

CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER, NEW YORK MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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New York State Capital District Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
PO Box 373
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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.



5-Star Chapter – 2017



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STORMING THE HILL 2019



Storming the Hill 2019 is now history. On April 10, MOAA deployed over 170 “storm-troopers” on Capitol Hill to provide Senators, Representatives and their staffs with facts about key issues affecting military readiness, veterans, those actively serving, and their families. Among the MOAA stormers were NYS Council of Chapters (CoC) President Peggy Phillips and our own **Skip Bebernitz**, NYS CoC Regional VP.



*From the MOAA Storming Album: Skip Bebernitz meeting with **Katie Greenberg**, legislative correspondent for Congressman Paul D. Tonko (above left), and **Curtis Doster**, senior legislative assistant for Congressman Antonio Delgado (above right).*

[Ed. Note: Peggy Phillips visited Congresswoman Stefanik's office, unfortunately no photo was available.]

Storming the Hill is only one part of the campaign to protect or restore well-earned military benefits. MOAA urges all members to continue to engage members of Congress by ...

1. Emailing your legislators with a MOAA-suggested message. (Visit takeaction.moaa.org to find outlines of MOAA's advocacy positions. Enter your ZIP code, and the emails will be delivered right to your senators and representative.) *(continued on next page)*

2. Making a phone call to (866) 272-MOAA (6622), MOAA's toll-free line to the U.S. Capitol switchboard, to be connected with your legislators' offices
3. Increasing our reach by following, liking, and sharing MOAA's posts on Facebook to help spread information about our advocacy to the wider community on social media.

(For details, visit the MOAA website and search for: [3 Ways You Can Storm From Home](#))

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

NEXT MEETING/LUNCHEON – Sunday, June 9, 1300 - 1600 hours, Edison Club, Rexford, NY

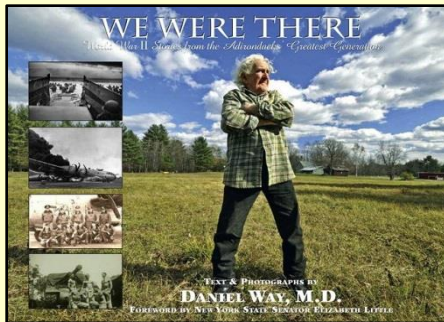


Photo by Daniel Way

GUEST SPEAKER: – DANIEL WAY, MD, will speak about his book "*They Were There: World War II Stories from the Adirondacks' Greatest Generation*"

(Dr. Way will also have copies of his book on hand for those who wish to purchase a copy.)

REMINDER: If you plan to attend our April luncheon meeting, please get your reservation and payment to AL MEMOLE NOT LATER THAN **Thursday May 30**. The Edison Club needs a final count one week in advance of our meeting. If you expect to attend, even if you aren't 100%

sure, PLEASE PAY IN ANTICIPATION. THE CLUB NOW CHARGES US FOR MEALS ORDERED, not only for those served. [The luncheon reservation form is on [page 5](#).]

HIGHLIGHTED CHARITY for this issue → BOOKS FOR TROOPS

“BOOKS FOR TROOPS, INC, (<https://booksfortroopscp.webs.com/>) was founded to send ‘care packages for the mind’ to the troops on all US military bases throughout the world and 22 VA hospitals within the states by providing a variety of books & other reading material to:



- help ease their fears, loneliness, boredom & stress;
- allow these special men and women a temporary escape from the horrors that they see and live daily;
- remind the troops of their humanity even in countries where humane treatment is sorely lacking;
- raise awareness at home of the sacrifices, both big and small, that our troops are making daily to protect our way of life and our freedom;
- and remind the troops that they are remembered at home with pride and gratitude; each book telling them that they have been remembered by yet another person at home.”

We can help our troops through this local initiative by:

- Donating books; at this time, limited to Westerns, Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror, Historical fiction, Military Fiction and Military History, History, and Biography
 - Only paperbacks, please, except for History books, due to the shortage of History books in softcover, they will accept History in both hard and soft-cover
 - No coffee table sized books, please, because they are too expensive and awkward to send
 - Puzzle books, both regular and large print for hospitals, DVDs, books on tape and comics are also accepted
- "Adopt a Box" by paying for its postage of \$15.00 (please make checks out to *Books for Troops, 152 Oak Brook Commons, Clifton Park, NY 12065*

Those of you attending our June 9 luncheon are encouraged to bring paperback books in good condition and/or checks in increments of \$15 to “adopt a box” (or two.)

