

CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER, NEW YORK

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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2009 4-Star Chapter

BEAT THE POST-SUPER BOWL WINTER BLUES – JOIN US AT OUR NEXT MEETING

February 8, 1300 - 1600 hours at the Edison Club, Rexford, NY

GUEST SPEAKER: Dave Erickson, MAJ USA (Ret.)

TOPICS: Dave will discuss a new, challenging, but promising initiative bringing JROTC to Albany High School, *AND* share his first-hand experiences with **Space-Available (Space-A) travel**, including some super values not widely known - all available to YOU!!

REMINDER: Please get your reservation and payment to ROCCO ACQUILANO NOT LATER THAN Wednesday morning **February 4**. The Edison Club needs a final count by the Wednesday before our Sunday 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, no problem.



PLEASE REMEMBER TO PAY CHAPTER DUES FOR 2015!!

Rocco (left) checks the list of attendees at the October luncheon. Note, the Edison Club has Guinness on tap ☺

WOUNDED WARRIOR SNOWFEST

The Welcome Banquet for the 10th Anniversary Wounded Warrior Snowfest will take place at the Hilton Garden Inn, Troy, Friday, **March 6, 2015**, from 6 to 10 pm. This year's keynote speaker is **Congressman Chris Gibson**.

The program is a major initiative of a local community service organization, Stride Adaptive Sports, established to help children with a wide variety of disabilities to experience joy and build confidence by participating in sports and outdoor activities. Stride extended its services to help wounded, disabled, and traumatized servicemembers recently returned from combat through their annual winter snowfest outing at Jiminy Peak, and other activities. *(Continued on page 2)*



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Schedule of Chapter Meetings for 2015

General Membership Sunday Luncheons
(Edison Club, Rexford, NY)

- Apr 12
- Jun 7
- Oct 4
- Dec 13

Chapter Board Meetings
(NYS Military Museum, Saratoga Springs, NY)

- Apr 18
- Aug 15 (Lake George - tentative)
- Nov 7

(Continued from page 1) Stride's Wounded Warrior Snowfest has attracted support from local officials, celebrities, and every major military and veterans' organization, including **our Chapter**. Last year individual members and the Chapter reserved a table at the Welcome Banquet, and we plan to do the same this year. A reservation is only \$40 per person. We welcome and encourage participation and/or contributions from all our members. So, if you are interested in supporting this worthy cause, or, better yet, join other Chapter members at the banquet, please contact any of the Chapter officers or board members. You may also reserve tickets on your own by contacting Stride at www.stride.org or calling 518-598-1279.



VACATIONS, SPACE-A TRAVEL, & YOU



In the November issue, we dangled a teaser about Space-Available (Space-A) travel aboard military aircraft to a myriad of exotic locations around the world. There may be many of you out there who have taken advantage of Space-A in the past, and a few who have done so recently. It's a safe bet, however, that most of you have not considered it, or thought about it once or twice, but concluded it was too complicated.

Well, it can be complicated because there are a lot of variables. The trick is knowing how to work the variables to your advantage. At the 2014 Council of Chapters Convention in Corning, Southern Tier Chapter member **Joe Brown** offered free information sessions on everything you need to know about Space-A. This article cannot do justice to the mountain of information that Joe shared with his audiences, but it will touch on some highlights.

The most important point is to take advantage of the knowledge, experiences, and research of others. Joe has been very generous sharing what he knows, and he is constantly scouting his sources to gather the latest up-to-date info on flights, lodging, local transport, and tourist attractions. You may e-mail Joe at kb2avb@gmail.com for information and advice. Our Chapter has our own experienced Space-A traveler, **Dave Erickson**, *our guest speaker for the February luncheon*, who can also give you advice and guidance for trips abroad and within CONUS.

So, what are some of those variables that you need to consider and plan for:

1. WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO? Overseas? Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico? California? Space-A can take you just about anywhere, and if not exactly where you want to go, it can get you close.
2. WHEN DO YOU WANT TO GO? Find out when the high and low seasons are for tourist, military deployments, student travel, etc.. How flexible can you be?
3. WHERE CAN YOU CATCH A FLIGHT? Westover AFB, MA; Pease AFB, NH; other? There are many possibilities from many locations - Here is where good resources like Joe and Dave can really help you plan. Your degree of flexibility with time and travel will affect your options.
4. WHEN YOU GET TO THE OTHER END, HOW CAN YOU GET AROUND? Again, take advantage of the experiences and information out there.
5. WHEN YOU GET TO YOUR DREAM DESTINATION, WHERE CAN YOU STAY, AND WHAT IS THERE TO DO? OK, so you save money on air transport with Space-A, but lodging and meals can break your budget, ... *unless* you know about the military lodging options.



