

CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER, NEW YORK MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Volume 11, Issue 4, July-August 2020



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New York State Capital District Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
PO Box 373
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Chapter – 2017 & **2018**



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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- CANCELED EVENTS, p. 1
- CHAPTER HAPPENINGS, pp. 2-3
- MOAA ADVOCACY NEWS, pp. 3-4
- LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO? p. 5
- BOOK REVIEW: THE SWAMP FOX, p. 5
- OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS, p. 6
- SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING MEETINGS, p. 6

STILL NOT HAPPENINGS

THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING/LUNCHEON
SCHEDULED FOR
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 IS CANCELED!!



AND

THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS 48th
ANNUAL CONVENTION IS CANCELED

The officers and directors of our Chapter gave serious consideration to holding the October meeting as planned, but the persistence of the corona virus in New York State convinced us to cancel the meeting. We felt that the gathering would pose an unnecessary risk, given the median age of our most active members. On top of that, we still have not found a suitable substitute venue for the Edison Club - but that is another matter.

The Council leadership also had to make a very tough decision *to cancel the face to face convention*. The concern again is the health of attendees; the majority being in the high risk bracket based on age alone. *Instead, the Council will hold its annual business meeting using Zoom, on a date TBD.* More info will follow. Attendees are invited to enjoy Baileys during the Zoom meeting!

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

HIGHLIGHTED CHARITY for this issue → VETERANS MIRACLE CENTER

The Veterans Miracle Center (VMC) offers Veterans and Active-Duty Military Personnel “real solutions that will enhance their lives.” VMC strives to provide clothing, personal care and hygiene products, houseware items, ambulatory equipment, toys for children, etc. free-of-charge to veterans and their immediate household. To receive services from the VMC, *military and veterans must make appointments and present their current military ID or DD214.*

The VMC always welcomes volunteers, Mon-Fri 9-5. Special volunteer nights are also available, and if they can set up a special time for any group that would like to come and volunteer, Please call VMC to set up a time to volunteer at 518.486.8398 or email them at info@vmcalbany.org

Chapter News and other items of interest

- **CHAPTER OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS.** The Board meeting scheduled originally for August 12 has been moved tentatively to Saturday, September 12, and will be a “virtual” meeting in WebEx format. Officers and Board members corresponded on the decision to cancel the October luncheon meeting. Also, due to the complications of trying to form a nominating committee for Chapter Officer and Board candidates, the Board has asked current Chapter Officers/Board Members to retain their positions for 1 year until a formal Nominating Committee can be formed next year.
- **FUTURE DINNER MEETINGS.** COVID restrictions won’t last forever (we hope), so we must use this time to identify suitable venues for our general membership meetings. Again, we ask all members to suggest options. The venues must ...
 - Be centrally located in the Capital Region: roughly southern Saratoga, eastern Schenectady, central-eastern Albany, or western Rensselaer counties.
 - Accommodate up to 40 people comfortably (and safely) and apart from the public or other parties;
 - Accept reservations (so we don’t get bumped);
 - Have ample parking and be accessible to older and disabled persons;
 - Be clean;
 - Consistently serve delicious food, with options for beef, chicken, seafood, and vegetarian dishes;
 - Charge a reasonable price, preferably around \$30 per person including gratuities;
 - Have friendly and responsive service;
 - Have flexibility for accommodating last-minute changes.
 - Other considerations:
 - Access to bar and/or hot beverages
 - Attractive ambience
 - A la carte pay-as-you-go option in lieu of set meals



- **R.I.P. WILFRED C. “BILL” BAUMANN, LTC USA (Ret.).** Bill’s obituary appeared in the Albany Times Union on August 23, announcing that he passed away at St. Peter’s Hospital on August 18, at the age of 91. He was born in the Big Apple in 1929, served in the Army from 1952 to 1971, and then worked for the Post Office locally until 1999! Bill was an active member of our Chapter for many years until he moved in with his daughter Diane in Jaffrey, New Hampshire in 2017. He was an all-around great guy, jovial and personable. *Members are invited to share their memories of Bill in our next couple of issues.* [See appeal below.]