Chapter News and other items of interest

- **At our last dinner meeting on April 7:**

- We collected and donated *paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent, dishwashing liquid, and \$100.00* for the highlighted charity of our last newsletter, the **Guardian House** for female veterans and the *Vet House* for male veterans. Thanks to all who contributed!
- **Steve Trimm** from the U. S. Grant Cottage State Historic Site portrayed General Grant (minus cigar) as he discussed “Grant’s Friendship with President Lincoln”. Steve’s portrayal really drew the audience in, making you feel as though the General himself was recounting his interactions and relationship with President Lincoln.



Steve Trimm as U. S. Grant, center, flanked by two retired Army LTC cousins – new Chapter member Vince Memole at right in the photo; Chapter Treasurer Al Memole at left

- And, speaking of General Grant, the **U. S. Grant Cottage State Historic Site** has a varied series of interesting events lined up for this summer. *See page 4 of this issue for details.*

- In April, Chapter President Chris Costigan had the opportunity to attend a reception for the **Veteran Connect Center**, a new non-profit organization designed to connect veterans and their families to career, educational, and community resources in the Capital District. Additionally, they provide programming and information to businesses and institutions in the Capital Region interested in hiring/supporting veterans. It appears to be an excellent resource for transitioning service members as well as current veterans. Check out their website at <http://www.veteransconnectcenter.org>.
- **NYS Council of Chapters Convention**. In the May-June issue of previous years’ newsletters, we’ve always included detailed information and reservation forms for the annual state convention. This year, planning for the convention is still in progress, so we can provide only basic preliminary information for you at this time:
 - Dates: Monday September 23 through Thursday September 26
 - Location: the Ramada Inn in Fishkill
 - Tentative Schedule: *Monday* – arrival, registration, and dinner; *Tuesday* – tour West Point (morning), tour local mansions such as Hyde Park (afternoon), and dinner; *Wednesday* – Council meeting, free time, and banquet; *Thursday* – individual time to explore the area or return home

As soon as we receive the finalized information we will email it to all Chapter members for whom we have a current valid email address, and also post it to our website. If you do not receive an email by mid-June, or if you either don’t have or don’t wish to share an email address, but are thinking about attending, please check our Chapter website (cdnymoaa.org) periodically. Attending a state convention is a great way to keep up with MOAA’s activities and issues, make new friends, and enjoy New York’s unique and beautiful regions.

Aug 21 is the deadline for submitting news articles, photos, bio’s, or stories for the *next* issue. Please e-mail your input to newsletter editor Al Memole at ammmemole@gmail.com or amemole1@nycap.rr.com



U.S. Grant Cottage
State Historic Site

June, July, & August events at **the U. S. Grant Cottage**, 1000 Mt. McGregor Rd., Wilton, NY (All events take place from *1:00 PM - 2:00 PM*, except as noted for August 4; for more information, visit their website at <https://www.grantcottage.org/>)

