

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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CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

NEXT MEETING/LUNCHEON – Sunday, October 13,
1300 - 1600 hours, Edison Club, Rexford, NY

GUEST SPEAKER: – James "Jim" O'Toole, BG, USA
(Ret), will speak about **Fort Ticonderoga**

REMINDER: If you plan to attend our April luncheon meeting, please get your reservation and payment to AL MEMOLE NOT LATER THAN **Friday October 4th**. 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 6.]



HIGHLIGHTED CHARITY for this issue → **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**

Wreaths Across America™ is a 501(c)(3) corporation whose mission is to **Remember, Honor, and Teach**. One of their main nationwide events is laying Christmas wreaths on veterans graves one Saturday in December at Arlington and at veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states.



This year's wreath laying event at the Gerald B. Solomon National Cemetery in Schuylerville will be held on **December 14**, starting at **1200 hrs**. **We are all invited to attend the ceremony and assist in placement of the wreaths** on the graves of the deceased veterans. Last year, enough wreaths were sponsored to decorate EVERY gravesite, but each year adds more graves. Those of us who attended past events can attest that this is a very moving experience. [continued on page 2]

HIGHLIGHTED CHARITY → WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA [*continued*]

Our Chapter has been a local fundraising group for Wreaths Across America™ (WAA) for several years. We actively promote the event and solicit sponsorship of wreaths. In return, we get back a small percentage of the total amount donated through our group (group code **NY0087P**). Our goal this year is **100 wreaths**. Anyone may sponsor wreaths under our group ID, and *we encourage you to invite friends and family to sponsor through our Chapter*. The cost to sponsor a single wreath is \$15. You may sponsor one or more wreaths by including your payment with the form on page 3 of this newsletter, which has our Chapter's group ID code on it. You may bring the completed form with payment to our October meeting or mail it directly to WAA at their Maine address. Or, you may sponsor wreaths through the WAA website at <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>. The website is beautiful and informative, but navigating the site to sponsor wreaths through our Chapter fundraising group is *not* obvious. To help guide you through the process, we included instructions on page 5 of this newsletter.

Chapter News and other items of interest

- **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT.** On August 22, two of our three legislative committee members, Chris Costigan and Pat Piccirilli, had a very productive meeting at the Albany office of **Representative Paul Tonko**, 20th Congressional District, where they met with *Colleen Williams*, the Congressman's District Director. (Congressman Tonko was unavailable.) This was the second meeting with Ms. Williams this calendar year. Our committee members provided folders covering MOAA's 10 goals for 2019, and MOAA issue papers with facts on what military beneficiaries actually pay for health care, pay and benefits needed to recruit and retain an all-volunteer force, and the unfairness of the "Widows' Tax" (SBP-DIC offset). Discussion topics included:
 - the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (NDAA), including MOAA support for the 3.1% military pay raise based on the Employment Cost Index (ECI), a halt to TRICARE fee increases, caution regarding a Commissary and Exchange merger, military housing health and safety, and DOD's proposed 20% reduction of its medical billets. (Chris shared some of his experiences in the US Navy medical system.)
 - the Widows' Tax (Our committee members asked Ms. Williams to *thank Congressman Tonko for co-sponsoring the bill* addressing the SBP-DIC offset issue (H.R. 553 Military Surviving Spouse Equity Act)
 - H.R. 333 - Full Concurrent Receipt for Disabled Military Retirees (Our committee members requested that Ms. Williams ask Congressman Tonko to consider co-sponsoring H.R. 333)

[*NOTE: The Legislative Committee also visited the offices of Representatives **Antonio Delgado**, on August 14, and **Elise Stefanik**, on August 28. Summaries of those visits will appear in the next issue of this newsletter.*]

Our Legislative Committee has been making a great effort to arm our congressional representatives with facts about key issues affecting the military and veterans. Chapter members can do our part by visiting takeaction.moaa.org to find outlines of MOAA's positions. (Enter your ZIP code and the emails will be delivered right to your senators and representatives, or call 866-272-MOAA [6622], MOAA's toll-free line to the U.S. Capitol switchboard, to be connected with your legislators' offices.) We are also providing contact information for the local offices of our elected congressional officials on page 6 of this newsletter.

