

NEW YORK STATE CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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.



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4-Star Chapter – 2023

5-Star Chapter: 2021, 2020, 2018 & 2017

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NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS 52nd ANNUAL CONVENTION, 15-18 SEPTEMBER

ALL ARE INVITED!

The New York State Council of Chapters (NY CoC) is pleased to announce its 52nd Annual Meeting & Convention:

WHEN: 15 September to 18 September 2024; attendance options to accommodate *your* budget and availability!

- SUPER DELUXE PACKAGE (3 nights lodging – Sun, Mon, Tue)
- DELUXE PACKAGE (2 nights lodging – Sun, Mon)
- MINI PACKAGE (1 night lodging – Mon)
- A La Carte Items: options to mix and match and attend whatever activities you can fit into your busy schedules

WHERE: The stunning **Peek’N Peak Resort** in Clymer, NY, just west of Jamestown and Chautauqua Lake (<https://www.pknpk.com>)

WHAT: Council Conventions are times of great fun and camaraderie punctuated by periods of seriousness about MOAA’s mission, Council and Chapter operations, and honoring our great nation and those who serve and have served it. Activities include ...

- Council’s annual business meeting
- Seminars on various topics from MOAA national staff members
- Both formal and casual meals, dynamic guest speakers, raffles, and our ever-popular Hospitality Room (nightly social mixer)!
- [Optional] Tours of the National Comedy Center and the Lucy & Desi Museum in Jamestown – *if you doan go, you godda lodda esplainin’ to do!*

HOW: **Complete the Registration Packet and send it with a 50% deposit by 26 June 2024**, to Norma Weissend, Genesee Valley Chapter, 4587 Ridge Rd, Canandaigua, NY 14424. Make checks payable to NYS CoC Convention 2024. The balance is due by 7 August 2024.

[Reservations received after 7 Aug 2024 will be accepted on a space-available basis. There will be no cancellations/refunds accepted after 15 August 2024 unless there are extenuating circumstances.]

[Click on this link to get the Registration Packet](#) and all the details about the NY CoC convention, including lodging options, pricing, dress, and schedules.

The NY CoC has had a long and faithful affiliation with MOAA and among our very own Chapters. Active participation in both Chapter and Council activities has been a hallmark of our dedication to promote and defend the rights of all veterans and their families.

Make it a mini-vacation!

Re-new acquaintances; make new friends; enjoy the camaraderie that we in the military community cherish; learn how being an active member of your Chapter is a force multiplier to ensure the continued support of all veterans, military members, their spouses, and their families.

HIGHLIGHTED CHARITY for this issue → Capital District Women Veterans (CDWV)

We were honored to have the founder of Capital District Women Veterans, *Christine Rem, COL USA Ret.* as a guest speaker at our June meeting a couple of years ago. We were so impressed with her dedication to helping women veterans, that we have budgeted funds from our Chapter treasury since then to support this worthy cause. *(Thanks to the dues you paid.)*



CDWV is a 501(c)(3) charitable not-for-profit organization prepared to fulfill its mission.--

“The mission is to provide supportive services, housing, and community, enabling women veterans in need to return to productive and independent roles in their communities and families. ... To accomplish this mission, CDWV is led by highly qualified women veterans with professional expertise in nursing, case management and integrative modalities necessary to address the needs of homeless women veterans.”

“CDWV services provide baseline assessments of each individual in order to:

- Identify those eligible to benefit from a supportive housing environment.*
- Identify healthcare, psychological and social needs, along with eligible services.*
- Manage scheduling, transportation, training, and employment requirements.*
- Provide a home environment with other women vets to form a supportive community.”*

For additional information on the CDWV, their needs, and activities, visit their website at:

<https://www.cdwv.org/>.

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

Chapter Earns MOAA Awards for 2023

MOAA awarded our Chapter a 4-Star Level of Excellence Award for 2023!

The award recognizes the Chapter’s accomplishments in multiple areas, including legislative advocacy, community engagement/outreach, recruiting and retention of members, leadership training and succession planning, and support to our State Council of Chapters. This is the sixth 4-Star LoE awarded to our Chapter (2009, 2015, 2016, 2019, 2022, and 2023). The 4-star level is the mid-level award, with the 5-Star LoE being the highest level. Our Chapter earned four 5-Star LoE awards in the past (2017, 2018, 2020, 2021). In the last two years, MOAA has raised the criteria for 4- and 5-Star awards, and instituted a new 3-Star LoE to encourage all chapters to become more impactful.



