

# CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER, NEW YORK MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Volume 7, Issue 6

November 2016

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4-Star Chapter - 2015 & 2009



## A HOLIDAY SEASON MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

We are in the time of year for giving thanks for many things and for enjoying friends and family. It is also a time for giving. It is my sincerest hope that you are well and able to enjoy this great season. I want to thank each of you for your service to the country and your continuing service to all service personnel by your membership in MOAA generally and this chapter in particular.

Those of you who attend chapter meetings are well aware of the camaraderie that is abundantly available at each meeting; those who do not attend meetings do not realize what you are missing.

*Please remember that at this December's meeting we are not doing the traditional exchange of "grab bag" gifts. Instead we are collecting toys for "Toys for Tots".* The local organization has a goal this year to collect 150,000-200,000 toys. They distribute one toy to each child within our region who would otherwise not be receiving anything for Christmas. The age groups in which they usually have a shortfall are toddler to three years old, and eleven years and up, for both boys and girls. The toys need to be new, unopened, and unwrapped, meaning no Christmas or gift wrapping.

Last year we became a fund raising group for "**Wreaths Across America**" for the Gerald Solomon National Cemetery. We did this at a fairly late time and still were responsible for 39 wreaths. This year, I have set a goal of 60 wreaths. There were a total of 2100 wreaths donated for 13,000 graves of American Service personnel last year. I personally plan to spend a real long time there when the time comes. I would hope that by then there are enough wreaths donated that every site gets a wreath. We have chosen an option that for every two wreaths donated by an individual we donate an additional wreath. If you go to the "Wreaths Across America" site and put in our agency code NY0087 in the location search, we will receive credit for your donation. (*See page 4.*) The wreaths will be placed after a ceremony at noon on 17 December. Please consider participating in this event it gives a rewarding feeling for having done it.

This year we have been collecting items for "**Books for the Troops**". These items are sent to deployed troops or those in VA Hospitals. Please be generous towards these souls this time of year. The items of interest, in addition to books, are DVDs and CDs in their original jacket, games and decks of cards. Also, the "**Stride**" **Winter Snowfest Welcome Banquet** will be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy, so mark your calendars.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your Chapter President for the past year! I look forward to serving you in the upcoming year! *Happy, Healthy, and Safe Holidays!*

*Skip Bebernitz* 📧

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## CHAPTER HAPPENINGS



### ANNUAL MEETING AND CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY PARTY – Sunday **DECEMBER 11**, 1300 - 1600 hours at the **Edison Club, Rexford, NY**



*[The luncheon reservation form is on page 5.]*

We hope to see all of our Chapter members at our annual business meeting. If you haven't come in a while, or if you've never attended a meeting, this is a great time to connect with your fellow military officers and spouses. We'd love to meet you.



We are *not* doing our usual Christmas gift grab bag this year. The grab bag was fun, but this year, we want to do something different and special to support the children of our greater community and help the few, the proud, the Marines. So please bring along a new, unopened, and unwrapped toy, as Skip requested in his message on page 1, for **Toys for Tots**. The Edison Club is generously helping out on this, too.

And, while in the giving mood, let's not forget those still serving. Please bring along soft-covered books, puzzle books, automatic pencils or markers, DVD's (with plastic cover), CD's, board games (with all pieces and directions in a box in good condition), playing cards, dice, small dictionaries, coloring books and crayons for the **Books for the Troops** program.

**REMINDER:** Please get your reservation and payment to CHRIS COSTIGAN NOT LATER THAN Wednesday morning **December 7**. 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.

