath at my local cemetery" and it will open a page where you can search for the Gerald B. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery (NYGSNS) page. Or, you can type this URL into your browser: <https://wreaths.fastport.com/donateLocation.html?page=16650> and go directly to the cemetery page, which allows you to find our Chapter among the fundraising groups. Our Chapter's group code is **NY0087**.

The wreaths that we purchase will be placed at the Gerald B. Solomon National Cemetery in Schuylerville on **December 16**, starting at **1200 hrs**. We are all invited to attend the ceremony and assist in placement of the wreaths. This is a very solemn and moving experience that you won't want to miss. The cemetery has 13,100 graves, *but only 1,241 wreaths have been pledged as of September 30*.



2017 NYS COUNCIL of CHAPTERS ANNUAL CONVENTION



Morning on Lake George from the Fort William Henry Hotel

Sadly, hurricanes ravaged the southern US and the Caribbean leaving destruction and misery in their path. We New Yorkers were extremely fortunate this season. And the weather in Lake George for the entire time of the convention was ... perfect! One could not ask for better weather – sunny and quite warm, but not beastly hot. For those of you unable to make it to the convention, here is a brief synopsis of the key events:

- The fun stuff.** The convention kicked off Tuesday evening (19 Sep) with a delicious Barbecue Dinner at the Fort William Henry Hotel, and members of the seven chapters mingled and renewed friendships at Tom Lenahan's well-stocked hospitality room. Wednesday featured three events: a delightful luncheon cruise on the Lake George Steamboat Company's largest vessel, the Lac du Saint Sacrement. The cruise went up the lake as far as the posh Sagamore Hotel in Bolton Landing. After the cruise, a few members from several of the chapters took a tour of the Adirondack Brewing Company, almost across the street from the hotel. Very interesting and informative. You can find Adirondack beers on draft in area pubs and in bottles in The Price Chopper supermarkets, and possibly soon in Hannaford. Their main brews are named for Adirondack animals: bear, bobcat, lynx. That evening, we enjoyed a meal and a hilarious comedy at the Lake George Dinner Theater (career-obsessed city boy discovers life and love at a fishing derby in a hick town on a lake in the sticks.) And of course, the hospitality room afterward – and always.



Inside the Adirondack Brewery:
What's in those vats??!

- **The serious stuff** (more or less). The Convention Business Meeting and Council of Chapters Reports were held Thursday morning. We were very fortunate to have **Terri Coles, COL USA (Ret.), MOAA Senior Director for Chapter and Council Affairs**, in attendance. COL Coles provided updates on MOAA initiatives, and opened dialog with convention delegates on a variety of issues of concern for the Council and Chapters. Topics for discussion included recruiting, retention, support from national MOAA, and Chapter assistance to local military and veteran communities. MOAA has decided to subsidize JROTC medals next year – good news for Chapters, since we purchased medals at full cost from Chapter funds this year. After lunch, convention attendees were free to tour the reconstructed historic Fort William Henry. In mid-afternoon, we held a solemn **Memorial Service** in the courtyard of the Fort to remember the members of New York chapters who passed away over the past year. The color guard from the Gerald Solomon National Cemetery participated. As the name of each deceased Chapter member was read aloud, a bell sounded. Our Chapter remembered **Arnold Townsend, CAPT USMC (Ret.)**. *(Captain Townsend, who died on September 9, was the oldest member of our Chapter. A combat veteran of WWII, he fought on Guadalcanal and New Britain where he received a battlefield commission. He also fought on Okinawa. Arnold held several local and national level positions in the Marine Corps League. His obituary appeared in the Times Union on October 1st; a memorial service ceremony will be held in Middletown, NY on October 11.)*



Preparing for the Memorial Service inside Fort William Henry

(Captain Townsend, who died on September 9, was the oldest member of our Chapter. A combat veteran of WWII, he fought on Guadalcanal and New Britain where he received a battlefield commission. He also fought on Okinawa. Arnold held several local and national level positions in the Marine Corps League. His obituary appeared in the Times Union on October 1st; a memorial service ceremony will be held in Middletown, NY on October 11.)

The formal events of the convention concluded on Thursday evening with the NYS CoC Officer Installation Banquet. MOAA Level of Excellence Awards were presented to the chapters that earned them. **Our Chapter earned a four-star Level of Excellence Award for the second year in a row.** The Council of Chapters installed newly elected officers. (See photos below.) Among the Council officers was our own Skip Bebernitz, who is serving a second term as a Regional Vice President. In that capacity, Skip maintains contact between several Chapters and Council to make sure that these Chapters in his region get the support they need.