MOAA also awarded our Chapter two 5-Star Colonel Marv J. Harris Communications Awards: one for our awesome website (its fourth) and the other for our newsletter (its sixth). These awards recognize chapters for outstanding work in communicating with their members. **Congratulations also to our Public Relations (PR) Chief, Ed Balaban**, who succeeded in getting the Albany Times Union daily newspaper to include the announcement of our awards in its Monday May 6 edition. The write-up that Ed provided appears in the Duty Calls section by TU military/veterans correspondent, *Terry Brown!*

**Our Next Chapter Luncheon Meeting Is JUNE 9TH,
at VETERANS OF LANSINGBURGH
777 1st Avenue, Lansingburgh, Troy**

We're meeting at the outdoor Pavilion along the Hudson River, by the parking lot.

DRESS CODE: **Casual** (not scruffy!); **If it's a hot day (>=72°F)**, you may wear **shorts** (no cut-offs)

COST: **\$40 per person**

OUTDOOR COOKOUT FARE: Serve yourself, take what you like!

- BBQ Half-Chickens, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs
- Baked Potato, Corn on the Cob
- Tossed Salad w/choice of dressing (Italian, Ranch, Russian), Rolls
- Watermelon slices



(If we get a good turnout, we'll throw in Cookies for dessert, Coffee, and Tea.)

Alcoholic beverages are **not** included, *but a bar is available and you may start your own individual bar tab, or pay as you go at the bar.*

GUEST SPEAKER: **COL ALAIN FISHER, Commander, US Army Watervliet Arsenal**

PROGRAM:

1300 - 1330: *Check-in; Pay for your meal; Buy 50/50 tickets; Get drinks; Mix & mingle*

1330 - 1340: *Gather for the Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, and Prayer for deployed troops;*

1340 - 1445: *Serve ourselves, sit and eat or continue to mingle, just as we would at any outdoor cookout. Hamburgers, hot dogs, salad, rolls, potatoes, and corn on the cob will be ready at 1340. The half-chickens, and watermelon will be available around 1400.*

1445 - 1545: *Enjoy COL Fisher's presentation. After that we'll have the 50/50 drawing, and any announcements.*

1545 - 1700: *Members may leave if they wish or stay and socialize.*

RESERVATIONS: Please call or email AL MEMOLE by **Friday, May 31st**, to confirm your attendance in advance. If you prefer, you may mail the luncheon reservation form found at the [very end](#) of this newsletter, along with your payment (check) to Al, so he receives it by the due date above. We have to give the Events Coordinator an accurate count of attendees in advance, so she can purchase the right amount of food.

Be a recruiter ...

If you know former, retired, or still-serving military officers who aren't yet MOAA members or Chapter members, please invite them to join us and hand them a membership application (or send them this link): [Joint MOAA-Chapter Membership Application](#)

Chapter Meetings For 2024 – Updated

MEETING DATE & TYPE	MEETING LOCATION, NOTES
JUN 9 , Luncheon Meeting	1300-1600 hrs, Veterans of Lansingburgh pavilion on the Hudson; <i>Guest Speaker: COL Alain Fisher, Commander US Army Watervliet Arsenal</i>
<i>AUG xx, Board of Directors Meeting</i>	<i>TBD</i>
OCT 6 , Luncheon Meeting	<i>Guest Speaker: [tentative] Capt Jon Guagenti, NYANG, Transport and evacuation missions in the withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021</i>
<i>NOV 16, Board of Directors Meeting</i>	<i>TBD</i>
DEC 8 , Holiday Party-Annual Business Mtg	<i>TBD</i>

Our Last Luncheon Meeting – April 7th

We returned to the Emma Jaynes for our April meeting. *Twenty-three members and guests* filled the alcove and spilled out into the main dining area. This was the best attendance we’ve had since 2021. Once again, the food and the service were excellent. We were honored to have among the attendees **Norma Weissand, LtCol USAF Ret., from the Genesee Valley Chapter**, along with her husband Guy (former Navy). Norma is also the Vice President of the NYS Council of Chapters *and* the overall organizer for this year’s annual NYS CoC Convention at the Peek ‘N Peak resort in September. Our scheduled guest speaker was unable to attend, but we improvised a “Plan B” so smoothly that one might think we had actually planned for it! **Pat Piccirilli**, our Chapter Treasurer, also the head of our