- **MOAA NORTH EASTERN REGION COUNCIL & CHAPTER LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP.** *Chris and Mary Costigan, Pat Piccirilli, and Skip and Mary Lou Bebernitz* attended the workshop at the beautiful Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA, on September 6 & 7. (As you might expect, the Lodge had an obvious obsession with *chocolate*--they even had a chocolate balsamic vinaigrette salad dressing!!) These annual workshops bring together chapter and council leaders from New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, West Virginia, and Virginia to explore ideas for improving organizational operations and effectiveness. For example, Skip and Pat attended the legislative liaison workshop sessions on ideas and best practices for communicating with federal and state legislators on facts and MOAA positions regarding key military/veteran issues such as the widows' tax. [*continued on page 3*]

MOAA NORTH EASTERN REGION COUNCIL & CHAPTER LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP [continued]. Chapters and councils were also invited to join the Legislative Affairs Exchange Forum, a virtual community of interest set up by two MOAA chapter state legislative leaders where chapter/council/state legislative liaisons can share, learn, and grow.

Chris attended the membership workshop. Best practices were shared on recruitment of new members, retention of current members, and utilization of the somewhat challenging membership computer module which will now provide a list of *potential* MOAA chapter members in the catchment area. Chapter Officers and the Board of Directors will discuss lessons learned from the workshop at the next Board meeting on November 2.

- NYS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS CONVENTION is taking place Sep 23-26. The next issue will report the results.
- CHAPTER MEETINGS FOR 2020. For those of you planning your vacations and trips for next year, here is the meeting schedule developed by the Board at the August Meeting:
 - *General Membership Sunday Dinner Meetings*: Feb 9, Apr 19, Jun 14, Oct 4, and Dec 13
 - *Chapter Board Meetings*: Jan 25, Aug (TBD), Nov 7



Skip & Mary Lou Bebernitz (at left), Pat Piccirilli (center), and Chris & Mary Costigan (right) at the MOAA Leadership Workshop

Officer and Board Vacancies. We still have *two* vacant Vice President positions and *one* vacant Board member position at the moment, but only one interested candidate. The commitment is pretty light, so please consider participating, and let us know. We will present nominees for confirmation at the December Annual Business Meeting.

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS
Nov 2 - 1000 hrs, NYS Military Heritage Museum, Saratoga

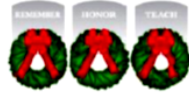


Nov 14 is the deadline for submitting news articles, photos, bio's, or stories for the *next* issue. Please e-mail your input to newsletter editor Al Memole at ammemole@gmail.com or amemole1@nycap.rr.com

2019 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEONS DATES
Dec 8 - Christmas/Holiday Luncheon and Annual Business Meeting



NEVER STOP SERVING



WREATHS *across* AMERICA

Wreath Sponsorship Form

Sponsored wreaths are placed on grave markers at state and national veterans' cemeteries, as well as at local, community cemeteries each December. Wreaths may also be sponsored online at www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org. If you wish to make your sponsorship with a credit card, please visit our website for a secure online transaction.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Please make checks payable to:
Wreaths Across America
 PO Box 249
 Columbia Falls, ME 04623

Call 877-385-9504 with any questions.
 Thank you for your sponsorship and joining us in our mission
 to Remember, Honor and Teach!

| Sponsorship Type | Price | Quantity | Total |
|--|------------|--------------------|-------|
| Individual = 1 Wreath | \$15.00 | | |
| Mailed "In Honor" card = If you wish to send a physical honor card telling someone of your sponsorship, please see "In Honor" section below. The \$2 fee is required for this mailing. | \$2.00 | | |
| Family = 4 Wreaths | \$60.00 | | |
| Small Business = 10 Wreaths | \$150.00 | | |
| Corporate = 100 Wreaths | \$1,500.00 | | |
| | | Grand Total | |

GRAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED ON THIS FORM

In Honor of:

Below, please provide email or mailing address of "In Honor of" recipient so we can notify them of your sponsorship in their honor. If you have a specific message please write it on the back of this sheet.

Email address: _____

Mailing address: _____

In Memory of:

This name will be listed on our online memory wall. Below, please provide name, rank, branch of service and state resided.

Branch of Service: _____

Rank: _____

State: _____

Please note, **ALL** sponsored wreaths are shipped directly to the location and **NO** wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.

Location ID: NYGSNS Fundraising Group ID: NY0087P

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Cash: _____ Total: _____ Date Received: _____