DATE	EVENT	DESCRIPTION
Sunday, June 2	Slavery and Dutch-Palatine Farmers: How Did Middle Class Farmers in Revolutionary War New York Interact with Slavery?	Travis Bowman will examine how slavery evolved in New York under Dutch, British, and American systems of government and how the institution was utilized at a local and personal level among Palatine immigrants and their descendants in the Hudson and Mohawk Valleys.
Saturday, June 8	Come to Mount McGregor to be Cured: The Story of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. Tuberculosis Sanatorium	<i>Dave Hubbard</i> , Grant Cottage's Visitor Center & Group Sales Manager, will discuss the history of the mountain's sanatorium through the eyes of a tuberculosis patient being treated at the Mount McGregor facility.
Saturday, June 15	The Return of Cornplanter's Pipe Tomahawk - A Path Through History Program	Learn the history of Cornplanter's pipe tomahawk, its disappearance and its miraculous recovery in 2018, presented by Dr. Gwendolyn Saul, Curator of Ethnography at the New York State Museum.
Saturday, June 22	Remarkable Flowers of Mount McGregor	Jackie Donnelly, nature writer and photographer, has been exploring the area for over twenty-seven years, documenting in words and photographs the amazing variety of plants that flourish on the mountain, from rocky outcroppings to upland forests to the boggy islands of Lake Bonita.
Sunday, July 7	An Enemy Alien at Grant Cottage	<i>Steve Trimm</i> will tell the remarkable story of Grant Cottage caretaker, Suye Narita, her family, and Suye's nephew Kenjiro Yoshida, a soldier in the acclaimed 442nd Regimental Combat Team who was killed in action in Europe in 1944 fighting the Nazis.
Saturday, July 13	Who was the Quartermaster General that Helped U.S. Grant Win the Civil War?	John Braidwood, will display copies of letters from his collection from Grant, Lincoln, Sheridan, and Stanton lauding the brothers' brilliant war-time accomplishments. His presentation gives credit to the men behind the scenes who are not often known, and therefore not given the credit they so richly deserved.
Sunday, July 21	Grant Remembrance Day	Re-enactors portraying Grant's family and close friends will gather on the Cottage porch and bid the man they loved and respected a final, very personal farewell.
Sunday, August 4, 2 – 3 pm	Grant: Mythical Hero or Mere Mortal? A Flags at Half Mast Program – Moderated Panel Discussion	Hear three esteemed panelists - Frank Scaturro, Dr. George "Al" Goethals, and Dr. Andre Fleche - in a moderated panel discussion to uncover the real Ulysses S. Grant, as they separate fact from fiction and discover the man from the myth.
Saturday, August 10	Not All Secret Agents Wore Hoop Skirts	<i>Dave Hubbard</i> , Grant Cottage's Visitor Center & Group Sales Manager, will present a sequel to his 2017 program " <i>Secret Agents in Hoop Skirts: Women Spies of the Civil War.</i> "
Sunday, August 18	When It's Brother against Brother: The Civil War and Divided Families	Grant Cottage tour guide Diana O'Brien, will explore unique stories of soldiers and families, whose differing wartime beliefs transcended the powerful bonds of family unity and love, making loved ones the enemy, and creating wounds undefinable and untold in the hearts of so many.
Sunday, August 25	A Concert: 19th Century Songs of Sentiment	Join Tess McCarthy (mezzo soprano), David Rudnick (tenor), Joe Gitto (guitar) and Grant Cottage tour guide Tom Smith (guitar and banjo) for a memorable concert at Grant Cottage!

- New York State Legislature News for Veterans:** On May 15, the State Assembly passed bill A5937 /S3889 and returned it to the Senate. The bill, *if signed into law*, will amend criminal procedure law to allow county courts to remove actions to another local criminal court in the same county designated a “problem solving court” to address matters concerning special types of defendants or victims. Problem solving courts include, but are not limited to drug courts, domestic violence courts, youth courts, mental health court, and veterans courts. Based on a successful pilot of a drug court in Rockland County, problem solving courts would enable counties to transfer cases from “one-size-fits-all” criminal courts and centralize similar cases in courts that can concentrate both law enforcement and therapeutic services that address a specific population with specific needs, such as veterans. Thus, veterans accused of crimes would be more likely to be treated fairly, with understanding, and receive appropriate sentencing and help to turn their lives around. The aim is to reduce the rate of recidivism for veterans and other populations caught up in criminal activities.

(Reported by NYS Assembly representative, Bob Smullen, COL USMC RET, and MOAA member, who also is a co-sponsor of this legislation.)