Legislative Liaison Committee (and Council’s as well), updated us on the preparatory meetings for MOAA’s annual Advocacy in Action at the local offices of our area’s Representatives, Paul Tonko (D-20) and Elise Stefanik (R-21). He also outlined the New York State delegation’s plans for AiA in Washington, DC, in the upcoming week. Then, we imposed on **Norma** to tell us about the plans and details for the 2024 NY CoC convention that had been made up to that point. Pat and Norma delivered their impromptu talks with



professional ease, informing attendees about these two highly important MOAA events – thus, turning an apparent loss into a success!

The relevant presentations were not the only success. We were having such a great time enjoying each other’s company that, with great reluctance, we had to force ourselves to leave at the end of our reserved time to make room for supertime patrons starting to arrive. Otherwise, we would have stayed another hour or more in conversation!

PHOTOS: Above left – Pat Piccirilli describes Chapter and Council efforts in support of MOAA’s Advocacy in Action (AiA); Above right – Norma Weissand, VP of the NY CoC, invites Chapter members to this year’s NY CoC Annual Convention. (Photos by Ed Balaban)

Legislative Affairs Committee Report

(Submitted by Pat Piccirilli, Legislative Affairs Committee)

For this edition of the newsletter the legislative committee report will focus on the local and the Washington DC 2024 AiA (Advocacy in Action) efforts.

As you may know our local Congressional districts include 20 and 21. These district offices are currently held by Paul Tonko and Elise Stefanik respectively.

20th Congressional District Report: On April 3rd, Skip Bebernitz and Pat Piccirilli were joined by Congressman Tonko and his Outreach Manager at the Congressman's Saratoga Spring office. Per Skip's suggestion we started our presentation by explaining briefly what MOAA was, and MOAA's strategy for advocacy during its AIA event, and then went right into thanking him for co-sponsoring the Richard Star Act. Skip then went into the TFL issue and the Congressman wanted our confirmation that TFL should be left "as is". We reassured him that is MOAA's position. Skip and Pat then doubled teamed the Congressman and his Outreach Manager regarding the BAH Restoration issue. He wanted to know who originally sponsored that bill. He stated emphatically that "depending on the language in the bill" he would like to co-sponsor that bill as well. We spent some time discussing the topics of the MOAA scholarship and the Crisis Relief programs. We stated that we'd provide his office with additional information on these topics in the near future which we did on 4/17. In short it was an extremely productive meeting as well as being a very cordial meeting.

21st Congressional District Report: On April 2nd, Skip and Pat met with the Elise Stefanik's Director of Constituent Services and her Special Projects Coordinator in the East Greenbush office. Both staff members were cordial and took notes as Skip and Pat did their presentations. There were some probing questions concerning the BAH Restoration issue involving the projected monthly out of pocket expense (OOP) of \$373 incurred by service members as a result of the pay raise lag, the initiation of the Blended Retirement System (BRS) and the BAH cost sharing. We were assured by Stefanik's staff that all of their notes would be forwarded to the appropriate staff in the Washington DC office, including the fact that the Congresswoman has *not* co-sponsored either piece of legislation i.e. The Richard Star Act or the BAH Restoration Act. The staff were uncommitted on these points.

Washington D.C. MOAA National AiA event on 4/17/2024.

The New York State MOAA AiA endeavor was completed by three NYS Council/Chapter designees: *Skip Bebernitz, Pat Piccirilli, and Matt Sprenger* -President of the Mid-Hudson chapter, and as it turned out, two MOAA National team members: *Myles Caggins III* (MOAA Board member) and *Libby Michael* (Digital Marketing Manager and CAPT Tank Michael's daughter). Pat and Libby visited Congressman Tonko's office and gave their presentation, as well as following up with information on MOAA's Scholarship and Crisis Relief Programs. They also reminded the staff member that the Congressman stated he would co-sponsor the BAH Restoration act. Skip and Miles visited with a staff member from Elise Stefanik's office and once again pushed to have the Congresswoman co-sponsor the Richard Star Act and the BAH Restoration Act. All NYS Congressional offices as well as the two Senatorial offices were visited by the NYS MOAA teams.