Attention! Deadline for submitting news, photos, bio's, and stories for the next issue is **March 18**. Please e-mail your input to newsletter editor Al Memole at amemole1@nycap.rr.com

MOAA LEGISLATIVE GOALS FOR 2015

For those of you who do not use the Internet often or at all, and, thus, do not visit the MOAA or Chapter web sites, we reprint, below, for your benefit the list of MOAA's legislative goals for this year. The new Congress will present some opportunities and challenges. So ... *If there are goals that affect or interest you that you think the Chapter should weigh in on specifically, please let the Chapter Officers or Board of Directors know.*

RETIREMENT/SURVIVOR ISSUES

- Evaluate Military Compensation & Retirement Modernization Commission recommendations; February 2015
- Oppose military benefit changes that are inconsistent with service career sacrifices
- Preserve full-inflation cost of living adjustments (COLAs)
- End the deduction of VA disability compensation from military retired pay
- End deduction of VA Dependency & Indemnification Compensation from Survivor Benefit Plan annuities
- Implement a more equitable military disability retirement system
- Restore VA Dependency & Indemnification Compensation for spouses who remarry after age 55
- Reform the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) calculation for reservists who die performing Inactive Duty Training
- Authorize survivors to retain a deceased retiree's full final month retired pay
- Reform the Uniform Services Former Spouse Protection Act (USFSPA)


HEALTH CARE ISSUES

- Avert a 24% Medicare/TRICARE payment cut and fix the statutory formula to improve care access
- Oppose means testing of TRICARE Prime and TRICARE for Life enrollment fees
- Block the consolidation of TRICARE health plans into a single plan providing less choice
- Improve seamless transition and protect Defense and VA health budgets/programs and benefits
- Authorize the option to retain operational reservists' civilian family health insurance upon call-up
- Increase orthodontia payment cap under active duty plan
- Authorize TRICARE coverage for Applied Behavioral Analysis for active and retired members

VETERANS / OTHER ISSUES

- Eliminate VA claims backlog and improve quality, efficiency and transparency of claims processing
- Improve VA healthcare services and access for women veterans
- Extend caregiver services and support to qualifying disabled veterans of all conflicts
- Authorize pre-tax payment of health, dental, and long-term health care premiums
- Prevent disproportional Social Security and Medicare penalties for any population segment

ACTIVE / RESERVE FORCE/FAMILY ISSUES

- Ensure active duty, Guard and Reserve force sizes meet mission requirements
- Sustain military pay comparability with private sector pay as required by law
- Protect currently serving and retiree benefits from severe, arbitrary sequestration cuts
- Credit all Post-9/11 active duty service toward Guard and Reserve early retirement
- Create new incentives for employers to hire and retain drilling Guard and Reserve members
- Restore tax deductions for reservists' out-of-pocket expenses for travel of 50 miles or more
- Create new incentives for employers/government/contractors to hire military spouses
- Protect funding for commissaries, exchanges, dependent schools and family support programs
- Ensure service sexual assault and suicide prevention measures provide positive outcomes
- Improve professional licensure transferability for service members and spouses
- Require better education on the financial disadvantages of the REDUX retirement option 

OTHER NEWS

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the two previous issues, we featured a daily account by Chapter Vice President Tom Lenahan of his tour of Russia, which many of you probably enjoyed.. We ended with Day 5 of his 11-day cruise. Since the last newsletter, however, a tragic and unexpected accident in Florida put Tom's lovely wife, Nancy, in the hospital. Sadly, Nancy never recovered, and, on December 24, passed on to her Heavenly reward.

Many members consoled Tom with our presence at the wake and/or funeral. And, I know that all Chapter members will extend your sympathies, support, and prayers to Tom and his family. Tom went back to The Villages in Florida for the Winter. He plans to return to the Capital region in April. Ed and Jennifer Scheiber, and Pat and Eileen Piccirilli will be seeing Tom in Florida.

