

CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER, NEW YORK MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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4-Star Chapter – 2019
5-Star 2017 & 2018



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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.

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

OUR NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON MEETING IS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1330 - 1600 hours at THE RIPE TOMATO AMERICAN GRILL RESTAURANT at 2721 Route 9, Malta (between exits 12 & 13, I-87)



Ripe Tomato restaurant photo from their website

We are trying out a new venue!! The Ripe Tomato American Grill Restaurant is able to accommodate us for lunch in a private room. They are offering a choice from three entrees: **Yankee Pot Roast** (apologies to Red Sox, Blue Jays and Mets fans), **Chicken Parmigiana**, and **Salmon Florentine** (apologies to Cremonese and Bologna soccer fans). The menu includes *mixed green salad, rolls, coffee/tea, and dessert*. Social “hour” will actually be a half-hour, starting at 1330 hours until the meal is served at 1400 hours. The shortened time for socializing gives the restaurant staff time to clear out some of the Sunday brunch crowd. At this time, we do not have a confirmed guest speaker, but we are working on it.

The ambience at Ripe Tomato could be described as “rustic”; certainly not as upscale as the Edison Club. (Of course, the same might be said of some of us.)

Continued on Page 2

We think the Ripe Tomato will deliver, but going forward, we will continue to search out other possible venues for future luncheons. If anybody has suggestions, please let our Program Committee (Chris Costigan, Skip Bebernitz, or Rocco Acquilano) know.

REMINDER: *If you plan to attend our luncheon meeting, please get your reservation and, preferably, your payment to Treasurer AL MEMOLE NOT LATER THAN Saturday, October 2nd. The restaurant needs a final count and meal selection a week in advance of our meeting. If you plan to pay "at the door," please at least send Al your reservation by the due date. Thanks!*

The last scheduled luncheon for 2021 is our annual **Christmas/Holiday Party and Business Meeting, December 12** at a venue TBD. We will be voting to elect Chapter Officers and Board of Directors members. The next issue of this newsletter will contain a list of the nominees/

HIGHLIGHTED CHARITY for this issue → WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA™

Our Chapter supports Wreaths Across America™ (WAA), a 501(c)(3) corporation whose mission is to **Remember, Honor, and Teach** Americans of all ages about the sacrifices made by those who served our nation in her Armed Forces. Every December, on a designated Saturday before Christmas, WAA coordinates the laying of wreaths on veterans' graves at Arlington National Cemetery and at veterans' cemeteries in all 50 states. This year's wreath laying event will be held nationwide on Saturday, **December 18**.



Locally, our Chapter is promoting wreath sponsorship for the *Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery*, 200 Duell Rd, Schuylerville, NY 12871. There are 14,100 veteran graves there, and, as of September 21, a total of 2,953 wreaths sponsored. *11,147 more wreaths are needed!*



We urge all Chapter members to get your families and friends to sponsor wreaths through our Chapter. You may sponsor one or more wreaths by mailing your payment along with the form on page 3 of this newsletter to WAA at their Maine address, *or*, following the instructions on

page 4 of this newsletter, through the WAA website at <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>. The cost to sponsor a single wreath is \$15. Our Chapter's WAA group code is **NY0087P**. In return for our efforts, our Chapter gets a small percentage of the total dollar amount donated through our group. This revenue, in addition to annual dues, helps to keep our Chapter solvent and able to donate to other worthy local causes. **Currently, a memorial ceremony is planned at the cemetery on December 18 at 12:00 pm prior to laying wreaths.** *We encourage everyone to attend the ceremony and help place wreaths on gravesites, if you are able.* This is a very moving and uplifting community event, as those of us who have attended in the past can attest!

November 14 is the deadline for submitting **news articles, photos, bio's, book reviews, or stories** for the *next* issue. If you know of a military or veteran event in our area, have a "war story" to tell, a "shout-out" for 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 ammemole@gmail.com. THANKS!