NOTE: Although not a part of the AiA event, the House Committee on the Quality of Life issued a stunning report that reflects many of MOAA's quality of life advocacy issues. Please check out the link below:

[Quality of Life Panel Report Includes Several Key MOAA Advocacy Priorities](#)

Continued on next page

HOW YOU CAN HELP: *Take action here, at MOAA’s Legislative Action Center*

1. Go to <https://moaa.quorum.us/>
2. Click on the button at the top right corner of the page that says “Sign up”. You will need to create a profile. This is different from your profile on www.moaa.org since it is technically a separate website.
3. Explore the features on the site and send your legislators letters that MOAA crafted.

MOAA is NOT an organization of officers concerned *only* about officers. We are an organization of officers dedicated to protecting the earned benefits and welfare of ALL RANKS in all of the uniformed services.

Chapter Due\$ Report

A hearty *Thank You* to all of our members listed below who have paid their dues for this year:

Ed Balaban	David Erickson	Joseph Peck
Skip Bebernitz	Anthony Ficara	Patrick Piccirilli
Arthur R. Benoit	Ralph Folger	Sean Piccirilli
Emanuel Biondi	William H. Frank Jr.	Christine Richardson
Harold Brockman	Kathy Gates	Merle Schreckengost
Myles Caggins III	Laurie Gates	Carl J. Thurnau
Stephen Cipperly	Michael Golden	Thomas Walsh
Ray Clark	Al Memole	
Chris Costigan	Vincent Memole	

It bears repeating that dues are our fundamental source of revenue that enables us to meet our obligations and cover operating costs. Dues keep us going and allow us to have an impact on our communities throughout the greater Capital region.

If your name isn’t on the list above and you want to do your part – You can find instructions on how to pay dues on our Chapter website here:

https://cdnymoaa.org/?page_id=1076

Presentation of MOAA ROTC and JROTC Awards

(Submitted by Al Memole, ROTC/JROTC Awards Committee)

Our Chapter has the honor of presenting a MOAA medal and certificate to recognize the academic achievements and demonstrated leadership of *three* outstanding ROTC cadets and *four* outstanding JROTC cadets in the Capital region. Presentation ceremonies vary among ROTC and JROTC programs and take place on various dates from March through June. So far this year, we have provided or presented awards to the following cadets:

Continued on next page

- **NOLAN EMANATIAN, Christian Brothers Academy (CBA) of Albany Army JROTC program** (led by Senior Army Instructor Kirk Holmes, COL USA Ret., Chris Mansman, 1SG Ret., and Herb Reeves, SFC Ret.). Chapter President Al Memole presented the MOAA JROTC Award to Cadet Emanation at their Leadership Awards Night, 21 March 2024. Cadet Emanation also received recognition for his achievements in the JROTC Fitness team Challenge. *At right, Cadet Emanatian proudly displays his MOAA medal and certificate alongside President Al Memole; photo by Lawrence Clarke.*



- **CARA NALBANDIAN, RPI, Troy, Detachment 550, US Air Force ROTC program** (led by Lt Col Jake L. Miller, USAF, Commander, Det. 550). Chapter President Al Memole presented the MOAA ROTC award to Cadet Nalbandian at the Air Force ROTC awards ceremony held at RPI on April 24th. Cadet Nalbandian organized the Run to Remember 5k at RPI last September that benefited the NY Chapter of America's Gold Star Families. In a Change of Command ceremony held in the Armory following the awards ceremony, she took over as Cadet Commander from graduating Cadet Vincent Cimaglia (who received the MOAA award last year). *Below from left to right: Cadet Nalbandian displays her MOAA award presented by Al Memole [photo by Lawrence Clarke], AFROTC Det 550 drill team [photo by Michael Golden], New Cadet Commander, Cara Nalbandian accepts the unit guidon from Lt Col Miller [photo by Al Memole]*



- **DOMINIC SMITH, RPI, Troy, US Navy ROTC program** (led by CDR David Latta, USN, Commander) Chapter President Al Memole presented the MOAA ROTC award to Midshipman 2/C Smith at a combined NROTC awards ceremony and Change of Command at RPI on April 24th. *Below, from left to right: Commander Latta opens the ceremony [photo by Al Memole], the RPI NROTC Color Guard [photo by Michael Golden], Change of Command [photo by Al Memole], Al Memole congratulates Midshipman 2/C Smith who received the MOAA ROTC Award [photo by Michael Golden]*



- **RYAN PARKER, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), Troy, US Army ROTC Battalion** (led by LTC Luis Mejia-Roman). Cadet Parker received his MOAA award in a private ceremony.

