

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
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.



5-Star Chapter – **2017, 2018**



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JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS



*The following information was gleaned from the military services' JROTC web pages: The National Defense Act of 1916 established organized JROTC programs at public and private educational institutions. In 1964, Congress expanded the program to all military services and relieved the active duty components from sole responsibility, sharing support between the services and schools. As congressionally mandated by Title 10 United States Code, Section 2031, each military service *must* have a JROTC program, not to train youth for war, but to "instill in students in United States secondary educational institutions the values of citizenship, service to the United States, and personal responsibility and a sense of accomplishment."*

MOAA makes available to local chapters a distinctive medal with accompanying certificate exclusively for the recognition of outstanding JROTC cadets in their next-to-last year in the program. All military services officially have approved the medal for presentation. MOAA views JROTC awards as "an excellent way for chapters to gain exposure in their community and, at the same time, foster a positive military recognition among the youth of the community." Consequently, MOAA insists that local chapters and not the national organization present the awards. The program is entirely voluntary; chapters are not obligated to give awards. No more than one award may be presented each year in any one JROTC unit; no individual is eligible to receive the award more than once. The JROTC unit commander selects the recipient and arranges the presentation in coordination with the local MOAA chapter. *(Continued on Page 2)*



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To be eligible for an award, a JROTC candidate must:

- be in the next-to-last year of a JROTC program;
- be in good academic standing;
- be of high moral character;
- demonstrate a high degree of loyalty to the unit, school, and country; and
- demonstrate exceptional potential for military leadership.

Eligibility requirements for *Marine Corps JROTC* are a little different. A MCJROTC candidate must:

- be in the upper 10 percent of his or her high school class;
- have an A average in MCJROTC academic subjects;
- be assigned to a cadet “officer” billet; and
- be nominated in the junior year.



Our chapter has participated in JROTC (and ROTC) awards for a long time. This year, we presented awards to outstanding cadets at *four* local high schools. Here are some highlights from the JROTC awards ceremonies at four local high schools where our Chapter presented MOAA JROTC medals and certificates to deserving young cadets:

Christian Brothers Academy (CBA) of Albany (Army JROTC). *Al Memole* and *Skip Bebernitz* attended the annual CBA JROTC Leadership Awards Night on May 2 to present the MOAA JROTC medal to Cadet **GAVIN PISKUTZ** (at right holding his MOAA medal and certificate after the ceremonies with *Al Memole*). Gavin’s top favorite academic subject is Math. He is interested in military service in legal affairs.



Amsterdam High School (MCJROTC). *Al Memole* attended the annual Marine Corps JROTC Awards Ceremony on May 15. Retired Marine Colonel and Chapter member (and NYS Assembly Rep) *Bob Smullen* also attended after a late-running legislative session in Albany. COL Smullen served with SgtMaj Rod Wilday, the senior USMC JROTC Instructor, who is stepping down after a long tenure at Amsterdam High. This year’s MOAA award recipient is Cadet **ANGELICA RIVERA** (at the center of the photo at left, knees bent). Cadet Rivera’s favorite academic subject is English, but she plans to enlist in the US Navy as a medical corpsman, as she is interested in a possible EMT or medical career.

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Contact *Al Memole*, JROTC Awards Committee, if you would like to help support these outstanding JROTC programs. The level of commitment can be as easy as paying for one award package (\$5.75) or presenting an award, or as involved as actively supporting one of the programs directly.

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La Salle Institute, Troy (Army JROTC). Al Memole presented the MOAA JROTC medal and certificate to newly promoted Cadet Lieutenant Colonel **RYAN WIND** (*at right with his proud parents after the ceremony*) at La Salle Institute's annual Cadet Officer Promotion and Commissioning Ceremony on May 22. This was the first time in a long time, if not the first time ever, that our Chapter presented an award for a La Salle cadet. Ryan's favorite academic subject is Chemistry, and he has set his sights on studying forensic sciences in college, possibly in New England. His dad is an Army veteran.