CHAPTER PRESIDENT’S CORNER

As summer approaches and our thoughts turn to activities such as vacations, visiting relatives and friends, or playing a few rounds of golf, I would like to request that all chapter members remain engaged with MOAA's continuing efforts to advocate for currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. While a great deal of progress has been made over the past year in protecting pay and benefits, ending the "Widow's tax" for SBP/DIC offset, and stabilizing and improving TRICARE services/costs, there is still much work to do and goals to accomplish. I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support and your dedication to "Never Stop Serving". Have a happy and safe summer! *Chris Costigan*

NEVER STOP SERVING

2019 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEONS
DATES & GUEST SPEAKERS

Oct 13 - TBD

Dec 8 - Christmas/Holiday Luncheon and Annual Business Meeting

2019 Board of Directors Meetings

Aug 10 – 1000 hrs., Scheiber’s home, Bolton Landing [tentative]

Nov 2 – 1000 hrs., NYS Military Heritage Museum, Saratoga

EDITOR’S NOTE:

In the last issue, I noted incorrectly that the bearded gentleman in a photo at the Stride Winterfest Welcome Banquet portrayed *Santa* Claus on the Toys for Tots train: He actually plays “*Gunny*” Claus (*photo on far right*), complete with a bright red campaign hat and uniform!



READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?
If so, how about writing a review for this Newsletter? Your fellow officers might be interested. Send your review to the editor.



Join us this summer at West Point's majestic Trophy Point Amphitheater for incredible music performed, overlooking the scenic Hudson River!

All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m.

Every concert is FREE and open to all.

(However, they ask all concertgoers to RSVP at

www.westpointband.eventbrite.com. Printed tickets are not needed, but RSVPing allows you to receive up-to-date concert information, including notification of any weather cancellations.)



- Saturday, **June 8, Get the Message!** The West Point Jazz Ensemble is proud to present this centennial tribute to percussion master and bandleader Art Blakey.
- Saturday, **June 15, March Along, Sing Our Song** - Come join us as we celebrate the Army's 244th Birthday!
- Saturday, **June 22, Strike Up the Band!** Please join us as we welcome West Point Band Alumni back to the stage for a wonderful evening of musical collaboration with the West Point Concert Band.
- Saturday, **June 29, West Point Block Party** - Nobody throws a block party quite like the West Point Band. Get ready to dance and sing along with the Benny Havens Band as they rock to their own A-list playlist, featuring classic rock and pop favorites to old school hip-hop and R&B.
- Saturday, **July 6** (Rain date July 7) **Independence Day Celebration** - There's no better way to celebrate America's independence than with the Army's oldest band! this performance concludes with a *spectacular fireworks display* over the Hudson River
- Saturday, **July 13, Sunset with a Soundtrack** - Join the West Point Concert Band for an entertaining program of world-class music under the stars
- Saturday, **July 20 At the Point** -The West Point Concert Band presents an evening of superb music set to the beautiful backdrop of Trophy Point and the Hudson River
- Saturday, **August 3, I Love Rock n' Roll** - Are you ready to rock?! Come grab front row seats to the show, featuring some of rock music's greats, as performed by the Benny Havens Band.
- Saturday, **August 10, Don't Rain on My Parade!** The West Point Band continues its Music Under the Stars concert series with another superb performance by the talented musicians of the concert band
- Saturday, **August 17, Dancing Under the Stars** - Put on your dancing shoes, grab a partner, and head on down to Trophy Point to join the Benny Havens Band for their eighth annual "Dancing Under the Stars," as the band invites you to the stage to Dougie, Mashed Potato, or Foxtrot to the best of swing, disco, Latin, country, funk, hip-hop, Motown, and more.
- **Sunday, September 1** (Rain Date September 2) **Labor Day Celebration** - You don't want to miss this powerful finale to our summer series, featuring outstanding music and the best *fireworks* show in the Hudson Valley! Performances by the Concert Band, Hellcats, and the Benny Havens Band, are topped off with Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, complete with live cannon fire.



KEEP THE TOP HALF OF THIS PAGE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

CHAPTER OFFICERS

CHAPTER OFFICE	INCUMBENT	E-MAIL
President	Christopher J. Costigan, CDR USN, RET	pres@cdnymoaa.org
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* Immediate Past-President ** Former President

Luncheon Reservation Form

Date: **JUNE 9, 2019**

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.)

*If you still haven't paid Chapter dues for **2019**, please add **\$30.00** to your total.*

Send reservation form and check to: **Al Memole** (cell phone: 518-641-8664)
8 Rose Lane
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Please make your reservation Not Later Than **Thursday, May 30.**

Your name: _____	Choices:	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Menu Item</u>
Number of persons attending: _____		_____	Flat Iron Steak
		_____	Chicken Alexander
		_____	Pecan-Encrusted Salmon