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

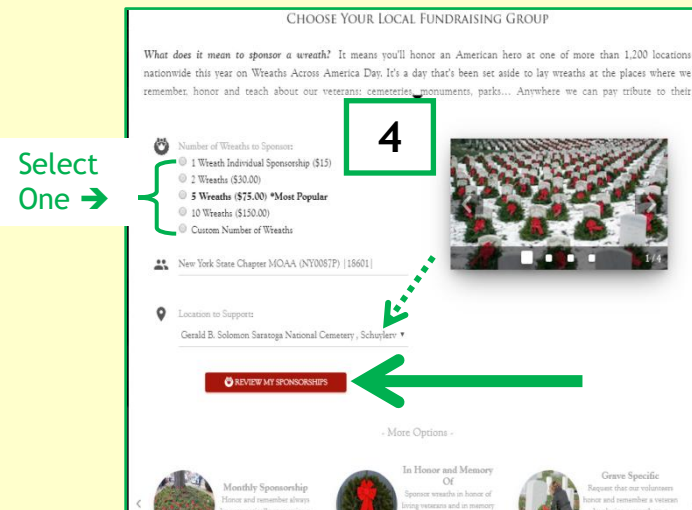
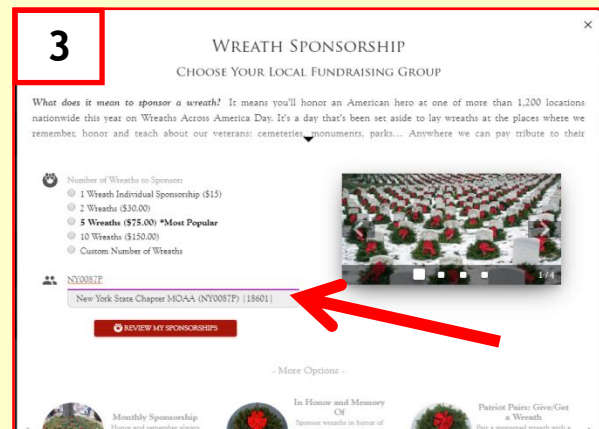
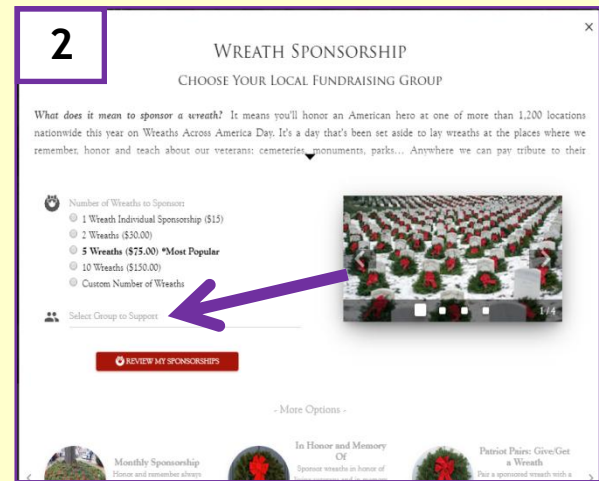
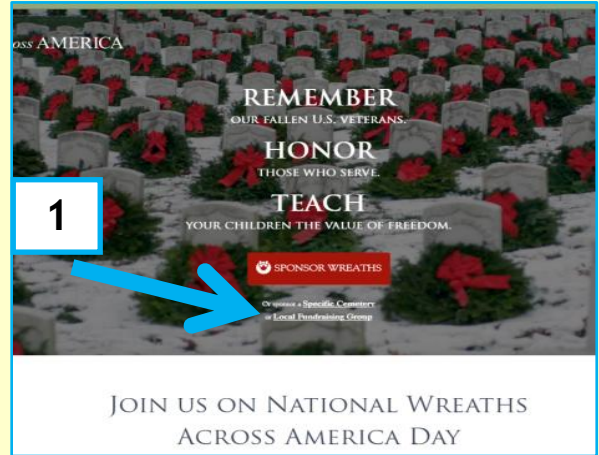
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

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) (18601)” will appear *below* the space.
4. Click on “New York State Chapter MOAA (NY0087P) (18601)” The location “Gerald B. Solomon National Cemetery, Schuylerville” will appear below, to confirm you have the correct fundraising organization. *Select the number of wreaths you wish to sponsor*, and click on the red “Review of Sponsorships” button to be able to complete the transaction.



Chapter News and other local items of interest

- **LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT.** (submitted by Pat Piccirilli)

The latest step in the **FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)** process offers a clearer picture of what MOAA priorities will make the bill's final version, what fights will continue in upcoming sessions, and where MOAA needs your help in pressing legislators to include much-needed reforms. Now that both the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) and the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) have passed their respective versions of the legislation, the bills will be voted on in each chamber. However, no dates have been released for when these votes will take place.

The coming weeks and months will be critical as key legislators work to pass this pivotal piece of legislation. Floor amendments and a conference to resolve differences between the House and Senate versions of the NDAA are the next steps for this bill in the legislative process. MOAA will continue to engage with Congress as the NDAA moves forward and will provide our members with important updates via **The MOAA Newsletter** and **MOAA.org**. Here is a list of what was dropped and what was retained in the current version of the NDAA.