Albany High School (Army JROTC). Chapter member *Dave Erickson*, MAJ USA (Ret.), heads the NY Capital District's newest JROTC program, designated the Sgt Henry Johnson (MOH) Battalion. It is literally inspiring a rapidly growing corps of cadets and changing their lives for the better. Al Memole presented the MOAA JROTC medal and certificate to Cadet **PRINCE NDIHAMO** (*at left, receiving his award*) at the annual Leadership Awards Ceremony on May 30. Originally from the Congo where his dad was a teacher, Prince speaks five languages (English his 5th). He placed 3rd in the American Legion Oratorical contest and was chosen to attend Boys State this year. His favorite academic subject is History, and his ultimate goal is to be a lawyer.

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

Chapter News and other items of interest

- **At our last dinner meeting on June 9:**
 - We collected a box full of soft-cover books to donate to **Books for Troops**. Thanks to all who contributed!
 - And speaking of books, literally, **Dr. Daniel Way** (*photos at right and below*) presented a riveting PowerPoint slide presentation about his book "[They Were There: World War II Stories from the Adirondacks' Greatest Generation](#)". The featured veterans and civilians, heroes all, were his patients. Dr. Way also had copies of his books on hand for sale, which he autographed.
 - Chapter President Chris Costigan announced and presented two **5-star Colonel Marvin J. Harris Communications Awards for 2018**: one for our Chapter website; the other for our newsletters. This is MOAA's highest level Communications Award. Accepting the awards on behalf of the Chapter were Ralph Folger, webmaster, (*below left*) and Al Memole, newsletter editor (*below right*).



Chapter News and other items of interest *(continued)*

- And while we're on the topic of MOAA 5-star awards, **our Chapter has again earned a 5-star Level of Excellence Award!** This is the highest award presented only to the very best Chapters. Thanks to all of you members!
- Next Board Meeting:** Nov 2 – 1000 hrs, NYS Military Heritage Museum, Saratoga
- The **Chapter Officers and Board of Directors met on August 10** at the Scheiber's lovely residence on the shores of Lake George. The Chapter committees reported on past activities and future plans, and the Board established a tentative schedule of Board and dinner meetings for 2020, which will be published in the next and subsequent newsletters. The Chapter received a thank you from Guardian House for our contributions of needed items and funds at the April meeting. The Board also approved a donation of \$60 for Books For Troops, which had been previously budgeted. The donation will cover shipment costs for four boxes of books. We also have a vacancy on the Board that we need to fill with the recent passing of our dear friend and colleague, Tom Lenahan. *(See our tribute to Tom on page 7).*



- The **Legislative Committee** has a tentative meeting with Representative Stefanik on August 28, in support of MOAA's "**Summer Storm**" initiative to provide information on key military and veterans' issues to our local lawmakers. MOAA is urging Congress to end the "widows' tax", protect military medical positions, improve military family housing, support veterans' caregivers, protect pay and benefits, and stabilize TRICARE fees. [You can Take Action, too, by visiting the MOAA website at <https://www.moaa.org/content/take-action/Take-Action-Landing/>]
- On September 6, three Chapter leaders, *Chris Costigan*, *Skip Bebernitz* (representing the NYS Council of Chapters), and *Pat Piccirilli*, will attend the **MOAA Chapter Leadership Workshop** in Hershey, Pennsylvania.
- Listed below are the last **special events for 2019 at the U. S. Grant Cottage:**



U.S. Grant Cottage
State Historic Site

September-October events at the U. S. Grant Cottage, 1000 Mt. McGregor Rd., Wilton, NY (All events take place from 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM; for more information, visit their website at <https://www.grantcottage.org/>)

DATE	EVENT	DESCRIPTION
Sunday, Sept. 8	A Visit with General and Mrs. Grant	Celebrate Grandparents' Day by joining living historians <i>Steve Trimm</i> and <i>Melissa Trombley-Prosch</i> as they interpret the life of Grant Cottage's favorite grandparent couple through anecdotes and stories in the setting of one of their last visits to Saratoga Springs in 1882.
Saturday, Sept. 21	The Peacemaker, U.S. Grant: A Man of War with a Heart for Peace, International Day of Peace Program	Grant Cottage Operations Manager, <i>Ben Kemp</i> , will explore the "peaceful warrior" whose enduring efforts towards peace still resonate with us today. We invite the audience to be part of the conversation by sharing thoughts on the vital elements of peace. A peace ceremony will follow the program at the Overlook (weather permitting).
Saturday, October 12	Interrupted Odyssey: Ulysses S. Grant and the American Indians - A Path Through History Program	<i>Mary Stockwell</i> argues that Grant had no intention of appointing missionaries to run the nation's many reservations. Instead, he developed plans, with the help of his friend and first commissioner of Indian affairs, <i>Ely S. Parker</i> , himself a Seneca Indian, to place the executive branch and the army in charge of the Indian service.