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Chapter President Al Memole was not the only Chapter member present at RPI for the Air Force and Navy ROTC awards and change-of-command ceremonies. New Chapter member **Michael Golden** was there to present ROTC awards sponsored by The Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) as the Jr. Vice Commander for the Theodore Roosevelt Chapter MOWW New York. The MOWW is a patriotic, nonpartisan, Veterans Service Organization (VSO) dedicated to promoting patriotism, civic responsibility, public service, and leadership in our nation's communities. Membership is open to all Military Officers, like MOAA. *Below: Michael Golden with Air Force and Navy ROTC MOWW award recipients [photos by Al Memole].*



Three upcoming JROTC awards ceremonies will take place in May and June:

- May 30, 6:30 pm: La Salle Institute, Troy, NY, (Army JROTC)
- June 6, 5:00 pm: Amsterdam High School, Amsterdam, NY, (Marine Corps JROTC)
- June 7, 6:00 pm: Albany High School, Albany, NY, (Army JROTC, Sgt Henry Johnson Battalion)

Upcoming Chapter Trips & Outings

Toward the end of April we emailed out a survey to all of the Chapter members on our email list to determine the level of interest in going to upcoming events and activities as a group. (The survey also included our next three Chapter meetings in June, October, and December so we could get an idea of what the meeting attendance might be.) The survey attracted 13 responses. Based on the results for the events and activities outside of official Chapter meetings, this is what we propose to do:

- **June 10 – Capital District AUSA Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser.** With only a couple of people interested, we will leave it up to those interested to participate individually. See the registration form on *page 14*.
- **June 12 – Tour of the Purple Heart Hall of Honor**, coordinated by the MOAA Mid-Hudson Chapter. *This is an all-day event.* So far, five people total from the Chapter are interested in attending. **If you'd like to join us on the tour, contact Al Memole by June 1 (ammemole@gmail.com or 518.641.8664).**
- **June 12 – Women Veterans Recognition Day, 1pm – 4 pm at the Empire State Plaza**, sponsored by the NYS Department of Veterans' Services. We will have a table from which we will distribute information about MOAA and our Chapter, and encourage potential members to join. Chapter member *Christine Richardson* is coordinating Chapter participation in this event. **If you would like to help at the MOAA table, please contact Christine by June 2 (christinerichardson1@gmail.com).**



- **June 13 – The Prescott Foundation's 4th Annual Night on the Tarmac, 6 pm at Hangar 743.** This event is a fun fundraiser. *Only three respondents indicated an interest in attending, so we will leave it up to those interested to participate individually.* All proceeds go to preserving the very last of our country's World War II airplanes, funding and training journeymen mechanics and providing them with the experience needed to pass the FAA license exam, and to our local Veterans, to help ensure they are taken care of and respected. The night's attractions include:

- Warbird Display: meticulously restored WWII aircraft
- A Glamorous Fashion Show Coordinated by Paula McCormick
- Culinary Delights crafted by Daley on Yates, with an Open Bar
- Live and Silent Auction Items
- A guest appearance by the esteemed actor, Gianni Russo.