September 25 is the deadline for submitting news articles, photos, bio’s, book reviews, or stories for the *next* issue. Because so many events and activities have been canceled, news items have been very hard to find of late. **Yet, every Chapter member is a potential reporter.** If you know of a military or veteran event in our area, have a “war story” to tell, a “shout-out” highlighting a volunteer helping veterans, or a review praising or panning a military-themed movie or book, please e-mail your input to newsletter editor Al Memole at ammmemole@gmail.com. **Sharing useful and interesting information among members is much needed during this time of limited interpersonal contact.**

MOAA ADVOCACY NEWS

Since March, Federal, State, and municipal governments, as well as private businesses and organizations have either canceled or have placed restrictions on public gatherings. MOAA is no exception, but that doesn’t mean that MOAA has ceased its persistent campaign to preserve military compensation and benefits. You can read about it in the Military Officer magazine and on the MOAA website at www.moaa.org. MOAA is still pressing Congress on unresolved issues. The House and Senate have passed versions of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The NDAA conference committee is now trying to arrive at a compromise. Any compromise will still be subject to debate prior to acceptance by both houses of Congress. Below is a summary of the situation, as reported by the MOAA website:

- **SUCCESSSES.** The House and Senate version both propose a 3% military pay raise for FY 2021. The "Safe to Report" sexual harassment and assault program, which protects service members who make a report, has made it to conference. And, both houses have provisions to repeal the 180-day waiting period required for recent retirees who apply for DoD civilian positions.
- **UNRESOLVED.**
 - Right now, sections 715 and 716 of the House NDAA (H.R. 6395) provide the needed legislation to ensure transparency and congressional oversight for both military treatment facility restructuring and proposed medical billet cuts. These provisions establish a process to ensure that any changes to military health care promote the best interests of beneficiaries and military readiness.
 - Section 633 of the House NDAA draft would require DoD to update its Business Case Analysis to address Government Accountability Office concerns regarding the DoD’s planned consolidation of Commissaries and Exchanges. MOAA supports reform to improve quality of service and efficiency of business operations, but *not* at the expense of their contributions to vital quality-of-life programs.

Continued on page 4

- Section 1090B of the Senate NDAA version (S. 4049) would add three “presumptives” - bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinson’s-like symptoms - to the federal list of conditions linked to exposure to Agent Orange. If passed in the final compromise bill, it would extend crucial care and benefits to tens of thousands of Viet Nam veterans.
- Section 613 of the House NDAA version addresses the Fair Hazardous Duty Incentive Pay (HDIP) for the Reserve Component. Although both active and reserve components have the same standards for specialty codes qualifying for HDIP, Reserve Component members receive only 1/30th of the monthly HDIP when they perform duty. All who meet the same standards should be paid at the same rate.
- And ... the fight for Concurrent Receipt continues, as it is not addressed in this session’s NDAA.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO?

U.S. GRANT COTTAGE STATE HISTORIC SITE is open, but at a reduced occupancy capacity. Only 8 vehicles are allowed onsite at one time.

Open Labor Day through November 1, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays only. Gates open at 9:30 a.m. and close at 4 p.m.

Guests are free to walk the grounds and visit the overlook, but entrance to the Cottage is by guided tour only. Tours are limited to members of the same household or party with a maximum of 4 individuals per tour. Booking your tour prior to your visit is highly recommended. Tours begin at 10 a.m. and start every 30 minutes with the last tour of the day at 3:30 p.m. (Tours MUST arrive 15 minutes prior to their Tour start time.) Masks are required indoors at all times.

Admission (Tours of the Cottage): Adults: \$9; Seniors (62 & up): \$7; Ages 17 & under: \$5; Children under 6: FREE; Veterans & Active Military: FREE w/ I.D. Tickets may be purchased online.

2020 USMA (West Point) FOOTBALL SCHEDULE [Schedule is subject to change.]

<u>DATE/TIME</u>	<u>OPPONENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TELEVISED</u>
Sep 5/1:30 p.m. ET	MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE	HOME	CBS Sports Network
Sep 12/1:30 p.m. ET	LOUISIANA-MONROE	HOME	CBS Sports Network
Sep 19/3:30 p.m. ET	BYU	HOME	CBS <u>Television Network</u>
<i>Sep 26 /TBD</i>	<i>CINCINNATI</i>	<i>away</i>	<i>TBD</i>
Oct 3/1:30 p.m. ET	ABILENE CHRISTIAN	HOME	CBS Sports Network
Oct 10/1:30 p.m. ET	THE CITADEL	HOME	CBS Sports Network
Oct 17/1:30 p.m. ET	UTSA	<i>away</i>	<i>CBS Sports Network</i>
Oct 24/1:30 p.m. ET	MERCER	HOME	CBS Sports Network
Nov 7/11:30 a.m. ET	AIR FORCE	HOME	CBS <u>Television Network</u>
<i>Nov 14/TBD</i>	<i>TULANE</i>	<i>away</i>	<i>TBD</i>
Nov 21/1:30 p.m. ET	GEORGIA SOUTHERN	HOME	CBS Sports Network
Dec 12/3:00 p.m. ET	NAVY	Philadelphia, PA	CBS <u>Television Network</u>

Fan attendance at the first two games of the season, Sept. 5 and Sept. 12 will be limited to just the Corps of Cadets. Attendance at future games will be decided at a later date.

SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Due to projects interrupted by COVID-19, the Visitor Center remains closed until projects are completed. Historic facilities in the park (Schuyler House, Saratoga Monument, & Neilson House) also remain closed. **But, the Tour Road is open to vehicles between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily**. Saratoga National Historical Park grounds remain open for pedestrians and cyclists daily between sunrise and sunset. There is no access to water on the grounds, so please plan accordingly!

BOOK REVIEWS

THE SWAMP FOX: How Francis Marion Saved the American Revolution

Author: John Oller, © 2016

Publisher: Da Capo Press, New York, NY; 244 pp.

Reviewed by: Al Memole, LTC Military Intelligence, USA Retired

For the record, I did NOT read and review this book to challenge the historical conclusions of the book on the battles of Saratoga reviewed by my cousin Vince in the last issue of this newsletter. I ordered The Swamp Fox as a spur of the moment decision when I needed *one* more online purchase from Barnes & Noble to qualify for free shipping, cheapskate that I am. I had no expectations, but this book proved to be far more interesting than I thought it would be when I ordered it.

What attracted me to get the book were my fond memories of the Walt Disney series production of “The Swamp Fox” that premiered in October 1959. Leslie Nielsen starred in the title role. I was enthralled by the series as an impressionable first-grader, and still remember the Swamp Fox song. Since then, I had not read or learned anything more about this supposed hero of the American Revolution, and I was keen to know whether the Disney series depicted the man and the events accurately. It did, somewhat, with some theatrical license. The real Swamp Fox was more complex and interesting, and his exploits more impressive.

The Francis Marion as described by his contemporaries was not at all like his bigger-than-life caricature portrayed with swagger by Leslie Nielsen. In appearance, unimpressive, in comportment, serious and calm, yet he commanded the respect of all who knew him, and proved to be a first-rate leader. He joined the Continental Army at the outset of hostilities in 1775 and helped to liberate his native South Carolina. However, after the British lost at Saratoga (unquestionably THE turning point of the rebellion), they opted for a ‘southern strategy’ with the aim of retaking their colonies from Georgia to Virginia or beyond, which they hoped would force the rebels in the north to negotiate a settlement.

After taking Savannah in December 1778 and defending it the following year, the British took Charleston, SC, in May 1780 and prepared to move north. From that time, over the next two years, Marion led a volunteer militia force throughout the lowlands of northeast South Carolina that harassed and frustrated the royal forces and Tories. His small force took lives and supplies and gained the allegiance of former foes. The British and their Tory allies could not pin them down, and often couldn’t even find them. It was one of his chief opponents, the dashing cavalry officer Banastre Tarleton, who called Marion a fox, after giving up chase. Many years later, a fawning biographer added the adjective “Swamp” to enhance the aura of Marion’s reputation.

Marion was only one of three patriot commanders in South Carolina, but he was by far the most persistent aggravation for the British. The British fared quite well against Greene and the Continental Army, but their advance into North Carolina slowed to a crawl due to constant rear area threats and losses of vital supplies. They had to keep redeploying assets to try to pacify South Carolina. Author John Oller, though a lawyer and journalist, did not openly build a case, in lawyerly fashion, to prove that Marion saved the American Revolution. He simply recounted the history with clarity, candor, and the passion of a story-teller, and let the truth make the case. Oller did an enormous amount of research (80 pages of endnotes; a selected bibliography of 13 pages). His account embellished nothing. He was forthright about Marion’s encounters with Cherokees and his ownership of slaves, for several of whom he showed great care. But, the distinguishing characteristic that set Marion apart from guerrilla force commanders throughout history was his respect for and humane treatment of defeated enemies. He had his flaws, but his contribution to our nation’s independence deserves proper recognition.



CHAPTER OFFICERS

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VACANT	Edmund M. Scheiber, Jr.***, Lt Col USAF, RET

* Immediate Past-President ** Former President

2020 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON MEETING DATES and GUEST SPEAKERS

Oct 4 IS CANCELED

Dec 13 @ TBD – Christmas/Holiday Luncheon and Annual Business Meeting

DON'T FORGET: If you know some establishments that meet the criteria listed in a side bar earlier in this newsletter, please let one of the Officers or Board members know!

NEVER STOP SERVING

2020 Board of Directors Meetings

September 12 (tentative) – *Online/Virtual*

Nov 7 – 1000 hrs, (location TBD)