Chapter News and other items of interest *(continued)*

- On Saturday September 14, the *Enlisted Association of the New York National Guard* and the *Naval Support Activity MWR Office* in Saratoga Springs are co-sponsoring the **POW/MIA – Hometown Heroes 5K race** (plus 600m kids’ run and 100m kids’ fun dash), starting 10 am at the Columbia Pavilion, Saratoga Springs State Park. There will be food, drinks, and entertainment thanks to sponsors and the Naval Support Activity MWR Office. Cost is only \$25 per runner, and all proceeds go to the EANGUS “We Care for America Foundation”. Sign-up online at <https://eanyng.org/5k> or <https://runsignup.com/Race/NY/SaratogaSprings/POWMIAHometownHeroes5K>.



- The *Boyd Hilton VFW 7062 Auxiliary* is sponsoring a 65-mile **American Gold Star Mothers Tribute Ride and Fundraiser**, Sunday September 22, led by the Patriot Guard Riders, rain or shine. Registration begins at 10 am at the Voorheesville Fire Dept., 12 Altamont Rd, Voorheesville. Cost is \$20 per rider; \$10 per passenger, with all proceeds to benefit the American Gold Star Mothers Department of New York. The ride traverses the Helderbergs, Albany, Schoharie, and Green Counties. Registration includes a meal of steak with all the trimmings and dessert, after the ride at the Altamont VFW Post, 11 Mill St, Altamont.



- The 47th Annual NYS Council of Chapters Convention** will take place, as announced previously, from Monday September 23 through Thursday September 26 based at the Ramada



Inn in Fishkill in the Mid-Hudson region. This year’s convention features tours of the *US Military Academy at West Point* and the *Franklin Delano Roosevelt National Park Site at Hyde Park*. Attendees will participate also in the requisite Council business meeting and the annual banquet. Several Chapter members and spouses will be attending. A report will follow in a subsequent newsletter.



- Martin's Point** will be hosting *three Medical Plan Information Sessions* at the Red Lion Hotel, 205 Wolf Road, Albany, NY: Tuesday, October 8 at 7 pm, and Wednesday, October 9 at 10 am and 2 pm. Health Benefits Specialist, Leslie Chadbourne, will explain Martin's Point US Family Health Plan benefits, pharmacy, and other health coverage, including **Medicare** and **VA**-and what's coming in **military health care**. Sessions last about 90 minutes. You are encouraged to bring an eligible friend or family member who would like to learn more!



- The Veterans & Community Housing Coalition* is hosting the **Fourth Annual Veterans Ball** on Sunday November 3, 5 pm – 9 pm, at The Hall of Springs, 108 Avenue of the Pines, Saratoga Springs. The ball includes dinner, a cash bar, a silent auction, and live music by The Joey Thomas Big Band, also the *LaSalle Institute JROTC Cadets*. Tickets are already on sale online at



<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4089627>.

2019 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEONS DATES & GUEST SPEAKERS

Oct 13 - Brigadier General Jim O’Toole, USA Ret., on *Ft. Ticonderoga*

Dec 8 - Christmas/Holiday Luncheon and Annual Business Meeting

HIGHLIGHTED CHARITY for this issue → VETERANS MIRACLE CENTER

The Veterans Miracle Center is a not-for-profit organization that offers veterans and active-duty military personnel “real solutions that will enhance their lives.” The VMC provides “clothing, personal care and