- **June 13 – Veterans Night at the Valley Cats, 6:30 pm at Bruno Stadium, Troy.** Seven respondents indicated an interest. Tickets are complimentary and we have a hold on 10 seats behind home plate! **If you want to attend with us, contact Al Memole by June 3 (ammemole@gmail.com or 518.641.8664)** because we need a final count to get the tickets.
- **August 30, August 31, or September 1 – NY Yankees Game (Military Appreciation weekend) at Yankee Stadium.** Four members indicated interest in the last two dates (Saturday and Sunday afternoon games). *We will solicit interest once more in July after most people have locked in their summer schedules to see if we can get a group to attend.*
- **Sep 21 - Army Football vs Rice, Michie Stadium, West Point.** Only two people showed interest, perhaps because it is so close to the NY CoC Convention. *We'll leave this event to individuals to attend.*
- **Oct 19 - Army Football vs East Carolina, Michie Stadium, West Point.** Four respondents showed interest, so *we will solicit interest again in September to see if there is still enough interest to go as a group.*

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS OF INTEREST

NYS Assembly Bill A 9900 and NYS Senate Bill S8999

Money that New York State had collected from check offs on individual income taxes that were specifically meant to help veterans within New York has been sitting in the state treasury and not a penny of it has been distributed yet to benefit veterans. State legislators are attempting to address this odd and unjust retention of taxpayer funds through identical bills drafted in each house. The bills would direct “...that moneys in the veterans' home services fund shall be payable on vouchers certified by the commissioner of veterans' services; directs a report to be submitted by such commissioner; directs that moneys in the military family relief fund shall be payable on vouchers certified by the commissioner of veterans' services.” Where they stand now: Assembly Bill A9900 was referred to the Veterans Affairs Committee on April 26, and NY Senate Bill S8999 was referred to the Senate Finance Committee on May 16. **Please contact your Assembly Representative and State Senator asking that they support the passage of this legislation.**

May 25 – The 25th Memorial Day Ceremony, Saturday, 11:00am at the Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery, 200 Duell Rd, Schuylerville

From Scott Lamb, Cemetery Director: “2024 marks the 25 th Anniversary of the Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery’s designation as our 116 th National Cemetery and the twenty-fifth Memorial Day Ceremony held on these hallowed grounds to honor our Veterans. Keynote speaker is distinguished *Ret. Lt. Col. Jamie Cox, USMC*, 1988 US Naval Academy graduate. A 20-year Marine Corps Naval Aviator Veteran, Cox flew attack helicopters in 117 combat missions with tours in Kuwait, Somalia, Haiti and Iraq. Recognized multiple times for valor in combat and Purple Heart recipient for wounds received in action in Fallujah, Iraq in 2004. Today he serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of United Way, South Bend Indiana. Memorial weekend at Saratoga National Cemetery is considered one of the most breathtaking weekends of the year. During the week youth volunteers assist in raising over 50 American flags that line the cemetery entrance, then early Saturday morning, ‘Flags In’ takes place, honoring each Veteran gravesite with full honor and a flag. So please mark your calendars, grab the kids, family and neighbors, pack the lawn chairs, camera and choose to observe this weekend for its true meaning. Plan to stay after the ceremony to view the flags and take a self-guided walking tour that highlights areas and gravesites throughout the cemetery. Maps are available at the Information Center. ... [P]lan for traffic delays. There will be plenty of parking adjacent to the Flag Pole ceremony location.”

Rensselaer County Memorial Day Events

Rensselaer County Veterans Service Agency announces the following **Memorial Day events** taking place throughout Rensselaer County:

- May 23rd: Melrose, Schaghticoke, Valley Falls, & Johnsonville Parade, line-up @6:15pm on Knickerbocker Rd in Hemstreet Park, step-off at 7pm, ends at Hemstreet Park Fire Department, where ceremony will be conducted.
- May 24th: Veterans of Lansingburgh flag placement starting at 8am at St. John’s Cemetery; volunteers to help place flags are always welcomed and appreciated.
- May 25th:
 - Veterans of Lansingburgh at Oakwood Cemetery flag placement at 9am, meet at the main flagpole and then will proceed to the Soldiers Plot.
 - East Greenbush Ceremony/Parade- Ceremony at 8:30am at the East Greenbush Reformed Church Cemetery on Hay Rd. Parade line-up (East Greenbush Bowl) at 9am – step-off at 10am ending at East Greenbush VFW #7338.
- May 26th: Rensselaer Parade, meet near Doane Stuart School parking lot (Forbes Ave. & Washington Ave. intersection) 1pm ceremony – parade step-off at 2pm.
- May 27th:
 - Sand Lake Parade, line-up at 9am (Averill Avenue) – step-off at 10am, proceed east on NY 43 to the Sand Lake Veteran’s Memorial Park, where ceremony will be conducted.
 - Hoosick Falls Parade/Ceremony- Ceremony at 8am and Parade line up at 9:30am in Wood Park, step-off at 10am.