### CHAPTER NEWS

- At our **last meeting in October**, we were treated to two highly inspirational talks. The first was given by retired USMC Gunnery Sergeant, Albert Roman, who made a strong pitch on behalf of Toys for Tots. The main speaker was Dr. Kevin Kiley, MG US Army (Ret), 41st Army Surgeon General, and Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Albany Medical Center, who gave a fascinating presentation on leadership. Our thanks to both for the motivation! Hoo-rah and hoo-ah!
- **Congratulations** to our own **Dave Erickson**, MAJ, USA, Ret. For his tireless efforts to launch the JROTC program at Albany High School, he was selected **Grand Marshal for the Albany Veterans Day Parade**.
- The Chapter received the 2015 Communications Award pin for our MOAA streamer, similar to the one pictured on the right.
- Don't forget about the placement of wreaths at the Gerald B. Solomon National Cemetery on **December 17** at noon as part of Wreaths Across America. All volunteers are welcome.
- Oh yeah! **Time again to pay our annual dues** (\$15) for 2017. You may include the dues with your dinner reservation.
- Planning has been underway for our Chapter to host the **2017 NYS Council of Chapters Annual Convention** again at Lake George. Other chapters will be pitching in to help us, but we encourage all of you chapter members and spouses to help as well.



**January 24** 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 [amemole1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:amemole1@nycap.rr.com)

**CHAPTER NEWS** *(continued)*

- We **still need volunteers** to lead or help our efforts in Public Relations, Transition Assistance, and Surviving Spouse Liaison. Spouses are welcome to participate.

**Proposed Schedule of Chapter Meetings for 2017**

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

- Feb 12
- Apr 2
- Jun 11
- Oct 15
- Dec 10

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

- Jan 28
- Aug 12 *(Lake George - tentative)*
- Nov 4

**MOAA NEWS**

- December 31 will mark the end of MOAA’s funding support for the 2016 gold bar recruiting program and the **ROTC/Junior ROTC** (JROTC) medal support program. For a long time, MOAA has been paying for all costs associated with these annual programs. However, beginning in January 2017, national MOAA no longer will fund these programs and will not offer gold bar incentives as part of the 2017 Chapter Recruiting Program.

Councils and chapters that wish to do so may fund these programs on their own. After January 1, chapters will be able to purchase ROTC and JROTC medals and gold bars through MOAA’s website. These items will be sold to chapters a la carte rather than as a set. Certificates to accompany ROTC/JROTC medals and Gold Bars will be available as a downloadable PDF form at no cost to chapters.

Our chapter has offered medals for both ROTC and JROTC programs, and Gold Bars for newly commissioned officers. If we wish to continue to

support those programs, we will have to provide the funding. **What is your opinion?**

- *What do you say when someone asks you what MOAA does?* Check out the video **"Why MOAA"** on the MOAA website at <http://www.moaa.org/> and share it with officers you know.
- Council & Chapters Operational "Snap Shot" – Did you know there are ...
  - 34 councils, 409 chapters and 16 satellites,
  - Two new chapters; four new satellites,
  - a new virtual/web based Affiliate (April 2016),
  - 2,000 new chapter members (as of 14 Oct),
  - 390 local Legislative chairs/liasons,
  - 279 Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) accounts,
  - 276 chapter membership roster submissions, and
  - 122 Communications Award Winners *(of which we are one)*?



*The New York State contingent + two at the MOAA national meeting in October; Skip Bebernitz standing, second from the right next to ADM Doran*

# WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA™

## Our chapter is a fundraising sponsor of 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 beyond.”



The price of one 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 group code is **NY0087**.

The wreaths that we purchase will be placed at the Gerald B. Solomon National Cemetery in Schuylerville on **Dec 17**. If you would like to attend the ceremony and assist in placement of the wreaths, it starts at 12 noon.

PLEASE HELP BY SHARING OUR WREATHS PAGES.



929 of 13,100 Wreaths  
Sponsored  
7% to Goal  
318 Views  
10 Shares

### GERALD B. SOLOMON SARATOGA NATIONAL CEMETERY (NYGSNS)

Remember. Honor. Teach. On 12/17/2016, we will place wreaths on veteran gravestones at Gerald B. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery. Please click the red “Donate” button to help us purchase enough wreaths to cover our location. Also, please click “Volunteer” if you would like to participate in the wreath laying ceremony on 12/17/2016. If you would prefer to donate to a local fundraising group, click the “View” button next to the group below. Thank you so much for your support!