What's In

NEVER STOP SERVING

- Pay raise of 2.7%
- Basic Needs Allowance which was a MOAA Advocacy Action item earlier this year
- Reserve Component pay parity
- Halt in the reduction of medical billets
- Arlington National Cemetery issue to require a joint report as to the next National Cemetery
- Parental leave and child care
- Military Justice reform
- Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) open season to be established for certain beneficiaries
- Selective Service enrollment for women

What's Out, for Now

- **Concurrent Receipt:** The Major Richard Star Act, a piece of concurrent receipt legislation supported by more than half the Senate and nearly 120 House members, is a pending NDAA floor amendment. Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-Fla.) are expected to propose the Star Act as an amendment; contact your lawmakers and ask them to support this effort.
- **TRICARE Young Adult:** Legislation that would expand TRICARE eligibility to young adult dependents up to age 26 (military kids lose TRICARE coverage at age 21 or 23 if a full-time college student.) to bring TRICARE in line with commercial plans, another of MOAA's Advocacy in Action topics, did not make it into the SASC or HASC bills.
- **CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DUES.** Annual Chapter dues are **\$30**. We are up to **33** members who have paid dues for 2021. (Last year, 40 members paid.) Remember that Our Chapter now offers **THREE** options to pay annual dues: (1) Include your payment as part of your luncheon reservation or pay at the door when you attend a luncheon; (2) Mail a check, *payable to NYS CDC MOAA*, either directly to Treasurer, Al Memole, at 8 Rose Lane, Rensselaer, NY 12144, or to our Chapter PO Box in Waterford; and *now* (3) **Pay by credit or debit card online through the MOAA website**

2021 Board of Directors Meetings

Nov 13 (Times and Location TBD)

• **PROPOSED POSSIBLE POST PANDEMIC PLACES TO VISIT – AFTER-ACTION REPORT** (contributed by Editor, Al Memole)

Our previous issue included an article by member and past president, **Skip Bebernitz**, suggesting a list of interesting places to visit in and around the Capital District. Skip encouraged everyone to get out of the house and enjoy life again. So, in August, Mary & I picked one that we had “gone to in the past” two years ago with our grown children and grandchildren (and “why not go again?”): **The Aquarium at the Rotterdam Mall**, and nearby **Dino Land**. The Aquarium is phenomenal and all of us love going there. It’s the epitome of learning while having fun. They have a huge variety of aquatic animals, well-designed displays, and a large activity room. We enjoy seeing the kids get so excited.

You can actually pet a variety of sting rays as they swim by (their stingers have been removed), feed/touch/lose a finger to a bazillion hungry koi, *toss kids into a shark cage*, and walk (on dry pavement) through a tunnel tank with fish and sharks swimming at eye level and above you! Nice gift shop there, too. Dino Land was cool – worth a visit with kids. They had over a dozen creepy, dimly-lit displays of almost life-size animatronics prehistoric creatures (potential Chapter members?), complete with sound effects. It might have frightened our youngest grandchildren, but their older siblings were laughing and having fun. Follow Skip’s sound advice: get out, do things, and visit the Aquarium at the Rotterdam Mall!



Book Review – THE THIRD REICH AT WAR

Author: Sir Richard J. Evans, © 2008, 765 Pages

Reviewed by: Vincent Memole Jr., LTC, Infantry, USAR Retired

This was the third book in Evans’ Third Reich Trilogy, a series of books that historians the world over have nothing but praise for. This book covers the Third Reich between 1939-1945.

I chose this book due to the high praise and recommendations as a “must read book” for a pending trip to visit European Battlefields of WWII that was scheduled to take place in Sept 2020. I was interested in learning about German military operations from a German perspective; sadly that was not the case with this book. Any real operational details did not occur until page 403, and then again not until page 618, when the book focused on the last days of the war.

It took me 10 months to read this 765-page tome because of the grotesque details Evans writes about in regards to the Holocaust. As a student of history, focusing on American military history, I believed I knew most *everything* I thought I needed to know about WWII and the Holocaust.....I was wrong! The voluminous research and level of detail in his book slowed me down to reading only a few pages at a time.

My school days are way behind me and today I read for, but this book was extremely difficult to read and was not at all enjoyable. However, if anyone is interested in learning *everything* about the Third Reich, then Richard Evans’ Trilogy is truly a must-read.

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* Immediate Past-President ** Former President

Luncheon Reservation Form

Date: **OCTOBER 10, 2021**

Location: **The Ripe Tomato, Malta, NY**

Time: **1:30PM** - Social Mixer
2:00PM – Dinner

Menu Choices: *Yankee Pot Roast Chicken Parmigiana Salmon Florentine*

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

If you still owe Chapter dues for **2021**, 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 **Saturday, October 2**

Your name: _____	Choices:	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Menu Item</u>
		_____	Yankee Pot Roast
Number of persons attending: _____		_____	Chicken Parmigiana
		_____	Salmon Florentine