Continued on next page

- Castleton Parade, line-up at 9am, step off at 10am at Boltwood Ave. and Seaman Ave., followed by ceremony at Mountain View.
- Ceremony at St. Nicholas Cemetery on Vandenberg Ave., Troy at 10am.
- Berlin Parade, line-up at 10:30am step-off at 11am at Maple Avenue.
- Poestenkill Parade, line-up 10am at Sullivan-Jones VFW, step-off at 11am.
- North Greenbush Parade, line-up 12:30pm at Town Hall and side streets, step-off 1:00pm.
- Troy Parade, step-off at 1pm, Knickerbacker Park to Powers Park.
- Nassau Parade, line up 1pm in the Village of Nassau near the Post Office, step-off at 2pm with reception to follow at the Chandler Young Veterans Association Post.

Rensselaer County Veterans Service Agency Upcoming Events

- **June 5:** Rensselaer County Veterans Service Agency **Open House** 4:30-6:00 pm, 99 Troy Rd, East Greenbush, Third Floor, Room 303B
- **June 10:** Rensselaer County Honor-a-Deceased-Veteran Ceremony will be held at 8:30 am in the Legislative Chambers, 99 Troy Rd, East Greenbush, to honor the *Kelly Brothers: James, Francis, William, Donald, Charles, Robert, and George.*
- **June 30:** New Age Games, 2:00 – 4:00 pm at the Indoor Gun Range, 807 Hoosick Road, Troy, NY 12180 will feature ax throwing, corn hole, darts, and other fun games for all vets. *RSVP to the Veterans Service agency at 518.270.2780 NLT June 17.*

**RENSSELAER COUNTY
VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY**

Open House

JUNE 5, 2024 | 4:30 - 6:00 PM
99 TROY RD.
EAST GREENBUSH, NY
3RD FLOOR - ROOM 303B

**FREE EVENT PROVIDING:
INFORMATION, HANDOUTS,
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WORKSHOPS (518) 270-2760

West Point Band Music Under the Stars

Check out the band's Summer 2024 schedule through our Chapter website: https://cdnymoaa.org/?page_id=928 . There are 11 performances between *June 15 and Labor Day (September 1)*.

September 14 – New York State Military Museum Trivia Night

Save the date for TRIVIA NIGHT, September 14, 2024, 5:00 to 10:00 pm at the Elks Colonial Hall, 1 Elks Lane, Saratoga Springs NY 12866. The Friends of the New York State Military Museum (one of our Chapter's annual charities) is running this event to benefit the museum. Cost is \$50 per player, and there is a maximum of 125 players allowed. Entry fee includes a buffet package and plated entrees. Contacts for this event are: Dave Cummings (518-366-4762, cummindm@aol.com) and Chapter member Mark O'Rourke (518-275-8389, mark.orourke@icloud.com).

**RENSSELAER COUNTY
VETERANS SERVICE
AGENCY**

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@
807 HOOSICK RD, TROY NY
12180

the indoor
gunrange

AX THROWING,
CORNHOLE, DARTS &
MORE!!

SUNDAY
JUNE 30TH
2-4PM

"PLEASE RSVP"
NO LATER THAN
MONDAY JUNE 17TH
TO THE RENSSELAER
COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE
AGENCY (518)-270-2760

BOOK REVIEW

Operation Forager: 1944 Battle for Saipan, Invasion of Tinian, & Recapture of Guam

Author: Daniel Wrinn

Length: 273 pages

Reviewed by: Vincent Memole, LTC IN USAR (Ret)

On my Dress Blues I wear the Distinctive Unit Identifier (DUI) of the 105th Infantry Regiment, which was part of the New York Army National Guard's 27th Division since the first Federal call-up of the Militia for border service in Mexico in 1916 – the same infantry regiment which would be in the center of the Division's line on Saipan when, during the early morning hours of 7 July 1944, historians now say the Japanese Army mounted the largest banzai attack of the entire Second World War – over 4,000 enemy soldiers – a battle that would push the regiment almost back into the sea and would see the regiment be awarded THREE MEDALS OF HONOR that terrible day, all of them posthumously, two of them to soldiers from Troy, New York and the 105th Infantry Regiment.