1. Donate

2. Volunteer


3. View Ceremony Details

#### VOLUNTEER TO PLACE WREATHS

|                           |
|---------------------------|
| Kenneth and Susan Nutting |
| Debra LaMay               |
| Laurie Spear              |
| Mike and Angela Nikolaus  |
| Deanna Johnson            |
| Barry Hendrickson         |

#### DONATE THROUGH A GROUP

|   |  |
|---|--|
| New York State Capital District Chapter MOAA (NY0087)<br>13 Views<br>1 Shares | <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; margin-right: 5px;">Donate</div> <div style="background-color: #ccc; padding: 2px 5px; margin-right: 5px;">View</div> |
| Patriot Guard Riders of Eastern NY (NY0057)<br>8 Views<br>1 Shares            | <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; margin-right: 5px;">Donate</div> <div style="background-color: #ccc; padding: 2px 5px; margin-right: 5px;">View</div> |
| Scrapbooking Divas (NY0110)   |  |



KEEP THE TOP HALF OF THIS PAGE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

CHAPTER OFFICERS

| CHAPTER OFFICE                 | INCUMBENT                             | E-MAIL             |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| President                      | Ernest "Skip" Bebernitz, MAJ USA, RET | pres@cdnymoaa.org  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President | Christopher J. Costigan, CDR USN, RET | 1vp@cdnymoaa.org   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President | Emanuel "Manny" Biondi, MAJ USA, RET  | 2vp@cdnymoaa.org   |
| Secretary                      | Ralph Folger, LCDR USNR, RET          | secr@cdnymoaa.org  |
| Treasurer                      | Fred Ames, CW4 USA, RET               | treas@cdnymoaa.org |

BOARD MEMBERS

|   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Anthony J. Ficara*, COL USA, RET            |                                   |
| Rocco D. Acquilano, CDR, USNR, RET          | Thomas W. Lenahan, Capt USAF, RET |
| Martin Leukhardt**, RADM USNR, RET          | Charles Marshall, CWO4 USNR, RET  |
| Alfred M. Memole, LTC USA, RET              | Ronald Neaton**, CAPT USNR, RET   |
| Edmund M. Scheiber, Jr.**, Lt Col USAF, RET |                                   |

\* Immediate Past-President

\*\* Former President

## Luncheon Reservation Form

Date: **December 11, 2016**

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**, 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, Dec 7.

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.*

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

Wednesday, December 7 - Pearl Harbor 75th Anniversary Remembrance Day Observance

Saturday, January 7 - Battle of Bataan 75th Anniversary Commemoration

Friday, January 13 - Battle of the Atlantic 75th Anniversary Commemoration

### **MOAA NATIONAL CALL TO ACTION:**

Send your legislators a MOAA-suggested message, urging them to make sure Congress passes a final FY 2017 Defense Authorization Bill before the lame duck session adjourns. - See more at: [Pay, Manpower, TRICARE, and SBP](#)

**MESSAGE FROM MOAA:** The *MOAA Military Family Initiative (MMFI)* is one of a select group of charities partnering with Veterans Call, a new online tool that allows supporters to make a \$5 or \$10 monthly donation to the MMFI without using their credit card. Just go to [www.moaa.org/foundation](http://www.moaa.org/foundation) and click on the Veterans Call icon. After providing very limited contact information, click submit and \$5/\$10 will be added to your cell phone bill each month. Your donation helps more than 50,000 military families each year with their urgent career development needs, such as career transition, military spouse career development and financial education. Thank you for your support and for your commitment to never stop serving!

### **Traveling Space-A to Europe?**

The State Department recommends that your passport have at least six months' validity remaining, if you plan to visit any of the 26 European countries in the Schengen area for short-term tourism, a business trip, or in transit to a non-Schengen destination. So check the expiration date on your passport carefully before traveling to Europe. Your passport must be valid for at least three months beyond your intended date of departure. For details see [Schengen-fact-sheet](#)