Out of respect to Tom and Nancy, we have suspended publication of the rest of their Russia cruise diary.

REMINDER: *As an honorably discharged qualified U.S. military veteran, you can have the word "Veteran" printed on the upper left hand of your NYS driver license, learner permit or non-driver photo ID card. The veteran status will be printed automatically on all of your future NYS DMV photo documents.*

- When can I apply? You may wait until you are eligible to renew your photodocument (up to 12 months prior to its expiration), *or do it now.*
- Where/How can I apply now? You may apply in person at any motor vehicles office, mail your application to DMV License Production Bureau, 6 Empire State Plaza Room 331, Albany, NY 12228, or give it Al Memole to bring to DMV☺. You *cannot* apply by phone or online.
- What do I need to apply? You need to:
 - complete and sign either your license/ID renewal application (if renewing) or license/ID application form (MV-44 - available at www.dmv.ny.gov);
 - provide one of these proofs of an honorable discharge (photocopy only, if mailing):
 - a U.S. Department of Defense Form DD-214 that indicates an honorable discharge, or
 - a form DD-215 that indicates an honorable discharge, or
 - if discharged before January 1, 1950, an Honorable Discharge form WD AGO 53, WD AGO 55, WD AGO 53-55, NAVPERS 553, NAVMC 78PD or NAVCG 553, or an "Enlisted Separation Paper."
- What does it cost? Nothing extra to add "Veteran", but if you are renewing your license or requesting *other* changes, you still have to pay the renewal and amendment fees.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

CHAPTER OFFICE	INCUMBENT	E-MAIL
President	Anthony J. Ficara, COL USA, RET	pres@cdnymoaa.org
1 st Vice President	Patrick Piccirilli, LTC USA, RET	1vp@cdnymoaa.org
2 nd Vice President	Thomas W. Lenahan, Capt USAF, RET	2vp@cdnymoaa.org
Secretary	Ralph Folger, Lt Cmdr USNR, RET	secr@cdnymoaa.org
Treasurer	Fred Ames, CW4 AUS, RET	treas@cdnymoaa.org

BOARD MEMBERS

Rocco D. Acquilano, Cmdr, USNR, RET	Ernest Bebernitz, MAJ USA, RET
Martin Leukhardt, RAdm USNR, RET	Thomas Magliocca, CWO2 USCGR, RET
Charles Marshall, CWO4 USNR, RET	Alfred M. Memole, LTC USA, RET
Ronald Neaton, Capt USNR, RET	William Potts, CW4 AUS, RET
Edmund M. Scheiber, Jr., Lt Col USAF, RET	

Luncheon Reservation Form

Date: **February 8, 2015** Location: **Edison Club, Rexford, NY**

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

Menu Choices: Flat Iron Steak Chicken Alexander Stuffed Sole

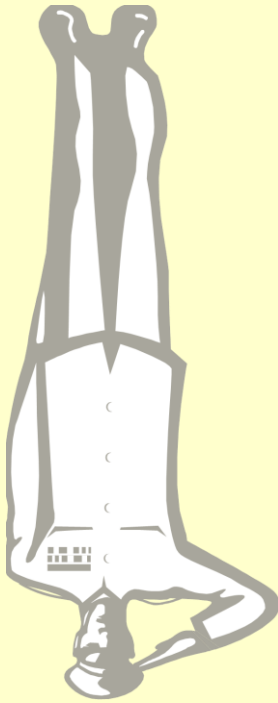
Price: \$30.00 per person *(Please make checks payable to: NYS-CDC.)*

Pay Chapter dues for 2015 by adding \$15.00 to your total.

If you not up to date with your dues, please add \$15 for each year you owe.

Send reservation form and check to: **Rocco Acquilano** (phone: 477-5435)
Please make your reservation Not 14 Rugby Road
Later Than Wednesday, February 4. East Greenbush NY 12061-2110

	Qty	Menu Item
Your name: _____	Choices:	_____ Flat Iron Steak
Number of persons attending: _____		_____ Chicken Alexander
		_____ Stuffed Sole



STILL SERVING



New York State Capital District Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
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Guilderland, NY 12084