VMC Albany
10 Interstate Avenue, Albany, NY 12205
Phone: 518.486.8398
Email: Info@VMCAlbany.org
Website: <https://www.vmcalbany.org>

hygiene products, houseware items, ambulatory equipment, toys for their children and much more. The center also obtains the services of specialists who advise and assist veterans with personal needs, jobs, housing and financing. All goods and services are available free-of-charge to veterans and their immediate household, by appointment. However, veterans must be “certified

through reputable veteran organizations such as: Red Cross Veterans Affairs, VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars), the VA, Center for Independence, Soldier On, Albany Housing Coalition, Patriot Hills, or other qualifying organization.” We can help in any one of three ways: *volunteering to help at the store, donating new products, or giving a financial gift.* Once again, the VMC will honor veterans with a special dinner event this coming Veterans Day:

CELEBRATING *our* HEROES
5TH ANNUAL DINNER EVENT

SAVE THE DATE
NOVEMBER 11, 2019

JOIN US – NOVEMBER 11, 5:00 PM

The VMC presents a *special celebration* to honor our Veterans & Active-Duty Soldiers with military, political and community leaders, special presentations and a silent auction—to be held at the Albany Capital Center.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE to VIETNAM VETERANS



A special tribute to our heroic Vietnam Veterans; recognizing the Tri-County Council of Vietnam-Era Veterans & Vietnam Veterans of America.

ROCKY BLEIER ~ KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Rocky is a Bronze Star and Purple Heart Vietnam Veteran; He is also a former NFL 4-time Super Bowl champion football player for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

WHAT IS THE VMC?

The Veterans Miracle Center is a special store where Veterans can get daily life essentials and more at no cost. Learn more at vmcalbany.org

Register for the event early at vmcalbany.org/register

DO YOU HAVE NEWS, STORIES, OR IDEAS TO SHARE WITH OTHER CHAPTER MEMBERS?

WELL, PLEASE DON'T SIT ON THEM! SEND THEM TO THE EDITOR!

If you want your contribution to appear in the next issue, no. 5, please e-mail your input to newsletter editor Al Memole at ammmemole@gmail.com or amemole1@nycap.rr.com NLT **Sep 15**. We welcome:

- News articles; Events; Announcements
- Biographical profiles; Tributes; Obituaries
- Photos; Original art
- Historical vignettes
- Book reviews



RIP THOMAS W. LENAHAN, Captain, USAF (Ret.)



The saddest news to report is the loss of one of our own – **our dear friend and comrade, Tom Lenahan**. He was 78 years old when he passed away on July 21, 2019 in The Villages, Florida, after a brief illness. Following his wake and funeral at St. Edward the Confessor Church, Clifton Park, Tom was buried with full military honors at the Gerald BH Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery in Schuylerville. Tom was



predeceased by his first wife Nancy, and is survived by his loving bride, Valerie Prescott, his five children, three brothers and their wives, 9 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Tom was born in Schenectady, graduated from Catholic Central HS, Troy, in 1958, earned his bachelors degree from Michigan State and a masters and ABD from SUNY Albany. He served from 1960-1982 with the US Air force, retiring as a Captain. He also retired as Professor of Criminal Justice from Herkimer County Community College, Herkimer, NY. Tom was an ever cheerful and energetic member of our Board of Directors. He is famous among the MOAA Chapters across the state as THE consummate hospitality suite host at Council of Chapters conventions. We will miss his outgoing and engaging personality. Tom not only served MOAA, our Chapter and the Chapter in The Villages, he also volunteered for many years with the VA Hospital in Albany, the Solomon National Cemetery Honor Guard, The Villages Honor Flight Team, and other military and civic organizations.

Any Chapter member who would like to step up to fill Tom's vacant position on the Chapter's Board of Directors should contact Chris Costigan or one of the other officers or Board members.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

CHAPTER OFFICE	INCUMBENT	E-MAIL
President	Christopher J. Costigan, CDR USN, RET	pres@cdnymoaa.org
1 st Vice President	VACANT	1vp@cdnymoaa.org
2 nd Vice President	VACANT	2vp@cdnymoaa.org
Secretary	Ralph Folger, LCDR USNR, RET	secr@cdnymoaa.org
Treasurer	Alfred M. Memole, LTC USA, RET	treas@cdnymoaa.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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* Immediate Past-President ** Former President