Total No. Checks: _____ Reconciled: _____

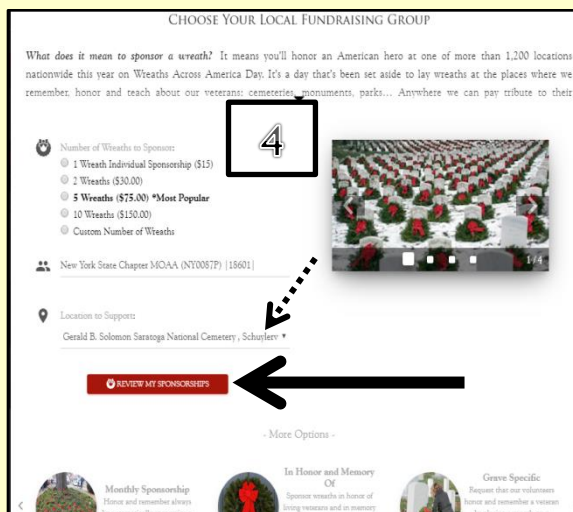
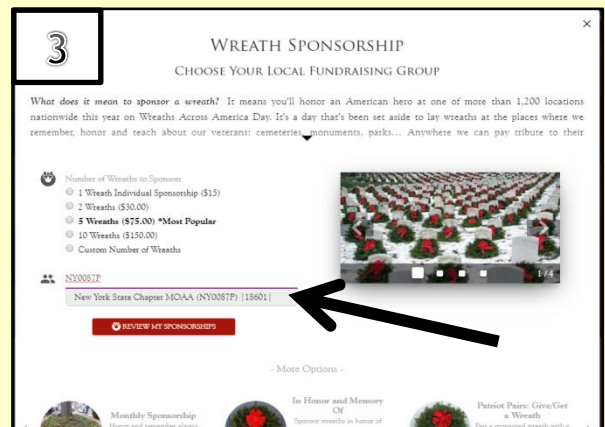
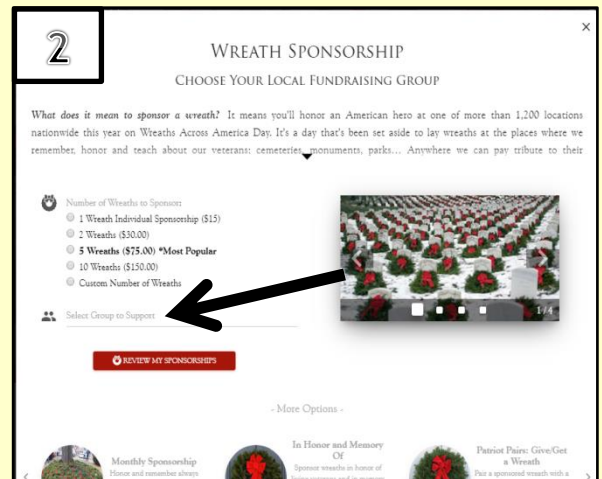
MO: _____

Entered: _____

GEN: _____

Wreaths Across America™ - Guidance for Sponsoring Wreaths Online

1. On the home page, under the red “SPONSOR WREATHS” button, find and click on the tiny heading labeled “or Local Fundraising Group”. That opens a box titled “Wreath Sponsorship; Choose Your Local Fundraising Group”
2. Click on the button for the number of wreaths you wish to sponsor. Then, in the box just above the red button labeled “Review of Sponsorships”, click on the space to the right of the icon of two people labeled faintly “Select Group to Support.”
3. With your cursor in the space, type in our group code **NY0087P**. The entry “New York State Chapter MOAA (NY0087P) (186010)” will appear *below* the space.
4. Click on “New York State Chapter MOAA (NY0087P) (186010)” and the location “Gerald B. Solomon National Cemetery, Schuylerville” will appear below, which confirms you have the correct fundraising organization. Now, click on the red “Review of Sponsorships” button to finish the transaction.



KEEP THE TOP HALF OF THIS PAGE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>CONGRESSIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION AS OF SEPTEMBER 2019</p> | <p>Senator Charles “Chuck” Schumer</p> <p>Address: Leo O'Brien Building Room 420, Albany, NY 12207</p> <p>Phone: 518-431-4070 Fax: 518-431-4076</p> | <p>Senator Kirsten Gillibrand</p> <p>Address: Leo O'Brien Building Room 821, Albany, NY 12207</p> <p>Phone: 518-431-0120 Fax: 518-431-0128</p> |
| <p>Congressman Antonio Delgado <i>19th Congressional District</i></p> <p>Address: 420 Warrant St. Hudson, NY 12534 <i>Tues & Wed 10 am to 4 pm</i></p> <p>Phone: 845-443-2930 (<i>Kingston Office No. - info will be relayed to the Hudson NY office</i>)</p> | <p>Congressman Paul Tonko <i>20th Congressional District</i></p> <p>Address: 19 Dove St #302, Albany, NY 12210</p> <p>Phone: 518-465-0700</p> | <p>Congresswoman Elise Stefanik <i>21st Congressional District</i></p> <p>Address: 5 Warren St. Suite 4, Glens Falls, NY 12801</p> <p>Phone: 518-743-0964</p> |

5 Warren Street, Suite 4

LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Date: **OCTOBER 13, 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.*)

*To pay 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 Friday, Oct 4***

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