Daniel Wrinn has written what I consider one of the worse books I have ever read on the Second World War – a book that left me frustrated and disappointed. The author seemed to be writing a book for a middle school student! Other than the correct sequence of the operations (Saipan, Tinian, Guam), he jumped around all three battles and included other useless information throughout the entire book.



Maybe the author found it necessary to tell all about the insignia of the 3rd Marine Division or all about the Colt M1911A1 pistol. Toward the end of his book, he devotes 108 pages to Part 3 (Guam), which were 36 pages *more* than Part 1 (Saipan), a larger, longer and bloodier battle involving three divisions and a corps headquarters. The banzai attack on the 27th Division is only 2 pages long!

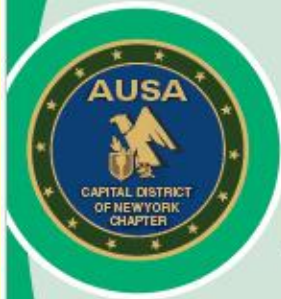
Wrinn ends each of the sections talking about all the Marine generals involved in each of the three separate battles, which is shocking when any serious student of WW2 Pacific history would know even a small amount about the Smith vs. Smith controversy, a controversy that would affect combat operations even in the Vietnam War. Wrinn concludes each section with a very short brief on the heroes of each battle and yet *fails* to mention the three soldiers from the 105th Infantry Regiment who earned the Medal of Honor! This is where my disappointment with this author really came to a head! Other than some good maps on each of the battles, I would still only give him a B-, it was that poorly written.

If you want to read fantastic books on the Battle of Saipan, I *highly recommend*: [Their Backs Against the Sea](#), by Bill Sloan, and [Battling for Saipan](#), by Francis A. O'Brien.

[Images copied from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Japanese_flags,
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/105th_Infantry_Regiment_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/105th_Infantry_Regiment_(United_States))]

July 23rd is the deadline for submitting **news articles, photos, bio's, stories, or reviews of books, movies, food, or drinks** for the *next* issue! Please e-mail your input to newsletter editor Al Memole at ammmemole@gmail.com.

The Association of the U.S. Army Capital District of New York Chapter



CELEBRATING
THE UNITED STATES ARMY'S
249th BIRTHDAY

GOLF

FUND RAISER

10 June 2024

Eagle Crest Golf Course, 1004 Route 146 A, Clifton Park, NY 12065

\$150.00 per player includes:

- Green Fees & Cart
- Continental breakfast
- Lunch (Grab and Go)
- Hot & Cold Buffet Dinner (cash bar)
- Awards and Prizes

Non-golfers are invited to join us for the buffet at 1500 hrs for \$30.00 per person

The "Scramble, "Longest Drive" and "Closest to the Pin" contests are a fund raiser to benefit AUSA programs and support Soldiers, Veterans, and their Families. Join us for a full day of golf, a Posting of the Colors by the New York Army National Guard and a cake cutting ceremony, celebrating the U.S. Army's 249th birthday.

POC:

John Willsey

518.496.2669

jwillsfc@aol.com



0730-0830	registration and continental breakfast
0900	shot gun start
1400	turn in scorecard
1500	buffet (cash bar), prizes, awards and auction results

**TEAM
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Team Name: _____

Player 1: _____
(Team CPT or individual registration)

Player 2: _____

Player 3: _____

Player 4: _____

**Make checks payable to:
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LUNCHEON RESERVATION INFORMATION

Date: **JUNE 9, 2024**

Location: **Veterans of Lansingburgh**

777 1st Avenue, Lansingburgh, Troy NY

Time: **1:00 PM** – Check-in; Social Mixer // 1:30 – 3:45 PM – Lunch & Guest Speaker

Price: **\$40 per person** (Please make checks payable to: **NYS CDC MOAA.**)

To pay Chapter dues for **2024** add **\$30** to your total.

Please make your reservation Not Later Than **Friday, May 31st**

Send reservation form and check to: **Al Memole**

8 Rose Lane

Rensselaer, NY 12144

OR e-mail Al at ammmemole@gmail.com **OR** call him at: 518- 641-8664 (c)



Mail-In Luncheon Reservation Form

Your name: _____

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