Installation of Council officers, l. to r.: Jamie Scotland, Treasurer; Suzann Hensley, Secretary; Skip Bebernitz, Regional VP; Norma Weissend, Regional VP; Tim Balunis, 1st VP; Peggy Phillips, President

The featured speaker for the Banquet was none other than the **President and CEO of national MOAA, Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret.)** who made a special trip to be with us. Emphasizing the importance and impact of MOAA, Lt. Gen. Atkins encouraged the members present to continue our efforts and make our presence felt with our elected officials, State and Federal, and in our communities. After the pep talk, the Banquet concluded with raffle drawings. The raffle included 13 historic pictures donated by Skip Bebernitz, a variety of bountiful gift baskets donated by members from the chapters, and a 50-50 drawing. The raffles raise funds to defray the cost of the convention. The drawings also added a dash of fun and laughter to wrap up the banquet.



Newly installed Council President, Peggy Philips and outgoing Council President, Ben Margolius



MOAA National President, Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins addresses the NY convention

The convention concluded on Friday, September 22nd with a farewell breakfast at the hotel. Several attendees went from there to see to the **Viet Nam Moving Wall** display at Bolton Landing. Ed and Jennifer Scheiber were heavily involved in that. Some visited other nearby sites of interest, such as Saratoga Battlefield National Park and Prospect Mountain.



UNTIL NEXT YEAR

WEST POINT MARCHING BAND – FALL PERFORMANCES

WHEN	WHERE	WHAT
Monday, October 9, 11:00 a.m.	5th Ave & W. 44th St, NYC	Columbus Day Parade
Saturday, October 14, 9:00 a.m.	The Plain, West Point	Army vs. Eastern Michigan Review
Saturday, October 14, noon	Michie Stadium, West Point	Army vs. Eastern Michigan Game
Saturday, October 21, 9:00 a.m.	The Plain, West Point	Army vs. Temple Review
Saturday, October 21, noon	Michie Stadium, West Point	Army vs. Temple Game
Sunday, October 29, 7:30 p.m.	David Geffen Hall, NYC	Bicentennial Gala *
Saturday, November 11, 9:00 a.m.	The Plain, West Point	Army vs. Duke Review
Saturday, November 11, noon	Michie Stadium, West Point	Army vs. Duke Game
Saturday, December 2, 1:30 p.m.	Eisenhower Hall, West Point	West Point Holiday
Sunday, December 3, 1:30 p.m.	Eisenhower Hall, West Point	West Point Holiday

* Ticket sales begin Friday, September 29

Luncheon Reservation Form

Date: **October 15, 2017**

Location: **Edison Club, Rexford, NY**

Time: 1:00PM - Social Hour
2:00PM – Dinner

Menu Choices: *FLAT IRON STEAK* *CHICKEN ALEXANDER* *PECAN-ENCRUSTED SALMON*

Price: **\$30.00** per person (Please make checks payable to: NYS-CDC.)

To pay Chapter dues for 2017 or 2018, please add \$15.00 to your total.

Send reservation form and check to: **Chris Costigan** (phone: 518-884-2943)
153 Paisley Road
Ballston Spa, NY 12020-2109

Please make your reservation Not Later Than Wednesday, **October 11.**

Your name: _____

Choices:

Number of persons attending: _____

Qty	Menu Item
_____	Flat Iron Steak
_____	Chicken Alexander
_____	Pecan-Encrusted Salmon

New York State Capital District Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
PO Box 373
Waterford, NY 12188-0373



The NYS Capital District Chapter and the Military Officers Association of America are non-partisan member organizations that honor, assist, and advocate for all who serve and have served honorably in the uniformed services of the United States of America.

Key Bills in Congress that MOAA supports

S 66: A bill to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and other purposes. (See also **HR 303.**)

S 339: A bill to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

Chapter General Membership Sunday Meeting/Luncheon Schedule for 2018

February 11 – Guest Speaker: Jim Ketcham (Mark Twain)

April 8 – Guest Speaker: Dave Hubbard, "Spies in Hoopskirts"

June 10 – Guest Speaker TBD

October 14 – Guest Speaker TBD

December 9 – Annual Business Meeting and Christmas/Holiday Party

Dates, speakers subject to change.

WWII 75TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION EVENTS at the NYS World War II Memorial

Wednesday, October 25 - Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands

Wednesday, November 8 - Operation Torch

Saturday, November 11 - Veterans Day Observance at the WWII Memorial

Thursday, December 7 - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Observance at the WWII Memorial

